



# 2020 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SHERIFF ANNUAL REPORT

Message from  
**Sheriff Jim Hart**



*Jim Hart*

This year was un-like any other year I have experienced in my 33-year law enforcement career. In March, the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in our county forcing businesses to close, schools to shut down and our way of life to be radically altered. The Sheriff's Office worked with Public Health to ensure health orders were followed, and the spread of the virus was slowed. Precautions were taken in our county jail system to ensure the safety of the incarcerated population. Increased health screening, establishing quarantine and isolation units and a robust testing plan were all put in place to keep our jails safe.

In June, the senseless murder of Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller occurred in Ben Lomond that rocked our office and our community. Damon was a father, a husband, a friend, and a very good deputy sheriff who served our community well. Damon will always be remembered, and he is sorely missed by all of us.

In July, due to the economic damage caused by Covid, all county staff were placed on furlough. Sheriff's Office staff were forced to do more with less, as all three bargaining units took between 5% and 10% reductions.

In August, our annual budget was significantly cut to help the county get through the budget crisis that COVID caused. Multiple deputy sheriff, corrections officer and civilian staff positions were lost. The Recovery Center was closed, the Focused Intervention Team was disbanded, and our DNA laboratory was put on hold.

In late August, an unusual weather system came through our county causing multiple lightning strikes. These lightning strikes triggered fires in several areas in the northern part of our county. The CZU Lightning Complex Fire was declared and over a 38-day period almost a third of our county burned. This fire was the largest natural disaster in our county's history. The Sheriff's Office worked closely with Cal Fire to safely evacuate over 60,000 residents from the fire zone.

A world-wide pandemic, a tragic murder of a beloved member of the office, furloughs, budget cuts and a massive wild land fire all occurred over a 12-month period. Sheriff's Office personnel worked tirelessly throughout 2020 without complaint and remained focused on the mission of keeping our community safe. I am extremely proud of the work the Sheriff's Office performed this year and I am impressed with the resiliency, commitment and fortitude of all Sheriff's Office employees.

Hoping for a brighter 2021.



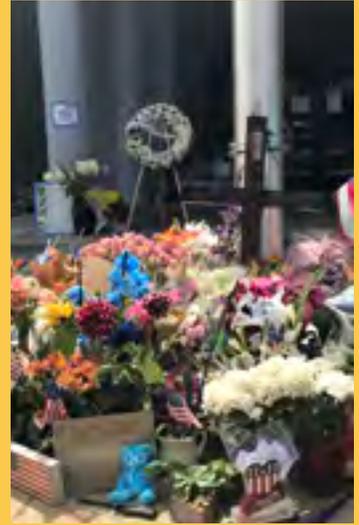
## Dedication to Sgt. Gutzwiller

Damon Christopher Gutzwiller was born on June 29, 1981 at the Santa Monica Hospital in Santa Monica, California to Vicki Ellen Gutzwiller. Growing up, Damon enjoyed playing hockey and going fishing with his grandpa, Victor. In 1989, Damon moved with his mother to Santa Cruz County settling first in Live Oak then later Watsonville. In 1999, Damon attended Cabrillo College and earned an Associate's Degree. While at the college, Damon volunteered at the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office Service Center under then Sergeant Jim Hart. Sergeant Hart encouraged Damon to join the Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue team as a volunteer, which he did for many years.

In 2006, Damon was hired by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office where he had an exceptionally accomplished career. Over his 14 years with the Sheriff's Office, Damon worked as a patrol deputy, court security bailiff, field training officer, TASER instructor, SWAT operator, Unmanned Aerial System pilot, CSI detective, Alcohol Compliance Officer, and finally promoted to Sergeant in 2019 where he ran a patrol shift. Damon was a beloved member of the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office family. He was universally loved by the men and women he worked with and supervised. He was famous through the office for his ever-present smile, extraordinary patience, calm manner and incredible sense of humor that made it impossible not to like him after the briefest encounter. While his personality made him a favorite among his coworkers, his deep knowledge, dedication, bravery, and wit made him very successful in a difficult profession. In 14 years, Damon received 10 commendations for exceptional work. His excellent career will serve as an example for his brothers and sisters at the Sheriff's Office for years to come.

In 2012, Damon met the love of his life, Favi. Favi loved him for all the same reasons his Sheriff's Office family loved him including his humor, patience, loving nature, giant heart, and smile. Deeply in love, they shared so much together – a wonderful home, countless trips to Lake Tahoe, their dogs Shasta and Riley, and walks on the beach. In 2018 they welcomed their son Carter to the world. Damon was an incredible father to Carter, digging in the dirt with his son for hours. Whatever he was doing, Damon would drop everything to play with his son. Damon loved singing, dancing, reading books and just acting silly with Carter. Countless bike and scooter rides, walks to the park, and hikes through the forest were part of their happy and loving life. Damon's incredible smile was amplified three-fold the second he saw Carter. Damon was so happy to be a father and he and Favi were excited to welcome their second child in late June.

Damon's life was full and incredibly blessed. The world is undoubtedly a better place because of him. Our lives were made brighter by knowing him and we will miss him forever.



# Thank You to Our Mutual Aid Partners

During 2020 we had several incidents that will not soon be forgotten by our staff or community. We could not have gotten through these significant events without the swift response and overwhelming support from our mutual aid partners.

We would like to thank the following agencies for their assistance and support this past year.

SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT  
WATSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CAPITOLA POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SCOTTS VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL  
ALAMEDA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS  
SANTA CRUZ DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
CAMPBELL POLICE DEPARTMENT  
GILROY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SUNNYVALE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
LOS ALTOS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
LOS GATOS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
MILPITAS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
MONTEREY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT  
MOUNTAIN VIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT  
OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PALO ALTO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SAN JOSE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SANTA CLARA POLICE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY DA'S OFFICE  
SANTA CLARA CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

# Serving the Santa Cruz County Community with dedication and pride.

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Timeline of  
Major Events  
2020

## Green Valley Road Homicide

On January 10, 2020 at about 2:00am deputies responded to a report of a disturbance at a home on Green Valley Road in Watsonville. When deputies arrived at the home, they found a 26-year-old man suffering from a stab wound. The victim was transported to an out of county trauma center where he later died. Deputies arrested the suspect at the scene.



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
**SHERIFF**



## ICAT Training

In late January, the Sheriff's Office hosted Integrating Communications Assessment and Tactics Training, also known as ICAT training.

Agencies from across the Country and Canada came to this two-day course which helps law enforcement officers train on how to respond to volatile situations where a suspect is behaving erratically or dangerously with a weapon that is not a gun.

The individuals attending the training gained techniques and skills that they would impart with their respective agencies and train other law enforcement officers. Sheriff Hart brought ICAT to the Sheriff's Office in 2017 to carry on the ongoing commitment to our community of de-escalation and harm reduction.

## Sheriff's Office Preparations and Response to COVID-19

In early March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic was felt in the Bay Area and Santa Cruz County. In response to the Declaration of a Local Health Emergency by the Santa Cruz Health Officer, the Sheriff's Office began taking immediate action to mitigate the risks to the public.

To protect the safety of the Corrections Staff, and inmates -- all inmates, staff and visitors had to be screened prior to entry. During the early stages of the pandemic more than a dozen deputies were reassigned to the Corrections Bureau. To decrease the number of outsiders coming into the jail, tours and in-person visiting was suspended. New procedures were put into place regarding cleaning and delivery of products to limit contacts inside the facilities. The Sheriff's Office began utilizing department 11, the court room inside the main jail, to minimize transports to the courts.

Additionally, an isolation unit in the main jail was created to keep individuals separated when they were first booked into the jail. They would remain separate until they had two confirmed negative COVID-19 tests and had been in the isolated unit for 14 days. Once increased testing became available, incarcerated individuals and corrections staff were tested weekly. Programs at the jail were suspended for a short time until modifications could be made to keep everyone distanced and safe.

To ensure incarcerated persons could still contact their families, free video and telephone visitations were made available and all fees were waived for outgoing mail.

Medical staff at the jail was also increased to ensure we had sufficient staffing in the event there was an outbreak of COVID-19 at our facilities.

By March, the Department Operations Center (DOC) was formed. Staff assigned to the DOC tracked PPE, COVID cases, staffing levels, and other critical operations information regarding COVID-19. Staffing within the jail, and patrol was increased, and patrol deputies began 12-hour shifts. Retired staff members were requested to return to duty to help with planning and covering new assignments in the Sheriff's Office. Over the summer months, deputies were assigned to parks and beaches during the closures.

Deputies began taking non-priority calls for service by phone to also decrease the number of face-to-face interactions with the community.

Sheriff Hart activated the joint Law Enforcement Operations Center where all agencies in the County worked together to coordinate overall emergency response plans and essential activities.

Throughout the duration of the pandemic there were no significant outbreaks among incarcerated persons at our facilities.



In response to the Covid crisis, the Santa Cruz Sherriff's Office set up successful protocols and procedures to manage the threat of the COVID virus to both staff and inmates.

## Live Oak Murder

On March 21, deputies were dispatched to a home on Brommer Street for a report of a stabbing. Deputies arrived and detained the suspect in front of the home. Deputies found the victim inside the residence suffering from multiple stab wounds. Deputies performed live-saving measures, but the victim succumbed to his injuries and died. The suspect was arrested for murder.

## Graham Hill Rd Murder and Arrests

On March 31, 2020, deputies responded to a report of an unconscious woman at a home on the 800 block of Graham Hill Road. The victim was deceased when deputies arrived.

Detectives were able to identify two suspects believed to be directly involved in the homicide. On April 1, 2020, our detectives located one of the suspects in San Bernardino County where he was in jail for unrelated charges. The second suspect was also located in San Bernardino County in the victim's car. She was taken into custody without incident. Both suspects were brought back to Santa Cruz County and booked on murder and robbery charges.

## Suspects Arrested for 2019 Murder

On May 19, 2020, four suspects were arrested for the 2019 murder of a Santa Cruz County resident. On October 1, 2019, the victim was kidnapped from his home in Santa Cruz County and found murdered several hours later at a property in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Through the course of the investigation detectives were able to identify the suspects. They were arrested at or near their homes in Southern California and in Michigan. Two of the suspects previously worked for the victim and the motive was believed to be robber.

## Civil Unrest Response

After the death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer, protests and civil unrest was experienced throughout the nation and locally. The public outrage and outcry that followed this tragic event sparked a nationwide call for police, justice, and racial reform. Several protests were planned throughout the Santa Cruz area with some protests around the country that turned violent and destructive. In response to the escalating situation, the Sheriff's Office provided security at several county properties during these planned Santa Cruz area protests, which fortunately remained peaceful. Communication and respectful relationships with the community have and continue to be a core value of the Sheriff's Office.

In 2015, the Sheriff's Office was one of the first agencies to implement recommendations and actions provided by former President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. These recommendations remain relevant today and are designed to help Law Enforcement build trust and accountability with their community. Our department remains dedicated to keeping that trust.

## Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller Killed

On Saturday June 6th, 2020, we received a 911 call about a suspicious van parked off the road near Jamison Creek in Boulder Creek. The caller described seeing guns and bomb-making materials inside the van.

