

# 2020

## ANNUAL REPORT

### SLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE





With COVID causing many restrictions and stay-at-home orders, several specialties and volunteer units were suspended for the safety of the participant and community. To learn more about the regular duties of these units, please visit the 2019 Annual Report for a glimpse into their previous services.

# SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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# SHERIFF



## 2020

This year has been like no other that I have experienced in my 36 years of law enforcement. We began the year with a nationwide pandemic. With this came many changes to our daily lives. The constant threat of exposure to all of the staff at the Sheriff's Office caused much concern, both personally and with a worried public. Everyone

has handled our response with true professionalism. This pandemic was followed with another professional challenge. A tragic event in another state led to civil unrest and anti-law enforcement sentiment. This event and several others resulted in numerous protests, both nationally and locally. The response from members of the Sheriff's Office has been very professional, despite facing unwarranted criticism for events not related to us.

As if these events were not difficult enough, tragedy struck again in the form of three deputy-involved shootings in four months. In two of those shootings, two deputies were shot and seriously wounded. The three shootings had something in common. All three shootings demonstrated acts of heroism by the deputies involved and showcased their superior training. In all three cases, if the actions were not immediately taken, I am convinced that more lives would have been in jeopardy.

**I COULD NOT HAVE BEEN PROUDER OF THE DEPUTIES OR MY DEPARTMENT. IF THERE WAS A SILVER LINING TO THESE EVENTS, IT WAS THE GENEROUS OUTPOURING OF PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE.**

Our stations were decorated with signs of support and blue ribbons. The public went above and beyond in many ways to demonstrate how proud and supportive they are for the men and women of the Sheriff's Office. These events also revealed to those of us within the Sheriff's Office how much we support each other.

Thank you all for facing a difficult year with professionalism, strength, and courage.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Parkinson'.

**IAN PARKINSON**

San Luis Obispo County  
Sheriff-Coroner



# UNDERSHERIFF

## “THESE ARE THE TIMES THAT TRY MEN’S SOULS.”

This line was written by Thomas Paine in 1776 to inspire the colonists in their fight for freedom. He added, “Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.”

Although we are not in a revolutionary war, the year 2020 has been a year to test the professional and personal character of the Sheriff’s Office. We have experienced three officer-involved shootings with two of our deputies shot and still recovering from their wounds. We have participated in policing numerous demonstrations, locally and in mutual aid of other law enforcement agencies. Some of these turned into

unlawful assemblies further taxing our limited resources. We have been unfairly stereotyped by some as racially insensitive and advocates of excessive force. We have experienced divisiveness in local and national elections while continuing to maintain a neutral stance in support of every citizen’s right to vote, to assemble, and to voice their opinion. And if these challenges were not enough, we have experienced months of the COVID-19 outbreak that affected everything we do from the education of our children to the way we interact with our coworkers and the public.

Despite these maladies, I have never been prouder of this organization. Patrol, custody, detectives, dispatch, support personnel and volunteers have never quit and continue to bring the finest law enforcement and custodial services to this county. We, like the colonists in Thomas Payne’s time, will triumph. We will always remember the year 2020 and



how it tested our souls and the magnificent way that we responded to protect, to serve, and to enhance the quality of life for everyone in our community.

**JIM VOGUE**

San Luis Obispo County  
Undersheriff





# HUMAN RESOURCES

## THE HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM

The Sheriff's Office has 438 full-time and 3 part-time allocated positions, which include 168 sworn, 149 custody sworn, and 124 civilians. In addition, the Sheriff's Office has 18 temporary positions which include reserve deputy sheriff, reserve correctional deputy, sergeant, dispatcher, legal clerk, property officer, laboratory assistant and program manager.

The Sheriff's Office Human Resources team consists of three full-time employees who are responsible for managing recruitments in response to separations and promotions. In addition, they process all employee name and address changes, manage commendations and awards, process benefit open enrollment, coordinate department events, onboard new employees, manage and process employee evaluations, manage all employee leaves and work restrictions, and maintain



databases for employees, volunteers, and department-issued property.

Over the last year, the Sheriff's Office has seen a decrease in the number of recruitments due to budget cuts and hiring restrictions. In 2019, there were a total of 82 recruitments submitted, 73 separations, 82 new hires, and 66 promotions. In 2020, there were a total of nine recruitments submitted, 45 separations, 31 new hires, and 27 promotions.

**OUR GOALS FOR 2021 INCLUDE AUTOMATING OUR PROPERTY DATABASE AND SUSTAINING EXCELLENT SERVICE TO OUR STAFF AND THE PUBLIC.**



# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND TRAINING

fulfills an important role at the Sheriff's Office. The unit is responsible for timely resolution of internal investigations, evaluation of training needs in response to changes in legislation, and providing the highest-quality training to our sworn and civilian personnel. The Professional Standards and Training Unit was created in 2011 by Sheriff Parkinson to increase employee accountability and meet the need for continued modernization. Monitoring trends and employee responses to specific incidents are an ongoing and crucial part of the process

### COMPLAINTS

Citizen complaints are filed by the public regarding personnel, policy, or procedures. Department complaints are initiated in response to actions or incidents that require further investigation and may result in employee discipline. The total number of complaint investigations in 2020 was

43. All complaints are investigated and may identify the need for additional training. All investigations include a review of policy and procedure.

### USE OF FORCE

First-line supervisors conduct investigations in all cases in which force is used beyond accepted control holds, take-downs, and handcuffing, or when an injury results from the use of force. Each supervisor assesses the reasonableness, compliance with policy, and adherence to the law in use of force reviews. In 2020, there were 77 use-of-force investigations. Use-of-force investigations have evolved over the past few years and continue to provide needed oversight to adjust training needs and requirements.

### VEHICLE PURSUITS

In some circumstances, deputy sheriffs must engage in pursuit of a vehicle to prevent the escape of a dangerous person and to protect the public. All pursuits are monitored by a supervisor as they are occurring and each one is reviewed after its termination. Often a pursuit is terminated

because the risk to the deputy and the public, by continuing the pursuit, outweighs the need to apprehend the offender. In 2020, the Sheriff's Office engaged in 7 vehicle pursuits, which is a decrease from 2019 (14) and 2018 (13). All pursuits are reported to the California Highway Patrol for data collection and review of tactics. The Sheriff's Office reviews all pursuits to verify compliance with law, policy, and procedure.

### PATROL AND CIVILIAN TRAINING

The training section is divided into two sections: The Patrol/Civilian and the Custody Training Sections. Each section is managed by a training coordinator who reports to the training manager.

The Patrol/Civilian Training Section provides training courses developed and instructed by members of the Sheriff's Office and certified through the California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) for sworn and civilian members. Patrol deputies and dispatchers are mandated to receive 24 hours of POST certified training within a two-year period.



**AFTER MARCH 1, 2020, COVID-19 SEVERELY CURTAILED IN-PERSON TRAINING ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE CONTINUED TO ENGAGE IN MANDATORY TRAINING THROUGH DISTANCE LEARNING AND ON-LINE LEARNING PLATFORMS. DEPUTIES WERE STILL TRAINED IN CPR AND FIRST AID AS WELL AS OTHER COURSES NEEDED TO REMAIN IN COMPLIANCE WITH CALIFORNIA POST STANDARDS.**

**During 2020, the Training Unit achieved the following notable accomplishments:**

- In 2020, the Sheriff's Office sponsored two cadets at the Allan Hancock College Basic Law Enforcement Academy.
- The Sheriff's Office continued its commitment to training all sworn and correctional personnel in a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training course. Since January 2018, 361 law enforcement employees in San Luis Obispo County have received training in this 40-hour course—including 46 trained in early 2020. Due to the lack of mental health crisis services across the United States, law enforcement officers are now serving as first responders to many mental health crisis

situations. The 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training program is an innovative, community-based approach to improve the outcomes of these encounters by creating connections between law enforcement, mental health providers, hospital emergency services and families when dealing with individuals with mental illness. CIT improves communication, identifies mental health resources for those in crisis and ensures officer and community safety.

- The Sheriff's Office continues to train all new peace officers and correctional staff in the use of naloxone (NARCAN) nasal spray as a response to the growing opioid crisis in the United States and in San Luis Obispo County. The Sheriff's Office trained 26 new employees in 2020. NARCAN nasal spray is used for the treatment of an opioid emergency or a possible opioid overdose where an individual exhibits signs of breathing problems and severe sleepiness, or when they are not able to respond. NARCAN is used to temporarily reverse the effects of opioid medicines and has no effect in people who are not taking opioid medicines.
- The Training Unit coordinated First Aid and CPR update training for 125 deputies in Spring and Summer 2020, to meet California State Title 22 mandates.
- In 2020, the Sheriff's Office Patrol and Civilian Training Section provided San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's deputies with 7,379 hours of training; this is an average of 46

hours of training for each deputy for the year.

- During the latter part of 2020, the Sheriff's Office provided training for 41 deputies on the new red dot pistol sight system. These courses will continue until all requesting deputies receive training on the new pistol sight system.

**CUSTODY TRAINING**

The Custody Section provides training courses developed and instructed by members of the Sheriff's Office and certified through both the California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) as well as the Board of State and Community Corrections, Standards and Training for Corrections (STC) for sworn on-duty deputies. Custody deputies are mandated to receive 24 hours of STC certified training within a one-year period. The Sheriff's Office Custody Emergency Response Team also receives an additional 16 hours of training. Once again, all San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office applicable employees were 100% compliant with STC standards.

**ONE OF THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE TRAINING UNIT'S GOALS IS TO PROVIDE NEWLY HIRED CUSTODY DEPUTIES WITH THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF TRAINING WHICH WILL DEVELOP PERSONNEL WITH A HIGHER LEVEL OF PROFESSIONALISM.**



Custody personnel attrition increased in 2020. Due to this, the Sheriff's Office hired many correctional deputies and correctional technicians who began their law enforcement odyssey.

**During 2020, the Training Unit achieved the following notable accomplishments:**

- All correctional staff was re-certified in First Aid, CPR, and proper use of the Automated External Defibrillator. (AED)
- Perishable skills courses were provided to correctional deputies to hone and polish proficiency in the use of firearms and less lethal weapons.
- The VirTra Simulator System was used in multiple training sessions in 2020, as a use of force mechanism to test and evaluate deputy presence, verbal skills, less lethal force options, and deadly force in a 300-degree wrap-around environment.
- In 2020, the Sheriff's Office graduated 22 newly hired correctional deputies from a 210-hour Correctional Academy.
- During the past year, 16 correctional deputies attended the Sheriff's Office Crisis Intervention Training held at the Men's Honor Farm.

**SHERIFF'S RANGE**

In 2020, range staff continued to build upon our training programs to include more dynamic shooting scenarios. This included moving and turning targets to give deputies more realistic decision making, force options, dynamic

shooting practice, and skill building using obstacles and barriers.

A new era of red dot optics on duty handguns was ushered in with promising results. The addition of this type of sighting system has vastly improved accuracy and will help reduce liability. A key benefit of these optics is the ability for deputies to maintain uninterrupted visual focus on any potential threat.

New employees are provided realistic and improved training in the use of handgun, rifle, shotgun, Taser, less lethal shotgun, pepper ball, pepper spray and stop stick pursuit intervention tools. Each deputy is also trained in the force options simulator.

In 2020, range instructors received updated training in a variety of topics. Range instructors used the updated training to conduct in service training for deputies and correctional deputies in the patrol and custody divisions. The additional training was in the areas of, POST Certified Firearms Instructor training, red dot sights for pistols, patrol rifle, shotgun, and handgun. Additionally, the Firearms Training Staff conducted Firearms Instructor training for many outside allied agencies in 2020.

The VirTra 300-degree immersion force options simulator continues to be used by our agency as well as all local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies with great success. The system is set for a major upgrade in 2020 adding additional simulations, greater reliability, and ease of operation. Additional updated content that addresses human factors, human brain functions and reaction times in a more in-depth manner is also

expected to be included in the overhaul of the system. Additionally, the new system can deliver relevant and current classroom type training that can be held at any time. The updates are designed to help deputies be better equipped when responding to unexpected and rapidly developing situations. The equipment upgrade will provide more realistic training in intervention, de-escalation techniques, interactions with vicious dogs, and mental health interactions.

The Sheriff's Range facility continues to be used by many federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies who partner to provide consistent training countywide.





