

# 2021

# ANNUAL REPORT

## SLO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE





# SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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# SHERIFF



## WE BEGAN THIS YEAR

with a pandemic that was still raging. And we ended the year with a pandemic still raging but showing signs of significant weakening. This is indeed good news for our country, county, and community.

The pandemic has not slowed down what we do here at the Sheriff's Office. 2021 was a busy year. Perhaps the biggest event happened in April, when we arrested Paul Flores for the murder of Kristin Smart. This arrest made national and international headlines. And I credit all the people here at the Sheriff's Office who worked on that case over the last 25 years for their dedication and tenacity in bringing it to a conclusion.

And speaking of giving credit. We gave out a large number of awards this year to employees at the Sheriff's Office for their selfless dedication and commitment to the people of San Luis Obispo County. We presented several lifesaving medals to individuals for things like performing CPR to those requiring medical aid, administering Narcan to overdose victims, and preventing those having a mental health crisis from taking their lives. We also presented our highest ranking medal, the Medal of Valor, to Deputies who were involved in our

series of officer involved shootings which took place the previous year.

And while we are on the subject of gratitude, I would like to thank you, the community, for your unwavering support during these challenging times. We have received so many letters, cards, notes, and emails from you over the past year. There were words of encouragement for a job well done, praise for a member of the Sheriff's Office who helped a family member through a difficult time, or perhaps it just a simple thank you for keeping our community safe. Believe me it has not gone unnoticed.

**FROM ALL OF US HERE  
AT THE SHERIFF'S  
OFFICE, THANK YOU.  
AND HERE'S TO A NEW  
YEAR FILLED WITH  
PROMISE AND  
PURPOSE.**

**IAN PARKINSON**

San Luis Obispo County  
Sheriff-Coroner



# UNDERSHERIFF

During this last year, the Sheriff's Office management team completed a team-building exercise. During this exercise, managers identified all the important issues facing the Sheriff's Office from attrition to recruitment and retention, technological demands, budgetary issues, and the challenge of maintaining minimum staffing during the pandemic. Knowing that to successfully achieve our desired results, we needed to identify and focus on one key issue. The issue we selected was employee wellness.

As managers, we have seen our employees seriously injured at alarming rates coupled with the psychological tolls that have breached through all areas of the Sheriff's Office. Although faced with these calamities, we have stood tall and provided professional, compassionate service to our communities. At the same time, we need to

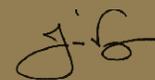
take care of our employees and our concentration on employee wellness is the first step in this goal.

In the future, the Sheriff's Office will provide innovative approaches in employee wellness starting with a custody and patrol supervisors' teambuilding exercise with a focus on employee wellness. Psychological services and family support ideas are being considered.

**OUR EMPLOYEES ARE  
OUR MOST VALUABLE  
RESOURCE, AND WE  
ARE COMMITTED TO  
PRIORITIZING EMPLOYEE  
WELL-BEING. I WANT TO  
THANK ALL OF YOU FOR  
YOUR DEDICATION AND  
COMMITMENT TO THIS  
ORGANIZATION.**



We have the greatest concentration of sworn and civilian law enforcement professionals anywhere, and I am proud to be a member of the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office.



**JIM VOGUE**

San Luis Obispo County  
Undersheriff



# HUMAN RESOURCES

## THE HUMAN RESOURCES TEAM

The Sheriff's Office has 441 full-time and three part-time allocated positions, which include 169 sworn, 149 custody sworn, and 126 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 3 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 leave and

work restrictions, and maintain databases for employees, volunteers, and department-issued property.

Over the last year, the Sheriff's Office has seen an increase in the number of recruitments which was mostly because of the lifted hiring restrictions. In 2020, there were a total of 19 recruitments submitted, 56 separations, and 31 new hires. **In 2021, there were a total of:**

31

Recruitments Submitted

44

Separations

42

New Hires

**OUR GOAL FOR 2022 IS TO SUSTAIN EXCELLENT SERVICE TO OUR STAFF AND THE PUBLIC.**



# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT

## THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND TRAINING UNIT

fulfills an important role at the Sheriff's Office. The unit is responsible for the timely resolution of internal investigations, and 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 2021 was 61. 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 2021, there were 79 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 the 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 outweighs the need to apprehend the offender. In 2021, the Sheriff's Office engaged in 22 vehicle pursuits. 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 online 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.

**In 2021, the Training Unit achieved the following notable accomplishments:**

- 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, over 400 law enforcement employees in San Luis Obispo County have received training in this 40-hour course. 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 Training Unit established a First Aid and CPR training cadre to train all Sheriff's Office employees and volunteers. Deputies are required to be

re-certified in First Aid and CPR every two years to comply with state mandates.

- The Sheriff's Office developed a new Use of Force and Strategic Communications training that is required for all deputies. These classes are each 4 hours in length and provide updated instruction to current legislature and tactics.
- During 2021, the Sheriff's Office provided training for 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.
- During 2021, the Sheriff's Office developed and provided training for all deputies on the new Taser 7 less-lethal force option.

**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.

The Sheriff's Office hired many correctional deputies and correctional technicians who began their law enforcement careers.

**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 HIGH LEVEL OF PROFESSIONALISM.**

**In 2021, the Training Unit achieved the following notable accomplishments:**

- Perishable skills courses were provided to correctional deputies to hone and polish proficiency in the use of firearms, less lethal weapons, and arrest and control tactics.
- Correctional deputies completed a 2.5-hour Suicide Prevention class which focused on early detection, communication skills, and resources available to those experiencing suicidal behavior.
- Correctional deputies completed a 2-hour class on the American Disabilities Act. The class focused on compliance with ADA regulations as they relate to custodial facilities at the San Luis Obispo County Jail.

- In 2021, the Sheriff's Office graduated 13 newly hired correctional deputies from a 210-hour Correctional Academy.
- During the past year, numerous correctional deputies attended the Sheriff's Office Crisis Intervention Training held at the Men's Honor Farm.

## SHERIFF'S RANGE

In 2021, 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 an uninterrupted visual focus on any potential threat.

New employees are provided realistic and improved training in the use of a 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 2021, 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 2021.

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.

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 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. Furthermore, 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 BACKGROUND UNIT

consists of one full time background manager and three 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 labor-intensive process. Each investigator completes a report that includes the applicant's personal history, driver license record, criminal history, credit history, live scan fingerprints, law enforcement inquiries, education verification, military history, neighborhood checks, polygraph examination, medical examination, and psychological exam. The Background Manager ensures the investigations are in compliance with California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST), as well with departmental policies in the hiring process.

*From January 2021 through November 2021, there were approximately **137 APPLICANTS THAT STARTED THE BACKGROUND PROCESS** and were either hired, withdrew, not selected, or disqualified. The following is a synopsis of these positions:*

Correctional Deputy	67
Correctional Technician	12
Deputy	28
Dispatcher	14
Forensic Autopsy Technician	3
Forensic Laboratory Specialist	3
IT Manager	1
Laboratory Technician	1
Legal Clerk	7
Program Manager	1

Investigators also completed background checks on 25 various volunteer applicants which include Aero Squadron, Chaplin, Dive Team, Posse, Search and Rescue and Axillary Volunteer Patrol.

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



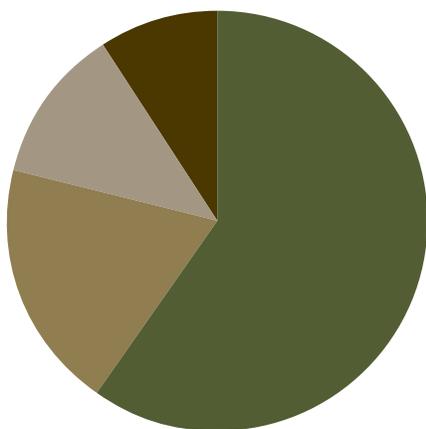
## THE RECORDS AND WARRANTS DIVISION

consists of 7 full-time legal clerks, two part-time legal clerks and one supervising legal clerk. As the County's warrant repository, they were responsible for accurately entering and processing over

30,000 warrants for in a timely matter into local, state and national databases. This unit is also responsible for processing extraditions, Live Scan and ink fingerprinting, processing records for criminal discovery, subpoenas, records requests, business permits and conceal carry permits.

The Records and Warrants Unit is also responsible for registering gang, arson and sex offenders. Of the 254 sex registrants, 22 are

classified as transient. We have a compliance rate of 99.6% for those sex registrants living within the Sheriff's jurisdiction. Records and Warrants staff successfully entered approximately 700 individual registration events throughout the year.



- Records and Requests  
3,486
- Ink and Livescan Fingerprinting  
1,116
- Sex Offender Registration Events Processed  
700
- Restraining Orders  
520



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UNIT

consists of three technology specialists, two software engineers, one systems administrator, two business analysts and during 2021 added one information technology manager. With the addition of the information technology manager, the Sheriff's Office has a deeper focus to enable, integrate, and evolve its existing technology offerings to support the Sheriff's Office's mission.

The Sheriff's Office IT Unit supports over 450 Sheriff's Office employees. The IT Unit ensures all critical 24/7/365 systems are operational and available. This unit supports the 911 call center, County Jail, and patrol services 24 hours a day.

