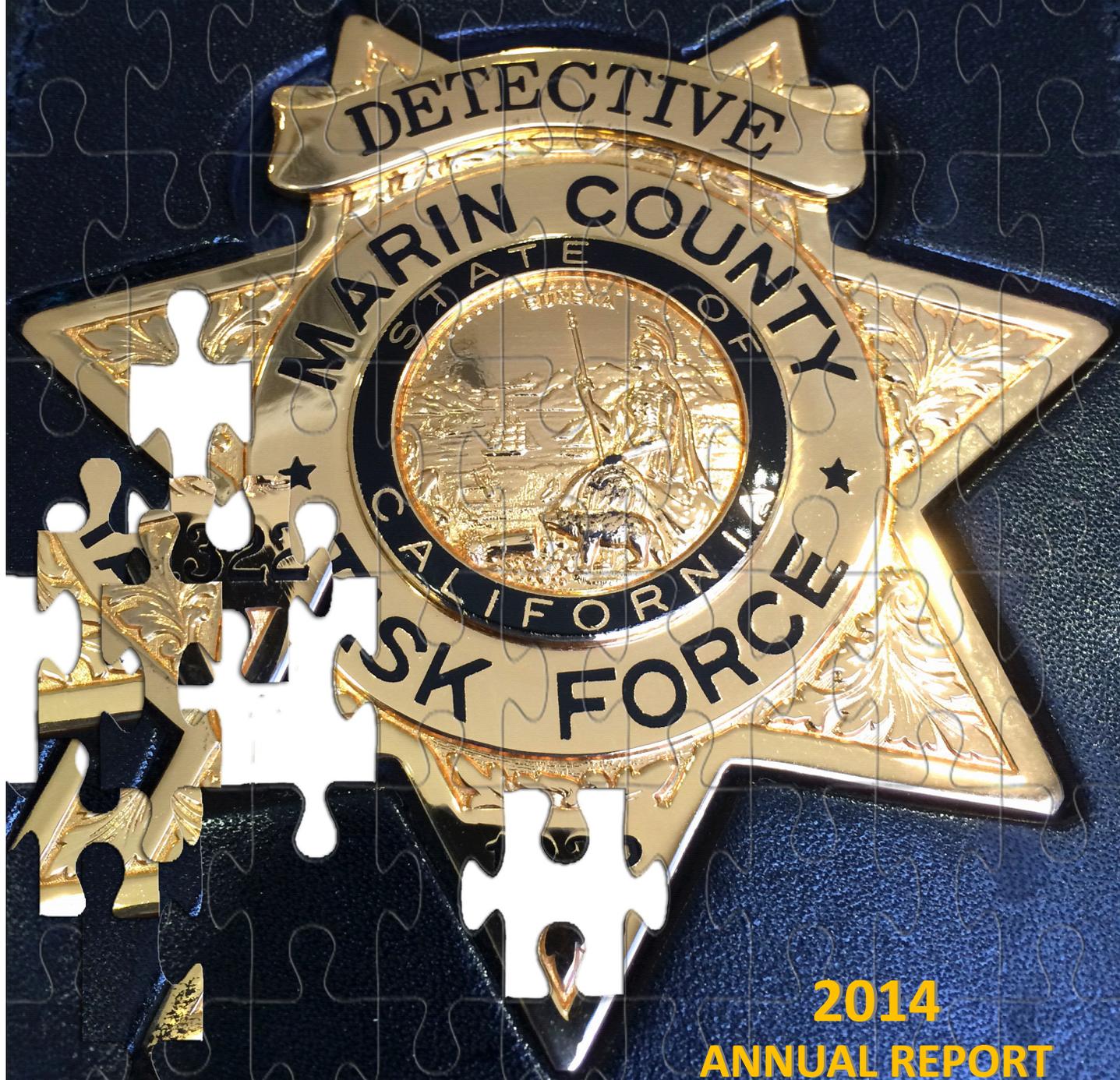


MARIN COUNTY MAJOR CRIMES TASK FORCE



2014
ANNUAL REPORT

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HISTORY

The logo for the Marin County Major Crimes Task Force is a seven-pointed star. The words "MARIN COUNTY" are written along the top inner edge of the star, and "MAJOR CRIMES TASK FORCE" is written along the bottom inner edge. In the center of the star is a circular seal featuring a profile of a man's head, likely a historical figure or a symbol of law enforcement.