# BACKGROUNDS

## THE BACKGROUND UNIT

consists of one full-time background manager and four part-time background investigators who work together to process and complete all sworn, civilian, and volunteer backgrounds for the Sheriff's Office. The background investigation process is a very time and labor-intensive process. Each investigator completes a report that includes the applicant's personal history, driver license record, criminal history, credit history, live scan finger prints, law enforcement inquiries, education verification, military history, neighborhood checks, truth verification exam (polygraph or Computer Voice Stress Analyzer), medical examination and

psychological exam. The background manager ensures the investigations are in compliance with the California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST), as well as comply with departmental policies and regulations for the hiring process.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic that occurred this year, a hiring freeze was implemented in May 2020 by the County Administrative Officer. The Sheriff's Office left numerous vacant positions open until the extent of the budget shortfall was evaluated. Because of the hiring freeze, the number of backgrounds processed over the year has drastically reduced from years prior.

*From January 2020 through October 2020, there were approximately **101 APPLICANTS THAT STARTED THE BACKGROUND PROCESS** and were either hired, withdrew, not selected, or disqualified. The following is a breakdown of these positions:*

Administrative service officer	1
Cadet	14
Cook	3
Correctional Deputy	38
Correctional technician	9
Deputy	20
Dispatcher	5
Legal clerk	9
Reserve correctional deputy	1
Systems administrator	1
Various volunteers	20

*The Background Unit continues to work diligently in screening and hiring quality individuals to represent the Sheriff's Office.*





## THE RECORDS AND WARRANTS UNIT

consists of seven full-time legal clerks and two part-time legal clerks, who are overseen by one supervising legal clerk. During this challenging year, while social distancing, the Records and Warrants team was extremely busy assisting the public with more than 1,400 routine requests for records, issuing and renewing conceal carry gun permits, processing business licenses, providing Livescan services and more. As the County's warrant repository, they processed 15,627 warrants.

This accomplishment was especially difficult with minimal staffing allowed onsite due to the Coronavirus.

Maintaining communication with our justice partners, while some departments and agencies were required to work from home, was another hurdle they overcame in 2020. The Records and Warrants Unit successfully completed more than 300 requests for discovery while working with the District Attorney's Office to streamline our processes.

The unit is also responsible for registering arson, gang, and sex offenders residing in San Luis Obispo County. While ensuring the registrants maintain a high rate of compliance, staff has been training

and creating procedures to comply with the changes to the sex registrant laws occurring January 1, 2021. In 2017, Senate Bill 384 was passed changing lifetime registration requirements to a three-tiered system.

The Records and Warrants Unit is responsible for maintaining accurate, complete records, while staying abreast of any changes in laws that govern their processes.

**THE CHIEF GOAL FOR THE RECORDS AND WARRANTS UNIT IN 2021 IS TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE EXCELLENT CUSTOMER SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY THEY SERVE.**



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UNIT

consists of three technology specialists, two software engineers, one system administrator, two business analysts and one technology supervisor. The Sheriff’s Office IT Unit supports over 450 Sheriff’s Office employees.

The Sheriff’s Information Technology Unit, along with ancillary assistance from the County IT Department, must ensure that all IT systems are operating at peak performance, and the unit must also be available to

assist all employees and problem-shoot any IT malfunctions 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**LIKE THE REST OF THE WORLD, WE FOUND OURSELVES SUPPORTING MANY USERS REMOTELY AND EMPLOYING TECHNOLOGIES NEW TO THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE, SUCH AS ZOOM AND MICROSOFT TEAMS.**

The 2020 year has brought many changes to the IT Unit.

In addition, with the closure of the jail to visitors due to the pandemic, friends, family and attorneys have been able to take full advantage of the new phone and video visitation system that was implemented in the last quarter of 2019.

A new commissary system was implemented during summer 2020. This new system was able to integrate seamlessly with our phone vendor and provide real-time order history and fund balances. Additionally, the shipment of goods are neat and orderly, which results in fewer refunds of damaged goods, fewer missing items, and wider inventory.





# COMPUTER FORENSICS

## TODAY'S HIGH-TECH ENVIRONMENT PRESENTS NEW CHALLENGES TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

and the justice system, as cyber criminals exploit computers, mobile devices, and the internet to threaten our banking, financial, and critical infrastructures. Digital technology is used to commit any and every type of crime. The Sheriff's Office continues to address these challenges by having a Digital Forensics Examiner dedicated solely to the extraction and analysis of digital devices and related activities.

The unit's duties include examining, disassembling, reassembling, evaluating, extracting data, and interpreting data from computer hardware, smart phones, data storage devices, media storage devices, compact discs, DVDs, and detached or attached hard drives. In 2020, over 240 digital



evidence items were collected and analyzed for the assigned Sheriff's Office personnel responsible for the specific investigation so that they can be presented in a court of law.

The Sheriff's Office is a member of the Central California Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC). The Central California ICAC is dedicated to protecting children online and investigating crimes committed against children and are facilitated by the Internet and computer usage. The forensics unit works in conjunction with the Sheriff's SAFE (Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement Team) in investigating these cases.

The Computer Forensics Unit is part of the San Luis Obispo County Central Coast Cyber Forensic Laboratory (3CFL),

under the management of the SLO County District Attorney's Office. The unit works closely with allied agencies within the county to make these specialized capabilities available to their respective investigative units.

Advanced training and new equipment have continued to be made available for both computer and mobile device evidence recovery through a strategic partnership with the National Computer Forensics Institute (NCFI), the United States Secret Service, and the Sheriff's Office. This aids in the effort to suppress the continually evolving and increasing number of electronic crime cases affecting the San Luis Obispo County community.



# FISCAL SERVICES

## THE FISCAL DIVISION SUPPORTS

all areas of accounting for the Sheriff's Office, including budgeting, monthly and quarterly financial reporting, grant reporting, accounts payable/receivable, and purchasing. The division consists of an accounting manager, two accountants, two administrative services officers, an accounting technician, and one senior account clerk.

The Sheriff's Office budget for Fiscal Year 2019–20 was \$81 million, with \$31 million of the budget being obtained from various sources and \$50 million received from General Fund support.

During Fiscal Year 2019–20, Fiscal Services was part of implementing a new accounting software for the inmate monies, commissary, telephone, and video visitation. The new banking system allows money to be placed on an inmate's account by friends and family at the jail facility, as well as online. These new systems also give inmates access to real-time balances for commissary ordering and instant phone/video time purchases.

**FINALLY, THE FISCAL SERVICES DIVISION WILL CONTINUE TO INVOLVE MANAGEMENT IN THE BUDGET PROCESS FOR EACH OF THE FOUR DIVISIONS. WE WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO WORK ON ACQUIRING NEW GRANTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.**





# CIVIL DIVISION

## THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE CIVIL DIVISION

is staffed with one commander, one sergeant, five deputy sheriffs assigned to civil process duties, two legal clerks assigned to civil process preparation, and 15 deputy sheriffs assigned to courthouse security. The Civil Division serves civil process in the manner prescribed by law, adhering to the procedures and laws set forth in the California Code of Civil Procedure.

The Civil Division works in conjunction with the Civil Courts in San Luis Obispo County and Civil Courts throughout the State of California in the execution and service of process. The goal of the Civil Division is to serve all process in a timely manner while maintaining an impartial position among all parties involved.

Civil process includes the service of summons and complaints, small claims documents, restraining orders, subpoenas, and evictions. Other services include levies on wages, bank accounts, personal property, real property, or any other asset of the judgment debtor.

The Civil Division provides security services to the San Luis Obispo County Superior Court and its staff at the courthouse in downtown San Luis Obispo, the courtroom located at the San Luis Obispo Veterans Hall, the juvenile court located at the Juvenile Services Center on Highway 1, the courthouse located in downtown Paso Robles, and the courthouse in Grover Beach. Security services include entrance screening to courthouse buildings, physical security of the courthouses, and protection of the Superior Court judges, court staff, attorneys and the public.

**Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Gavin Newsom's Eviction Moratorium decreased the number of evictions processed throughout the county:**

**71**  
Evictions

**619**  
Levies

**1,707**  
Services of Civil Processes



## **AN OVERVIEW OF THE CUSTODY BUREAU**

### **CUSTODY ADMINISTRATION**

Custody Administration is comprised of a correctional captain, two correctional lieutenants, Chief Medical Officer, correctional sergeant, compliance officer and two legal clerks. Cooperatively, this team oversees activities of both jail operations, support services, and contracted services. The Custody Bureau provides the primary functions of housing pretrial arrestees and sentenced inmates in a safe and healthy environment. Staff maintain security within the jail through objective inmate classification, advancements in technologies, and regular training. The uniformed and civilian staff provide alternatives to jail, vocational and educational opportunities, court transportation, and facilitate access to medical, mental health and community re-entry services.

### **COURT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

Court Transportation Services is comprised of one correctional sergeant, one senior correctional deputy, nine correctional deputies and one correctional technician. Three correctional deputies possess class B driver's licenses, which allow them to transport up to 19 inmates in our large transportation van. Our functions are to transport inmates to and from court holding area, oversee the court proceedings for individuals in custody and transport inmates throughout California for various reasons, including California Department of Corrections facilities, Department of State Hospital facilities, facilities in other counties, local County Psychiatric Health Facility and local medical appointments.

2020 provided new challenges as we had to make operational changes to in our procedures due to COVID-19. In March we worked with court staff and attorneys to conduct court appearances via web applications from inside the jail. We re-purposed educational classrooms to facilitate three video courtrooms each day

from inside the jail. Inmates speak to their attorneys via video technology, and many times complete their entire court process without ever stepping foot at the physical courthouse. These measures have helped decrease the spread of COVID and allowed our courts to maintain necessary operations.

Also, with the availability of video technology across the state, court transportation staff was proactive in reaching out to other agencies to conduct video hearings from facilitates throughout the state. This measure has resulted in 56 inmates at other facilities not being physically transported to the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office, instead the court proceedings were completed at their current facility via remote video conferencing technologies.

### **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT/ KANSAS MAX UNIT/ MEDICAL UNIT**

#### **Behavioral Health Unit (BHU)**

The BHU was opened for mental health services in 2019. The unit is supervised by two correctional deputies and a



large team of WellPath Mental Health employees. This new “all-inclusive mental health clinic” has created a safe, calm, and tranquil environment for inmates to visit and receive a wide array of counseling and mental health services. The unit is thriving and has substantially decreased the number of incidents in the jail related to mentally ill inmates.

### **MEDICAL PROGRAMS UNIT (MPU)**

The Medical Programs Unit (MPU) was constructed in a continuing effort to provide inmates with comprehensive medical care that includes medical and dental services. The clinic consists two medical exam rooms and a state-of-the-art dental suite. Medical staff also see inmates at four satellite exam rooms throughout the jail to aid in minimizing inmate movement and enhancing the number of services available to inmates. The availability of satellite exam rooms aids in the facilitation of rapid response for medical staff in the event of man-down scenarios or inmates in crisis. The unit is supervised by two correctional deputies and services are provided by the WellPath professional medical staff.

### **JAIL BASED COMPETENCY TREATMENT PROGRAM (JBCT)**

In 2019 the San Luis Obispo County Jail opened the Jail Bases Competency Treatment Programing Pod. This is a jail-based treatment program was developed by the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) and is designed to restore inmates with felony charges to court related competency. The JBCT is a five-bed, coed program. The “Pod” is supervised by one senior correctional deputy that not only provides safety

and security within the unit, but is immersed in the program itself, playing a vital role in the therapeutic milieu of the unit. The competency programming is conducted by a staff of WellPath employees consisting of a psychiatrist, psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, nursing staff and a programs manager. Inmate patients are taught distress tolerance, coping skills, mental health wellness, emotional regulation, daily living skills, social skills and the basic understanding of the judicial system. This new endeavor with the state has substantially lessened the amount of time that an inmate that has been declared incompetent by the courts must wait for intensive programming of their mental well-being. The entire decor of JBCT Pod was modified from the usual jail furnishings to create a softened environment conducive to healing and education. The program has proven to be very successful and has restored numerous inmates to a level of competency, allowing the courts to continue with criminal proceedings.

### **KANSAS MAX HOUSING UNIT (K-MAX)**

Kansas Max Housing Unit was developed on May 10, 2019. Kansas Max currently houses male inmates with mental illness or other behavioral issues. The unit is comprised of 77 beds in seven separate housing pods. These housing pods are configured with a sub-dayroom and afford staff the opportunity to group a smaller collection of inmates together that my not normally be out of their cell socializing with others. The unit is supervised by one correctional sergeant, one senior correctional deputy and seven correctional deputies, providing 24-7 supervision of the unit’s population.

Deputies working the unit are outfitted with a softened uniform that help inmates feel more comfortable with their interactions. These deputies have advanced de-escalation skills and the Crisis Intervention Training.