### THE IT UNIT IS CONTINUOUSLY LOOKING FOR IMPROVEMENTS AND ENHANCEMENTS TO BETTER SUPPORT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE MISSION.

This year the Sheriff's Office IT Unit purchased and deployed a new cloud-based high definition in-car video system to all patrol vehicles. With this new system moving to the cloud, the IT Unit can process and analyze video while in progress, where previously this was not possible. The IT Unit will also be leveraging in 2022 this same platform to integrate body-worn cameras for all patrol deputies.

The IT Unit also deployed a new AB 953 RIPA (Racial Identity and Profiling Act) software system for patrol staff. This new system allows the Sheriff's Office to easily meet RIPA obligations. This

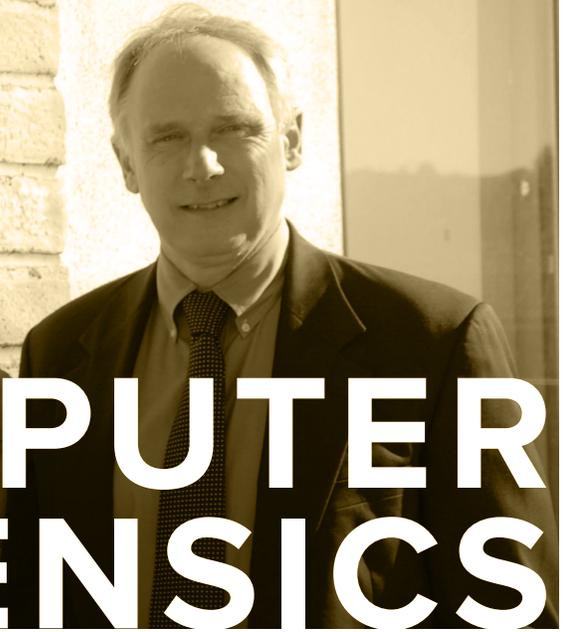
new system submits all required data to the DOJ seamlessly and securely.

With the Covid-19 pandemic continuing through 2021 the IT Unit tirelessly evolved our technology offerings to allow many of the Sheriff's Office staff to work remotely and securely. The IT Unit deployed multi-factor authentication to meet continued demands of greater cyber security for all of the Sheriff's Office users.

Due to continuously changing legal requirements, the IT Unit deployed a new video and audio evidence redaction software. This new software saves both time and resources as it greatly automates the task of redacting personally identifiable or sensitive information from video evidence that is released to the public.



# COMPUTER FORENSICS



## **TODAY'S HIGH-TECH ENVIRONMENT PRESENTS NEW CHALLENGES TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE JUSTICE SYSTEM,**

as cybercriminals 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, smartphones, data storage devices, media storage devices, compact discs, DVDs, and detached or attached hard drives. In 2021, over 300 digital evidence items were collected and analyzed for the assigned Sheriff's Office personnel responsible for the specific investigation to 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 child exploitation 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. Here, training and current expertise is shared on cyber-investigative techniques.

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 SERVICES DIVISION SUPPORTS

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

The Sheriff’s Office budget for Fiscal Year 2020–21 was \$84 million, with \$32 million of the budget being obtained from various sources and \$52 million received from General Fund support.

During Fiscal Year 2020–21, the Sheriff’s Office was able to acquire new grants that allowed for the expansion of resources for our mental health programs, safety upgrades to the Coroner’s Office, and additional equipment to enhance the safety of the public and staff.

**FINALLY, THE FISCAL SERVICES MISSION IS TO CONTINUE MANAGING THE SHERIFF’S OFFICE BUDGET RESPONSIBLY AND EFFICIENTLY WHILE ALSO MAINTAINING TRANSPARENCY.**



## THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE CIVIL DIVISION

is staffed with one commander, one sergeant, 5 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 between 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 Veteran's 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.

**For part of the year, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Newsom's Eviction Moratorium decreased the number of evictions processed throughout the county.**

106  
Evictions

816  
Levies

2,205  
Services of  
Civil Processes

# SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

# CUSTODY

## AN OVERVIEW OF THE CUSTODY BUREAU

### CLASSIFICATION

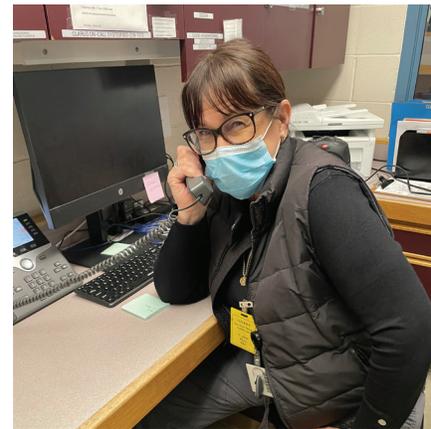
The Classification Unit consists of one sergeant and six correctional deputies. Each inmate housed in the county jail is thoroughly interviewed by a classification correctional deputy. The classification deputy determines the inmate's security level and housing within the Jail. The Classification Unit 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. Response to the COVID-19 pandemic initially saw a decrease in population but has begun to increase through this year. Use of quarantine and testing protocols at initial housing have been largely successful in preventing the spread of the virus in the Jail. Classification staff play a large role in this work.

The classification correctional deputy works with jail medical and mental health staff regarding access to care and services, making sure all necessary accommodations are met and orders are documented. 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 space and the housing is appropriate for everyone, specifically keeping safety and security in mind.

During the last year, the Classification Unit conducted thousands of inmate interviews for initial housing and housing changes as well as intelligence gathering. After some of the legislative changes through AB109 Prison re-alignment, Proposition 47 and 57, COVID-19 protocols, and increased mental health needs in jail and throughout society, housing the inmate population in 2021 has been increasingly challenging.

### COURT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Court Transportation Services is comprised of one correctional sergeant, one senior correctional deputy, nine



correctional deputies, and one correctional technician. Two correctional deputies possess class B driver's licenses, which allow them to transport up to 19 inmates in our large transportation van. Their functions are to transport inmates to and from the 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.

2021 provided continual challenges as we have continued to implement

operational changes while working to reopen courtrooms where applicable and necessary, these procedures are due to COVID-19. Court services along with court staff and attorneys work together to conduct court appearances via web applications from inside the jail. Most court interaction is still conducted via video. Our re-purposed educational classrooms continue 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-19 and allowed our courts to maintain necessary operations.

Court transportation staff continue to reach out to other agencies to conduct video hearings from facilitates throughout the state. The use of these video hearings throughout the state has allowed us to reduce the jail population, and to reduce some of the costs of transportation.

### **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 maintains 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.

### **HONOR FARMS**

The Honor Farms consists of mostly sentenced inmates with lower 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 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 grounds-keeping 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 woodshop 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 again this year due to the Coronavirus, 2021 marks the 32nd year the male honor farm inmates have learned bike repair/ maintenance skills from volunteers and have been giving 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 lower criminal sophistication, with a capacity to house 24 inmates. The Women's Honor Farm inmates are responsible for cleaning and upkeep inside the facility and maintaining the laundry services for the entire facility and Juvenile Services.

The Women's Honor Farm is proud of its sewing program. Donations generally consist of sewn or quilted blankets, beanies, scarves, and



occasionally Teddy Bears, which go to multiple agencies and non-profit groups throughout the county. Our allied groups range from Social Services to cancer treatment centers and animal rescue groups.

### **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 COUNSELING SESSIONS, EDUCATIONAL OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING CLASSES, OR SEEK MEDICAL ASSISTANCE WHILE RECEIVING CREDIT FOR JAIL TIME.**

These programs also slow the rate of the increased jail population.

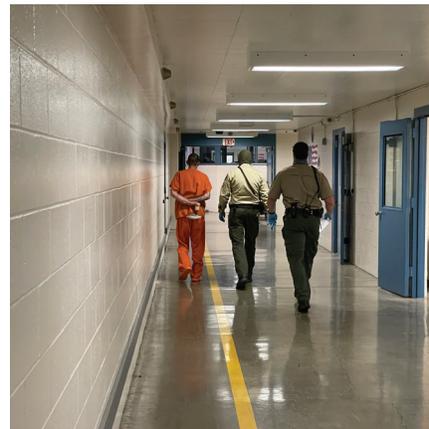
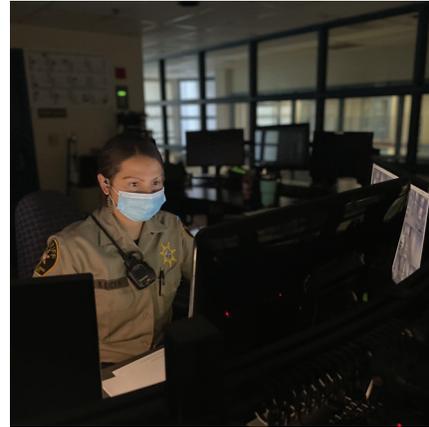
These qualified candidates also benefit by retaining community connections, family units, housing, and employment while serving their court-imposed sentences at home. Three correctional deputies, one legal clerk, and one correctional sergeant make up the Alternative Sentencing Unit. There were 974 people were booked during this year through the Alternative Sentencing Unit.

### **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.

In 2021 the Jail Programs unit continued to adapt the delivery of programs and services to work within the limitations resulting from both public health challenges and population shifts both of which create significant challenges to providing programming. This year the team was able to expand in-custody offerings and increase collaboration with community agencies and organizations that aid offenders both before and after release, with a definite shift to discharge planning coordinated reentry.