Deputies arrived at a home in Ben Lomond to contact the owner associated with the van. As deputies arrived, they were ambushed with gunfire and multiple improvised explosive devices. Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller was shot and taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. Deputy Alex Spencer was also shot and struck by the suspect's car. California Highway Patrol officers responding to the call were also fired upon when they attempted to stop the suspect. One of the responding CHP officers was also struck by gunfire.

After the suspect fled from the initial scene, calls of a carjacking in the same area soon followed. Dozens of officers and deputies from agencies around the county, Central Coast and Bay Area rushed to the scene to help search for the suspect and prevent further injury to the public.

A citizen nearby heard part of the commotion outside and confronted the suspect who was heavily armed with several guns and a pipe bomb. He was able to disarm the suspect and hold him down until deputies arrived shortly after. The suspect was arrested and booked into jail where he is awaiting trial for the murder of Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller, among other felony charges.

Deputy Alex Spencer and the CHP Officer have since been released from the hospital and returned to full duty. The day following Sgt. Gutzwiller's murder, a vigil was held in front of the Sheriff's Office Headquarters. Hundreds of community members and first responders gathered to remember Damon and share their love and respect for him.

On June 17th, a memorial was held for our fallen hero at Cabrillo College in Aptos, and he was laid to rest. The vast and heartfelt expressions of community support experienced and the support from surrounding agencies is something that will never be forgotten by our staff.

2020 was a year to honor the memory of one of our dearest colleagues and community servants.





## Laurel Road Homicide & Arrest

On June 14, 2020, deputies responded to reports of a man with a gun on Laurel Road and Highway 17. Once in the area, deputies found an unresponsive man with a gunshot wound who was pronounced dead at the scene.

In early July, deputies arrested the suspect in San Jose for murder and attempted murder of two other individuals.

## Armed Carjacking

On June 30, 2020, deputies responded to reports of a man shooting a handgun in the air near Waddell and Scotts Creek just past Davenport. Not long after, the same male is suspected of carjacking a victim in the area and drove off in the vehicle. Deputies located the vehicle north of Scotts Creek and attempted to make a car stop.

The suspect continued driving South towards the City of Santa Cruz reaching over 100 miles per hour and refusing to pull over. The suspect traveled to the City of Santa Cruz down Mission Street where deputies terminated the pursuit for the safety of the community.

Moments later, the Santa Cruz Police Department located the vehicle on West Cliff Drive where the suspect became involved in a solo vehicle traffic collision. Deputies responded and assisted Santa Cruz police officers in taking the suspect into custody without further incident. No injuries were reported to any bystanders and the suspect was taken to Santa Cruz County Jail.



## Safe Exams Return to Santa Cruz County

Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner (SAFE) Examinations returned to Santa Cruz County in August of 2020. SAFE is a vital part of Santa Cruz County's Sexual Assault Response Team's (SART) process to obtain evidence to investigate sexual assault cases and to protect the public.

While SAFE exams have been available since 1985, for the past two and a half years, they were taking place at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC) in Santa Clara. This was due to a shortage of nurses trained to provide the examinations in Santa Cruz County. Since the exams moved to SCVMC, the Sheriff's Office worked diligently with the Health Services Agency, Dominican Hospital, Monarch Services (Santa Cruz County's Rape Crisis Center) and SCVMC to return exams to the County.

This program provides survivors of sexual assault with a safe, confidential, and local site to obtain this exam without traveling to Santa Clara County. The SAFE satellite location in Santa Cruz County has trained medical professionals on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the sexual assault medical examinations. Nurses from the SCVMC SAFE Program, who live in the Santa Cruz area, provide the staffing for exams.

Survivors of sexual assault seeking SAFE examinations may choose between two types of examinations: an investigative or non-investigative exam. If a survivor chooses an investigative examination, law enforcement will conduct a criminal investigation and will be provided with evidence collected during the exam. Alternatively, in a non-investigative exam, evidence is still collected, but law enforcement will not start a criminal investigation until the survivor chooses to do so. The evidence obtained during a non-investigative exam is confidential and will be preserved and stored indefinitely. SAFE exams are provided at no cost to the survivor.

"There were many partners who worked tirelessly to bring these exams back to Santa Cruz County. While there is never a wish to need them, they are critical for the survivors."

**Sheriff Jim Hart.**



## CZU Lightning Complex Fire

On August 16th following an intense lightning storm, several fires broke out in remote areas of the Santa Cruz Mountains and on the North Coast of the county. The fire spread rapidly through remote areas of the county into Bonny Doon and the town of Boulder Creek. With less than favorable conditions, strong winds and thick dry brush, deputies and fire crews had to work quickly, while making initial evacuations. In the coming days, more than 60,000 residents were evacuated from their homes and the fire burned more than 86,000 acres in Santa Cruz County over several weeks.

In the first few days of the fire, deputies went door to door evacuating residents. After evacuations were completed, deputies began looting suppression efforts, patrolling the evacuated areas, checking on homes, and helping feed or retrieve animals. Deputies remained in the burned and evacuated areas for 38 days straight. During the evacuation period close to 30 people were arrested related to looting or being in an evacuated area.

The fire destroyed or damaged more than 1,500 homes and structures and tragically killed one person. The fire also destroyed a large portion of Big Basin State Park, a beloved campground and hiking area of the county. Cal Fire deemed the incident completely over on December 23, 2020 – 4 months and 8 days after the fire sparked.

The CZU Lightning Complex Fire was the most destructive fire in the county's history, burning more than 86,000 acres.



## Correctional Officers Arrested

On September 4, 2020, a Correctional Officer was arrested on charges including sexual activity with an inmate, assault by a public officer, and unauthorized computer access. The investigation began in July 2020 when detectives received information that the Correctional Officer was having an inappropriate relationship with an incarcerated person. The incarcerated person was serving their sentence through Supervised Release, as a part of our Custody Alternative Program. The Correctional Officer is no longer employed by the Sheriff's Office.

One month later, a second Correctional Officer was arrested and booked into the Main Jail. She was booked on charges including sexual activity with an inmate, assault by a public officer, and bringing contraband into a detention facility. The investigation began in May 2020 after detectives received information that the Correctional Officer was having an inappropriate relationship with an incarcerated person at the Santa Cruz County Main Jail. After a thorough investigation, detectives arrested the Correctional Officer. This individual is no longer employed by the Sheriff's Office.



## Cold Case Arrest

On December 3, 2020, detectives arrested a suspect for a cold case dating back to 1995. Forensic evidence was found linking the suspect to the murder. The victim was killed on June 10, 1995 and the victim's body was found along the Pajaro River levee near the Highway 1 overpass. The victim was last seen around 4:00 a.m. that morning walking on Water Street near Ocean Street in Santa Cruz.

Detectives were determined to bring closure to the victim's family and to hold the suspect accountable. "This murder shook our community back in 1995, and our detectives have been committed to making an arrest since. We saw the heartbreak it brought to the victim's loved ones and we are proud of this step towards justice," said Sheriff Jim Hart. The suspect is being held in Santa Cruz County Jail.



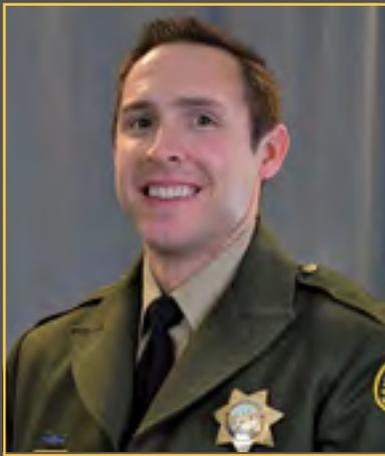
ETS system gets up and running in 2020 to help protect our citizens and community.

## Explosive Transport System

In 2019, the Bomb Team purchased an Explosive Transport System (ETS) through Federal funding. COVID-19 slowed the process of production on the ETS, but it was finally completed in late 2020. This is a piece of equipment used to contain an explosion in the event something occurs during the transportation of an improvised explosive device or other hazardous materials. The system is extremely robust and can handle 21lbs of high explosives detonating inside of the chamber. The system will serve the community and Bomb Team for many years to come.

# 2020 Employees of the Year

## Deputies



Sergeant  
**DANIEL ROBBINS**



Detective  
**ERIK MIYOSHI**



Detective  
**ETHAN RUMRILL**

## Corrections



Supervising CO  
**KRYSTEN URETA**

## Civilian



Program Coordinator  
**CLAUDIA LLAMAS-PADILLA**

## Deputies of the Year

Sgt. **Daniel Robbins**    Detective **Erik Miyoshi**    Detective **Ethan Rumrill**

In 2020, the Persons Crime Unit investigated six homicides and solved all of them.

In one notable case, the team authored over 60 search warrants, spoke to over 100 people, and coordinated several operations with agencies outside the county and state. Ultimately, 4 persons were arrested for murder, and three confessed.

The community and the victim's family were very appreciative of the hard work put into the investigation that this investigative team spearheaded. For their outstanding work, in 2020, The Persons Crimes Unit was awarded the Employee of the Year for their collective efforts.

## Correctional Officer of the Year

Supervising Corrections Officer **Krysten Ureta**

Krysten is responsible for the ongoing training of Corrections staff as well as supervision of trainees. Additionally, she has been an instrumental component to the re-development of the Corrections Emergency Response Team.

Over the past year, Krysten has managed the training of dozens of new corrections staff. Krysten also played a significant role in the development of the Corrections Clerk Program. This program will play an instrumental role in reducing Corrections staff workload.

Krysten was assigned to pilot a newly created C-Team supervision role where she supervises Compliance, Classification, and Training. Throughout the implementation, SCO Ureta has demonstrated exceptional organization, management skills, and big picture thinking.

For her outstanding work in 2020, SCO Krysten Ureta has been awarded the Corrections Officers of the Year.

## Civilian Employee of the Year

Program Coordinator **Claudia Llamas-Padilla**

Claudia started the year as the Volunteer Coordinator working in Community Policing, however, beginning in April, she was assigned to work in the Coroner's unit due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Claudia did an outstanding job of communicating with our Spanish-speaking families. She helped find next-of-kin in Mexico and gather essential medical information regarding the events that led up to the death of the individuals.

While assigned to the Coroner's Unit, Claudia continued to act as the Volunteer Coordinator, and she helped to classify our morgue volunteers as "**essential workers**".

Claudia was then reassigned from the Coroner's Unit to become the new Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Program Coordinator. Claudia is intelligent, insightful, and quick to learn new skills and is an asset to our office. For her outstanding work in 2020, Claudia Llamas-Padilla has been awarded the Civilian Employee of the Year award.