Housing inmates with mental illness is a tedious task requiring constant monitoring from the team of Kansas Max Correctional Deputies. The design of this unit allows deputies to support this fragile inmate population by showing support with their mental health behavioral challenges and provide a safe and secure environment for them to socialize. Through activities and programs, inmates are encouraged to complete daily fundamental tasks required to live within the jail and encourage basic life skills and earn incentive points for achieving daily benchmarks. Inmates also receive extra jobs that give them the opportunities to earn points above their normal daily routine. These incentive points are tallied up at the end of each day and a weekly point total is given to the inmates. The inmates are then allowed to use points to purchase commissary, hygiene, and leisure items with their accumulated points. This style of incentivization gives the inmates something to work for each week and a feeling of accomplishment.

The goal of the program is to encourage education and rehabilitation, to attempt to instill a mindset of good decision making and coping skills in order to reduce their stay in jail. This positive





focus on life skills for re-entry into the community will reduce recidivism and help to create a healthier community.

### **2020 California State Association of Counties Challenge Award Recipient**

This year the San Luis Obispo County Jail was honored by the CSAC by receiving the 2020 Challenge Award for our Jail-Based Behavioral Health Incentive/Competency Program. CSAC's annual statewide program honors innovation and best practices in county government. This year, CSAC received 363 entries—the most in the program's history. An independent panel of judges with expertise in county programs selected our program as an award recipient (see CSAC 2020 website for further info).

### **JAIL PROGRAMS UNIT**

The Jail Programs Unit (JPU) is responsible for providing programs and services throughout the jail facility. The JPU directly engages with inmates, community providers, and outside agencies to provide support to the inmate population. The Jail Programs Unit is made up of a correctional sergeant, program manager, deputy

probation officer, Drug and Alcohol Services case manager and two Alcohol Services clinicians who provide direct therapeutic services to inmates throughout the facility.

As with many other Sheriff's Office functions, this year presented a variety of challenges for the JPU. In 2020, the Jail Programs Unit made a focus on adapting programming to allow members of the Jail community to remain safe amid the everchanging COVID crisis. This year the JPU team continued to be creative, focusing on staff-initiated activities and utilizing the resources that we have under our roof to provide services.

A strong partnership has been developed between the JPU team and the WellPath Medical Group. This partnership has aided in providing Drug and Alcohol treatment groups, individual substance abuse counseling, planned community re-entry services, and an interactive journaling program. The JPU team found ways to adapt and overcome the various challenges 2020 brought, and we remain committed to furthering the county-wide Stepping up initiative.

#### **In 2020, the Jail Program Unit:**

- Answered more than 3,300 inmate requests
- Provided Milestone Credit classes allowing inmates an incentive to participate in education and vocational programs
- Provided classes and training in the following areas: interactive journaling, yoga, OSHA certification, construction management, graphic arts, food handler/food management classes and substance abuse treatment classes

### **HONOR FARMS**

The Honor Farms consist of mostly sentenced inmates with relatively minimal criminal sophistication. Un-sentenced inmates are allowed on the Honor Farm based on the severity of their offense, criminal history, and their behavior while in custody. Un-sentenced inmates are placed on a Global Positioning System (GPS) bracelet and are monitored by the Alternative Sentencing Unit (ASU).

The Men's Honor Farm has the capacity to house 80 inmates. The male Honor Farm inmates are responsible for working in the kitchen, where they produce an average of 2,000 meals per day: feeding inmates in the jail, staff, Juvenile Services, Mental Health, and other county entities. They also maintain the garden where vegetables are used in the kitchen.

They maintain all the groundskeeping and other details on campus as needed. The Honor Farm also provides supervised work crews for San Luis Obispo County departments upon request. Those services include but are not limited to weed abatement, surplus equipment deliveries and dump runs. When not out on work crews, inmates can be found on grounds working with the construction program manager, taking classes and learning skills in the wood shop or metal shop. The program manager teaches inmates skills necessary in various construction fields to help them get and retain gainful employment upon their release from custody.

The Men's Honor Farm is also the home of the Sheriff's Bike Giveaway Program. While looking a little different this year due to the Coronavirus, 2020 marks the 31st year the male honor farm inmates have learned bike repair/ maintenance skills from volunteers and have been



given bikes away to children in need during the holiday season.

The commissary program also runs out of the Honor Farm grounds and employs one full-time and one part-time storekeeper position.

The Women's Honor Farm also consists of mostly sentenced inmates with relatively minimal criminal sophistication, with a capacity to house 24 inmates. The Women's Honor Farm inmates are responsible for cleaning and upkeep inside the facility, maintaining the laundry services for the entire facility and Juvenile Services, and work at Animal Services, cleaning kennels and preparing the facility for daily operations.

The Women's Honor Farm is incredibly proud of their sewing program through which they have made several donations throughout the year. Donations this year have been made to the Mission Hope Cancer Center, for which the Women's Honor Farm inmates made over 100 blankets for patients while they receive their treatments. They also donated over 100 kits to Social Services. The kits were for the foster children and contained sewn bags, blankets, books, and hygiene supplies that were donated by correctional staff.

### **ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING UNIT**

The Alternative Sentencing Unit is comprised of the Home Detention Program, Alternative Work Program and Sheriff's Parole Program. These programs allow inmates to serve jail sentences outside of confinement in the County Jail. The Alternative Sentencing unit allows participants to seek and/or retain employment, attend

psychological counselling sessions, educational or vocational training classes, or seek medical assistance while receiving credit for jail time. These programs are intended to slow the rate of increased jail population. There were 581 participants during the year. These qualified candidates also benefit by retaining community connections, family units, housing and employment while serving their court-imposed sentences at home. Three correctional deputies, one legal clerk and one correctional sergeant make up the Alternative Sentencing Unit.

### **CLASSIFICATION UNIT**

The Classification Unit consists of one sergeant and five correctional deputies. Each inmate housed in the county jail is thoroughly interviewed by a classification correctional deputy. The classification deputy determines the inmate's security level and housing within the jail. The Classification Unit makes informed decisions based upon intelligence gathered from many sources to classify the inmate population. The Classification Unit also handles inmate discipline through a hearing based upon evidence for in-house rule violations.

The classification correctional deputy works with jail medical and mental health staff regarding issues of ADA compliance for inmates, making sure all necessary accommodations are met. Additionally, the jail is constantly evaluated by the classification sergeant and the deputies of the Classification Unit to ensure we are making the best use of bunk space for inmates, all the while keeping safety and security of staff and inmates in mind.

During the last year the Classification Unit conducted thousands of inmate

interviews for initial housings and housing changes as well as intelligence gathering.

### **PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM**

The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office's Peer Support Team is comprised of several members from multiple units including dispatch, correctional technicians, patrol deputies, custody deputies and chaplains. Peer Support is an imperative part the Sheriff's Office, focusing on the physical and mental well-being of all Sheriff's Office employees.

Law enforcement's acceptance of Peer Support has been a long road. However, the Peer Support program was established to provide sworn and civilian personnel with assistance and available resources to cope with immediate and chronic effects of job-related stress, as well as with personal issues outside the job. 2020 has been a challenging year in many aspects. The unforeseen arrival of COVID-19 has impacted our brothers and sisters of the Sheriff's Office. Yet among the turmoil, we have a network of dedicated people available to assist with physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Our Peer Support Team members have a desire and passion to serve fellow staff in their time of need, by displaying privacy, maturity, compassion, honesty, credibility, and empathy. These characteristics are paramount to the success of Peer Support.





# CRIME LAB

## THE CRIME LABORATORY AND FORENSIC SERVICES UNIT

Small but mighty, the seven-person Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory is comprised of the Forensic Laboratory Unit, the Forensic Services Crime Scene Unit, the Cal-ID Program, and a legal clerk. The Crime Lab is responsible for processing evidence that supports the investigations of the Sheriff's Office and partnering law enforcement agencies throughout the county.

### THE FORENSIC LABORATORY UNIT

The Forensic Laboratory houses the Forensic Alcohol Unit and the Chemistry/Toxicology Unit. The Forensic Laboratory is responsible for analyzing biological samples in DUI (driving under the influence) cases, analyzing biological samples for narcotics, and analyzing controlled substances.

The Forensic Alcohol Unit is run by one Forensic Laboratory Specialist. In 2020, the Forensic Alcohol Laboratory provided service to 11 different law enforcement agencies throughout San Luis Obispo County. The laboratory was responsible for maintaining the department's 40 Draeger Alcotest 7510 breath alcohol instruments, which are in use at 16 different locations in the county.

The Chemistry/Toxicology Unit includes one Forensic Laboratory Specialist and one Forensic Laboratory Assistant. The Forensic Laboratory Unit provides Controlled Substance and Urine Drugs of Abuse testing for the law enforcement agencies at San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, Atascadero, Morro Bay, Pismo Beach, Grover Beach, Arroyo Grande, Cal Poly State University, Cuesta Community College, the California State Parks stations, the California Men's Colony, San Luis Obispo County Probation, San Luis Obispo County Suspected Abuse Response Team, and the Sheriff's Office Substations and Jail.

Even with the COVID-19 pandemic, drug samples submitted for testing were up almost 10% from 2019. One especially substantial rise was fentanyl cases. In 2020 fentanyl cases submitted to the lab increased over 1,300% from 2019 and nearly 2,500% since 2017. Close to 2,500 drug cases and 900 urine samples were processed by the Sheriff's Office Chemistry/Toxicology Unit in 2020.

Additionally, the Chemistry/Toxicology Unit works closely with District Attorney's Office, submitting the results from lab specimens directly to the DA's Office within three to four days of receiving them. This timely turnaround helps the DA's Office accomplish more efficient case adjudication. The unit also provides expert-witness testimony during court proceedings. To date, over 7,000 drug test reports have been completed.

### THE FORENSIC SERVICES UNIT

The Forensic Services Unit consists of two Forensic Specialists that respond to crime scenes to process and collect evidence in criminal cases within the county. The Forensic Services Unit is



also responsible for examining and processing physical evidence submitted to the crime lab.

The unit conducts latent print development, comparison, and identification; testing and collection of biological fluids; electrostatic detection of indented writing; hair and fiber collection; tool mark comparisons; serial number restoration; tire and footwear impression comparisons; and trace evidence analysis. More than half of these cases were received from outside agencies and most contained multiple items that required more than one type of analysis. In 2020, over 600 individual items were forensically processed by the Forensic Services Unit and more than 3,000 fingerprints were analyzed resulting in nearly 250 identifications to persons of interest.

In addition to processing evidence in the laboratory, Forensic Specialists responded to crime scenes for the Sheriff's Office, as well as outside agencies. Scenes ranged from property crimes to violent crimes, including homicides. The scenes required expertise in photography, latent prints, tire and shoe print impression, blood spatter analysis, trace evidence collection, excavation of possible gravesites, and trajectory determination. In 2020, the Sheriff's Office Forensic Services Unit worked closely with neighboring agencies Morro Bay, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo, and Grover Beach to forensically assist in homicide investigations.

One major case of 2020 was the Paso Robles Active Shooter which consisted of over 10 separate crime scenes and took over 3 days to process. The

Sheriff's Office FSU worked closely with multiple agencies including Paso Robles Police Department and FBI Evidence Response Team.

Along with new cases, the Forensic Services Unit spent a lot of time working on Cold Cases which continues to be a major focus for the Sheriff's Office.

### THE CAL-ID PROGRAM

The Cal-ID Program is managed by one program manager. The Cal-ID Program operates the county's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), which is connected to the California Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Cal-ID uses biometric software and solutions in the identification of arrested or wanted individuals and oversees the thousands of identified fingerprints stored in their files.

The Cal-ID Program also maintains mobile ID fingerprint devices utilized in the field. These devices are used to assist in identifying numerous deceased individuals, and in identifying individuals involved in illegal activity who do not have valid identification.

We are happy to announce that in 2020 the Cal-ID program was successful in garnering support and funding for replacing the antiquated AFIS. The county's new AFIS system, which is run out of the Sheriff's Office, is expected to be in place by mid-year 2021. This purchase will allow for continued and uninterrupted AFIS use for many years to

come. Our AFIS system directly contributes to our efforts of reducing the fear and incidence of crime in our county. Using our AFIS system we have been able to identify numerous repeat property crime offenders who prey on our communities to support their illicit drug habits.





# DETECTIVE DIVISION

## MAJOR CRIMES UNIT

The Sheriff’s Office Detective Division is responsible for the investigation of criminal cases that go above and beyond the scope and resources of the Patrol Division. This includes all misdemeanor and felony crimes for both local and state laws where other agencies do not have the primary investigative responsibility. These cases require a large number of resources for an extended period of time. They typically require investigators with specialized training, knowledge, and equipment.

Detectives in the Detective Division are assigned to a specific area of investigations. Detectives in the Major Crimes Unit are responsible for investigating crimes against persons and property. Detectives in the Special Victims Unit are responsible for crimes that are

sexual in nature: child molestations, child pornography, non-financial elder abuse, and sexual registrants. The Crime Lab, forensic specialists, and the Cal-ID coordinator provide technical evidence collection and analysis to all agencies in the county.