In 2021 the Jail Programs Unit expanded and enhanced reentry efforts by adding a bi-weekly community



partners meeting where “New Bookings” are reviewed and evaluated for intensive case management needs. This allows both jail and community agency staff to be aware of possible challenges early in the incarceration phase and plan for case management activity related to high system user cases. As with the Jail to Community Reentry meeting, all key community

agencies and partners are at the table, which facilitates communication and streamlines the provision of services.

Another key activity in 2021 was the implementation of services funded through the COVID Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) grant from the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). The CESF grant allowed the Jail Programs Unit to develop and operate a process for screening, referring, and funding at-risk offenders to be placed in either sober living or shelter beds. The Jail Programs Unit collaborated with sober living and shelter operators to ensure that no offender need be released in a homeless status. Inmates are transported directly to safe and secure housing on the day of their release.

**Jail Programs Unit activity in 2021 also included:**

- Implementation of telehealth cart appointments, affording outside agencies such as behavioral health the opportunity to conduct pre-release interviews with inmates.
- Purchasing and preparation of day-of-release care packs that include toiletries, socks, clothing, soap, sunscreen, water, hand sanitizer, and to include cold weather outerwear provided by the Holland Foundation.
- Ongoing participation and operation in the Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) community collaborative.
- Reintroduction of 12-Step services within the facility.



- Reintroduction of in-person High School Diploma programming with the facility.
- Continued facilitation of ongoing programming such as Interactive Journaling, Drug & Alcohol Treatment, Food Handlers card, OSHA 10, Library Book Exchange, and others.
- Implementation of three new group programs focused on mental health needs, in collaboration with Wellpath.
- Partnership with Tri-Counties Building & Construction Trades Council, Office of Education, and the Workforce Development Board to offer a Pre-Apprenticeship Training Programs to inmates.
- Continued active participation in community-based initiatives like Stepping Up and the Whole Person Care Coordination Coalition.

**MEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

The Medical and Behavioral Health services changed significantly in 2019. The units are supervised by four correctional deputies that cover activities 7 days per week and a large team of WellPath employees. The Medical Programs Unit and Behavioral Health Unit create a safe, calm, and tranquil environment for inmates to visit and receive a wide array of medical, dental, x-ray, optometric, counseling, and mental health services. The year 2021 saw an upsurge in the number of severely mentally ill (SMI) inmates housed in our county jail, much like the community-at-large under the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic. This increase in the SMI population drastically amplified the workload on the Behavioral Health Unit, the Medical Programs Unit, the Jail Based Competency Treatment Program, and the Kansas Max Housing Unit.

**THIS CHALLENGE WAS MET WITH EAGERNESS, NOT ONLY FULFILLING OBLIGATIONS BUT INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE ENTIRE INMATE POPULATION THROUGH COVID MITIGATION EFFORTS IN COLLABORATION WITH PUBLIC HEALTH.**



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.**

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

In 2019 the San Luis Obispo County Jail opened the Jail Bases Competency Treatment Programming Pod. This is a jail-based treatment program that 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

## **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 may 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 helps inmates feel more comfortable with their interactions. These deputies have advanced de-escalation skills and Crisis Intervention Training.

**HOUSING INMATES WITH MENTAL ILLNESS REQUIRES CONSTANT MONITORING FROM THE TEAM OF KANSAS MAX EMPLOYEES. THE DESIGN OF THIS UNIT ALLOWS DEPUTIES TO SUPPORT THIS 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, rehabilitation and attempt to instill a mindset of good decision-making and coping skills 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.



## THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME LABORATORY

had lots of changes in its small but mighty 7-person team in 2021. The Crime Laboratory had two retirements (its forensic laboratory narcotic specialist and its Cal-ID Program manager) and its part-time forensic laboratory technician accepted a full-time position at a major Crime Laboratory in Northern California. The Crime Laboratory is excited to welcome three new faces to lab!

The Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory, consisting of a Forensic Laboratory Unit, a Forensic Services Crime Scene Unit, a Cal-ID Program, and a legal clerk, is responsible for processing evidence to support Sheriff's Office investigations, as well as law enforcement agencies throughout the county.

### THE FORENSIC LABORATORY UNIT

The Forensic Laboratory houses the Forensic Alcohol Unit and the Chemistry/Toxicology Narcotic 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 who provides service to 11 different law enforcement agencies throughout San Luis Obispo County. The Laboratory is responsible for maintaining the department's 40 Draeger Alcotest 7510 breath alcohol instruments, which are utilized at 16 different locations in the county. In 2021, the Forensic Alcohol Laboratory tested over 650 DUI Blood samples, with the highest sample received from Templeton CHP at a 0.448% BAC (Blood Alcohol Concentration). The average blood sample tested was a 0.165% BAC. An additional 950 DUI breath tests were received, with the highest sample again coming out of Templeton CHP, at a 0.339% BAC and an average breath result of 0.165% BAC. Also in 2021, the FLS testified in a 2020 DUI Homicide case. The Defendant, with multiple priors, was found guilty of Vehicular Manslaughter with Gross Negligence and was sentenced to 15 years to Life.

The Chemistry/Toxicology & Narcotic Unit includes one forensic laboratory specialist and one forensic laboratory technician, both of which are new hires to the Sheriff's Office in 2021! The Chemistry/Toxicology & Narcotic Unit provides Controlled Substance and Urine Drugs of Abuse testing for the San Luis Obispo Police Department, Paso Robles Police Department, Atascadero Police Department, Morro Bay Police Department, Pismo Beach Police Department, Grover Beach Police Department, Arroyo Grande Police Department, Cal Poly State University Police Department, Cuesta Community College Police Department, California State Parks Stations, 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.

Drug samples submitted for testing increased again in 2021, with Fentanyl cases skyrocketing. In 2021, the number of Fentanyl cases submitted to the lab more than doubled. One fentanyl sample submitted to the lab weighed over 2 pounds and has the potential to kill 500,000 people. In addition to



substances submitted for testing, 700 urine samples were processed by the Sheriff's Office Chemistry/Toxicology Unit in 2021.

The Chemistry/Toxicology Unit continues to work closely with District Attorney's (DA's) Office, submitting the results from lab specimens directly to the DA's Office within 3–4 days of receiving them. This timely turnaround helps the DA's office accomplish more efficient case adjudication. The Unit also provides Expert Witness testimony on sample results during court proceedings.

### **THE FORENSIC SERVICES UNIT**

The Forensic Services Crime Scene Unit consists of two forensic specialists that respond to crime scenes, within the county, to process and collect evidence in criminal cases. The Forensic Services Unit is also responsible for examining and processing physical evidence submitted to the crime lab from each agency within the county.

The FSU 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 2021, over 900 individual items were forensically processed by the Forensic Services Unit and more than 3,000 fingerprints were analyzed resulting in over 230 identifications. The FSU also assisted the Coroner's Unit in identifying John and Jane Does through fingerprint identification and Rapid DNA.

A big addition to the Forensic Services Unit this year was the ANDE Rapid DNA Machine. Acquired in June of 2021, the ANDE machine has already successfully been used to identify a suspect in a sexual assault case, identify a suspect in a homicide case, and identify the remains in a Coroner's case, bringing closure to the family. The ANDE Rapid DNA machine has the capabilities of creating a full DNA profile in under 2 hours!

In 2021, Forensic Specialists responded to multiple 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 2021, the Sheriff's

Office Forensic Services Unit successfully identified a suspect in a home invasion robbery through latent print processing and identification, who was subsequently sentenced to 25 years to life for the crime. The Forensic Services Unit also processed Officer-Involved Shootings in San Luis Obispo City and Paso Robles and provided evidence in the Kristin Smart Preliminary Hearing.

Along with new cases, the Forensic Services Unit worked on Cold Cases for the Sheriff's Office as well as San Luis Obispo Police Department.

### **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 Investigations. 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 did not have valid identification.

The Cal-ID program continues to move forward with replacing the antiquated AFIS. The AFIS system directly contributes to the Sheriff's Office's efforts of reducing the fear and incidence of crime in San Luis Obispo County. Using the AFIS system the Crime Laboratory has been able to identify many repeat property crime offenders who prey on San Luis Obispo County communities to support their illicit drug habits.



# 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 investigation. 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 that 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 2021, the Major Crimes Unit investigated an officer-involved shooting (OIS) in the City of San Luis Obispo. The Major Crimes Unit solved an active homicide investigation that began in 2018 in Oceano. Multiple homicide cases went through the trial process

and convictions were secured. The Major Crimes Unit investigated a home invasion robbery which led to a manhunt. The suspect was located on the east coast and extradited to San Luis Obispo County. Along with these major investigations, detectives investigated numerous cases of attempted homicide, burglary, identity theft, at-risk missing persons, criminal threats, child abuse, and embezzlement, just to name a few.

Lastly, a joint effort between the Cold Case Unit, Crime Lab, and the entire Sheriff's Office Detective Division led to a major break thru in the Kristin Smart case which led to multiple arrests.