# Medals & Awards

## Purple Heart

Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller (posthumous) Deputy Alex Spencer

## Medal of Valor

Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller (posthumous) Deputy Emma Ramponi  
Deputy Alex Spencer

## Medal of Merit

Deputy Adam Roberts

## Distinguished Service

Correctional Officer Elmer Rodriguez

## Sheriff's Commendation and Citation Bar

Deputy Fabiola Galindo

Deputy Nicholas Cummings

Deputy Chris Hankes

Deputy Kris Koenig

Deputy Mathew McMahon

Deputy Alfonso De La Torre Deputy

Deputy Angelo Claussen

Deputy Gabriel Gonzalez

Deputy Austin Schneider

Deputy Jacob Munoz

Deputy Sergio E. Lopez

## Life Saving Award

Correctional Officer Jesus Espinoza

Mental Health Liaison Kurt Churchill

Deputy Christopher Medina

Deputy Fernando Tellez

Mental Health Liaison Shannon Dean

## Purple Heart, Medal of Valor & Medal of Merit

On June 6th, 2020 Deputies responded to a call of a suspicious vehicle in Boulder Creek. The suspicious van was registered to a home in Ben Lomond. Deputies Emma Ramponi, Alex Spencer and Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller responded to the residence to investigate. Shortly after arriving, they were ambushed. Sergeant Gutzwiller was struck by gunfire and fatally wounded. The suspect continued to fire at Deputy Spencer and Deputy Ramponi, and also threw a pipe bomb at them. Deputy Spencer was shot, but the round was stopped by his body armor. Deputy Spencer and Ramponi attempted to take cover in a different location while broadcasting information to other incoming units as they called for backup.

Two California Highway Patrol Officers, Officer Estey and Officer Rodriguez, arrived on scene and began to engage the suspect, striking him. Officer Estey was also injured by the gunfire but did not give up. The suspect fled from the scene in a car, and intentionally struck Deputy Spencer with the car while driving away. Meanwhile, Deputy Roberts immediately went to the scene knowing Sgt. Gutzwiller was injured and other deputies were being fired at. Deputy Roberts remained on the scene to stay with Sgt. Gutzwiller and help cover Officer Estey and Rodriguez.

A civilian heard the commotion of the sirens outside and went to see what was going on. He located the heavily armed suspect outside and began to talk to the suspect attempting to de-escalate the situation. During a moment of opportunity, The citizen was able to tackle the suspect and knock away his assault rifle. The suspect then attempted to light a pipe bomb, but the citizen wrestled it away. The suspect then pulled out a loaded handgun, but the citizen continued to fight and disarmed the suspect. Several other neighbors heard the struggle and came out to help detain the suspect until deputies came to take him into custody moments later. His willingness to get involved without hesitation saved many people this day.

[Sergeant Gutzwiller](#) was awarded the [Medal of Valor and Purple Heart](#) for his courage, strength, and bravery. The medals were given to his son during his memorial service in June.

For their outstanding service, bravery, and determination, [Deputy Spencer and Ramponi](#) were awarded the [Medal of Valor](#). [Deputy Roberts](#) has been awarded the [Medal of Merit](#). [Deputy Spencer](#) was also awarded the [Purple Heart](#) for the injuries sustained during the incident.

[Officer Estey and Officer Rodriguez](#) responded to this call without hesitation and their actions helped save lives. They were both awarded the [Medal of Valor](#) and [Officer Estey](#) was also awarded the [Purple Heart](#).

[Sam](#) was awarded the [Sheriff's Office Civilian Distinguished Service Medal](#), the highest civilian award from the Sheriff's Office.



## Distinguished Service Award

Correctional Officer Elmer Rodriguez conducted a search on an extremely agitated arrestee. The individual made threats to kill law enforcement officers. CO Rodriguez's persistence paid off, and he located a loaded concealed revolver and safely seized the weapon. CO Rodriguez's thoroughness and attention to detail kept staff safe and prevented a shooting inside the jail. [CO Rodriguez has been awarded the Distinguished Service Award for his actions.](#)

## Life Saving Awards and Sheriff Commendations

Deputies Christopher Medina and Fabiola Galindo overheard a medical call being dispatched for a baby not conscious, not breathing, and turning blue. Deputies Medina and Galindo self-dispatched code three to the call. Deputy Medina arrived on scene and was confronted with a father holding their newborn baby who was blue and not breathing. The father handed the baby to Deputy Medina who immediately opened the child's airway and performed chest compressions. Moments later, the baby started to breathe again and regained his normal skin color. The baby was transported to the hospital where he made a full recovery. During this time Deputy Galindo was tasked with calming the hysterical family who thought they were losing their baby.

Deputy Medina's attention to duty, prompt response, and use of first aid training resulted in the saving of a baby's life. For his actions, [Deputy Medina has been awarded the Life Savings Award.](#) [Deputy Galindo's has been awarded the Sheriff's Commendation](#) for her actions and calm demeanor during this incident.

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Mental Health Liaison Shannon Dean and deputies responded to a suicidal female on the Soquel Drive bridge over Highway 1. The woman had climbed over the fence of the bridge and was threatening to jump on to the busy freeway below. After negotiating for some time, Shannon successfully convinced the woman she could help her, and she climbed slowly off the bridge. The woman was transported to Dominican without further incident. Shannon's quick actions, excellent communication skills and calming demeanor saved this woman's life. For her actions [MHL Shannon Dean is awarded the Life Saving Award.](#)

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Mental Health Liaison Kurt Churchill and other deputies responded to a suicidal adult female on the Soquel Drive bridge over Highway 1. The woman had climbed around the fence of the bridge and was threatening to jump. Through speaking with the woman, Kurt successfully connected her with a therapist she was familiar with over a cell phone and convinced the woman to climb off the bridge. The woman was transported to Dominican Hospital for help. Kurt Churchill's outstanding communication skills and quick actions brought this woman to safety. For his action's, [MHL Kurt Churchill is awarded the Life Saving Award.](#)

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While on duty Correctional Officer Jesus Espinoza observed an inmate in distress and responded immediately and found the inmate was choking. Officer Espinoza performed the Heimlich maneuver, and was able to dislodge an apple that was blocking the airway. Officer Espinoza's awareness and quick actions saved the inmate from serious injury or death. [CO Espinoza is awarded the Life Saving Award](#) for his actions.

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While on patrol, Deputies Tellez and Medina were dispatched to a report of a young female adult who overdosed on a possible opiate. They found the woman unresponsive and unconscious and immediately began to conduct chest compressions on the female and cleared her airway of vomit. The deputies administered a dose of Narcan on the female and were able to revive her. The deputies fast response and quick medical care was undoubtedly the reason the female survived. [Deputies Tellez and Medina are awarded the Life Saving Award.](#)

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Deputies Hankes and McMahon were dispatched to a report of a heroin overdose. Upon arrival, the victim was found down on the ground, non-responsive and unconscious. Deputy Hankes and Deputy McMahon administered Narcan to the victim. After a few minutes, the man began to breathe slowly on his own. He was placed into a recovery position until medics arrived to render further aid. For their quick actions and diligence [Deputy Hankes and Deputy McMahon are awarded the Sheriff's Commendation bar.](#)

Deputies Claussen, Schneider and S.E. Lopez, were dispatched to a woman injecting narcotics. Deputies detained the woman and began to walk her towards a patrol vehicle when her demeanor began to change. Deputies recognized the woman was demonstrating symptoms of opioid overdose. The deputies administered two doses of Narcan. The woman began to breathe normally and was eventually transported to Dominican Hospital. Without the deputy's actions, the woman likely would have overdosed and not been found for some time. [Deputies Claussen, Schneider, and Sergio E. Lopez are awarded the Sheriff's Commendation.](#)

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While on patrol in Boulder Creek, Deputy Cummings noticed a man slumped behind the wheel of his vehicle. During a welfare check of the man -- he began convulsing. Deputy Cummings was able to recognize that he had been inhaling exhaust fumes trying to kill himself. Deputy Cummings provided immediate medical care for the subject until medics arrived. Deputy Cummings' proactive patrolling and quick medical care was undoubtedly the reason the man survived. [Deputy Cummings is awarded the Sheriff's Commendation Bar.](#)

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Deputy Koenig responded to Cal Fire in Felton after learning that the CZU Complex fire had crossed the San Mateo/Santa Cruz County line and was now moving towards Boulder Creek.

Deputy Koenig took on the role of the tactical commander having extensive knowledge of San Lorenzo Valley, Search and Rescue (SAR) and the ability to work within the Incident Command System, Deputy Koenig played a vital role during evacuations. He activated a SAR team and immediately began preparing maps to provide our evacuation teams.

Our ability to evacuate thousands during this crucial 1st 24-hour period is due to Deputy Koenig's dedication, knowledge, and ability to work quickly under these stressful conditions. For the remaining weeks of this fire, command staff relied heavily on Deputy Koenig and the SAR team to assist with both the planning for evacuations and re-population. For his actions during the CZU Fire [Deputy Koenig is awarded the Sheriff's Commendation Bar.](#)

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Deputy Alfonso De La Torre and Deputy Gonzalez responded to a Gas Station for a report of a male unresponsive in a car. Deputies arrived and noticed the male was passed out, and the car was still in drive. Deputies blocked the car to prevent it from driving forward and injuring someone. Deputies also saw drug paraphernalia in the car and recognized the male was experiencing a possible overdose. They administered Narcan and the male became responsive and survived. For their quick thinking and actions, [Deputies De La Torre and Gonzalez are awarded the Sheriff's Commendation Bar.](#)

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Deputy Munoz responded to a subject unconscious and not breathing. Deputy Munoz located the male inside the garage, not conscious with a faint pulse. Deputy Munoz administered one dose of Narcan -- soon recognizing the man needed a second dose. Medics arrived and treated the victim who then began to regain consciousness.

Deputy Munoz's calm demeanor and decisive actions prevented serious injury. For his actions, [Deputy Munoz is awarded the Sheriff's Commendation Bar.](#)