While carrying their caseload, detectives must also appear in court to testify on investigations which have been submitted to the District Attorney’s Office and filed in court. Some cases make it through the court process in a relatively short amount of time, while others may take years.

In 2020, the Major Crimes Unit investigated three separate officer involved shootings (OIS) in the span of four months. One particular OIS investigation was the largest OIS in county history with numerous law enforcement agencies involved. In 2020, the Major Crimes Unit investigated five homicides, all of which were solved.

Along with these homicides, Detectives investigated numerous cases of attempt homicide, burglary, identity theft, at-risk missing persons, criminal threats, child abuse, and embezzlement, just to name a few.

**“OUR DETECTIVES ARE DEDICATED. THEY ARE TENACIOUS. AND THEY NEVER GIVE UP.”**

**– SHERIFF PARKINSON**





# SPECIAL VICTIM'S UNIT

## THE SPECIAL VICTIM'S UNIT

is responsible for investigating cases of sexual assault involving children and/or adults, extreme cases of domestic violence, extreme cases of child abuse, and non-fiduciary elder abuse within the unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County. Though 2020 has been a challenging year with COVID-19 and assisting in multiple homicides, the Special Victims Unit continued to proactively investigate crimes.

The unit also assists outside agencies in their investigations. The investigation of physical and sexual abuse cases is highly specialized and requires expert training as mandated by the California Penal Code. Investigators also provide training to mandated reporters of child abuse, community groups, and the military.

The Special Victims Unit investigators handle an average of over 200 cases per year as they relate to child and adult sexual abuse and assault, elder abuse, and child pornography.

Individual cases can take several months to fully investigate and can last up to a year or more in the court process.

### In 2020, these investigators:

- Assisted in child forensic interviews, homicides, and other investigations outside of sexual assault
- Assisted in search warrant preparation and service
- Worked with crime lab forensic technicians in analyzing electronic/computer-based evidence as it related to child pornography cases
- Worked with Crime Lab technicians to analyze physical evidence

In addition to their caseload, community training and educational outreach are necessary priorities of our Special Victims Unit.

**THESE SPECIALIZED TRAININGS HAVE ASSISTED RISE (RESPECT, INSPIRE, SUPPORT, EMPOWER) ADVOCATES WHO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SART (SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM) NURSES, AND OTHER NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.**



# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## THE COUNTER HUMAN TRAFFICKING TEAM'S MISSION

is to target human traffickers and exploiters and disrupt their networks by creating instability in the sexual exploitation market by leveraging assets, resources, and relationships.

This Team is primarily responsible for investigating the sexual and labor exploitation of both adults and juveniles. The team also assists allied agencies with training, case review, court expert assistance, and operational support. Human trafficking investigations are extremely complex, time consuming, and ever evolving. The investigations often require an extensive amount of follow-up and include interstate travel, search warrants, social media review, and court room testimony. The victims also require and deserve an incredible amount of support and services. The District Attorney's Victim Witness advocates are incorporated into our

investigations from the very beginning and work tirelessly to help support and provide for the victims and their ongoing needs.

Human trafficking and sexual exploitation investigations are highly specialized and require experts to continue to obtain expert training and seek out current and relevant trends. Investigators provide mandated training to the hospitality industry via the District Attorney's Office Victim Witness Center. Due to COVID-19 and the restrictions seen in 2020, trainings and presentations after March 2020 were postponed or held online.

### **In 2020, these Investigators were responsible for the following:**

- 27 total operations
- High-value targets
- Pimp operations
- Purchaser operations
- Prostitution enforcement
- Massage parlors (civil and criminal investigations)
- "Cyber" disruption operations
- Operation Reclaim/Rebuild (statewide operation)

- Labor trafficking training
- Networking and collaboration
- Two federal referrals—one currently in custody in Indiana
- Four active Human Trafficking (HT) ongoing cases, one HT conviction
- 34 criminal filings related to solicitation of prostitution
- Other various exploitation cases (internet, unfounded cases, social media, etc.)
- Two labor trafficking referrals
- Three pending HT related, multiple high value targets, pandering, child pornography, and miscellaneous other investigations

This team plans to continue providing complete and thorough investigations, trainings, and support, advocating for victims and their families in the coming year. Additional resources are planned to be added to the Counter Human Trafficking Team to help further combat the rise in human trafficking in San Luis Obispo County.





## **SAFE (SEXUAL ASSAULT FELONY ENFORCEMENT)**

The mission of the SAFE Team is to identify, monitor, arrest, and assist in the prosecution of habitual sexual offenders who violate the terms and conditions of their probation or parole, or who fail to comply with the registration requirements of California Penal Code 290, or who commit new sexual assault offenses through proactive investigations and surveillances, which leads to the arrest of these habitual sexual offenders.

All registrants who come to our agency for the first time are interviewed. During this interview, we discuss our expectations, the registrant’s requirements, and answer any questions they may have. These interviews are crucial to the registration compliance process and opens communication between registered offenders and the Sheriff’s Office.

Periodic residential compliance checks are performed by detectives and patrol deputies to verify the residency of all registered offenders within the Sheriff’s jurisdiction. The compliance checks allow the team to proactively enforce the appropriate codes when registration laws have been violated.

The SAFE Team also investigates ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children cases). ICAC is a nation-wide task force which helps state and local law enforcement agencies develop an effective response to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and internet crimes against children.

### **In 2020, the SAFE Team:**

- Conducted approximately 500 compliance checks with the assistance of patrol
- Identified 30 potential individuals that were out of compliance and filed 11 cases against them in this jurisdiction
- Conducted 12 investigations of ICAC cases
- Provided sex offender registration information to

department trainees and the Sheriff’s Citizen’s Academy

- Attended training regarding sex offender supervision and ICAC investigations

In June of 2021, S.B. 383 will go into effect. That Senate Bill will reclassify registered sex offenders into three categories. Those categories will allow certain registrants to petition to be released from their requirement of lifelong registration. As a part of the registrant’s petition, the SAFE detectives will be tasked with reviewing the registrant’s criminal history, conduct, and violation history in order to write informed and accurate recommendations for offenders being released from the list. The SAFE Team is committed to enforcing registration laws and believes the tiered system will allow us to focus our investigative efforts on the more serious offenders.

SAFE Team members will continue to provide an immediate response to complaints, inquiries and information regarding registered sex offenders in the community.



## IAN PARKINSON IS THE ELECTED SHERIFF- CORONER

of San Luis Obispo County. Deputy sheriffs also function as deputy coroners and perform the role of coroner in all jurisdictions within San Luis Obispo County. The California Government Code mandates that the coroner investigate the manner and cause of death in most cases where the death occurred outside of a hospital or presence of a physician; and in all cases involving homicide, suicide, accidental deaths, and deaths due to suspicious circumstances. In most cases, a patrol deputy will respond to the scene of an unexpected death and conduct the investigation.

In cases that require an in-depth investigation or where greater expertise is needed, the Sheriff's Office has the Coroner Unit within the Investigative Services Bureau. The Coroner Unit is comprised of a sergeant, three detectives, a legal clerk, a forensic pathologist, and a part-time lab

assistant. The three detectives are highly trained and specialize in determining the manner of death. The forensic pathologist, Dr. Joye Carter, is triple board certified in forensic, anatomic, and clinical pathology, and uses her more than 30 years of experience to determine the cause of death.

In 2020, the Coroner Unit reviewed 1,812 reportable deaths that occurred in San Luis Obispo County. Patrol Deputies responded to 667 unexpected deaths and conducted preliminary investigations. Coroner detectives reviewed those cases to determine whether further investigation was needed. Ultimately, the Coroner Unit conducted 340 investigations that led to autopsy, review of medical records, or partial autopsy to determine the manner and cause of death. It is the responsibility of the coroner to determine the necessary level of inquiry into any death that falls within its jurisdiction. The level of inquiry is determined on a case-by-case basis and completed in consultation with a decedent's treating physician(s) and/or the forensic pathologist.

Each coroner detective is responsible for certifying the death certificate on each decedent subject to their investigations. Coroner detectives also review death certificates for which a treating physician has determined the cause of death in a case appropriately referred to the Coroner.

Of the 340 cases formally investigated by the Coroner Unit in 2020, 186 autopsies were performed, 83 partial autopsies were performed, and 71 medical record reviews were completed.

Of the deaths investigated in 2020; 153 were certified as natural causes, 42 were suicides, 9 were homicides, 122 were accidental, 1 was undetermined, and the remainder were still under investigation or being finalized at the end of the year.

In 2020, San Luis Obispo County experienced two emerging challenges related to its cause of death determinations. Although suicides decreased from the year prior, a significant surge in opiate- and fentanyl-related deaths was realized. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic required significant operational changes as well as an enhanced partnership with public health officials to ensure Coronavirus-related deaths were properly classified pursuant to CDC guidelines.





# NORTH STATION

## THE SHERIFF'S NORTH STATION

is staffed by roughly 30 personnel comprised of one commander, two sergeants, four senior deputies, 15 deputies, two deputy / K-9 teams, three school resource deputies, one rural crime deputy, two area resident deputies, and two legal clerks. The North Station also has an active group of Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteer Patrol members who are an asset and support our patrol operations on non-law enforcement activities. We patrol over 1,900 square miles and aid allied agencies when requested.

The North Station received over 20,000 calls for service in 2020, resulting in approximately 2,500 reports. Calls-for-service drastically dropped when the State issued the stay-at-home order, and then quickly increased to above pre-stay-at-home orders a few months later.

Although there are no "routine" calls for service or self-initiated contacts for law enforcement personnel, seldom do the calls result in a deputy being harmed.

However, this year, we suffered two deputies being shot and sustaining serious injuries.

In June, Deputy Dreyfus and Deputy Pacas responded to assist the Paso Robles Police Department after a subject had been observed on their camera system armed with a firearm. When responding units arrived in the area, they came under fire from the subject. Deputy Dreyfus and Deputy Pacas arrived in the area to assist and were searching for the suspect when they came under fire. Deputy Dreyfus was shot in the face by the suspect. Deputy Pacas returned fire, moved Deputy Dreyfus from the immediate area where he had been shot, and immediately began rendering aid to Deputy Dreyfus. Deputy Dreyfus survived his injuries, but still has a long road to recovery.

In September, Deputy Lehnhoff was on patrol when he observed a subject he recognized as a wanted felon. When Deputy Lehnhoff attempted to contact the subject, he fled on foot for a short distance, then turned and started shooting at Deputy Lehnhoff, striking

him in the leg. Deputy Lehnhoff returned fire and put critical information out over the radio for responding units. Several other Sheriff units responded and engaged the suspect. After the suspect attempted to ambush the deputies, the suspect was shot and pronounced deceased at the scene. Many more weapons and ammunitions were found in the suspect's vehicle which would have posed a serious risk to law enforcement and the public had he gained access to them. Deputy Lehnhoff survived his injuries; however, he too has a long recovery.

The Sheriff's North Station would like to express its appreciation for the support we have received from the community. Large groups gathered on the roads to show support when Deputy Dreyfus and Deputy Lehnhoff were released from the hospital. Others have made gift baskets and many other thoughtful gestures. Templeton High School students held a drive-up "Coffee with a Cop" and decorated the North Station with handmade signs and bows. We are grateful to serve such a wonderful community.



# SOUTH STATION

## **IN 2020, THE SHERIFF'S SOUTH STATION**

proudly served the residents and visitors of southern San Luis Obispo County in 2020. This division of the Sheriff's Office is responsible for providing service to approximately 40,000 residents in an jurisdiction area of approximately 850 square miles. The communities served by the Sheriff's Office in this area are: unincorporated Arroyo Grande, Oceano, Nipomo, Halcyon, Los Berros, Huasna, and New Cuyama. The area is bordered on the north by Avila Beach, west by the Pacific Ocean, south by the Santa Barbara County Line, and east by the Kern County Line.

In 2020 the South Station was managed by a commander and two sergeants who supervise the staff of four senior deputies, 20 deputies, two K-9 handlers and their partners, two school resource deputies, one rural crimes deputy, one Community Action Team deputy and two legal clerks.

**THE SOUTH STATION  
PATROL STAFF RESPONDED  
TO OVER 22,490 CALLS FOR  
SERVICE AND COMPLETED  
3,436 REPORTS.**

Reported criminal activity ranged from simple theft and property crimes to homicide. Though crimes of violence remain a small percentage of the overall calls for service, they continue to have an impact on the safety and security of this area and are handled with the utmost professionalism. In November of 2020, a homicide occurred, and the suspect was located within hours of the offense. This would not have been possible without the cooperation of the public and the dedication of our personnel. South Station deputies are called upon to investigate thefts, vandalism, public disturbances, and situations that erode the quality of life for the public such as drug and alcohol offenses.