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

**—SHERIFF PARKINSON**



## THE SPECIAL VICTIM'S UNIT

is primarily responsible for investigating crimes involving all forms of sexual assault against juveniles and adults within the unincorporated parts of San Luis Obispo County. The SVU also investigates child abuse, child pornography, and child exploitation. Additionally, SVU detectives assist with extreme cases of domestic violence and some non-fiduciary related cases of elder abuse. SVU detectives assist with other overarching investigations within the County as needed.

SVU detectives coordinate with other agencies, including Child Welfare Services, Adult Protective Services, Probation and Parole, all law enforcement agencies within the County, some out of county or even out of state agencies, and any other necessary organization to facilitate these investigations. Other groups important to successful case resolution include the Suspected Abuse Response Team (SART) and the Child Abuse Interview Team (CAIT). Numerous advocacy

groups are also involved in helping abused people receive support and care during the entire process of the case.

The SVU assists other agencies in their own investigations because cases of physical and sexual abuse are highly specialized and require expert training as mandated by the California Penal Code. SVU Investigators provide community training and educational outreach to mandated reporters of child abuse and advocacy groups so they know how to interact with law enforcement and so they can better aid abused persons during the investigative process.

While 2020 was a difficult year for many reasons, 2021 brought its own host of challenges. Children are back in school. Parents are back at work. Some abuses that went undiscovered or were otherwise unsuspected are now being reported in addition to any recent crimes. Changes to the law and social movements have also helped abused persons find the courage to report older crimes they have sometimes carried with them for decades.

The Special Victims Unit handles an average of over 200 cases per year. Individual cases can take several months to fully investigate and can last significantly longer in the court process, especially due to the ongoing public health concerns and restrictions.

### Recent publicized SVU cases include:

- In Dec 2020, James Thomas was arrested for sexual battery.
- In May 2021, James Storton was arrested for sexually molesting multiple children.
- In June 2021, an arrest warrant was issued for David Paul Wilson's for sex acts with children.
- In July 2021, Jesus Valdovinos was arrested for raping a woman in Cambria near a hiking trail.
- In Sep 2021, Craig Grunow was arrested for illegal sex acts with multiple children.
- In Oct 2021, Michael Brians was convicted of multiple counts of sexual child abuse.



# SAFE TEAM

## THE MISSION OF THE SAFE TEAM

is as follows: 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 sex 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 Office jurisdiction. The compliance checks allow the team

to proactively enforce the appropriate penal 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 2021, the SAFE Team:

- Conducted approximately 550 compliance checks with the assistance of patrol officers.
- Identified 30 potential individuals that were out of compliance and filed 17 cases against them in our jurisdiction.
- Conducted approximately 24 investigations of ICAC cases, serving approximately 30 warrants, including 5 residential search warrants.
- 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 July of 2021, Senate Bill 384 took effect. SB 384 reclassified registered sex offenders into three categories which include the following:

- Tier 1 which requires 10 years of registration.
- Tier 2 which requires 20 years of registration.
- Tier 3 which requires lifetime registration.

In response to a petition, SAFE detectives must review the registrant's criminal history, conduct, and violation history to write informed and accurate recommendations for offenders requesting to no longer be required to register pursuant to PC 290.

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

## **INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN CASE SYNOPSIS**

In June of 2021, the SAFE Team received an Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Cyber Tip from the Fresno Regional ICAC Task Force. In reviewing the cyber tip, detectives determined an Electronic Service Provider (ESP) had reported suspected child sexual exploitation material (CSAM) within their server, as is required by federal law. A report was made to the National Center For Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), who is the national clearing center for child exploitation cases. NCMEC forwarded the report to the Fresno Regional ICAC Task Force, who determined the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office likely had jurisdiction over where the crime occurred. The following is a brief synopsis of the investigation:

Based on the information provided in the cyber tip, detectives believed the suspect uploaded CSAM to a cloud storage account in violation of Penal Code section 311.11(a). Using geo-location information based on the suspect's IP (internet protocol) address, detectives believed the suspect lived in San Luis Obispo County.

Search warrants were written and approved to seek information from the suspect's internet service provider and the cloud storage company. Through investigation and service of search warrants, detectives were able to identify a suspect and a residence from where the CSAM was uploaded to the cloud storage accounts.

After further investigation, probable cause was established to arrest the suspect for a violation of PC 311.11(a)—possession of CSAM. Detectives took the suspect into custody while simultaneously serving search warrants on the suspect, his vehicle, and his residence.

During the service of the search warrants, electronic devices were seized. The electronic devices were searched pursuant to an additional search warrant and additional evidence linked the suspect to the cloud storage accounts containing CSAM were located. During the investigation, a child who was being sexually exploited and molested by the suspect was rescued.

The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's SAFE Team is committed to protecting children from sexual predators and child sexual exploitation.

**THIS CASE SYNOPSIS IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF HOW THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SAFE TEAM WORKS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN, AND THE FRESNO REGIONAL INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN'S TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE CRIMES INVOLVING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.**

**In 2021, the SAFE Team:**

**Conducted approximately**

**24**

**investigations of ICAC cases**

**Serving approximately**

**30**

**warrants including**

**5**

**residential search warrants**



## **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 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 forensic autopsy technician. The three detectives are highly trained and specialize in determining the manner of death.

In 2021, the Coroner Unit reviewed 1,982 reportable deaths that occurred in San Luis Obispo County. Patrol Deputies responded to 699 unexpected deaths and conducted preliminary investigations. Coroner detectives reviewed those cases to determine whether further investigation was needed. Ultimately, the Coroner Unit conducted 334 investigations that led to autopsy, review of medical records, or an external examination 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 334 cases formally investigated by the Coroner Unit in 2021, 85 autopsies were performed, 182 external examinations were performed, and 67 medical record reviews were completed.

Of the deaths investigated in 2021: 81 were certified as natural causes, 46 were suicides, 2 were homicides, 124 were accidental, one was undetermined, and the remainder were still under investigation or being finalized at the end of the year.

In 2021, San Luis Obispo County experienced a significant surge in drug-related deaths. Fentanyl and methamphetamine were present in a majority of the drug-related death cases. Between 2016 and 2019, there were approximately 45–55 drug-related deaths per year. There was a significant increase to 88 drug-related deaths in 2020. In 2021 the Coroner's Office has had 95 confirmed drug-related death cases with 27 cases presumed to be drug-related and are pending toxicology results at the time of this report.

The Coroner Unit is honored to serve the citizens of San Luis Obispo County during the difficult times associated with unattended or unexpected deaths.



# 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 IS THE SINGLE  
POINT OF CONTACT  
FOR ALL COUNTY  
DEPARTMENTS AND  
SERVICES AFTER BUSINESS  
HOURS, ON WEEKENDS  
AND ON HOLIDAYS.**

The Watch Commander's Office has 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 the 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.



# 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, one Community Action Team (CAT) liaison deputy, 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 North Station patrol operations on non-law enforcement activities. Together, the North Station patrols over 1,900 square miles to keep the community safe, investigate criminal and suspicious activity, complete documentation, and submit cases to the District Attorney's Office for filing consideration.

The North Station received over 20,000 calls for service in 2021, resulting in approximately 2,800 reports. Calls for service stabilized in 2021 and were similar in volume to the previous year,

but the number of reports generated from the calls for service increased. Regardless of the increased workload, North Station personnel continued to provide the highest level of professional service with honor and distinction. In the last couple of years, North Station deputies have received numerous awards and commendations, including Medal of Valor and Lifesaving Awards.

North Station deputies investigated a wide range of crimes ranging from violent felonies to misdemeanors and infractions. They investigated crimes against persons, such as robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, threats, and domestic violence, as well as property crimes, such as burglary, theft, and vandalism. The rural area in San Luis Obispo County leaves residents susceptible to mail thefts, theft of property from unlocked vehicles, and the national plague of catalytic converter thefts from vehicles. The North Station has had many successes in prosecuting suspects for these crimes, but there is one unusual case that stands out.



This case started as a vandalism and theft report. Numerous items were reported stolen, including extremely rare parts of a steam locomotive made of solid bronze. Through the dedicated work of North Station deputies who assembled information from several different sources, they were able to identify and arrest a suspect and recover over \$10,000 in train parts at a recycling center. Unfortunately, other train parts had been taken out-of-state and were melted as scrap metal before the deputies could identify their location.

The community, by and large, continues to support the Sheriff's Office and their personnel at the North Station. The North Station continues to receive letters of appreciation, cards, drawings, and positive comments at community meetings and events. While out in public, people will frequently come up to North Station deputies to personally thank them and express their appreciation for the work they do.

Community support also comes from the North Station's community partners. This includes strong working relationships with local law enforcement agencies, including Atascadero Police Department, California Highway Patrol, and Paso Robles Police Department. The North Station provides mutual support for high-risk calls for service, investigations, special events, or when an agency may be shorthanded due to unforeseen circumstances. This past year, the North Station also received support from

**LAW ENFORCEMENT  
IS A DIFFICULT AND  
DANGEROUS PROFESSION  
IN THE BEST OF TIMES  
AND WOULD BE ALMOST  
IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT  
THE COMMUNITY'S  
SUPPORT, AND FOR THAT,  
THE NORTH STATION  
DEPUTIES ARE THANKFUL.**



Shandon Joint Unified School District. The school district provided office space to set up a report writing room for deputies in Shandon. This workspace allowed North Station deputies the opportunity to conduct work in Shandon they previously would have had to leave town to complete. Similarly, San Miguel Community Service District has allowed North Station deputies to use workspace in the San Miguel Fire and Rescue building for years. The San Miguel Community Service District even included the Sheriff's Office in their temporary building plan while the main building undergoes a remodel.