# Santa Cruz County's Finest

ACERVANTES, GABRIEL

ADNEY, KIRK

AGUIRRE, DAISY

AHUMADA, ELVIA

AINSWORTH, JACOB

AMBROSINO, AMANDA

ANZALONE, MARK

BALDRIGE, NICHOLAS

BALDWIN, DEE

BARNES MOORE, CORYE

BARNES, ALONZO

BARRON, DAISY

BASTIAN, MARILYNN

BATIN, CAROLE

BISAGNO, KARY

BJORKLUND, BRIAN

BLANKENSHIP, LELAND

BLOCK, TREVOR

BONNEY, CADI

BOOTH, MARQUIS

BOTTEGA, JEAN-PAUL

BRIERLEY, DANIEL

BROPHY, MAGGIE

BROWN, FORREST

BROWNLEE, JORDAN

BRZOWSKI, CHARLES

BUCHANAN, ROBERT

BUGAYONG, ELPIDIO

BURHANS, MICHELLE

BURNETT, WILLIAM

CALHOUN, NATHANIEL

CAMBEROS-LOPEZ, PATRICIA

CARBAJAL, ANGELICA

CARBAJAL, EFRAIN

CARMONA, ERICA

CARNEY, STEVE

CARRILLO, EDWYN

CASTERSON, EMILY

CASTILLO, ENRIQUE

CECIL-WHERITY, CALUM

CERVANTES, GABRIEL

CHAVEZ, CRISTOBAL

CHEUNG, MAY

CHRISTIANSEN, MARK

CHRISTIANSEN, MARV

CLAES, KEVIN J

CLARK, CHRISTOPHE

CLARK, WENDY

CLARKE, JOSEPH

CLAUSSEN, ANGELO

CLEMENS, KRISTIE

CLEVELAND, BRIAN

COLE, BRIAN

CONE, PEACE

COOPER, JAKE

CORUM, HANNAH

CORUM, KURT

CRAWFORD, KARYN

CRIVELLO, CRYSTAL

CRUZ, DANIEL

CUMMINGS, NICHOLAS

CURTICE, NICHOLAS

DAVIS, DANIELLE

DAWSON, JASON

DE LA TORRE, ALFONSO

DE LA TORRE, ROGELIO

DEEG, KENNETH

DERR, MICHAEL

DESANTOS, CESAR

DIMICK, ARTHUR

DINAPOLI, ANNA

DOBBS, COLLEEN

DOLEN, JOSEPH

DOYLE, TIMOTHY

DRILLINGER, IAN

DUFREY, LAURA

DUNN, JASON L

EICKHOFF, GREGORY

EISNER, JEFFREY

ENGELHARDT, ELIZABETH

ENGELHARDT, NATHAN

ENRICO, SCOTT

ERBE, BRIAN

ESCALANTE-PEREZ, REYNALDO

ESCOBAR, DALISSA

ESPARZA, LUISANNA

ESPINOZA, ANA

ESPINOZA, JESUS

ESPINOZA, PATRICIA

ESQUIBEL, BROOK

FAROTTE, RYAN

FELIX, FRANCISCO

FENNELLY, JASON

FENSTER, DEREK

FERNANDEZ, GERMAN

FERRARA, JOHN

FERRO, JOSE

FIGUEROA, VANESSA

FIORE, STEPHANY

2020

FISH, STEFAN M  
 FISHER, KEVIN  
 FISHER, RYAN  
 FLAQUER, MIGUEL  
 FLEMING, MICHAEL  
 FLORES, JAIME  
 FLORES, ROLAN  
 FLOREZ, JASMIN N  
 FRANCIS, CARLTON  
 FREITAS, DANIEL  
 FULTON, RYAN  
 GAGNON, STEPHEN  
 GAITHER, HUNTER  
 GALINDO, FABIOLA  
 GALOTTI, CASANDRA  
 GALVIN, ROGER  
 GANSCHOW, DAVID  
 GARCIA, NELSON  
 GARCIA, SEAVANA  
 GARZA, RACHAEL  
 GERBER, MARK  
 GERBER, MINNIE  
 GETZSCHMANN, JOHN  
 GIDDING, ROBERT  
 GIGUIERE, GREGORY  
 GOMBOS, FRANK  
 GOMEZ-CASTANEDA, JESUS  
 GONZALEZ KARLSSON,  
 TONAMEYOTZ  
 GONZALEZ, ALEX  
 GONZALEZ, GABRIEL  
 GONZALEZ, JAVIER  
 GOUKER, ERIC  
 GRACIANO PEREZ, MARISELA  
 GRAHAM, NATHANIEL  
 GRANT, WESLEY  
 GREENE, EDWARD  
 GRIFFIN, LARRY  
 GRIFFITH, TIMOTHY  
 GROSS, CATHERINE  
 GRUBER, ERIC  
 GUTIERREZ, MIGUEL  
 GUTZWILLER, DAMON  
 HABERMEHL, JOHN  
 HAGEN, LAURA  
 HALLAS, MARCUS  
 HANCOCK, DAMON  
 HANKES, CHRISTOPHE  
 HANSEN, PETER  
 HARLAMOFF, CRAIG  
 HARRISON, CURTIS  
 HART, JAMES  
 HAYES, ERIN  
 HAYES, MAURICE  
 HERNANDEZ GAMA, ALDO  
 HERNANDEZ NARANJO, ERIKA  
 HERNANDEZ, ANNETT P  
 HERNANDEZ, GUILLERMO  
 HERNANDEZ, LAURA A  
 HERNANDEZ-GUZMAN, ERIK  
 HERRERA-AMEZCUA, FRAN-  
 CISCO  
 HERSEY, HUNTER  
 HOLLAND, DIANA  
 HONG, RUTH L  
 HOP, RANDALL  
 HUERTA, KARINA  
 HUNTSMAN, MARGO  
 HUNTSMAN, TRAVIS  
 HYLAND, KRISTINA  
 IANNUZZO, TERESA  
 INIGUEZ, LAURA  
 IRA, CHAD E  
 JAQUEZ, STEPHEN  
 JIMENEZ, JESSICA  
 JOHNSON, CODY  
 JOHNSON, JOSHUA  
 JONES, CHRISTINE  
 JONES, CHRISTOPHE  
 JORGENSON, ARISTON  
 KADUK, MONIQUETTE  
 KANE, BROOKE  
 KANE, KALEN  
 KARCHER, THEODORE  
 KEEHN, ASHLEY  
 KENNEDY, RYAN  
 KENT, KELLY  
 KENVILLE, NATHANIEL  
 KOENIG, KRISTOPHER  
 KRINER, DARRYL  
 LAMBERT, MICHAEL  
 LANSDOWNE, GREGORY  
 LEONETTI, SHON  
 LEVENDIS, ALEXANDRA  
 LIBERTY, TODD M  
 LLAMAS PADILLA, CLAUDIA  
 LLOYD, JENNIFER E  
 LOPEZ, DAISY  
 LOPEZ, LYSETTE

## 2020 Employees

LOPEZ, PAUL	MENDOZA, VICTORIA	PEREZ, ALEJANDRO
LOPEZ, SERGIO	MERCHANT, DEVIN S	PLAGEMAN, FREDERICK
LOPEZ, SERGIO	MIER Y TERAN, MAGALY	POLITO, BRANDON
LUKE, RYAN J	MITCHELL, KRISTEN	PONCE LUNA, SERGIO
LUNA, SOCORRO	MITCHELL, ROBIN	PORRAS, JORGE
MACDONALD, MICHAEL	MIYOSHI, ERIK	PRESLEY, HEATHER
MADISON, DAVID	MONTALVO, SARAH	PRUGER, JACOB
MADRIGAL SOSA, LUIS	MONTEJO, FERDINAND	PRUGER, MICHAEL
MAGANA, GABRIELA	MORA, VICTOR	PURCELL, AMANDA
MAGI, JOY	MORALES, JAVIER	PURSLEY, MATTHEW
MAJOR, PHILLIP	MORALES, ROY	RAKES, TRAVIS
MALONE, JORDAN	MORAR, DAN	RAMIREZ III, JOSE
MARTINEZ, ANDREW	MORENO, HUGO	RAMIREZ, CESAR
MARTINEZ, LEONEL	MORGAN, JASON	RAMIREZ, RICHARD
MARTINEZ, OMAR	MORROW-LEDESMA, ALEAH M	RAMIREZ, SALVADOR
MATA, JOE	MOSQUEDA, YESICA	RAMM, WENDY
MATSON, KYLE A	MOYA, EDUARDO	RAMOS, PAUL
MATTHEWS, ALEXANDER	MUNGUIA, JUAN	RAMPONI, EMMA
MCANERNEY, SUSAN	MUNOZ, JACOB	RANIA, MARC
MCBRIDE, CAITLIN	MURPHY, FREDERICK	REED, JOHN
MCCALL, COURTNEY	NOVAK, MICHELLE	REED, ZACHARY
MCCHESENEY, ANDREA	OCAMPO, ANTHONY	REHNBERG, JAKE
MCCLURE, ROBERT	O'HARA, MARC	REILMANN, GENEVIEVE
MCCONNELL, GARY	OHYE, EDWARD	RENWICK, DREW
MCKIM, JOSHUA	ORTIZ GALLEGOS, BIANCA	REYES SUAREZ, YESENIA
MCMAHON, MATTHEW	OTTAVIANO, NICOLE	RIOS, MARCOS
MEDINA, CHRISTOPHE	PANIAGUA, GERARDO	RIVERA-AGUILAR, EDGAR
MEDINA, MITCHELL	PASTOR, JOSHUA	ROBBINS, DANIEL
MEDINA, SAMI	PASTRANA, YAKZZEL	ROBERTS, ADAM
MEIER, PAUL	PATRICK, JARROD	ROBLES, JAVIER
MEJIA, SALVADOR	PATZKE, MICAH	ROCHA, MONICA
MELGOZA, LUIS	PATZKE, STEPHEN	RODRIGUEZ ALFARO, ELMER
MENDEZ, ROBERTO	PAYNE, MELINDA	RODRIGUEZ, ANNALISE
MENDOZA, FIDEL	PERERA, JOHN	RODRIGUEZ, MICHELLE

RODRIGUEZ, MINERVA	SMITH, CHARLES	VIZCARRA, LETICIA
ROSS, JAMES	SMITH, DOUGLAS	WALKER, CHRISTY
ROSS, JESSICA	SMITH, KERRI	WALKER, LARA
ROTTMAN, SCOTT	SMITH, TAMARA	WALTRIP, AUGUST
ROWE-KAIRYS, AMANDA	SOLANO, ABIGAIL	WARD, ANTHONY
RUMRILL, ETHAN	SOLANO, NICHOLAS	WARD, KYLE R
RYAN, STEVEN	SORCIA, SARA	WATSON, NICOLE
SAMMS, KATHY	SPENCER, ALEXANDER	WELLS, KAREN
SANCHEZ-ECHEVARRIA, ATHENA	SPENCER, CAROL	WEST, ZACHARY
SANDOVAL, CARA	STRUTZ, KRISTEN	WHEELER, CAMERON
SANFORD, TIM	SUAREZ, LISANDRO	WHITLEY, RODERICK
SAVAGE, MICHAEL	SWANNACK, CHRISTINE	WOOLLEY, JOSHUA
SCHIRRMACHER, KARL	TASHIRO, PAUL	WOWAK, KYLE
SCHNEIDER, AUSTIN	TAYLOR, KYLE L	YANEZ, MARK
SCHULZE ELSE, POLLY	TAYLOR, MICHELLE	YNIGUEZ, ANDRE
SCHWINGEL, ROGER	TELLEZ, FERNANDO	YNIGUEZ, ROBERT
SCIANNA, BRANNON	TERAN-MURILLO, JESSICA	YORK, RYAN
SEEVERS, RACHAEL	TOWNSEND, BRENDA	ZACK, LISA
SEGAL, JORDAN	TRITENBACH, MARK	ZAMORA, JOSE
SERRANO, QIANA	TUCKER, BRIANA	ZARAGOZA, ADRIANA
SERRANO, TANIA	TURNER, MALLORY	ZEPHRO, LAUREN
SERVIN, ALFREDO	URETA, KRYSTIN M	ZIGMAN, EVAN L
SHEARER, CHRISTOPHE	URQUIDEZ, CASSIE ANN	ZUBE, TROY
SHERBOURNE, LESLIE	UVA, MARRA	
SHIAH, TENG-SHUNG	VALADEZ, JACQUELINE	
SHILLITO, RYAN	MVALDIVIA, DAHNA	
SHLAFER, TATIANA	VAN DIEN, LISA ANN	
SILVA, ANTHONY	VAN HORSEN, PAUL	
SILVA, NAOMI	VARGAS, LISET	
SILVEIRA, STEPHEN	VASQUEZ, ERICA	
SIMPSON, JEFFREY	VEGA CANIZAL, VICTOR	
SINNOTT, JAMES	VELASCO, JOSEFINA	
SKALLAND, APRIL	VENTURA, ASENAT	
	VIZCAINO, CESAR	