Many Sheriff's Office programs were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Out of concern for our personnel and the public, many school and volunteer programs were suspended to avoid

unnecessary exposure. The Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteer Patrol was one of those programs. We look forward to restarting that program as soon as it is safe to do so.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, our two school resource deputies continued to interact with their assigned schools and students, and in times of need, supplemented our patrol deputies when staffing challenges arose.

**THIS YEAR TAUGHT US THAT  
AN ALL-HANDS-ON-DECK  
APPROACH WAS  
NECESSARY TO CONTINUE  
THE LEVEL OF SERVICE  
EXPECTED BY THE PUBLIC.**





# COAST STATION

## THE COAST STATION PROVIDES

law enforcement services for all unincorporated coastal areas from Avila Beach to the Monterey County line. This area encompasses the communities of San Simeon, Cambria, Harmony, Cayucos, Los Osos, Baywood Park, Avila Beach, Edna Valley, and the unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo. The San Luis Obispo County Airport and the Diablo Canyon Power Plant are also contained in the jurisdiction of Coast Station.

The patrol station is currently staffed by one commander, two sergeants, and 19 deputy sheriffs assigned to patrol which includes four senior deputies. There is also one K-9 deputy, one deputy sheriff assigned as a School Resource Officer, one part-time reserve deputy sheriff assigned as a School Resource Officer, one deputy sheriff assigned to investigate rural crimes, three deputy sheriffs for airport security roles and two legal clerks.

**TOGETHER THIS TEAM RESPONDED TO OVER 23,000 CALLS FOR SERVICE, PROCESSED OVER 2,400 REPORTS AND CONDUCTED NEARLY 600 ARRESTS IN 2020.**

Coast Station deputies have continued to work hard in an attempt to bring the population experiencing homelessness together with community-based service providers to identify potential pathways to shelter and other needed resources. This has continued to be an important priority, especially considering the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected every person in the community.

This year we celebrated, in a socially distanced manner, when one of the Coast Station's senior deputies, who was honored by King David Masonic Lodge as Deputy of the Year. The senior deputy was recognized for his outstanding work serving the communities of the Coast Station area for many years.

Looking forward to 2021, the Sheriff's Coast Station team is honored to serve the community. We will continue to look for opportunities to work together with community partners to identify issues that can be solved in positive and creative ways. Together we can maintain a high quality of life, enhance the safety and security of our community, and bring positive outcomes to challenging circumstances.

**PLEASE CALL UPON US TO BE OF SERVICE.**



# WATCH COMMANDER

## THE WATCH COMMANDER'S OFFICE

is located in the Emergency Operations Center directly adjacent to the Sheriff's Dispatch Center. Sheriff's sergeants manage the office 24 hours a day. Sheriff's commanders staff the office during the evening hours to increase the field supervision of patrol deputies. The Watch Commander's Office has

**THE WATCH COMMANDER'S  
OFFICE IS THE SINGLE  
POINT OF CONTACT FOR ALL  
COUNTY DEPARTMENTS  
AND SERVICES AFTER  
BUSINESS HOURS, ON  
WEEKENDS AND ON  
HOLIDAYS.**

the principal responsibility of overseeing dispatch services and patrol operations on a daily basis. The office also serves as the point of contact for the entire county with the Federal National Warning System (NAWAS) and the California State Warning Center, which both provide communications to our county in the event of a natural disaster or terrorist attack. The watch commander also handles all local notifications during critical incidents and natural disasters, including but not limited to the county's Bomb Task Force, Sheriff's Special Enforcement Detail, Search and Rescue, Dive Team, Aero Squadron, and the Sheriff's Detective Division.

The Watch Commander's Office is the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant's primary law enforcement point of contact during any unusual events or critical incidents occurring at the plant.

During an emergency, the watch commander is authorized to activate the County Emergency Alert System (EAS) including Reverse 911, area sirens, and EAS messages on commercial radio and television.







## THE DISPATCH CENTER IS A PRIMARY PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT

responsible for all 911 calls in the county of San Luis Obispo, as well as the cities of Arroyo Grande and Morro Bay. The Sheriff's Office also maintains communication and dispersal of resources to the citizens of these areas, including law enforcement, paramedics, and numerous county and state departments. The Sheriff's Office is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with EMD (Emergency Medical Dispatch) certified dispatchers. The center is responsible for receiving calls for service from the citizens of the community, and sending appropriate resources including law enforcement,

probation, ambulances, EMS, and rescue helicopters and other personnel as needed.

In 2020 the Sheriffs Dispatch center has received upwards of 108,712 calls for service for law enforcement, averaging 9,000 calls per month. Using the same timeframe, roughly 27,000 medical calls, averaging 2,200 per month; 52,198 911 calls, averaging 4,300 per month and over 249,831 other calls, including emergency and business lines. In 2020 the Sheriff's Dispatch Center will handle over 300,000 phone calls, including over 52,198 911 calls.

**THE 911 CALLS WERE ANSWERED IN FIFTEEN SECONDS OR LESS 99% OF THE TIME, SURPASSING THE CALIFORNIA STATE STANDARD OF 95%.**

Beyond their responsibilities in the center, the Sheriff's Office dispatchers also extend their knowledge and citizen contact outside the center. The dispatchers did not attend any outreach programs or teach any of the 911 for Kids program this last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sheriff's dispatchers are also trained in tactical dispatch to respond out to calls with the SED team. This is a specialized detail for those interested in expanding their skills and experience.

The Sheriffs Dispatch Center has been leading the way with the use of RAVE panic button in the school system, Smart 911, Reverse 911, Text to 911, and Rapid Deploy mapping.



# SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT DETAIL

## THE SHERIFF'S SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT DETAIL (SED)

is a highly trained and specially equipped tactical team. The team is designed to resolve critical incidents that include hostage situations, barricaded suspects, armed suicidal subjects, crowd control, and high-risk warrant service.

The team was formed in the 1970s in response to the civil unrest occurring at that time. In 2003, the partnership with the Atascadero Police Department expanded the size of the team to deal with the increasing threat of terrorism. SED has trained extensively at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant and has become an integral part of emergency response in San Luis Obispo County.

Assignment to SED is a collateral duty for all personnel, in addition to that member's primary assignment with the department. SED members attend at least 20 hours of monthly training, as well as specialized tactical schools throughout the state.

### THE SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED TO SED INCLUDES HIGHLY ACCURATE WEAPONS, LESS LETHAL MUNITIONS, AND ARMORED RESCUE VEHICLES.

Whenever SED is activated, the Sheriff's Tactical Negotiations Team (TNT) also responds. Most critical incidents are resolved through negotiations carried out by TNT rather than with force.

The year 2020 was extremely busy for SED members. The SED team

responded to numerous civil unrest incidents including a two-day deployment to the city of Los Angeles to assist LAPD with riots in their city.

In 2020, three separate officer-involved shooting incidents took place in our county. SED members were deployed during each incident to search for the suspect(s). Along with the officer-involved shootings, SED members participated in numerous call-outs throughout the year that included search warrant service, barricaded suspects, and hostage rescue situations. All these call-outs were resolved with the successful apprehension of the suspect.

The Special Enforcement Detail continues to enhance its capabilities through training and specialized equipment. The primary focus of the Sheriff's Special Enforcement Detail has been, and will continue to be, to provide San Luis Obispo County with the finest tactical law enforcement team possible.





# GANG TASK FORCE

## THE GANG TASK FORCE WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1989 AS AN EFFORT TO CURB VIOLENCE

and destruction that criminal street gangs have on communities. The focus of the Gang Task Force is to make a positive difference through outreach and education, identifying criminal street gang members and their activities, and appropriately applying law enforcement efforts to stop them.

**CURRENTLY, THERE ARE 670 DOCUMENTED GANG MEMBERS IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY AND 47 DOCUMENTED CRIMINAL STREET GANGS.**

These include White supremacist gangs, Hispanic gangs, Black gangs, outlaw motorcycle gangs, international gangs, and others.

In 2020, the San Luis Obispo County Gang Task Force is comprised of a “Street Team” and an investigative unit. Currently, there are two San Luis Obispo County Sheriff’s Deputies and two San Luis Obispo County Probation Officers assigned to the Street Team. These members conduct street-level contacts with known and suspected gang members. These contacts assist in identifying current gang members, identifying criminal conduct, and identifying any relevant intelligence as it relates to ongoing gang activity

The San Luis Obispo County Gang Task Force also has a Sheriff’s detective and a District Attorney investigator assigned as investigators within the task force. These two members are responsible for investigating felony property and violent crimes as they relate to criminal gang activity. These two investigators conduct thorough investigations and assist other Sheriff’s Office investigative units as requested.

GTF also has a “Vertical Prosecutor” assigned by the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney’s Office. This Deputy District Attorney assists GTF

investigators to ensure gang cases are prosecuted appropriately, with a level of expertise rightfully expected by the public in San Luis Obispo County.

**In 2020, as part of the Gang Task Force’s effort to control the effects of criminal street gangs, GTF has conducted investigations that have led to the seizure of:**

*2.5 lbs*  
**Methamphetamine**

*4 lbs*  
**Heroin**

*2.88 lbs*  
**Fentanyl**

*19*  
**Firearms**

**THESE INVESTIGATIONS HAVE LED TO THE ARREST OF 80 SUSPECTS.**



# SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT

## NARCOTICS AND CANNABIS ENFORCEMENT UNIT

The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office maintains the Special Operations Unit that consists of three Sheriff's Office investigators, one intelligence officer, one K-9 deputy, one Probation officer/investigator, and two Homeland Security Investigations agents, supervised by a sergeant.

The Special Operations Unit is primarily focused on major narcotic investigations, mainly Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) and other narcotic-related crimes. The most prevalent illegal narcotics available in the county are methamphetamine, cocaine, fentanyl, and heroin. The unit employs a wide range of investigative techniques to combat the problem. Some common techniques are surveillance, use of informants, controlled purchases, and wiretaps. In cases involving large-scale illegal drug sales where the proceeds can be located, asset forfeiture may be utilized.

The Cannabis Enforcement Unit (CEU) consists of two Sheriff's Office investigators and one part-time sergeant who investigate both legal and illegal cannabis activities. With the growth of legal licensed cannabis businesses, illegal cannabis activities are also rising. Code Enforcement Officers are assigned to the unit as well and assist with compliance and Cannabis Hearing Officer (CHO) proceedings. The illicit cannabis investigations vary in the following forms: cultivation, processing, manufacturing, transportation, sales, and proceeds of sales. Some of the most serious problems associated with illegal cannabis activities are environmental related issues where suspect cultivators divert water, use illegal pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, and rodenticides.

In 2020, the following seizure totals were made as the result of numerous investigations by Sheriff's narcotics and cannabis investigators. Some seizures were the result of multi-agency investigations and occurred throughout California.

*In 2020, the following **seizure totals** were made as the result of numerous investigations by Sheriff's narcotics and cannabis investigators. Some seizures were the result of multi-agency investigations and occurred throughout California.*

Heroin	2128 grams
Cocaine	7 grams
Methamphetamine	13.7 lbs
Fentanyl	1508 grams
MDMA	70.5 grams
Processed cannabis	94.6 lbs
Cannabis plants	30,159
Currency Seized	\$64,571
Firearms Seized	17
BHO Lab	2 locations





The Special Operations Unit maintains a Clandestine Laboratory Team trained and certified by the state of California. Federal and state law require investigators who work with hazardous materials (HAZMAT), such as those found in clandestine drug laboratories, to complete a total of 40 hours of instruction and yearly re-certification. Investigators learn how to safely process a clandestine laboratory site for evidence and to ensure their compliance with the various environmental and safety regulations that apply to clandestine laboratory seizure and dismantling. These investigators must then receive ongoing training in this field to maintain their certification.

Clandestine laboratories are most often associated with methamphetamine manufacturing but can include the manufacture of other drugs such as butane honey oil extraction, steroids, and organic hallucinogenic compounds (Dimethyltryptamine).

In the interest of protecting children who are exposed to drugs, drug manufacturing and the dangers that exist with this activity, the Sheriff's Office participates in the California Multi-Jurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team (Cal-MMET) Program. The Cal-MMET grant funds two Sheriff's narcotics investigators who receive specialized training in the field of Drug Endangered Children (DEC) investigations. Many DEC investigations involve a multi-agency approach to developing strategies to protect children. Sheriff's investigators work closely with the District Attorney's Office and the Department of Social Services to keep children safe and prosecute those who would expose them to the dangers of illicit drugs.