# SOUTH STATION

## THE SHERIFF'S SOUTH STATION

proudly served the residents and visitors of southern San Luis Obispo County in 2021. This division of the Sheriff's Office is responsible for providing service to approximately 40,000 residents in an area of approximately 850 square miles. The communities served by the South Station are as follows: unincorporated Arroyo Grande, Oceano, Nipomo, Halcyon, Los Berros, Huasna, and New Cuyama. The response 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.

The South Station is led by a commander and two sergeants who supervise the staff of 24 dedicated sheriff deputies. There are two dedicated school resource deputies, one rural crime deputy, and one K-9 Handler, whose partner, Corvin, is a four-year old German Shepherd. Rounding out the staff at the station are

two legal clerks and several volunteers. Many of the deputies at South Station also have collateral duties on the bike team, Marine Enforcement Unit, Special Enforcement Detail, Honor Guard, and Mutual Aid and Public Safety (MAPS) team.

The South Station responded to over 23,014 calls for service and completed 2,617 reports. Reported criminal activity ranged from theft and property crimes to assault. Mail theft, catalytic convertor theft, and identity theft continue to be significant in this area. 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. South Station deputies are called upon to investigate thefts, vandalism, public disturbances, and situations that erode the quality of life for the public. Cases involving mental illness, drugs, alcohol, and homelessness are daily occurrences. Each situation presents challenges, and the deputies serve all sectors of the population with dedication and professionalism.

This year saw the return of Los Padres National Forest patrols by sheriff's deputies as well as patrols at Lopez Lake Recreation Area. These functions provide safety to those visiting the outdoors for recreation throughout San Luis Obispo County.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has continued to affect daily operations. 2021 was a year of regular staffing adjustment to meet the needs of the communities the South Station serves and balanced with the safety of their deputies. For that reason, many of the South Station's volunteers have been unable to resume their complete duties that support the Sheriff's office and the communities. The South Station looks forward to seeing their Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteer Patrol (SAVP) return to its pre-pandemic staffing and visibility.

**THE SOUTH STATION  
WOULD LIKE TO THANK  
THE COMMUNITIES THAT  
THEY SERVE FOR THEIR  
SUPPORT THROUGH THESE  
CHALLENGING TIMES.**



## 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 20 deputy sheriffs assigned to patrol which includes four senior deputies. There is also one K9 deputy, one deputy sheriff assigned as a school resource deputy, one part-time reserve deputy sheriff assigned as a school resource officer, three deputy sheriffs for airport security roles and two legal clerks. Together this team responded to over 23,300 calls for service, processed over 3,000 reports, and conducted about 800 arrests in 2021.

Members of the Coast Station Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteer Patrol have contributed hundreds of hours of preventative patrol, conducted vacation home checks, assisted in finding lost persons and added other valuable services to the residents and visitors to the Coast Stations area of responsibility. These services are provided on a volunteer basis by a group of dedicated community volunteers who give of their time and talents for the benefit of their neighbors.

Coast Station deputies have been working hard 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 continuing COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected every person in the community.

In 2021, the deputies of the Coast Station have seen an increase in the number of arrests associated with the possession, use and sales of illicit narcotics. There has also been an increasing trend of automobile catalytic converter thefts and thefts of personal

property from locked and unlocked vehicles. Vehicles parked at hiking trail parking areas have been targeted frequently throughout the past year.

**LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022, THE SHERIFF'S COAST STATION TEAM IS HONORED TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY. THE COAST STATION 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 the Coast Station can maintain a high quality of life, enhance the safety and security of their community, and bring positive outcomes to challenging circumstances.



## THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DISPATCH CENTER

is an integral element to the Sheriff's Office and in maintaining public safety in the community. In the last year, dispatchers were designated as first responders in the state of California, and rightly so: dispatchers are often the first point of contact that the public has when seeking help from law enforcement or medical aid. The dispatchers often speak to callers on their very worst day: when they must call 9-1-1 because a loved one is having a medical emergency, when an argument escalates to violence, or when there is a mental health emergency.

The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office 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 and 365 days a year with EMD (Emergency Medical Dispatch) certified dispatchers.

In 2021, the Sheriff's Dispatch Center answered more than 300,000 phone calls, averaging over 22,000 calls per month. The total number of calls was comprised of 56,657 911 calls, 209,825 administrative calls, and over 33,518 emergency line calls. Of the calls answered, there were 106,827 law enforcement calls for service generated and 26,751 medical calls.

**THE 911 CALLS WERE ANSWERED IN 15 SECONDS OR LESS, 99% OF THE TIME, SURPASSING THE CALIFORNIA STATE STANDARD OF 95%.**

In addition to daily operations, dispatchers also have a Tactical Dispatch Team. This team responds in the field to high-priority extended calls for service, often calls that also necessitate a Search and Rescue (SAR) or Special Enforcement Detail (SED) callout. The Tactical Dispatch Team responds to the field with the deputies to assist in recording communications and times, facilitates additional resources, and serves as primary radio contact in the field so as not to disrupt regular radio operations on Sheriff's patrol radio.

The Sheriff's Dispatch Center normally participates in community outreach programs such as the 911 for Kids Program but was unable to participate in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They continued to serve the community by leading the way in 911 developments with the use of the RAVE panic button in school systems, Smart 911, Reverse 911, text to 911, and Rapid Deploy mapping.



## 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, such as Chemical Agent Instructor, Breaching Schools, Vehicle Tactics, Sniper School, and Hostage Rescue.

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.

In the year 2021, SED responded to several critical incidents in both the unincorporated areas of the county, and in the City of Atascadero. These incidents included search warrant service, barricaded suspects, and a hostage rescue situation. All these call-outs were resolved with the successful apprehension of the suspect or rendering the scene safe for investigative units.

**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 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ESTABLISHED THE GANG TASK FORCE (GTF)

in 1989 as an effort to curb the 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 631 DOCUMENTED GANG MEMBERS IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY AND 50 DOCUMENTED CRIMINAL STREET GANGS.**

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

In 2021, the San Luis Obispo County Gang Task Force is comprised of two San Luis Obispo County sheriff's deputies, two San Luis Obispo County Probation Officers and a District Attorney investigator. These members conduct street-level contacts with known and suspected gang members and are responsible for identifying current gang members, identifying criminal conduct, and any relevant intelligence as it relates to ongoing gang activity. GTF will investigate felony property and violent crimes as they relate to criminal gang activity as well.

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 2021, 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:**

**8 lbs**  
Methamphetamine

**9.46 oz**  
Heroin

**119 grams**  
Fentanyl

**23**  
Firearms

**THOSE INVESTIGATIONS HAVE LED TO THE ARREST OF 101 SUSPECTS.**



# MUTUAL AID AND PUBLIC SAFETY TEAM

## IN 2020, THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE ORGANIZED AND TRAINED A TEAM

of 30 sworn personnel for Mutual Aid and Public Safety Team (MAPS). MAPS is a mobile field force team and is the primary responder to mutual aid call-outs ranging from natural disasters to civil unrest. Members of MAPS also respond with the Sheriff's Special Enforcement Detail (SED) during certain emergencies. MAPS provides security for SED during call-outs as an additional barrier of protection, by creating a perimeter of containment around the SED operation to prevent any breaches.

MAPS was utilized to assist with Inauguration Day 2021 at the California



State Capitol for the purpose of maintaining order and safety for the public. Members of the team were also dispatched to assist with the 2021 Caldor Fire in Lake Tahoe, California to provide additional neighborhood patrol for the prevention of theft and looting. MAPS also receive specialized training in advanced first aid, Critical Intervention Training (CIT) which includes de-escalation techniques, and are versed in current laws relating to the duties of the Mutual Aid and Public Safety Team.





# SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNIT—NARCOTICS

## NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT UNIT

The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office maintains the Special Operations Unit—Narcotics, which 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 Narcotics 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 expansion of the medicinal marijuana cultivation and its licensing began in January 2018, and this has led to an increased need to spend man hours to ensure compliance. Although much of the compliance work is done by Code Enforcement officers, should abatement be needed of an illegal cannabis operation, narcotics detectives are there to assist. Additionally, there continues to be a black market for illegally grown marijuana on federal, state, and private property. With these illegal grow operations, some of the most serious problems occur with the use of illegal pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, and the diversion of water.

*In 2021, the following seizure totals were made as the result of numerous investigations by Sheriff's narcotics investigators. Some seizures were the result of multi-agency investigations and occurred throughout California.*

Heroin	2,472 grams
Cocaine	694 grams
Methamphetamine	2,472 grams
Fentanyl	347 grams
MDMA	45 grams
Ketamine	462 grams
Processed cannabis	1,137 grams
Cannabis plants	94,656
Currency Seized	\$65,025
Firearms Seized	16

### **SOU—Dep. Peet & K9 Rooster:**

Cocaine	723.5 grams
Heroin	375 grams
Methamphetamine	7,592.8 grams

The Narcotics 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 lab seizure and dismantling. These investigators must then receive ongoing training in this field to maintain their certification. Clandestine labs 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 Narcotics Unit has also responded to ongoing maritime smuggling operations involving Panga boats. Drug trafficking organizations are utilizing the boats for drugs and human trafficking across the coastal counties of 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 suppression/detection efforts and prosecution, no known boats landed nor were interdicted in 2021.