# 2020 Retirees

YEARS OF SERVICE

MARK TRITENBACH 30 YEARS  
TIM SANFORD 25 YEARS  
DIANA HOLLAND 24 YEARS  
FRED MURPHY 24 YEARS  
MICHELLE TAYLOR 21 YEARS  
LESLIE SHERBOURNE 16 YEARS



# Sheriff's Office Volunteers

JOHN ADAMS	ROBERTA GUTIERREZ	RICHARD MORRONE
REBECCA AGUIRRE	TODD HARDENBROOK	MERARI MOYA
LAURA AHUMADA	MICHAEL HALE	DANIELLE MUELLER
LYNN ALBERTI	AMANDA "MANDI" HART	KOUROSH NOSRATI
DENNIS "BUZZ" AQUILINA	JON HARO	LYN O'NIEL
DANIEL ATWELL	JAN HATHAWAY	ARACELI PADILLA
PETER BECKMANN	WAYNE HAWKINS	NISSA PORTER
LINDA BINGHAM	LEE HEATHORN	MARIE PUCCINELLI
ELLEN BOND	ARACELY HERNANDEZ	FRANCINE RAPHAEL
LESLIE BOTU	KEVIN HILDRETH	HAROLD RAPHAEL
ANNETTE BOURGUETE-CONE	MAY ANN HINCKLE	JERRY RAPPOPORT
BRUCE BRUNO	ROBERT HOLLERAN	TESS RATTIE
PENNY BULLERT	CECILE "KATHI" HOWARD	KAYLEEN RAYGOZA
KRISTAL CARMONA VASQUEZ	FAYE JAHNIGEN	PAIGE REILLY
ENRIQUE CASTANEDA	ROGER JANOW	LINDA DIANE RHODES
RICKIE CRANE	KAREN JOESTEN	ALICE RINK
PAT DANZER	DICK JOHNSON	BONITA RODEMEYER
WESLEY DAVIS	ROBERT JOHNSON	DONNA RODONI
LESLIE DELGADO AGUADO	SUKHMANPREET KAUR	SUSAN ROZARIO
YVETTE DE LOS SANTOS	JOHN KING	SUSAN RYDER
COOPER DESMOND	JAMES MICHAEL KOPP	ALEXIA SANCHEZ
MARY DECINE	DAVID LEE	COLLEEN SASS
SIOBHAN DOLEN	TERRI LOCKE-CARROLL	ARMANDO SERVIN-FRANCO
BERT DONLIN	SALMA LOMELI	ALEXANDER SHLAFER
SUSAN DYKHUIZEN	JOSE SALVADOR LOPEZ JR.	RUTH SHUGART
STEVE EDMONDS	MICHAEL MACATEE	SUE SINCLAIR
MARGIE ESTBERG	SUZANNE MANN	CHRISTOPHER SMITH
TERRI FETTE	FRANK MARRONE	CAROL SOLON
TOM FIEWEGER	RUTH MARTIN	LAURA SPIEGEL
NOLAN FISH	PRISCILLA MARTINEZ	DELLE TOWNSEND
PAUL FLORES	BRUCE MATTOX	AMY TURNQUIST
STEVEN GARCIA	KERRY MCDONALD	MARINA VILLAR
MARTA GONZALEZ	LYNN MCKIBBIN	RITA WADSWORTH
SYLVIE GRAHAM	PATRICIA MEDINA	KC WALSH
BUZZ GRAY	JACKLYN MIERTA	JAMES "JD" WELLS
COLLETTA GRUCZELAK	PAT MOESINGER	JAMES "JIM" WILLIAMS
DON GUSTAFSON	GARY MOITZO	NATALIE XILONZOCHILT

# Organization Description



The Santa Cruz County Sheriff-Coroner is an elected official and the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in the County. Employees with the Sheriff's Office are responsible for law enforcement services, including patrol and criminal investigations in the unincorporated areas of the County, operating the custodial facilities, providing court security for the Superior Court along with Coroner and Civil Service throughout the County.

The county is 441 square miles in size, with 29 miles of beaches. It is comprised of four incorporated cities: Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz, Capitola, Watsonville, and 13 unincorporated areas: Aptos, Ben Lomond, Bonny Doon, Boulder Creek, Brookdale, Corralitos, Davenport, Felton, Freedom, La Selva Beach, Rio Del Mar, Soquel, and Zayante. About half of the county's 276,600 residents live in the unincorporated area which is served by the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff's Office is divided into three bureaus: Administration, Corrections and Operations. Each Bureau is overseen by a Chief Deputy or Undersheriff and is assigned a certain number of lieutenants, sergeants, deputies or correctional officers and civilian employees to meet the needs of each specific bureau.

# Administration Bureau

The Administration Bureau includes sworn and professional employees in a wide variety of administrative and support positions for the Sheriff's Office. The Administration Bureau oversees information management systems, budget forecasting and preparation, civil process services, payroll and financial accounting, media relations, records management, recruitment and hiring, social media, and professional standards for the Sheriff's Office.

## Fiscal and Administration Management

The Fiscal Management and Analysis Unit manages the funds for the Sheriff's Office. The unit provides timely and accurate financial information and promote responsible resource allocation, while ensuring the financial integrity of our Office. During the year of 2020, our fiscal team was faced with one of their most challenging years to date due to COVID related budget cuts where the budget was reduced by more than 3 million dollars.

## Records Management

The Records Division operates the Records Management System and County Arrest Warrants system. It provides data entry and maintenance of all county-wide wanted persons, missing persons and stolen property items in the California Department of Justice and National Criminal Information Center system. The Records Division also handles public record requests and provides customer service to the public and support to law enforcement personnel throughout the entire county.





CIVIL  
DIVISION

## Civil Division

The Civil Division provides legal documents for both the city jurisdictions and unincorporated parts of Santa Cruz County. Small claims actions, summons and complaints, restraining orders, subpoenas, eviction notices and civil bench warrants are some of the documents included. The Civil Division is made up of three civilian staff members and one deputy.

## Recruitment and Hiring

The Recruitment and Hiring Unit is responsible for hiring sworn and professional staff for all departments within the Sheriff's Office. The Unit develops unique and innovative strategies to attract qualified applicants to enhance the capabilities of the Sheriff's Office. The Unit also attends job fairs, educational events, conducts interviews, and background checks of applicants.

In 2020, there were **8 Corrections Officers**, **13 Deputy Sheriff's**, and **8 professional staff members** that were hired.

## Professional Standards and Conduct

Professional Standards and Conduct Unit investigates complaints and claims and conducts administrative investigations within the Sheriff's Office. The Professional Standards and Conduct Sergeant also oversees the Concealed Carry Weapons Program.

## Public Information Officer

The Public Information Officer (PIO) is responsible for communicating with the community and answering questions through social media and news outlets. The PIO shares information with the public on crime prevention, critical incidents, and daily tasks performed by the Sheriff's Office to inform the community of the mission of local law enforcement.

# Corrections Bureau

The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office operates four corrections facilities in the county. Those include the Santa Cruz County Main Jail, Blaine Street Facility, Rountree Medium Security Facility and the Rehabilitation and Reentry Facility. The Corrections Bureau also oversees the Court Security Division, transportation of those in custody, and works closely with the Medical Director for the delivery of medical services at all facilities.

The corrections facilities have a **total capacity of 511 inmates** not including the Custody Alternatives Program and the Recovery Center.

## Alternative Inmate Programs

Included in the Correction Bureau is the Custody Alternatives Program (CAP) which offers several alternatives to incarceration for qualified individuals. The Work Release Program allows convicted, low level offenders to specific worksites throughout the county to serve their sentence through performance of community-based service work assignments at specific locations throughout the county. On average, 13 people daily were supervised under CAP and 56 were supervised by Work Release Program

## Programs

During 2020 programming for inmates decreased significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Health and safety protocols prohibited instructors' admission to conduct classes in-person. To maintain access to vital resources, new methods of instruction were developed. Essential evidence-based curriculum was translated into Independent Study Packets and Tele-class format, which ensured continuity of care. Each week across the facilities there were an average of 170 independent study packets distributed and 20 tele-classes and 2 in-person classes offered. There were 30 service providers who offered support across the facilities including community-based organizations, educational institutions, skilled and inspired volunteers, and faith-based organizations.

## Facilities

The Main Jail was placed into service in 1981 and now has a rated capacity of 319 inmates. Arrestee bookings from the Sheriff's Office and all other county law enforcement agencies take place at this facility.

The **Blaine Street Women's Facility** has been in service since 1981 and has a rated **capacity of 32 inmates**.

The **Rountree Men's Facility** was placed into service in 1993 with a rated **capacity of 96 inmates**.

The **Rehabilitation and Reentry Facility** was placed into service in 2018 with a **capacity of 64 inmates**.

## Masks made at Rountree

Several incarcerated persons at the Rehabilitation and Reentry and Blaine Street Facilities showed interest in providing support to the community during the Pandemic by making masks to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. With the help of corrections staff, they took classes with a seamstress and learned to use sewing machines on loan from the County Office of Education. They were able to make over 500 masks which were distributed to the entire inmate population as well as community organizations.



“The reason why I want to do this is I want to give back, I’ve been taking from the community for so long, and I want to change, and I want to give back to the community.”

Mark



## Body Scanner

The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office installed a Body Scanner into the intake area of the main jail in late 2019 to stop contraband before it is brought inside.

The body scanner provides a high-resolution scan of the full body. It also shows a clear image to detect if a person is trying to bring in weapons or narcotics hidden in body cavities or elsewhere on arrestees. This scanner is similar to those used in airports to screen travelers.

## Classification

The Classification Unit is a major component of the correctional process that effects inmate control and supervision, and the jails overall orderly operation. Each member receives training specific to jail classification. Proper classification of inmates is crucial to the efficient and safe operation of any jail facility. When classification measures are applied consistently, it reduces escapes, inmate assaults and suicides. Classification is the evaluation process by which housing decisions are made and is the primary management tool to aid in providing appropriate responses to the widely diverse inmate population. This team utilizes a variety of tools to effectively identify each inmate and ensures their housing assignments match their level of sophistication and their housing needs. This year the Classification Unit reviewed over 1000 inmates for proper housing and hundreds more were re-classified to maximize housing and ensure inmates are housed at the lowest level possible: giving them more opportunities to programs and recreation.

COVID-19 created additional hurdles for the Classification team as they faced the challenges of quarantine units and limited spacing. The quarantine housing absorbed a significant number of beds and a reduction in overall housing for the remaining population. The Classification team worked tirelessly to keep up with the daily demands to safely house each inmate.



## Corrections K9

The Sheriff's Office welcomed its first Corrections K9 to the team in December of 2019. The yellow lab, named Jax, specializes in narcotics detection and is dedicated to the corrections facilities with the duty of finding contraband inside all custodial settings and outside before it comes in. The K9 is one of the many tools we use to prevent harmful items and contraband from coming into our facilities.

## Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) Program

This year the program coordinator, with the help of other corrections staff, got the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment program up and running at full capacity in our Blaine Street facility. RSAT is a gender specific program intended to improve the safety, functioning and quality of life of female offenders through reduced substance use and recidivism. It includes an intensive case management component, both in-custody and aftercare in the community. We are in the process of reapplying for another 3 years of RSAT funding. In 2020, we served 25 women in-custody and 16 in aftercare.