The Marin County **Major Crimes Task Force** (MCTF) finds its origin in the year 1977. A group of local law enforcement officers, along with a local Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) agent, recognized the need for a countywide, multi-agency, investigative unit to address increasing concerns over illegal narcotics in Marin. They recognized that individual jurisdictions by themselves could not address the growing problem. This group proposed their idea to the Marin County Police Chiefs' Association (MCPCA) and shortly thereafter the Task Force was formed.

The original Task Force was established as a countywide, general investigations unit charged with assisting local agencies with investigating significant crimes in their jurisdictions, as well as narcotic offenses. The Task Force was granted authority by the MCPCA to cross jurisdictional boundaries within the county. After several years of operation, and at the request of the MCPCA, the Task Force compiled statistical data showing the need to focus their investigative efforts primarily on illegal narcotic activities. As a result, in 1979 the cities, towns and the County entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA).

Member agencies agreed the name of the unit would be "Major Crimes Task Force" rather than simply a narcotics task force. Some participants felt having the word narcotics in the title would not be well received and it implied a limitation on the unit's abilities and purpose.

Under the JPA, the Major Crimes Task Force is responsible to a 9 member Oversight Committee. Currently, the Oversight Committee consists of a City Councilmember, 2 City Managers, a member of the County Board of Supervisors, the County Administrator, 2 local heads of law enforcement and 2 Marin County citizens who don't hold any of the above positions. The Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers (MCCMC) and the Board of Supervisors approve their respective appointees as well as the appointment of the 2 citizen. The MCPCA approve their 2 representatives. In addition to the Oversight Committee, the Task Force receives guidance and direction from the Chiefs of Police. The Task Force serves the county and participating agencies throughout Marin. This allows the unit the freedom to investigate cases, unimpeded by political and jurisdictional boundaries.

In the beginning, the MCTF was staffed and run by personnel from different law enforcement agencies. Funding for the MCTF was provided by the participating agencies. In 1993, local law enforcement suffered growing budgetary challenges and personnel shortages. Also in 1993, the MCTF suffered some internal issues, including an internal lawsuit. Rather than disband the MCTF, the MCCMC determined the MCTF needed to be restructured, streamlined and run under and by a single entity. The Oversight Committee was restructured. The MCCMC approached the Sheriff, as one of three organization big enough to run the MCTF and asked if he would staff and oversee its operation. The Sheriff agreed and continues to oversee the unit today. The MCTF members are still primarily Sheriff's Office personnel.

HISTORY (CON'T)

Currently, under the umbrella of the Task Force resides:

- **Major Crimes** - is a 8 member unit consisting of a Unit Commander (a Sheriff's Lieutenant), 6 Detectives (3 Deputies, 1 Novato Police Officer, 1 DEA Agent and 1 CHP Officer), and a part-time Special Investigations Secretary (Sheriff's Office civilian);
- **COPE** (Coordination of Probation Enforcement) - is a 4 member unit consisting of the Assistant Commander (a Sheriff's Sergeant) and 3 Detectives (1 Probation Officers, 1 Deputy and 1 Novato Police Officer); and
- **Marin County Auto Theft Unit**– is a 2 member unit consisting of 2 Detectives (a Deputy and a CHP Officer).

The Sheriff's Office hasn't always run the MCTF. In the past, the MCTF's operations had been overseen by the San Rafael Police Department as well as staffed by members from local agencies, including the former Larkspur and Corte Madera PDs, as well as Tiburon, Mill Valley, San Anselmo, Sausalito and San Rafael. In addition, we've had members of the United States Park Police, FBI and BNE in the unit.

In 1993, the City of San Rafael withdrew all ties from the Major Crimes Task Force, withdrawing personnel and discontinuing its funding of the unit.

In June of 2013, the City of Sausalito issued a letter of intent to withdraw from the Major Crimes Task Force, no longer wishing to contribute funding towards the unit. The withdraw took effect January 1st, 2014.