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



# CANINE UNIT

## THE SAN LUIS OBISPO SHERIFF'S CANINE UNIT

is comprised of 6 Sheriff's Office Handler/Canine Teams. Five of the dogs are assigned to the patrol division and one of the dogs is assigned to the Special Operations Unit (SOU). The Sheriff's Office has two K9's assigned to the patrol division that are trained for Explosive Ordinance Device (EOD) detection and two K9's assigned to the Patrol Division that are trained for narcotics detection.

Deputy Cedric Adams and K9 Corvin are one of two Sheriff's Office K9's trained for EOD Detection. Corvin is a four-year-old German Shephard. K9 Corvin was our first certified K9 for EOD Detection at the Sheriff's Office. K9 Corvin is trained to detect a multitude of odors that are commonly associated with the Explosive Ordinance. Deputy Adams and K9 Corvin are also trained in handler protection, tracking, searching, and

apprehending suspects. Deputy Cedric Adams and K9 Corvin are assigned to the South Station.

Deputy Andrew Mora and K9 Rogue are assigned to Coast Station. Rogue is a 3-year-old Belgian Malinois. Rogue is the 2nd Sheriff's Office canine trained to detect a multitude of odors commonly associated with the Explosive Ordinance. Deputy Andrew Mora and K9 Rogue, along with Deputy Cedric Adams and K9 Corvin train and work together to assist our patrol division and the San Luis Obispo County Bomb Task Force.

Deputy Day and K9 Knox are assigned to the North Station. Knox is a four-year-old German Shepherd bred in Germany. Knox is a dual-purpose canine trained in narcotics detection (methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine). K9 Knox is also trained in handler protection, tracking, searching, and apprehending suspects.

In 2021, Deputy Ughoc and K9 Ripley completed Basic K9 Handler school. K9 Ripley is one of the Sheriff's Office newest K9's. K9 Ripley is a 3-year-old Belgian Malinois mix. He is a



dual-purpose canine trained in narcotics detection (methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine) and evidence searching. K9 Ripley is also trained for patrol services: handler protection, tracking, searching, and apprehending suspects. Deputy Ughoc and K9 Ripley are assigned to the South Station.

During 2021, the Canine Unit saw one of the Sheriff's Office's longest-tenured K9's retire from service. K9 "D.J." became a member of the



Sheriff's Office in 2014 and was originally handled by Deputy Steve Faeth. From December 2014 through October 2019, K9 D.J. was handled by Deputy Josh Peet. In October 2019, K9 D.J. was transferred to Deputy Bryan Love who re-joined the Canine Unit to be re-teamed with K9 D.J. K9 D.J. is a nine-year-old Belgian Malinois and was retired from service in September 2021. K9 D.J. was a dual-purpose canine trained in narcotics detection (methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine and marijuana). K9 D.J. was also trained in handler protection, tracking, searching and apprehending suspects. K9 D.J. was a very valuable asset to the Sheriff's Office K9 Unit and is a testament to work put into his training by Dep. Steve Faeth, Dep. Josh Peet, and Dep. Bryan Love. The Canine Unit is very grateful to these handlers and to K9 D.J. for the many years of service to the community and the Sheriff's Office.

In 2021, with the retirement of K9 D.J., Deputy Roberto Moita joined the K9 Unit as a handler and the Sheriff's Office welcomed their newest addition to the K9 Unit, K9 Rocky. K9 Rocky is a 3-year-old Belgian Malinois mix. Deputy Moita and K9 Rocky completed a 6-week Basic Handler course at Gold Coast K9 in Ventura, CA. K9 Rocky is trained in both patrol service and narcotics detection (methamphetamine, heroin, and cocaine). Deputy Moita and K9 Rocky are assigned to the North Station.

Deputy Peet is assigned to the Sheriff's Office Special Operations Unit (SOU) and is paired with the Sheriff's Office's sole single-purpose canine, K9 Rooster. Deputy Peet is our most senior K9 Handler and handles the department's only single-purpose K9. K9 Rooster is a three-year-old Labrador Retriever that is trained in the detection of narcotics

(methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine). Deputy Peet and K9 Rooster spend a good amount of time assisting the Jail-Custody staff with narcotics searches in custody facilities and also assists Sheriff's Office SOU, Narcotics, and Patrol staff in various investigations.

The Sheriff's Office welcomes community support for their Canine Unit. Anyone interested in supporting the Sheriff's Office Canine Unit is encouraged to contact the Sheriff's Advisory Foundation at [safslo.org](http://safslo.org).



# BOMB TASK FORCE

## THE BOMB TASK FORCE WAS CREATED IN 1982,

a time when explosive and bomb-related incidents increased 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 and the need for a specialized team with unique equipment and 24-hour response capabilities was realized.

In 1982, the Bomb Task Force responded to calls for service. The Bomb Task Force was operated under 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 TASK FORCE

The Bomb Task Force is currently made up of 6 members, five of which 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 with their respective agency.

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, who has undergone a thorough background check conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation



(FBI). The basic training for a bomb technician is a six-week course at the FBI's 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 FBI and is certified as a fully operational bomb squad. The Bomb Task Force is capable of safe rendering and disposing of improvised explosive devices, military ordnance, and commercially manufactured explosives. They can respond to all bomb- or explosive-related incidents

within San Luis Obispo County and, upon a mutual aid request, to areas outside the county of San Luis Obispo.

This 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, they have 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 their respective counties in times of need. In addition, the Bomb 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 Bomb Task Force will also assist Sheriff's SED and Regional SWAT if requested.



### **2021 Calls for Service**

The Bomb Task Force responded to 19 explosive devices, or bomb-related calls, in the 2021 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

## THE SHERIFF'S COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM (CAT)

is staffed by two sheriff's deputies and one deputy probation officer III. The Sheriff's CAT specializes in the unsheltered population and with community members suffering from mental illness throughout the entire San Luis Obispo County with one collaterally assigned CAT deputy at Sheriff's South Station, Coast Station, and North Station.

The Sheriff's 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 2021 focused on supporting the Stepping Up Initiative by the following actions: 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.

The Sheriff's CAT Unit received referrals and calls for service 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. The next goals are to engage this population in treatment and coordinate an appropriate level of care. These actions and goals are completed 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 these community members' health and safety. The BHCAT and CAT Units worked with the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to reach out to the unsheltered population in hard-to-reach areas 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 the cleaning up of camps in San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, Los Osos, and Nipomo to reduce the spread of COVID-19 while continuing to

offer resources and assist in relocating individuals to safer and more appropriate locations. While engaging with these community members, many with higher needs were identified, and individualized services were offered to further assist them.

**THE BHCAT AND CAT UNITS 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 2021, the BHCAT Units directed their efforts to focusing on the top 35 individuals booked into the county to reduce recidivism, provided services, and responded to psychiatric emergencies in the field. The BHCAT Units were dispatched to calls for service often involving someone experiencing a mental health crisis. The BHCAT Units assisted in deescalating situations, locating appropriate

alternatives to jail, and followed up on the mental health and safety of these high-need individuals.

COVID-19 posed a barrier to the usual day-to-day assessments of the units. In lieu of daily engagement with the public, the CAT and BHCAT Units were utilized through dispatch and coordination to respond to calls for service for calls involving a mental health crisis. 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 CAT and BHCAT Units also responded to calls for service including calls involving suicide attempts, hostage situations, self-barricading individuals, and self-harming individuals.

**Crisis Intervention**

In 2021, the Sheriff's Office was able to continue the 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) 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).

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



# RURAL CRIME UNIT

## THE MISSION OF THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY RURAL CRIME UNIT

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

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 agricultural 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.



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), and by 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 solutions have 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 agricultural-related criminal activity. In 2021, the Rural Crime Unit investigated approximately 134 cases. These cases included vandalism of property and equipment, theft of agricultural equipment, animal neglect and cruelty, and non-agricultural-related cases in patrol operations. In addition to investigations, Rural Crime Deputies responded to 1,275 calls for service and made 150 self-initiated contacts while conducting their duties.



# MARINE ENFORCEMENT

## THE MARINE ENFORCEMENT UNIT (MEU)

consists of 6 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's 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. The MEU is equipped to provide consistent enforcement patrols in the waters off of San Luis Obispo.