## Logistics

Logistics is made up of two full-time Officers and one part-time Officer. This team is tasked with keeping all the corrections facilities functioning and in proper order. On top of their normal duties, in 2020 they were tasked with significantly more work involving COVID-related duties. This included installing barriers, maintaining larger than average PPE and cleaning supplies, installing an iPad for Attorney Skype visitation, installing Polycom video visitation stations, installing handwashing/cleaning stations, stocking and establishing decontamination rooms, and many more COVID-related tasks that were impacted by the restricted access of outside contractors.

“Their work is often never-ending, but you will rarely find them in a bad a mood, despite however dirty or difficult a job.”

Lieutenant Freitas

The evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic shifted the focus to maintaining social distancing and avoiding in-person interactions. Due to this, many turned to video conferencing to replace those face-to-face meetings. It has become common practice for meetings, trainings, education, and medical appointments to occur over various video conferencing platforms. This has been socially accepted as a successful alternative to in-person contacts.

Before the pandemic Santa Cruz County Correctional facilities were lacking the hardware to transition to video-based conferencing on a large scale. The Corrections Logistics team worked tirelessly to install 15 purpose-built PolyCom devices between each of the Jail facilities. The devices consist of purpose-built video conferencing equipment designed to function in a corrections setting. These video kiosks allow attorney-client meetings, telemedicine services, mental health clinician meetings and certain assessments to happen over video. The system has provided improved access to inmates and will be largely beneficial in the years to come.

## Civilian Records Clerk

In 2019, Sheriff Hart authorized the creation of a new civilian team of corrections records clerks (CRCs) to be stationed at the Santa Cruz County Jail. The purpose of this team is to handle booking, release and quality control functions at the County Jail. Prior to this, correctional officers were carrying out this work. A goal of transferring these administrative tasks to a civilian team, was to free up correctional officers to be redeployed to other critical areas in the jail. CRCs provide 24-hour coverage, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Job related functions include inputting inmate booking and release data into the Jail Management System; completion and processing of booking and release forms, processing of bail, maintaining corrections log records and inmate account records, preparing and forwarding arrest information to the court system, providing information to facility leadership, the public and to law enforcement and other county, state and federal agencies. The team has successfully processed approximately 6,000 bookings and 6,000 releases over the last year. Our Quality Control team has processed approximately 7,600 court proceedings.

## Court Security

The Court Security Division provides security to the Superior Court of Santa Cruz County by serving as bailiffs, maintaining safety and order in the courtroom, management of inmates, and arrests of persons ordered by a judge into custody. In 2020, 46 people were arrested by court security after a judge ordered them to jail and there were 5,740 prisoner transports between corrections facilities and courtrooms.

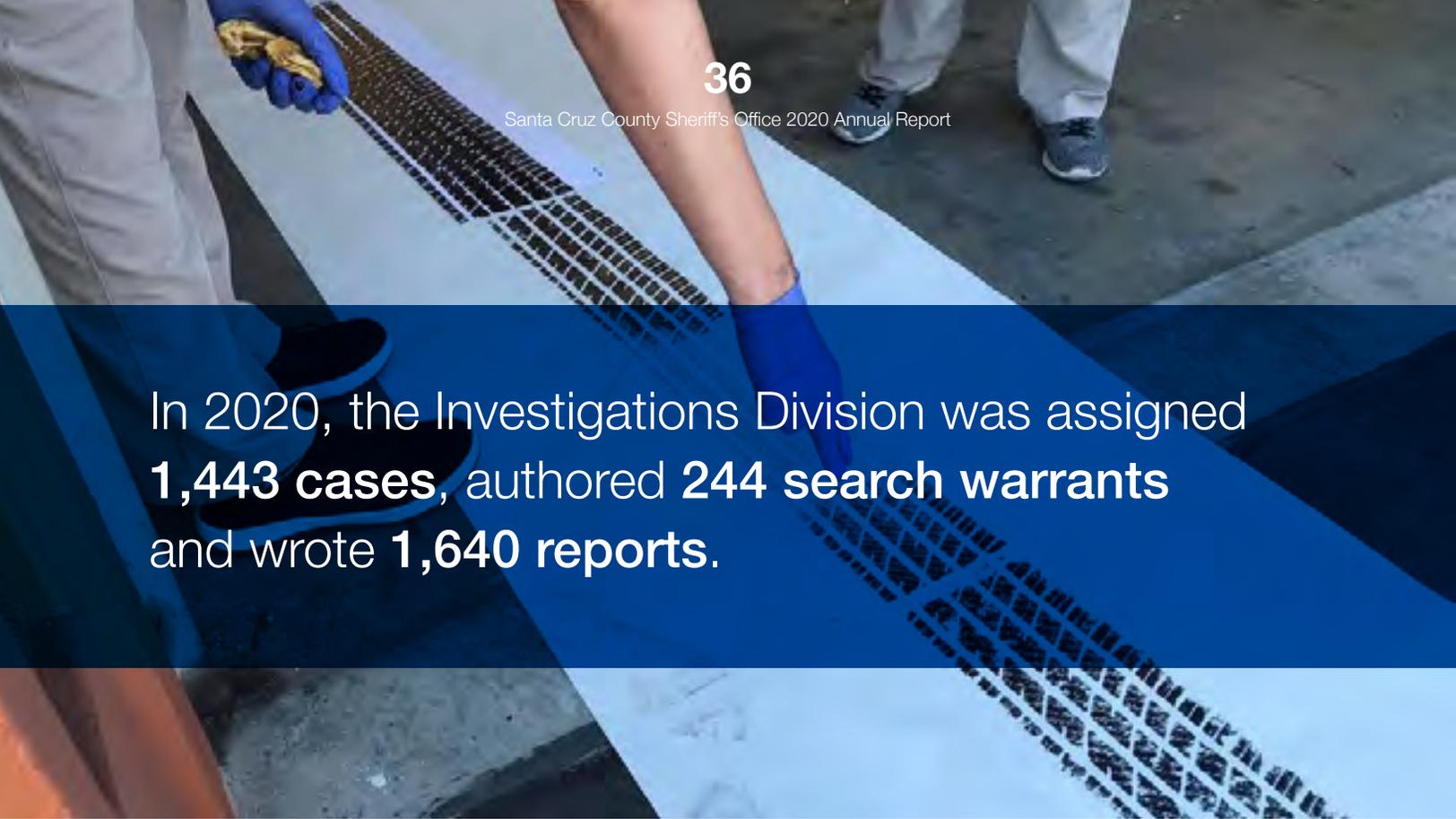
Sheriff's staff also operate the front security for those entering the Courthouse. They monitor the x-ray scanners, metal detectors and video security monitors to prevent weapons from entering the courts. In 2020, there were 108,273 screenings and 747 edged weapons and 1 firearm prevented from coming into the courts.

# Operations Bureau

The Sheriff's Office Patrol Division provides both emergency and non-emergency services to the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County. There are three daily shifts with a Sergeant assigned to each shift. The County is comprised of 11 service areas with deputies assigned to certain parts of the county during each shift. In recent years the Sheriff's Office receives around 110,000 calls for service annually.



In 2020, the Sheriff's Office received **108,808 calls** for service in the **11 different service areas**.



In 2020, the Investigations Division was assigned **1,443 cases**, authored **244 search warrants** and wrote **1,640 reports**.

## Investigations Division

The Investigations Division investigates major crimes that require advanced training, specialized resources, and technical skills along with coordination with other agencies. The Investigations Division is divided into smaller teams that focus specifically on certain types of crime. Those teams are Property Crimes, Sex Crimes, Persons Crimes, Missing People, and the Coroners Unit. More than a dozen sworn, and professional staff members make up the division.

In 2020, **99 crime scenes** were processed, **104 latent print** identifications were made and **11,780 property** and **evidence items** were received.

## Forensics Services Division

The Forensics Unit conducts crime scene investigations to identify, collect, preserve, develop, analyze, and reconstruct physical and digital evidence. The Unit is also responsible for managing the County's automated fingerprint Identification system and evaluates latent fingerprint submissions for all local law enforcement agencies. They also manage property, evidence and body worn camera footage associated with Sheriff's Office cases.

## Coroner's Unit

Outside of investigating crimes and enforcing the law, the Sheriff-Coroner's Office determines the circumstances surrounding death. A forensic pathologist performs all exams determining cause and manner of death.

In 2020, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office received accreditation by the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners.

During 2020, the Coroner's Unit was assigned **336 cases**. The Unit performed **232 full autopsies**, **98 external exams** and **4 partial autopsies**. There were **626 reportable deaths** in the County.



# Teams and Special Assignments

## Canine Team

Our K-9 Team assists our deputies and other law enforcement agencies throughout the county in their work. These trained canines are used for search and rescue missions, locating suspects, and finding contraband. In 2020, the K-9 Team was deployed 27 times, had 9 surrenders, 37 detections and 1 apprehension.

## Special Enforcement Team

The Special Enforcement Team (SET) suppresses gang and narcotics activity through directed patrol and enforcement, service of search warrants and probation-related searches, and gathering intelligence. In 2020, SET seized 216 firearms, performed 93 probation or parole searches, and conducted 141 investigations concerning persons prohibited from possessing firearms in APPS (Armed Prohibited Person System). They also seized more than 43 pounds of controlled substances and wrote 212 reports.

## Crime Analyst

The crime analyst collects and analyzes statistical information such as crime trends and internal work metrics. Information is sorted and organized to produce weekly, monthly, and quarterly reports that can help law enforcement managers direct agency resources to prevent, reduce or respond to crime trends. Because the crime analyst is comfortable utilizing multiple sources of information, they are often called upon to assist criminal investigations where important information may be difficult to find. The crime analyst also helps patrol staff determine where crime hot spots are occurring in their assigned patrol areas to develop action plans.

## Air Support Unit

The Air Support Unit (ASU) consists of two teams, the Fixed Wing Team, and the Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Team. The ASU provides airborne law enforcement assets throughout Santa Cruz County. This Unit flies a wide array of missions to ensure public safety and to support search and rescue and disaster relief.

The ASU operates a fixed wing aircraft, known as "Air One," which is a Cessna 172N Skyhawk. The Fixed Wing Team consists of three sworn pilots, three tactical flight officers as well as one volunteer pilot and is supervised by a sergeant. In 2020, the Fixed Wing Unit flew a total of 18 missions.

The UAS Team operates a variety of commercially available drones and is made up of 11 sworn members of the Sheriff's Office and one volunteer pilot. The UAS Team is also managed by a sergeant and the entire ASU is overseen by a Lieutenant. In 2020 the UAS Team was deployed 25 times.