In April of 2014, the Town of Ross issued a letter of intent to withdraw from the Major Crimes Task Force, no longer wishing to contribute funding towards the unit. The withdraw took effect October 14th, 2014. At this point, the City of Sausalito, the City of San Rafael and the Town of Ross are the only nonparticipating communities in the county. However, recent and current negotiations between the County of Marin and the City of San Rafael has resulted in the City of San Rafael agreeing to rejoin the Major Crimes Task Force. The Town of Ross has publicly stated that if the City of San Rafael were to rejoin the Task Force, they would too. Negotiations continue.

The MCTF also operates as a clearinghouse of information and intelligence on criminals and their activity throughout Marin County. The MCTF also retains information on criminal activities affecting Marin, which is linked to organizations outside our county, our state and the US borders. This allows us to be a resource to local agencies as well as for agencies outside of Marin.

The MCTF is a member of HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area), as designated by the federal government. As a HIDTA member we have access to equipment, funding, training and additional temporary help and personnel as needed. Being a member of HIDTA also allows us to utilize the Federal system for our asset forfeiture cases and to share in Federal asset forfeiture seizures on cases we assist with.

JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

2014 MEMBERS AND PARTNERS



Belvedere Police Department
City of Belvedere



Central Marin Police Authority
City of Corte Madera
City of Larkspur
Town of San Anselmo



Fairfax Police Department
Town of Fairfax



Mill Valley Police Department
City of Mill Valley



Novato Police Department
City of Novato



Tiburon Police Department
City of Tiburon



Marin County Sheriff's Office
County of Marin



California Highway Patrol
State of California
State Partner



Drug Enforcement Agency
United States Federal Government
Federal Partner

2014 NON PARTICIPATING AGENCIES



Ross Police Department
Town of Ross
Withdrew 2014



San Rafael Police Department
City of San Rafael
Withdrew 1993



Sausalito Police Department
City of Sausalito
Withdrew 2014

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Marin County Major Crimes Task Force is to create a public entity with countywide law enforcement authority to investigate and pursue highly-mobile narcotic offenders and criminal narcotic enterprises operating in and around Marin County. The MCTF does what no local agency can do by itself. Our staffing level, expertise and knowledge can be devoted to long-term, complex investigations. We can assist our partnering agencies with investigations that are beyond their limited staffing and normal abilities.

Our professional staff also offers assistance beyond investigations. Our detectives are often asked to provide expert testimony in court for agencies lacking that particular court qualification. MCTF Detectives provide briefings and trainings to our partners, identify trends and providing intelligence that they should or need to be aware of.

Our goal is to help all law enforcement within our county in the mission of providing our communities a safe environment, free from illegal drugs. We strive to protect the quality of life unique to Marin. We conduct proactive investigations focused on the activities around illegal narcotic use, sales and distribution. The Major Crimes Task Force is the only fulltime, law enforcement investigations unit dedicated to infiltrating the subversive world of illegal drugs in Marin. Our countywide jurisdictional authority and working relationships with allied agencies allows us to coordinate our investigations with other local, state and federal entities. We know that by targeting those that sell and supply illegal drugs in Marin we are making a positive impact on all crime and all jurisdictions. By targeting drug dealers and suppliers at the mid to upper levels and reducing trafficking and sales of illegal drugs, we can achieve our goal. Illegal narcotics and drug abuse are the catalyst and underlying cause of the majority of criminal activity. Assaults, burglaries, robberies, auto thefts, larcenies, identity thefts and homicides all have connections to drugs. Very few crimes that we see do not bear a direct or indirect relationship to illegal drug abuse, possession or sales.

The MCTF is the highly respected investigative unit. Besides the information developed internally, our connections with local, state and federal agencies throughout the county, state and nation allows us to be the receptacle and clearinghouse for criminal intelligence that impacts or may impact Marin.

We take our objective and goals seriously. We serve our partners in the JPA and our county with pride. In return, you should have pride in us and what we do.



Google Image

STAFFING

The current staffing level of the Major Crimes Task Force is 8 (eight). Of the 6 detectives assigned to the MCTF, we are fortunate to have a DEA agent and a CHP officer assigned to us. Both are assigned by their respective agencies at no cost.