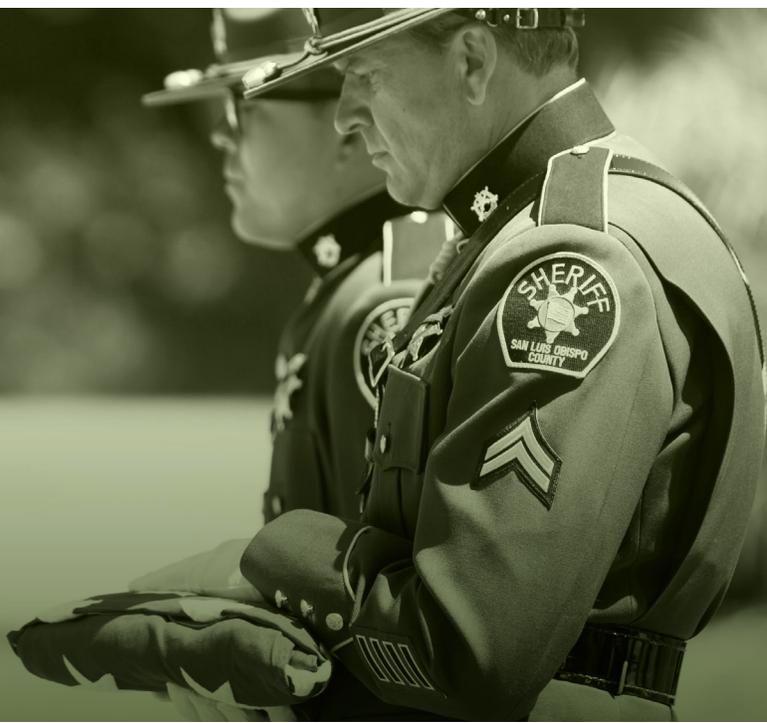
Panga boat smuggling along the San Luis Obispo County coastline continues to present a challenge to law enforcement. The MEU is equipped

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 using our 27' Defender Class patrol boat. 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 to patrol 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.

The MEU continues to provide training support in the form of vessels and operators to the Sheriff's Office Dive Team and the Special Enforcement Detail. Separate training for both units are usually conducted annually in and around Port San Luis, Morro Bay and Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. The MEU also provides a stable platform for the Dive Team's side-scan sonar unit used for subsurface searches. Members of the MEU enjoy participating in community outreach events, like the Sheriff's Youth Summer Camp, which allows the public to have access to our fleet.

# HONOR GUARD



## THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ESTABLISHED THE HONOR GUARD

in 2013 to honor fallen officers and to represent the Sheriff's Office at Ceremonies throughout the county and state. The team is made up of 16 members of the Sheriff's Office.

In 2021, the Sheriff's Honor Guard attended numerous functions for the

Sheriff's Office, such as award ceremonies, funerals, badge pinning, promotional ceremonies, police academy and correctional academy graduations. One of the hardest moments for members of the team and our local law enforcement family was on May 20th, 2021. On this day, the Sheriff's Honor Guard honored fallen Officer Luca Benedetti of the San Luis Obispo Police Department where the team conducted a 21-gun salute and flag folding ceremony for him.

**IT WAS AN HONOR NOT  
TAKEN LIGHTLY. OUR  
HEARTS ARE WITH  
LUCA, HIS FAMILY, AND  
THE SAN LUIS OBISPO  
POLICE DEPARTMENT.**



# OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE TEAM

## THE SHERIFF'S OFF 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 SHERIFF'S OFFICE 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 examples 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 of bicycle patrol is the ability for deputies to connect with the community. Deputies deployed on bicycles have 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. Patrolling on a bicycle allows the deputies to navigate swiftly in various environments and avoid obstacles and hazards that would otherwise stop a patrol vehicle in its tracks. The Sheriff's Office Bike Team enjoys these opportunities to positively interact with the 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 the Bike Patrol Team's 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 these resources are important in keeping

deputies and the public safe, as well as projecting a professional image while serving the public.

Although the pandemic in 2021 brought challenges to San Luis Obispo County communities, the Bike Patrol Team was deployed at several events, mostly for crowd management. Each of these events involved large crowds of people converging on specific areas, which would present logistical challenges for a patrol vehicle. The Bike Patrol Team's presence at these events enabled law enforcement to ensure that the proceedings were safe and successful. The Sheriff's Office Bike Patrol Team is honored to assist their local agencies in maintaining peace and security for residents, visitors, and business owners.

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic this year, the Sheriff's Office Bike Patrol Team still deployed on what is typically their 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 the community.



## THE PROPERTY ROOM

is 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 evidence, found or recovered, 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.

The Property Room still maintains a small portion of the old property room to store some of their long-term items.

With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing through the year, the Property Room has maintained ways of releasing property by either mailing the items or scheduling appointments properly.

**THE PROPERTY ROOM CONTINUES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT NEW WAYS OF IMPROVING THEIR ORGANIZATION. THIS WILL BE A CONTINUED EFFORT IN YEARS TO COME BUT THEY HAVE SHOWN GREAT PROGRESS THROUGHOUT 2021.**





## 2021 WAS A CHALLENGING YEAR

for the school resource deputies, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The schools in San Luis Obispo County went to distance learning and only the school staff were at the school sites. Deputies assisted the school staff with contacting students and their parents to get the students connected with the online distance educational process from January 2021 to June 2021.

Due to students being out of school and the loss of in-person instruction, most of the schools in the County of San Luis Obispo had summer school for all students. The school resource deputies help the school staff and students with the summer school process.

Between January and May, school resource deputies helped plan and facilitated San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office sponsored Retro Bill "Virtual" schoolwide presentations.

In June of 2021, the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office school resource deputies held the annual Sheriff's Office Youth Summer Camps, after not having the camps in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Sheriff's Office held three camps in 2021, using the State of California COVID-19 Virus Summer Camp Protocols. The camps were held in north, south and coastal areas of the county. Busing for the camps was only available in the coastal area. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and no available busing in the north or south areas of the county, the camp attendance was lower than normal years.

The enrollment for the camps is as follows: the north camp had 30 kids, the coastal camp had 65 kids and the south camp had 40 kids. Deputies and staff followed the State COVID-19 Protocols, and they did not have any issues with any kids or staff being exposed to the virus.

The kids learned about cyberbullying, anti-smoking, communication skills, negative and positive peer pressure,

which was taught by the deputies and staff. The kids participated in fun events like tie-dying team shirts, tug of war, hungry hippos, trust walks, and dance routines. There were afternoon assemblies each day. The assemblies featured Retro Bill (Motivational Speaker), Zoo to You, Sheriff's K-9 Demonstration, Templeton Dance Company, and 3 Screens Motivational videos.

The kids at the camp were provided snacks and lunches each day, which were prepared by the deputies and staff. Due to the State's COVID-19



Protocols, instead of buffet lunches, each child was given their lunch in pre-prepared brown bags.

**THE 2021 SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S YOUTH SUMMER CAMPS WERE VERY SUCCESSFUL, UNDER THE DIFFICULTIES PRESENTED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. THE DEPUTIES AND STAFF WORKED VERY HARD AT MAKING THE CAMPS FUN AND SAFE UNDER THESE CONDITIONS. THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE LOOKS FORWARD TO THE SHERIFF'S YOUTH CAMPS IN 2022.**

The 2021 San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Youth Summer Camps were very successful, under the difficulties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The deputies and staff worked very hard at making the camps fun and safe under these conditions. The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office looks forward to the Sheriff's Youth Camps in 2022.

In August, most of the schools in the county area returned to in-person instruction. The deputies assisted the school staff, kids, and parents to make the successful transition. Deputies contacted



students and parents, who did not return to the in-person instruction right away.

One Coast Station SRO continued to sit on the Juvenile Justice Committee Board, while representing the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office.

From August to December, Coast Station SRO taught G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training) in-person to 220

6th Grade students at 5 schools between coast and south county schools. The deputies that have not returned to teaching in the classroom hope to do so in January 2022.



# SEARCH AND RESCUE

## THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY'S SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM (SLOSAR)

consists of approximately 58 volunteers members of the community who are trained and certified in Health Care Provider CPR, Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), the Incident Command System (ICS), communications, extensive search techniques and procedures, rope rescue skills, map/compass and Global Positioning System (GPS), wilderness tracking and survival. New members of SLOSAR begin as probationary members and, over the course of 12 to 18 months, are mentored and trained by experienced SLOSAR team members. A probationary SLOSAR member is required to gain proficiency in all of the skills previously described and many other areas on their way to becoming full members. All full members are certified by the National

Association of Search and Rescue (NASAR) as SAR Technician II.

Many SLOSAR members have traveled at their own expense to acquire advanced skills and education in search theory, management, operations, logistics management, advanced GPS computer mapping, and advanced technical rescue. Some are also part of their local C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team) and/or C.A.R.D.A, which deploys certified K9 teams throughout the state.

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

In 2020 the SLOSAR unit developed a Type 4 USAR (Urban Search and Rescue) team and an Operational Disaster Response Guide, which

makes SLOSAR an important resource in the event of a disaster in the county or within the state.

### The specialty teams within SLOSAR include:

- 4X4 team
- ATV (quad) team
- Communications/Dispatching
- Mountain Bike Team (urban and rural)
- Technical Rope Rescue Team (high and low angle)
- K9 Team (area wilderness, scent specific trailing, and cadaver)
- Medical Team EMR or EMT (18+ members rated at EMT)
- Type 1 ground team (for statewide extreme and snow search conditions)
- Tracking Team
- USAR Type 4 Disaster Team
- Project Lifesaver Team



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

**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
- Metal detector equipment
- Humvee

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



**With a total of approximately**

**498**

**volunteer hours**

**spent on missions through October 2021, the cost saved by San Luis Obispo County for all volunteer time is estimated to be**

**\$249,000.**



# CRIME PREVENTION

## **THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME PREVENTION AND PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

is a unit within the Operations Division, dedicated to increasing public safety through education and community engagement. In 2021 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. To meet the needs of the public during COVID-19 pandemic, many of these informative presentations were provided virtually on an online platform. In addition, the crime prevention specialists are responsible for the following: the Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteer Patrol unit, children's safety programs like the Sheriff's Youth Summer Camps, internet safety programs for youth, security surveys for homes and

businesses, and public displays at community events like the Mid-State Fair. While unable to present in person to students in class, the Crime Prevention Unit was able to offer educational material and handouts for both concerned parents and their children. In addition to providing outreach to the community, the Crime Prevention Unit is also responsible for CPR and First Aid certification for staff and volunteers within the Sheriff's Office.