Some of the current trends in narcotics are heroin use and sales and butane

honey oil extraction labs. Additionally, the unit has also responded to ongoing maritime smuggling operations involving Panga boats. Drug trafficking organizations utilize these boats for drugs and human trafficking in coastal counties in California. In 2014 and 2015, San Luis Obispo County consistently had one of the highest numbers of confirmed Panga boat landings in the state of California. Due to aggressive detection and prosecution, no known boats landed nor were interdicted in 2020.

Lastly, in addition to the above duties, the Special Operations Unit also assists other units within the Investigative Services Bureau with surveillance and intelligence gathering of various persons of interest, search warrant service and wiretap investigations.





# CANINE UNIT

## THE CANINE UNIT

is comprised of six Sheriff's Office handler/canine teams. Five of our dogs are assigned to the Patrol Division and one of our dogs is assigned to the Special Operations Unit (SOU). Included in the six handler/canine teams is K-9 Rogue, who is one of two Sheriff's Office Canines trained for Explosive Ordinance Detection (EOD). K-9 Rogue was added to the unit in 2020. The handler/canine teams are comprised of the following:

Deputy Adams and K-9 Corvin are assigned to South Station and are one of two Sheriff's Office Canines trained for EOD Detection. K-9 Corvin is a 3-year-old German Shepherd. The team was the first certified EOD Detection Canine Team at the Sheriff's Office. K-9 Corvin is trained to detect a multitude of odors commonly associated with explosive ordinance. Deputy Adams and K-9 Corvin are also trained in handler protection, tracking, searching, and apprehending suspects.

Deputy Mora and K-9 Rogue are assigned to Coast Station and they are our most recent addition to the Sheriff's Office Canine Unit. K-9 Rogue is a 2-year-old Belgian Malinois. Deputy Mora and K-9 Rogue completed basic canine handler school during 2020. They certified in patrol and EOD Detection in the Fall of 2020. K-9 Rogue is the second Sheriff's Office canine trained to detect a multitude of odors commonly associated with explosive ordinance. Deputy Mora and K-9 Rogue, along with Deputy Cedric Adams and K-9 Corvin, train and work together to assist our patrol division and the San Luis Obispo County Bomb Task Force.

Deputy Day and K-9 Knox joined the Sheriff's Canine Unit in 2019. K-9 Knox is a 3-year-old German Shepherd bred in Germany. K-9 Knox is a dual-purpose canine trained in narcotics detection (methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine). K-9 Knox is also trained in handler protection, tracking, searching, and apprehending suspects.

Deputy Love re-joined the Canine Unit in late 2019 and was re-teamed with K-9 DJ. K-9 DJ is an 8-year-old Belgian Malinois who has worked for the

Sheriff's Office for seven years. K-9 DJ is a dual-purpose canine trained in narcotics detection (methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and marijuana). K-9 DJ is also trained in handler protection, tracking, searching, and apprehending suspects. K-9 DJ was previously teamed with Deputy Peet for 5 years.

Deputy Peet was re-assigned to the Sheriff's Office Special Operations Unit (SOU) in late 2019 and was paired with the Sheriff's Office's sole single-purpose canine, K-9 Rooster. Rooster is a 2-year-old Labrador Retriever that is



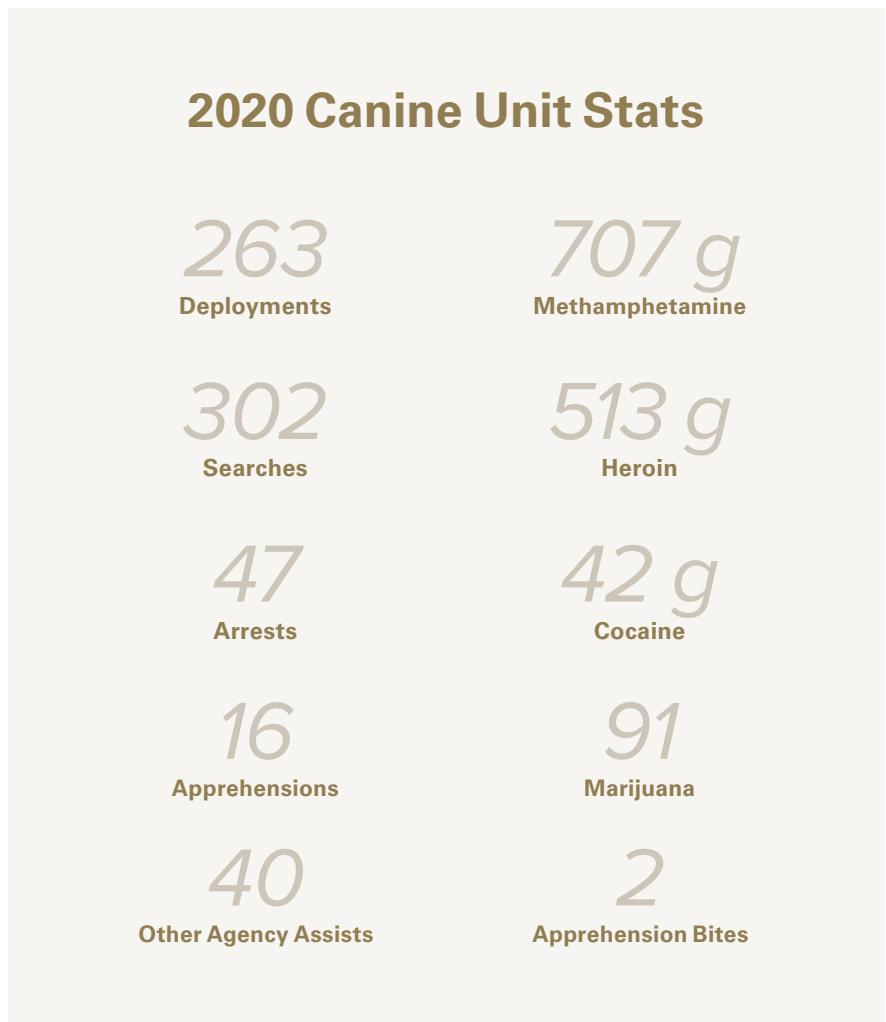


trained in the detection of narcotics (methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine). Deputy Peet and K-9 Rooster were certified as a team in late 2019. Deputy Peet and K-9 Rooster spend a good amount of time assisting our jail and custody staff with narcotics searches in our custody facilities; as well as assisting Sheriff's Office SOU, Narcotics, and Patrol staff with various investigations.

Deputy Ughoc and K-9 Benny joined the Sheriff's Office Canine Unit in 2019. Benny is a 3-year-old Belgian Malinois from France. He is a dual-purpose canine trained in narcotics detection (methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine). K-9 Benny is also trained in handler protection, tracking, searching and apprehending suspects.

In September 2020, K-9 Benny sustained an injury to his front leg during a canine training exercise. Law enforcement dogs, especially the Belgian Malinois breed, are high energy dogs. In Benny's case, his high energy and high drive resulted in him landing awkwardly on his front leg during a training search. Unfortunately, this injury will result in K-9 Benny's retirement from service as a Sheriff's Office Canine. Our plan is to retire K-9 Benny to his handler, Deputy Ughoc, in the early part of 2021. We look forward to pairing Deputy Ughoc with a new Sheriff's Office Canine in 2021.

The Sheriff's Office welcomes community support for our Canine Unit. Anyone interested in supporting the Sheriff's Office Canine Unit is encouraged to contact the Sheriff's Advisory Foundation (<https://safslo.org/>).





# BOMB TASK FORCE

## THE BOMB TASK FORCE WAS CREATED IN 1982,

a time when explosive and bomb-related incidents were increasing within the county. Local law enforcement agencies came to the consensus that each agency did not have the individual resources to support its own respective bomb squads. Therefore, the San Luis Obispo County Bomb Task Force was formed, meeting the need for a specialized team with unique equipment and 24-hour response capabilities.

The Bomb Task Force began responding to calls for service in 1982 and was a coordinated team approach with a thorough commitment from all law enforcement agencies within San Luis Obispo County. Funding resources for equipment and training currently come from the Sheriff's Office, city police agencies in San Luis Obispo County, and Cal Poly University Police.

## STRUCTURE OF THE BOMB TASK FORCE

The Bomb Task Force is currently made up of six members, five of whom are Sheriff's Office deputies and one San Luis Obispo police officer. The Bomb Task Force assignment is a collateral duty, with each team member working various full-time positions within their respective agencies.

The Bomb Task Force is governed by a board of directors consisting of members of the Criminal Justice Administrators Association of San Luis Obispo County.

### The Board of Directors are:

- The County Sheriff
- The Chiefs of Police of each municipal police agency within the county
- The Chief of Police, California State Polytechnic University

Each team member is required to be a certified Hazardous Devices (Bomb) Technician, having undergone a

thorough background check conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The basic training for a bomb technician is a six-week course at the Federal Bureau of Investigation Hazardous Devices School, located at Redstone Arsenal Army Base, in Huntsville, Alabama. Training is ongoing and the bomb technicians are required by the FBI to train a minimum of 288 hours per year.

## TASK FORCE CAPABILITIES

The San Luis Obispo County Bomb Task Force is accredited by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is certified as a fully operational bomb squad, capable of safe rendering and disposing of improvised explosive devices, military ordnance, and commercially manufactured explosives. The Bomb Task Force is able to respond to all bomb- or explosive-related incidents within San Luis Obispo County and, upon issuance of a mutual aid request, to areas outside the county of San Luis Obispo.

The Bomb Task Force works in





conjunction with various State and Federal law enforcement agencies, including the California Highway Patrol; State Parks and Recreation Department; Federal Bureau of Investigation; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; United States Postal Inspectors; and Department of Homeland Security.

### **SUPPORT TEAM CONCEPT**

Although the Bomb Task Force is a self-sufficient unit, it has an excellent working relationship with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department Bomb Squad. A verbal agreement has been established between the two counties to assist each other in times of need. In addition, the Task Force maintains a close relationship with the 30th Civil Engineer Squadron, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team at Vandenberg Air Force Base, whose military jurisdiction includes this county. The SLO County Bomb Task Force will also assist Sheriff's SED and Regional SWAT, if requested.



### **2020 Calls for Service**

The Bomb Task Force responded to 18 explosive devices or bomb-related calls in the 2020 calendar year throughout San Luis Obispo County. The explosive-related calls consisted of hoax devices, IEDs, military ordnance, illegal fireworks, and suspicious chemical devices.



# COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM

## COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM (CAT)

is staffed by two deputies who specialize in the unsheltered population and with community members suffering from mental illness throughout the entire San Luis Obispo county with an additional CAT deputy exclusively assigned to South Station. The county CAT units have partnered with the County Behavioral Health Department to create a co-responding model to meet the needs of the target population. These co-responding Behavioral Health Community Action Teams (BHCAT) consist of a behavioral health technician and a law enforcement agent. The priorities in 2020 were focused on supporting the Stepping Up Initiative by actions directed towards reducing recidivism of those suffering from mental illness, finding appropriate alternatives to jail, as well as assisting the target population with connections to resources during the global pandemic. Referrals and calls for service are received from

several community partners including family members, non-profit agencies, law enforcement officers, dispatch, and the San Luis Obispo (SLO) County Jail staff. The ongoing goals are to reduce the number of bookings into jail of community members who suffer from a mental illness, assist this population with engaging in treatment, and coordinating getting them connected with the appropriate level of care. These actions and goals are done through collaboration with Judges, Board of Supervisors, District Attorney's Office, Public Defenders Office, SLO County Jail, Behavioral Health Department, and community partners.

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Serving Unsheltered Population

The BHCAT and CAT units adjusted their normal protocols to adhere to Covid-19 safety measures put in place to serve the unsheltered population while prioritizing the community members health and safety. The units worked with the county's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to reach out to the unsheltered population in

hard-to-reach places in order to check on their health and offer appropriate resources. The CAT unit worked with the EOC to identify vital services and shelters that are essential to this population and that needed to stay open during this restrictive time. One of these vital services was keeping the warming center in North County open for the unsheltered population.

**THE UNITS PRIORITIZED CLEANING UP CAMPS IN SAN LUIS OBISPO, PASO ROBLES, LOS OSOS, AND CAMBRIA TO REDUCE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 WHILE OFFERING RESOURCES AND RELOCATING INDIVIDUALS TO SAFER AND MORE APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS.**

While engaging with these community members, high utilizers were identified and individualized services were offered to further assist this population. The teams set up medical and mental



health appointments, found housing, assisted with applications to services, as well as provided transportation for the high need individuals to these services.