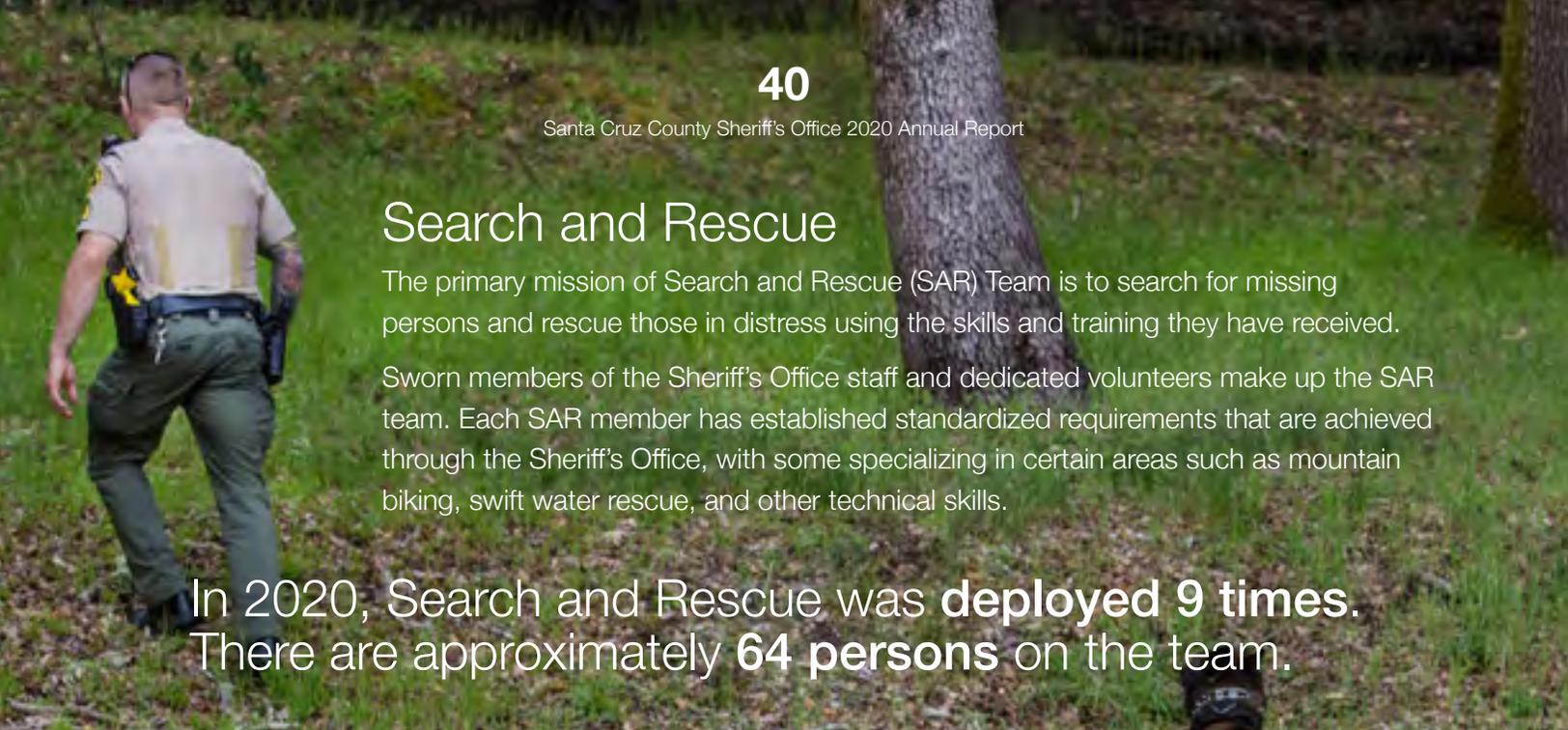
## Peer Support Team

The Peer Support Team provides support during times of personal or professional crisis for Sheriff's Office employees. The Team consists of 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 7 corrections officers, and 7 deputies. There is also 1 professional staff member, 2 chaplains, and 1 clinician. In 2020, the Peer Support Team was deployed 20 times.

## SWAT

The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team was deployed 3 times in 2020. The Team is made up of 1 team commander, 2 team leaders, 2 assistant team leaders, and 13 operators. Each member trains about 120 hours each year for critical incidents increasing the capability of first responders.





## Search and Rescue

The primary mission of Search and Rescue (SAR) Team is to search for missing persons and rescue those in distress using the skills and training they have received.

Sworn members of the Sheriff's Office staff and dedicated volunteers make up the SAR team. Each SAR member has established standardized requirements that are achieved through the Sheriff's Office, with some specializing in certain areas such as mountain biking, swift water rescue, and other technical skills.

In 2020, Search and Rescue was **deployed 9 times**. There are approximately **64 persons** on the team.

## Bomb Team

The primary function of the Bomb Team is to respond to and render safe improvised explosive devices, incendiary devices, explosives, explosive chemicals, pyrotechnics, and ammunition.

The Sheriff's Office Bomb Team currently consists of 5 public safety bomb technicians, 8 support staff (non-technicians), 2 sergeants and 1 lieutenant. Each public safety technician is certified by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) through the U.S. Army Ordinance Munitions & Electronic Maintenance School, also known as Hazardous Device School (HDS).

In 2020, the Sheriff's Office Bomb Team was deployed 11 times to various types of incidents including fireworks, explosives, suspicious packages, and military grade explosives incidents. This year, the bomb squad completed 256 hours of training.

## Cannabis Compliance Unit

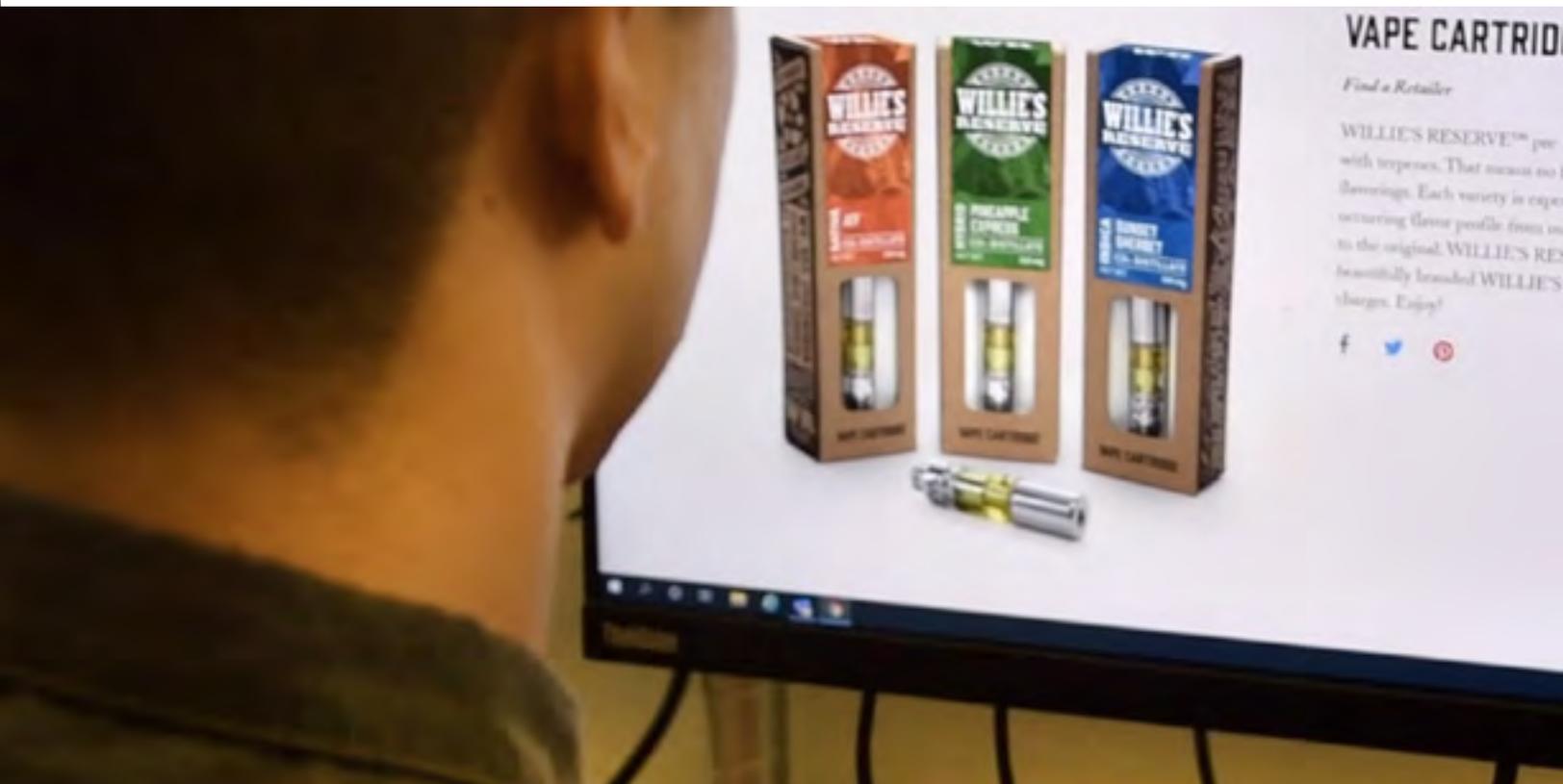
The Cannabis Compliance Unit began operating in August of 2018 to help regulate the commercial cannabis industry. The Unit also promotes the health, safety and welfare of residents and businesses in the unincorporated area by making sure those in the industry are complying with cannabis laws. The Cannabis Licensing Office enforces cannabis regulations and partners with the Sheriff's Office to develop and implement enforcement strategies for unlawful commercial cannabis activities. Sheriff's Office investigations include unlawful commercial indoor and outdoor cannabis cultivations, manufacturing, distribution, power diversion, environmental damage, and money laundering.

In 2020, a total of **2030 lbs. of cannabis** were **seized**, and **38,514 cannabis plants** were confiscated. The team served **72 search warrants** and **seized 14 firearms**.

## Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Unit

The Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Unit was formed in 2018 to promote safety and compliance surrounding alcohol and tobacco sales in Santa Cruz County. The unit is overseen by 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant and includes 2 deputies. The Unit frequently visits alcohol and tobacco retail stores to check compliance. The main goal of this Unit is to keep alcohol and tobacco out of the hands of minors to prevent potentially harmful situations.

In 2020, the Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Unit conducted 8 minor decoy operations, visiting 105 retail stores throughout Santa Cruz County. Out of those, 15 were cited for being out of compliance with alcohol sales and 7 were cited for being out of compliance with tobacco sales. There were 8 suspensions of licenses for alcohol or tobacco in 2020.



The Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Unit is overseen by **1 lieutenant**, **1 sergeant** and includes **2 deputies**.

# Interacting with those in crisis and those resistant to treatment

## Focused Intervention Team

The Sheriff's Office Focused Intervention Team (FIT) was established in 2019 to address the growing issue of repeat offenders in Santa Cruz County who are resistant to assistance or treatment. FIT is made up of two deputies, a sergeant and three behavioral health clinicians that work intensively with individuals to get them the treatment they need and out of incarceration.

FIT behavioralists and deputies not only contact clients, but also visit those who are on their caseload and are incarcerated to help them get the services they need.

Due to COVID-19 and budgetary cuts, **FIT was only staffed for three months during 2020.**

## Crisis Negotiation Team

When interacting with an individual who is emotionally distressed or behaving erratically, law enforcement officers are tasked with keeping the public and the individual safe. In cases of emergency, they prevent potential loss of life. In 2020, there were no deployments of CNT. This low number of deployments is in part due to most deputies being trained in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT).