**THE MISSION OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (PIO) IS TO INFORM THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE. TO EXPLAIN WHAT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE DOES AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHY THEY DO IT.**

The 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.

In 2021, San Luis Obispo County received an extraordinary amount of international media coverage when the Sheriff's Office made an arrest in the almost 25-year-old case of missing Cal Poly student Kristin Smart. A news conference was held on the day of the arrest which was picked up by media outlets like the New York Times, Dateline NBC, CNN, People Magazine, and even the Daily Mail in London, England. The PIO coordinated all aspects of this major announcement, from crafting the press release to organizing the news conference.

The PIO is also responsible for the design and content of the Sheriff's Office official website, slosheriff.org as well as its mobile app. In addition, the Crime Prevention Unit and PIO coordinate social media efforts on behalf of the Sheriff's Office, including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Instagram. All of these efforts are designed to keep citizens informed and involved in the events happening in their communities.



## FOR THE SHERIFF'S DIVE TEAM,

2021 was a busier year than the previous one. Due to COVID-19 restrictions lifting, Sheriff Dive team members were able to start training again.

Throughout the year there were 11 training sessions, and an annual administration meeting. In addition, three out of the 6 community outreach programs the team normally participates in were up and running. There were three call-outs during 2021, which resulted in one recovery.

The Dive Team is made up of 27 members, including one commander, one sergeant, 7 deputy sheriffs, one reserve deputy and 13 civilian volunteers. Due to a retirement, the team was assigned a new sergeant.

### CALL OUTS

The first call-out was to assist another agency's call for San Luis Police Department. In August, Dive Team Members

responded to downtown San Luis Obispo for a transient found floating in the creek under the Broad Street bridge. The subject drowned, and the incident was not declared to be suspicious. It is believed that the man went into the water, possibly had a medical event take place, and was unable to self-rescue.

The second call-out was also to assist another agency's call. During the month of November, 12 Dive Team Members spent two days, and 50-man hours underwater, helping Morro Bay Harbor Patrol salvage a derelict 40-foot-long fishing boat from the bottom of the harbor. The "Lady Maxine" weighed 40,000 pounds, and the craft was located less than 100 yards from the Morro Bay public launch ramp. Dive Team Members attached a dozen lift bags capable of exerting 20,000 pounds of lift to the vessel with chains and come-alongs. The bags were inflated with air through 600 feet of compressor hose, and a manifold brought the vessel to the surface. "The Lady Maxine" was then towed to the launch ramp where it was pulled up onto shore by an

excavator, and front-wheel loader. The boat was then demolished and then taken to the landfill.

The third call-out was to assist State Parks off the coast of Estero Bluffs in Cayucos. A hiker on a cold December morning was hiking along the bluffs when she noticed a portion of a sailboat lying on shore amongst the rocks and crashing waves. She also found several articles of both male and female clothing. The Coast Guard and Morro Bay Harbor Patrol searched offshore while the Sheriff's Search and Rescue teams scoured the shoreline for other debris as well as possible victims. Upon locating the rest of the submerged vessel approximately 200 yards offshore the Sheriff's Dive team was called out. Arriving on the scene by boat, two of the team's members conducted a free dive down to the wreck and determined that there were no victims in, on or around the wreck. The case is still under investigation by State Parks.



## THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S AERO SQUADRON

is an all-volunteer organization composed of licensed pilots and non-pilot trained observers attached to the County Sheriff's Office to support its 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. Aircraft owners are reimbursed only for the aviation fuel and oil used in conjunction with assigned missions. 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 was to provide airborne search, location and rescue-support for survivors of overdue and missing aircraft along the coastal range and remote inland areas. Numerous

aircraft and crash scenes have been located over the years with varying degrees of support provided.

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 including those with mental, emotional or age-induced challenges. The Aero Squadron has also been involved in the location and recovery of personal remains of those who have taken their own lives.

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.

### Current Assets (As of December 2021 Membership Level)

Active Members consisting of pilots and observers:	20
Licensed Pilots:	15
Trained Observers (non-pilots):	4
Member-owned aircraft:	8 Fixed-Wing+ 1 Helicopter

Estimated current market value of Aero Squadron Privately-Owned Aircraft: \$2,350,000

### 2021 AERO SQUADRON TRAINING OPERATIONS

The Aero Squadron typically trains approximately two to three times each year with realistic mission scenarios typically involving up to six aircraft at one time. These involve personnel and vehicle location in remote parts of the county usually in a missing person or vehicle surveillance scenario. Other than the Fall Operational Readiness Drill in November, there were no other training missions in 2021.

### Annual Fall Joint Operational Readiness Drill with SLOSAR

The Aero Squadron participated in this year's practice ground missing persons search and rescue exercise with three aircraft. We provided one member-owned aircraft flying at 7,500' MSL as our High Bird communications relay, a member-owned helicopter flying a low search pattern and the Sheriff's C182R flying at an intermediate altitude search pattern. Our Sheriff-provided Ford F150 communications vehicle provided Air Operations support between all search aircraft and SLOSAR's Search Base operations.

### Sheriff's Aircraft Flights

The Sheriff's 1982 Cessna 182R aircraft was returned to service in late 2020 after an extensive avionics upgrade. Sheriff's Aero Squadron members performed numerous training and pilot checkout flights in the aircraft throughout 2021. The aircraft participated in the Fall Operational Readiness Drill with SLOSAR flying an active low altitude search pattern in search of volunteer missing persons on the ground.



**Total Aero Squadron Aircraft Flight Time**

*10 hours*

**Total Aero Squadron Man-hours**

*20 hours*



# SHERIFF'S POSSE

## THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SHERIFF'S POSSE

was somewhat back to normal in 2021, but some events were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year the Posse had 12 active members and five active honorary members. These 17 Posse members volunteered for a total of 559 hours.

This year the Posse participated in four parades, Sheriff's Youth Summer Camp, and the Operational Readiness Drill (ORD) along side the Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue team.

The Posse also patrolled the Mid-State Fair and Creston Rodeo.

### Hours

Ceremonial	111
Patrol	241
Search & Rescue	8
Meetings/Misc. Hours	200
<i>Total Hours</i>	<i>560</i>

### 2021 EVENTS AND TRAINING

#### Ceremonial Events

- Sagebrush Days Parade, San Miguel
- Sheriff's Youth Summer Camps, San Miguel
- Sheriff's Youth Summer Camps, Cayucos
- 4th of July Parade, Cayucos
- GREAT Camp, Arroyo Grande
- Colony Days Parade, Atascadero
- Pioneer Day Parade, Paso Robles





## **SHERIFF'S AUXILIARY VOLUNTEER PATROL OR SAVP,**

is a Sheriff's Office volunteer unit dedicated to assisting the department in meeting its law enforcement mission. These citizen volunteers increase public safety, acting as additional eyes and ears for the Sheriff's Office to identify crime problems in San Luis Obispo County communities. All members are trained in a variety of law enforcement topics, as well as provide supplemental patrol in neighborhoods and business districts. Aside from patrolling the streets, auxiliary patrol members also perform vacation house checks and assist in educating the public about safety. In 2021 the SAVP program was made up of 49 volunteers overseen by the SAVP Operations Coordinator, and a patrol chain of command.

Before becoming a Volunteer Patrol member, individuals attend and graduate from a 40-hour SAVP

academy. The academy educates volunteers about crime prevention tactics, CPR and first aid, patrol and observation procedures, traffic control and radio communications. In 2021 SAVP onboarded 11 new volunteers. Two of the new members went to our North Station, two to our South Station, and 7 to our Coast Station. The Sheriff's Auxiliary Volunteer Patrol is made up of people from all walks of life. The SAVP 2021 graduating class included a retired Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office sergeant, retired educators, a health-care manager, a non-profit outreach and development director and United States veterans.

Due to the ongoing spread of COVID-19, the program experienced some challenges this year. However, despite temporary program suspensions and cancelled events, volunteers still patrolled over 20,000 miles, and logged hundreds of hours.

In addition to regular SAVP duties, the program also includes a subset Graffiti Abatement Team. These individuals use a specially equipped vehicle to respond to locations of

reported graffiti and either remove or cover it. This year one of the two graffiti abatement volunteers retired. SAVP is hopeful there will be additional individuals interested in assisting with this important work in the coming year.

**SHERIFF'S AUXILIARY  
VOLUNTEER PATROL  
MEMBERS ARE AN  
INVALUABLE RESOURCE  
TO THE DEPARTMENT,  
HELPING MAKE OUR  
COMMUNITIES SAFER.  
THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
IS GRATEFUL FOR  
SAVP'S CONTRIBUTIONS  
AND POSITIVE  
REPRESENTATION OF  
THE SAN LUIS OBISPO  
COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
OFFICE.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT.





## **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**

1585 Kansas Avenue  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

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