### **Serving those suffering from mental illness**

In 2020, the BHCAT units redirected their efforts from focusing on the top ten individuals booked into the county jail to focusing on responding to psychiatric emergencies. The units were dispatched to calls for service involving someone experiencing a mental health crisis in order to assist in de-escalating situations, locating appropriate alternatives to jail, and following up on the mental health and safety of these individuals.

**COVID-19 POSED A BARRIER TO THE USUAL DAY TO DAY ASSESSMENTS OF THE UNITS AND IN LIEU OF DAILY ENGAGING WITH THE PUBLIC, THEY WERE UTILIZED THROUGH DISPATCH AND COORDINATION TO RESPOND TO CALLS FOR SERVICE FOR CALLS INVOLVING A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS.**

This redirection of their efforts resulted in placements in the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF), local hospitals, housing, recovery groups, residential treatment facilities, and placements back with family. The units responded to calls for service including calls involving suicide

attempts, hostage situations, self-barricading individuals, and self-harming individuals.

### **Crisis Intervention**

In 2020, the Sheriff's Office was able to conduct one 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) before Covid-19 restricted live classes. This class included students from the Sheriff's Office Patrol and Custody departments, Fish and Game, Probation, local Law Enforcement officers, District Attorney's office, investigators, dispatchers, as well as community members. A county wide expansion plan for CIT was developed and made possible by funds granted from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).

Two Sheriff Deputies, one from patrol and one from the custody division, became certified trainers for Trauma Informed Response. These two deputies will continue to integrate this training into the CIT course material. The advanced CIT patrol deputy was also assigned to the Tactical Negotiations Team (TNT).

**THE COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS ITS APPRECIATION FOR THE PUBLIC WE SERVE AND THE SUPPORT AND TRUST WE RECEIVE FROM COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS, AND FRIENDS.**





# RURAL CRIME UNIT

## THE MISSION OF THE RURAL CRIME UNIT

(RCU) is to enforce laws and provide investigative services focused primarily on theft and property damage in the agricultural communities and rural industries. The Rural Crime Unit also provides current and up-to-date crime prevention techniques and strategies to the farmers and ranchers of San Luis Obispo County.

The Rural Crime Unit deputies receive specific training regarding their role as an RCU deputy. One RCU deputy is assigned to each substation within the Sheriff's Office jurisdiction and supervised by a sergeant who reports to the Headquarters Commander. In addition to specific training, deputies are members of the California Rural Crime Prevention Task Force and the Central Coast Rural Crime Task Force. Deputies attend meetings and training on a regular basis and host the quarterly California Rural Crime Prevention Task Force Meeting once per year.

The Sheriff's Office Rural Crime Unit hosted the quarterly meeting of the State Task Force February 3, 4 and 5. Some of the training provided consisted of tours and presentations of the Cal Poly Agriculture Facilities and a presentation of the SmartWater CSI technology implemented by the Rural Crime Unit in September of 2019.

Rural Crime deputies typically attend meetings held by the stakeholders of the San Luis Obispo County rural community. Those stakeholders include the SLO County Farm Bureau, Cattlewomen and Cattlemen's Associations. These meetings present the opportunity to share information regarding crime trends as well as gather information that affects the diverse areas of the ranch and agricultural communities. It also provides the opportunity to make crime prevention recommendations, such as the formation of a Ranch Watch group, providing Owner Applied Number programs (OAN) completing a Ranch/ Farm Security Survey conducted by our Rural Crime Unit in conjunction with Crime Prevention Unit. The distribution

and application of Smart Water CSI forensic solution has become a key element of crime prevention efforts.

Although COVID-19 changed many of the Rural Crime Unit's goals and objectives for the year, Rural Crime deputies continue their important work of investigating agriculture-related criminal activity. In 2020 the Rural Crime Unit investigated approximately 168 cases. These cases included vandalism of property and equipment, theft of agricultural equipment, animal neglect and cruelty and non-ag related cases in patrol operations. In addition to investigations, Rural Crime Deputies responded to 1,026 calls for service and made 384 self-initiated contacts during the course of their duties.

With the promise of COVID-19 vaccines now on the horizon, the Sheriff's Rural Crime Unit is looking forward to playing a role in getting our communities back to a sense of normalcy in the coming months and to deliver effective and professional law enforcement services to the farming and ranching communities of San Luis Obispo County.





# MARINE ENFORCEMENT

## THE MARINE ENFORCEMENT UNIT (MEU)

consists of six deputies, one sergeant and one commander. The MEU provides enforcement at Lake Nacimiento and Lake Lopez, working closely with rangers from both San Luis Obispo and Monterey counties. With a focus on education and boating safety, deputies contact dozens of boaters each day they patrol the county lakes.

In addition to local lakes, the coastline of San Luis Obispo County extends south from Big Sur to the Santa Maria River, just north of Point Sal. Along these 90 miles of coastline is the Diablo Canyon Power Plant, just north of Avila Beach. Purchased to help combat the threat of smuggling facing coastal communities, federal grant money was obtained to purchase this fully equipped patrol boat to conduct inshore and offshore patrols. First

**THE MEU IS EQUIPPED TO PROVIDE CONSISTENT ENFORCEMENT PATROLS IN THE WATERS OFF OF SAN LUIS OBISPO UTILIZING THE NEWEST VESSEL IN THE FLEET, A 27' DEFENDER CLASS PATROL BOAT BUILT BY SAFE BOATS INTERNATIONAL OF BREMERTON, WASHINGTON.**

placed into service in January 2015, this vessel has now conducted more than 300 hours of patrol operations. Panga boat smuggling along the San Luis Obispo County coastline continues to present a challenge to law enforcement. The MEU is now better equipped to work with the Sheriff's Office Dive Team, the Narcotics Unit detectives, and our state and federal partners with the interdiction and safe removal of Panga boats from our county beaches. Timely removal of a Panga boat minimizes the adverse environmental

impact upon the shoreline and significantly reduces man-hours and costs associated with other forms of removal.

The Defender Class boat is complemented by a Rogue Jet Boatworks 25' patrol boat, which, during the busy summer months, is primarily assigned to Lake Nacimiento and provides patrol, enforcement, and education on the water. While on the lake, this vessel can also operate in support of other emergency service agencies for rapid transport of emergency personnel or injured parties. It is also used to assist the Sheriff's Dive Team with its mission on all the county's lakes and near-shore waters. The MEU's third vessel, used for utility missions, or to complement the other vessels, is a 22' Zodiac Hurricane rigid-hulled inflatable boat.



# OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE TEAM

## THE HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) TEAM WAS FOUNDED IN 2016

to address needs in patrolling areas impassable by traditional law enforcement vehicles. Since the inception of the team, we have expanded the number and types of vehicles available for deployment. We currently have 13 people assigned to the team comprised of deputies, senior deputies, a sergeant, and a commander. Deputies assigned to the team work at various stations throughout the county. We currently have two Polaris RZR 1000cc 4-seater OHVs and three Polaris Rangers in both two- and four-person seating arrangements. Depending on the assignment, we will choose our vehicles appropriately. The Rangers are great for hauling loads and general transport, meanwhile the RZR's possess superior off-road capabilities for the most challenging terrain.

The Off Highway Vehicle Team receives significant funding assistance through the State of California OHV Grants Program. This allows the OHV Team to purchase vehicles specifically used to patrol OHV riding areas. We also augment patrol functions by being able to be used in a variety of conditions and areas. The OHV Team also trains in rescue operations where citizens may be stranded or in need of help and cannot be accessed by traditional means. The OHV Team cross-trains with different units in the Sheriff's Office, such as the Special Enforcement Team, Sheriff's K-9 handlers, and Community Action Team. The unique vehicle configurations we operate allow us to also shuttle personnel into treacherous terrain.

The OHV Team trains throughout the year in different off-road areas in the county. These trainings are designed to increase operator familiarization, off-road awareness, and scenario-based training. We also participate in

any large-scale gatherings such as Fourth of July, Memorial Day, etc. Patrol during holiday events allows us to quickly respond to calls for service and citizen assistance.

**WE ENJOY INTERACTING  
WITH THE COMMUNITY  
AND BUILDING  
RELATIONSHIPS WITH  
THOSE WE ENCOUNTER.  
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC  
ARE OFTEN VERY  
INTERESTED IN OUR  
EQUIPMENT AND WE ARE  
ALWAYS HAPPY TO GIVE  
THEM A TOUR.**





# BICYCLE PATROL

## THE BICYCLE PATROL TEAM

is a specialty unit comprised of deputies and senior deputies who are specially trained to perform public safety patrol functions on a bicycle. Members of the Bike Patrol Team are trained to deploy and provide public safety services during events with large crowds. These types of events occur regularly throughout San Luis Obispo County and include parades, holiday events, concerts, community events, races, and various other special events.

Deputies who patrol on bicycles can cover larger areas than foot patrol deputies, as they can navigate crowded areas that might limit both a patrol car's mobility, as well as deputies who might deploy on foot. One of the biggest advantages to bicycle patrol is the ability for deputies to navigate swiftly in various environments, avoiding obstacles and hazards that would otherwise stop a patrol vehicle in its tracks. Another big advantage for deputies deployed on bicycles is that there are more opportunities to engage with the public, as it is easier for the

public to approach and speak with a deputy on a bicycle, and equally easier for deputies to approach, contact, and interact with those in the public. As members of the Sheriff's Office Bike Team, we enjoy these opportunities to positively interact with our community.

Bike Patrol Team deputies train together over the course of the year. Bike Patrol Team trainings build on basic bicycle riding skills as well as develop patrol-specific riding skills. The team's instructor and supervisor work together to develop training modules that prepare members for various bicycle patrol deployments. For example, since balance and control at low speeds are essential skills needed in confined and crowded areas, one of our training exercises typically requires riders to navigate a cone obstacle course at slow speeds.

One of the challenges in maintaining a public safety bike team, or any specialty unit or assignment, is keeping up with the modernization of equipment, technology, and uniforms, all of which are important in keeping deputies and the public safe, as well as projecting a professional image while serving. We

are proud to report that we have added a pair of Trek 29-inch patrol bicycles to the fleet in 2020.

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic this year, the Sheriff's Office Bike Patrol Team still deployed on what is typically our biggest bike detail event of the year, the annual Cayucos Fourth of July Celebration. Although this year the event was significantly scaled down, the Sheriff's Office Bike Patrol Team was still honored to serve our community.

The Sheriff's Office Bike Patrol Team also hosted a 40-hour Bicycle Patrol POST-certified training. This training took place in November and was attended by our three members to the Sheriff's Office Bike Patrol Team, as well as one officer from the San Luis Obispo Police Department, two deputies from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department and one officer from Los Gatos Police Department. This weeklong course takes place in Avila Beach, San Luis Obispo, Pismo Beach, Shell Beach and county areas of San Luis Obispo. It gives deputies the opportunity to connect with community members while training and building their skills.

# SCHOOL RESOURCE DEPUTIES

## DURING THE 2019–2020 SCHOOL YEAR,

Sheriff's School Resource Deputies (SRO) taught the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program curriculum throughout the unincorporated areas of the county. This program provides hundreds of students an opportunity to learn skills that will give them the encouragement and confidence to resist negative influences that they might experience in their young lives. After participating in the program, students graduate and are offered an opportunity to attend the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Youth Summer Camps during the summer.

In January 2020, 250 students who attended schools in Los Osos graduated from the G.R.E.A.T. program. Deputies were teaching the G.R.E.A.T. program up until March of 2020, when all the schools in the county where closed due to the COVID-19 Virus.

Due to the COVID-19 Virus, the SRO deputies were unable to conduct the

three San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office Youth Summer Camps for 2020.

During the summer two of the newly assigned SRO deputies were sent to G.R.E.A.T training and are now certified to teach the G.R.E.A.T program in 2020–2021 school year.

While the schools were closed during the COVID-19 Virus, SRO deputies were reassigned to patrol. While on patrol the SRO deputies check on their assigned schools when time allowed. The schools started internet learning and the SRO deputies were assisting the schools with attendance and getting the students set up for internet learning. SRO deputies were going with school staff to students' homes, due to many students/parents who were not responding to other attempts by the school staff to contact them.

During June of 2020, SRO deputies help school sites facilitate drive-in/ drive-up graduations to close out the 2019–2020 school year. Graduating families' vehicles were able to park safely and at a safe distance from other vehicles in the high school parking lots. Where the graduation program was

simulcast over their vehicle radios and there was an interactive program.

During this time of the COVID-19 Virus, SRO deputies have been also investigating suspected child abuse issues that have arisen while children are not in school.

The Coast Station SRO deputy has continued to spearhead the Sheriff's Teen Driver Challenge Program that was started in 2019. The program was created to help prevent San Luis Obispo County teens from becoming a statistic. The program is a free way for San Luis Obispo County teens to acquire safe driving skills from certified law enforcement Instructors. The training includes training modules, a driving simulator, precision driving maneuvers, collision avoidance, commentary driving, uneven road maneuvers, and skid control.