CIT provides law enforcement officers with the skills and knowledge to interact with and deescalate situations involving people in crisis.

## Crisis Intervention Training

**Integrating Communications, Assessment and Tactics (ICAT), and Mental Health Liaisons (MHLs)**

When interacting with an individual going through a mental crisis or behaving erratically, and sometimes dangerously, law enforcement officers are tasked with keeping the public and the individual safe. De-escalation has become a skill used by our deputies out in the field interacting with people in crisis. In 2020, patrol deputies responded to 3,614 calls for service for people experiencing a mental health crisis.

For the past four years, the Sheriff's Office has been providing deputies with Integrating Communications, Assessment and Tactics (ICAT) Training. This scenario-based training provides deputies with the knowledge, skills, and techniques to safely resolve dangerous and evolving situations when the subject does not have a firearm.



## Mental Health Liasons (MHLs)

The Sheriff's Office also has two full time Mental Health Liaisons (MHL), who respond to mental health related calls along with deputies. The MHLs provide assessments, training, and crisis intervention services. They also provide links for individuals to treatment and services as needed.

# Community Policing

The Community Policing Division works closely with community members to build relationships with the people we serve and to collectively find solutions to problems impacting the people who live in the unincorporated areas of the county. The Sheriff's Office operates four service centers and two substations throughout the county.

## Service Centers and Substations

As part of our commitment to the Santa Cruz County community, we acknowledge that not everyone has the means to travel to the Sheriff's Office Headquarters in Live Oak. Recognizing this, the Sheriff's Office has several other locations throughout the county where community members can make reports and get questions answered by deputies or volunteers.

The Services Centers and substations are located in Davenport, Boulder Creek, Felton, Aptos, Watsonville and Live Oak. In March, due to COVID-19, our service centers and substations were closed to the public and three were shut down due to budget cuts.

## School Resource Officer Team

Interacting with and keeping our youth safe is a primary function of the Sheriff's Office. Our School Resource Officers (SRO) Team is made up of one sergeant and four deputies who are assigned to schools throughout the county. The role of the SRO is to engage with students, be a part of the school community and ensure student safety. SROs are assigned to Aptos, San Lorenzo Valley, Soquel, and Monte Vista Christian High Schools. Due to most schools being closed for in-person learning during 2020, some of our school resource officers were assigned to other positions but will be back when students return to the classrooms.

## Abandoned Vehicle Abatement

The Sheriff's Office administers the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program to respond to complaints of vehicles that are unoccupied and left parked on the streets for more than 72 hours in the unincorporated areas of the county.

Staff verify violations, mark the car, post notices to remove and arrange for towing of cars and other abandoned vehicle parts. In 2020, a total of 49 vehicles were abated.

## Home and Business Crime Prevention Inspections

We recognize that part of our duty is to not only enforce the law, but to prevent crime from occurring. The Sheriff's Office offers free home and business security inspection in the Sheriff's Office jurisdiction. Crime Prevention volunteers use a detailed checklist to perform an inspection and provide suggestions to assist community members with improving the safety and security around their homes and businesses.

Additionally, we offer extra security checks while homeowners are on vacation to ensure their home remains secure while they are gone.

We engage with our community to build trust and to increase our ability to protect and serve.



# Volunteers



The Sheriff's Office does not only have dedicated staff, but dedicated volunteers who choose to spend their time helping the community. In 2020, the 111 volunteers contributed 4,538 hours of service.

Volunteers assist in many areas including the Service Centers as civilian patrol drivers and office assistants, assist with home inspections, child safety program services, serve as chaplains, support recruitment and hiring, records, forensic services, the Coroner's Unit, missing persons/investigations, serve as minor decoys in the alcohol and tobacco compliance unit, are little free library stewards, support the community contact team and community events held.

Our volunteers were asked to spend most of 2020 taking care of themselves and their family rather than volunteering to prevent possible infection and spread of COVID-19. Most of our service centers were closed to the public starting in March of 2020 and we are looking forward to their reopening in 2021.



## Cabrillo College

The Sheriff's Office partners with Cabrillo College to ensure the safety of the students and staff. We provide services such as vehicle lockout assistance, car jump starts, crime reports and civil assistance at both Campuses in Watsonville and Aptos. To ensure the wellbeing of everyone on campus, we keep open communication and collaborate with staff regarding any training or safety needs.

The campus is a place where all individuals feel safe and can focus on education and community, the Sheriff's Office goal is to keep it that way.

# 2020 Breaking down the numbers

**340** Number of Employees  
 Peace Officers: **176**  
 Correctional Officers: **99**  
 Professional Staff: **65**

**29** Newly Hired Employees  
 Sworn Staff: **21**  
 Professional Staff: **8**

**\$110,083,589**

Total Budget  
 Operations: **\$32,701,877**  
 Corrections: **\$48,120,348**  
 Administration: **\$20,841,415**  
 Court Security: **\$8,419,949**

## Comparative Crime Rates per 1,000 Residents Unincorporated Santa Cruz

12 MONTH SHF CRIME RATE	STATE OF CALIFORNIA CRIME RATE*	12 MONTH SHF PROPERTY CRIME RATE	STATE OF CALIFORNIA PROPERTY CRIME RATE	12 MONTH SHF VIOLENT CRIME RATE	STATE OF CALIFORNIA VIOLENT CRIME RATE
13.42	27.45	11.20	22.90	2.09	4.34



\*2019 (most recent data available)

--- 12 MONTH AVERAGE

**108,808** Calls for Service

**10,564** Reports (not including supplemental)

**2,636** Arrests (adult & juvenile) **539** Felony **2,098** Misdemeanor

**2,636** Misdemeanor Citations

**10,527** Park Checks

**12,589** School Checks

**3,488** Foot Patrols

**2,709** Electronic Field Interviews

**3,614** Calls for Service Involving Distressed Persons

**1,443** Cases Assigned to Investigations

**626** Reportable Deaths

**232** Autopsies

**99** Crime Scenes Processed

**104** Latent Print Identifications

**11,780** Property and Evidence Items Received

**1** Home Crime Prevention Inspections

**49** Abandoned Vehicles Abated

**111** Number of Sheriff's Office Volunteers

**337** Average Persons in Custody Per Day

**6,604** Jail Bookings (All Agencies)

**1,403** Admissions to Housing

**554** Recovery Center Diversions

**56** Average Daily Number of Supervised by Work Release

**13** Daily Average Supervised by Custody Alternatives Program (CAP)

**44** Number of Inmate Programs, Activities and Services

**368,097** Number of Inmate Meals Served

**228** Daily Jail Rate per Inmate

**747** Edged Weapons Prevented from Entering Courts

**1** Firearms Prevented from Entering Courts

**108,273** Court Security Screenings

## Communications Plan Public Outreach

Our website is an important tool for engagement and transparency. Users can report an abandoned vehicle, check arrest warrants, request vacation checks, obtain forms and see if an inmate is in jail. Through our website, we also provide media releases, arrest logs, our full policy manual, and ways to contact us. We are continuing to grow our outreach not only through the main website, but through other social media outlets. The social media outlets also allow us to communicate directly with the public.



**FACEBOOK** We have more than 49,000 people who follow us on Facebook. We use the platform to share information about investigations, public safety, arrests, community meetings, and projects the Sheriff's Office is working on.

**NEXTDOOR** Nextdoor is primarily used to message more than 37,000 residents in 151 neighborhoods regarding crime trends, crime prevention information, volunteer opportunities, and events surrounding the Sheriff's Office

**TWITTER** Our Twitter is used to notify the 13,900 followers of road closures, natural disasters and other events directly impacting the community.

**INSTAGRAM** We use Instagram to share information with our 14,900 followers about arrests, upcoming community events and other day to day activities happening at the Sheriff's Office.

**MEDIA RELEASES & PRESS CONFERENCES** We frequently send out press releases to provide information to the public through media. The information ranges from significant arrests or incidents, to asking the public for help in investigations. We schedule press conferences to inform the public about major events that impact the community.

**SHERIFF'S ADVISORY TEAM** The Sheriff's Advisory team meets monthly with Sheriff Jim Hart to give feedback concerning public safety related issues. The Advisory team is made up of a group of volunteers who live and work in Santa Cruz County. In 2020, the team began to meet virtually to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

# Partnering with our Community

A photograph showing a Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office officer in uniform and a child in a firefighter costume standing under a blue canopy at an outdoor event. The officer is wearing a black face mask with a yellow star emblem. The child is wearing a red firefighter helmet, a yellow jacket with reflective stripes, and a white face mask with a green pattern. They are holding a white paper. In the background, there are other people, a white car, and a blue house.

The partnerships we have not only exist with other law enforcement and public safety agencies in Santa Cruz County, but it also extends to our community members. To do our best to keep our community safe, we need open communication and collaboration with the people who live here. The Sheriff's Office usually provides the following opportunities and programs, but due to COVID-19, many of these had to be suspended. We look forward to bringing them back when it is safe to do so.

## Community Events

Sworn and professional staff love the opportunity to interact with the community during events held throughout the year. There were limited events in 2020, but we are looking forward to these resuming. The Sheriff's Office usually participates in events such as National Night Out, Bike to work and school day, the County Fair, Operation Surf, Wharf to Wharf, Coffee with a Cop, and Trunk or Treat.

## Ride Along Opportunities

The Sheriff's Office welcomes community members to ride along with a deputy to help gain an increased understanding of the services we provide as well as the challenges facing local law enforcement. Ride Along opportunities were suspended for most of 2020 due to the health pandemic.

## Jail Tours

Jail tours were cancelled in March of 2020 to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among our in-custody population. Typically, community members can tour our jail facilities to see what the Sheriff's Office provides for inmates and gain a better idea of the services provided to inmates to help them return to the community after incarceration.

## Youth Academy

Our School Resource Officer Team hosts an annual Youth Academy for students attending Aptos, San Lorenzo Valley, and Soquel High School to increase trust between law enforcement and youth. The academy provides students with the opportunity to see k-9 demonstrations, tour some of our facilities and investigate mock crime scenes. In 2020, the Youth Academy did not take place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, however, we will resume the Academy when it is safe.

## Fundraising for Special Olympics Northern California

We provide workshops to reduce the likelihood of violence or crime and help schools, businesses and places of worship prepare for emergencies.



**The Torch Run** was organized in 2020 by Corrections Sergeant, Michael Savage for the Sheriff's Office. The Torch run is a relay where agencies from around the county take turns running in their jurisdiction and pass the Special Olympics "torch" to the next agency to raise money and awareness for Special Olympics. This year corrections and operations staff participated in the 3-mile run which started near Pleasure Point and ended at Twin Lakes State Beach.

**Police in Pursuit** is a fundraising event where law enforcement officers from around the county and Bay Area race retired police vehicles at the Raceway in Watsonville to raise money for Special Olympics of Northern California. All proceeds go directly to the Special Olympics and help fund and raise awareness for the athletes. In 2020, fans were not allowed in the grandstands due to COVID-19. Deputy Nate Graham took home the trophy for the races in 2020 with Deputy Waltrip close behind.



Photo credit: Shmuel Thaler / Santa Cruz Sentinel

# Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

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