Funding for the Sheriff's Teen Driver Challenge Program has come from grants from State Farm Insurance, the Sheriff's Advisory Foundation, and private donations. The Sheriff's Office would like to thank the community for the support and donations to fund this important teen program and make it free of cost for our local teens.





## **WE ARE CURRENTLY STAFFED WITH THREE PROPERTY OFFICERS,**

two full-time and one part-time. Our Property Officers are responsible for the safe and secure storage, record keeping, and disposition of property and evidence submitted to them by the Sheriff's Office. Property is stored for a variety of reasons, including items that are found or recovered, evidence, and for safekeeping. Our property officers are also responsible for picking up property at the Sheriff's three patrol stations throughout the county along with the Coroner's Office. The property officers are responsible for destroying property that is no longer needed to be held as evidence.

We still maintain a small portion of the old property room to store some of our long-term items.

**WITH THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC THIS YEAR, WE HAVE DEVELOPED NEW WAYS OF RELEASING PROPERTY BY EITHER MAILING THE ITEMS OR SCHEDULING APPOINTMENTS OUTSIDE.**

We continue to develop and implement new ways of improving our organization. This will be a continued effort in years to come, but we have shown great progress throughout 2020.





# CRIME PREVENTION

## THE CRIME PREVENTION AND PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

is a unit within the Operations Division dedicated to increasing public safety through education and community engagement. In 2020 the unit was comprised of a public information officer and two crime prevention specialists.

The crime prevention specialists are available to support all Neighborhood Watch programs in the unincorporated areas of the county and provide crime prevention training and assistance to the ranching and agricultural communities. In addition, they are responsible for the annual Citizens Academy and Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteer Patrol Academy, children's safety programs, internet safety programs for youth, security surveys for homes and business, and public displays at community events.

Duties of this unit shifted this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancelling of in-person presentations and events. At the beginning of the pandemic, one member was assigned to work in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), providing assistance with its safety operations while complying with public health directives.

The role and responsibilities of the Public Information Officer (PIO) are constantly changing. However, the mission to inform the community about the Sheriff's Office is the one true constant.

The Public Information Officer (PIO) serves as the primary contact for local, state, national, and international media for any news items that directly relate to the Sheriff's Office. That includes writing and distributing press releases, coordinating news conferences, and serving as the primary spokesperson for the Sheriff's Office.

The PIO is also responsible for the design and content of the Sheriff's Office official website, [slosheriff.org](http://slosheriff.org) as well as its mobile app. In addition, the PIO coordinates social media efforts on

behalf of the Sheriff's Office, including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram. The purpose is quite simple: to inform the public, in many cases, in real-time as events are unfolding.

Such was the case this past year when the Sheriff's Office responded to three shootings in a four-month time period. Two were active shooter incidents and one was an officer involved shooting. In two of those instances, a deputy was shot and seriously wounded. These were incidents in which it was imperative to get information out to the public and get it out quickly. Using social media platforms, the PIO/Crime Prevention Unit was able to give real-time information regarding situational updates, shelter-in-place directives, and information about the conclusion of these events.

Additionally, with each of these incidents, multiple press conferences needed to be organized and coordinated so the Sheriff could speak directly to the public through social media channels and through the media to reassure the community about their safety. All this is designed to keep citizens informed and involved in the events happening in their communities.





# VOLUNTEER PATROL

## 2020 WAS A YEAR UNLIKE ANY OTHER

for the Sheriff's Office, and for our Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteer Patrol (SAVP) Program. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SAVP operations were immediately suspended on March 15, and a few days later it was determined that the 2020 SAVP Academy for new members would be postponed indefinitely. On July 7 after strict protocols were put in place regarding health checks, use of PPE, reporting symptoms, sanitizing work environments, and social distancing, the program was approved to resume some volunteer duties. Minimum volunteer hours remained waived during this time and those who fell in the at-risk category or did not feel comfortable were discouraged from returning to volunteer. Each station independently evaluated the safety for the return to patrol and worked with volunteers to keep staff and SAVP members healthy. Despite these strict protocols the county continued to see a

rise in cases, so in November all SAVP operations were again suspended, and continued to be through the end of the year.

Despite the SAVP program being operational for less than half the year, volunteers still provided invaluable service to the community in 2020. Volunteers out of North Station alone drove 5,205 miles throughout the year, providing eyes and ears to Sheriff's deputies, and working to deter crime through their presence on the road. One of our graffiti abatement SAVP members out of Coast Station spent over 65 hours removing or covering graffiti in the county, and in the first two months of the year alone our South Station volunteers logged 237 hours. Additionally, volunteers out of all three stations assisted with a drive-thru flu clinic in October put on by San Luis Obispo Emergency Operations Center by providing traffic control.

**ALTHOUGH IT LOOKED A BIT DIFFERENT, OUR VOLUNTEERS TOOK CARE OF THEMSELVES, THE COMMUNITY, AND EACH OTHER THIS YEAR. WE ARE PROUD OF THE SELFLESS SAVP MEMBERS HERE AT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE, AND WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE IN 2021.**



# SEARCH AND RESCUE

## THE SEARCH AND RESCUE (SLOSAR) TEAM

consists of volunteer members of our community who are trained and certified in Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and Health Care Provider CPR, the Incident Command System (ICS), communications, extensive search techniques and procedures, rope rescue skills, map, compass and Global Positioning System (GPS) and wilderness tracking and survival. All members are certified by the National Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR) in SAR Technician II.

SLOSAR is one of very few county SAR units that have their own California EMS Continuing Education Provider program. This license allows SLOSAR-trained EMS staff to re-certify EMTs through the State and evaluate skills at the state and national level. We also teach all our CPR training in house and teach CPR to several other departments within the Sheriff's Office.

SLOSAR now has a strong Type 1 search team, which can be deployed anywhere in the state for extreme and snow search conditions. This team has been an asset to the state and continues to further our relationships with other counties.

In 2020 SLOSAR has developed a Type 4 USAR team and an Operational Disaster Response Guide, which will allow SLOSAR to be an important resource in the event of a disaster in our county or within the state.

New members begin on probation and over the course of 12 to 18 months, a member is trained by experienced SLOSAR team members. They are expected to gain proficiency in all of the skills described above and many other areas on their way to becoming full members.

Many members strive for perfection and have acquired advanced skills in search theory, management, operations, logistics management, advanced GPS computer mapping, and advanced technical rescue. Some members have created trainings that have been recognized nationwide and

others are developing trainings that will enhance and increase the skill levels of their teammates. SLOSAR has an Out of County Incident Management Team that can deploy to another county and provide assistance or guidance on the management of their search.

**SLOSAR's current membership is 60 members strong. The specialty teams within SLOSAR include:**

1. 4X4 team
2. ATV (quad) team
3. Communications/Dispatching
4. Mountain Bike Team (urban and rural)
5. Technical Rope Rescue Team (high and low angle)
6. K-9 Team (area searching, trailing, and cadaver)
7. Medical Team EMR or EMT (20+ members rated at EMT)
8. Tracking Team
9. USAR Type 4 Disaster Team
10. Project Lifesaver Team





Because of SLOSAR's training and expertise, they also support the Sheriff's Office by participating in crime scene searches and equipment support.

**Some of the specialty equipment and vehicles available and supported by SLOSAR are:**

- 26' Communication-Command Vehicle
- Detailed topographical county maps & computer mapping (SARTOPO)
- 4X4 tow vehicle
- Generators and light towers
- 40' medical trailer
- Command trailers
- Crew/rehab trailer
- ATV/Quads
- Cal OES Communications MIGU
- Mountain bikes
- Metal detector equipment
- Humvee

The savings yearly to San Luis Obispo County for employing a professional search and rescue volunteer team in the field is approximately \$500 per hour.

**WITH A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 1268 VOLUNTEER HOURS SPENT ON MISSIONS THROUGH OCTOBER, THE COST SAVED BY SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FOR ALL VOLUNTEER TIME IS ESTIMATED AT \$634,000 ALREADY FOR 2020.**





# AERO SQUADRON

## AN ALL-VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION

is an all-volunteer organization comprised of licensed general aviation pilots and non-pilot trained observers attached to the Sheriff's Office to support airborne search, rescue, surveillance, and specialized transportation functions.

Since its founding, Aero Squadron member-pilots have utilized their privately owned aircraft for mission support operations. Squadron aircraft owners fly their own aircraft as pilot-in-command. Other pilots may fly as a flight officer or observer-only.

### MISSIONS

One of the Aero Squadron's vital original missions is to provide airborne search, location and rescue support for survivors of overdue and missing aircraft along the coastal range and remote inland areas.

More commonly, the Aero Squadron is called upon to assist ground search and rescue teams searching for missing persons throughout the county.

Missing persons have typically included inexperienced hikers, hunters, off-road mountain bicyclers, motorcyclists, ATV enthusiasts, lost children, and elderly people, especially those with mental, emotional or age-induced challenges.

The Aero Squadron also provides an important airborne communication relay platform for ground search and law enforcement teams operating within the county's mountainous terrain and steep valleys. These areas normally block line-of-sight VHF radio transmission and reception between ground personnel. Orbiting Aero Squadron aircraft can communicate with search base and remote teams, relaying critical information on a real-time basis.

After an overly extensive period of time upgrading its instruments and other electrical systems, including the installation of an entirely new avionics suite, the Sheriff's 1982 Cessna 182 was finally received back from the avionics contractor in October 2020. This was preceded by multiple visits throughout the year by Sheriff's Administration and Aero Squadron personnel, including test flights to

### CURRENT ASSETS

**23** Active Members  
*Consisting of pilots & observers*

**19** Licensed Pilots

**4** Trained Observers (non-pilots)

**9** Fixed Wing Aircrafts & **1** Helicopter  
*Member-Owned*

verify proper system performance and operation. Once received, the aircraft was taken to a contractor in Santa Maria for paint to cover and match the installation of the new external loudspeaker grill with the existing paint scheme.

The aircraft was then returned to its hangar in San Luis Obispo where, shortly thereafter on October 18, it was presented to the Sheriff's Advisory Foundation in a special ceremony to honor those donors who financially contributed to various aspects of the aircraft's new engine, paint, interior and avionics upgrade.

Following that event, Aero Squadron flight personnel have conducted several avionics familiarization flights and evaluated minor engine and avionics operational issues and anomalies. It is anticipated the aircraft will be fully operational in early 2021 for Sheriff's assigned duties.





# DIVE TEAM

## UNDERWATER SEARCH AND RECOVERY DIVE TEAM

2020 was another busy year for the Sheriff's Dive Team. There were four Dive Team call outs, which resulted in three recoveries. One of those call outs included assisting Ventura County Sheriff's Office to search for actress Naya Rivera, a drowning victim in Lake Piru. Due to COVID-19, all community outreach programs were cancelled, and monthly trainings were cut by 50 percent.

**THE TEAM IS MADE UP OF 27 MEMBERS, INCLUDING ONE COMMANDER, NINE DEPUTY SHERIFFS, ONE RESERVE DEPUTY AND 17 CIVILIAN VOLUNTEERS.**

### CALL OUTS

The first call out of the year was to aid the Ventura County Sheriff's Office with the search of Lake Piru for drowning victim Naya Rivera. Dive team members used the Sheriff's Side Scan Sonar device to search thousands of square feet of lake bottom. In addition to San Luis Obispo County and Ventura County's dive teams, LA County and Santa Barbara County dive teams also participated in the search. Two days after the search was called off, the victim's body floated to the surface.

The second call out of the year was in October at Lake Nacimiento, where dive team members had the unfortunate task of recovering a 14-year-old male. A non-swimmer, the boy was found on the bottom in 16 feet of water, 30 feet from shore. It took two team members five minutes to find him.

The third recovery of the year also took place in October at Lopez Lake. Dive team members spent two days and logged more than a dozen dives

searching for a 38-year-old male drowning victim. The team used their Side Scan Sonar device to locate the victim in 54 feet of water

The fourth recovery took place in December off Pismo Beach where a Dive Team member helped to recovery a 35- to 40-year-old female decedent floating on the surface approximately 1/4 mile offshore. The body was found by fishermen in area. At the time that this was written the investigation was still on going.



## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Watch Commander's Desk:  
(805) 781-4553

General Business Line (Dispatch):  
(805) 781-4550x3

Main Jail Information:  
(805) 781-4600

North Patrol Station:  
(805) 434-4290

Coast Patrol Station:  
(805) 528-6083

South Patrol Station:  
(805) 473-7100

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES  
PLEASE DIAL 911

### **SLO SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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[www.slosheriff.org](http://www.slosheriff.org)