With the addition of the Coordination of Probation Enforcement unit (COPE) and the Marin County Auto Theft Unit, the total staffing level under the task force umbrella is 14.

Currently, the MCTF is fortunate to have a Spanish speaking detective assigned to the unit. Spanish speaking detectives have proven to be an invaluable asset to our operations and to our success; a good portion of the illegal drug trade in Marin County is facilitated by the Mexican Cartels through Hispanic distributors.

TRAINING

Each MCTF detective is mandated to attend an 80-hour, POST certified narcotics investigation course. Our detectives also attend on-going narcotics related training courses as well as the annual California Narcotics Officers' Association (CNOA) conference for additional training. The conference also offers an opportunity for detectives to network with other detectives from around the State and nation. Additionally, we send some of our detectives to a certified, 2-day Asset Forfeiture course in order to make sure we are properly trained and in compliance when seizing illegally obtained proceeds and assets from suspects. Our detectives attend a mandated, annual update class.

OTHER

Each detective is assigned as a liaison to a participating law enforcement agency in Marin County. This provides each agency a direct point of contact and helps bridge the gap between local law enforcement and the MCTF and provides for the sharing of information.

The MCTF has a liaison deputy district attorney assigned to our unit. The DDA meets with us weekly to go over cases, provide legal opinion on investigations and give updates on filed court cases. This greatly improves our relationship with the judicial side of our investigations.

We have a narcotic detection canine assigned to the Task Force unit. "Beau", a 6-year old Labrador retriever mix, is under the care of a Detective assigned to the COPE unit. Beau and his handler graduated from a 200-hour narcotic detection course certified by the California Narcotic Canine Association (C.N.C.A) in accordance with California P.O.S.T. The C.N.C.A certification examination has been recognized throughout the United States of America as an acceptable examination for the certification of a narcotic detection canine. BEAU is certified by C.N.C.A and P.O.S.T in the identification of the following odors: cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine and heroin. Beau is trained as a "Passive Alert" narcotics detection K-9. He is trained to stare, as a final response that he has detected the odor of any of the above listed narcotics. Beau and his handler continue to participate in monthly update training through Golden Gate K9 in Sonoma County. Golden Gate K9 is used by a large number of Bay Area agencies for their initial and continuous training.

Our unit consists of 2 Special Response Team members, a detective who is part of a statewide warrants team and 2 detectives who are prior military. We also have 3 members of Hostage Negotiations Teams. Each of these duties and skills are paramount in safe operations during the service of search warrants as well as high risk arrests. Safety is always foremost in any operation; our safety, the public's safety and the suspect's safety. Our goal during any of these operations is to recognize and eliminate any possible hazardous situations before we begin and to react safely and appropriately to threats that come up. We all want to go home at the end of the day and with everyone unharmed. This can be challenging for police officers under normal circumstances.

RESOURCES AND EQUIPMENT

The resources we provide, both as detectives and with equipment, include:

Detectives:

- *Expertise and knowledge gained through specialized training, including 80-hour POST certified Basic Narcotic Investigators Course, as well as on-going and continuous narcotic related training.*
- *Informant development and undercover operations.*
- *Asset forfeiture expertise.*
- *Safe entry and arrest methods and tactics.*
- *Active liaison and networking with local agencies as well as DEA, FBI, BNE, ABC, NCRIC and HIDTA.*
- *Expert testimony for court cases (including other agencies).*
- *Assistance to other investigative units with criminal intelligence and covert surveillance.*

Equipment:

- *Vehicles - specially equipped for both undercover and surveillance operations.*
- *Radio and wireless undercover recording and transmitting devices.*
- *Video and audio recording devices necessary for prosecution.*
- *Raid gear, night vision, specialty search warrant entry tools.*
- *Narcotic canine support.*
- *Trackers via GPS and mapping (via court order).*
- *Forensic cell phone data analysis and retrieval.*
- *Currency scanner/counter.*
- *Fiber optic cameras for walls, concealed and tight area searches.*

Local Agency Support:

- *Asset Forfeiture expertise and assistance.*
- *Liaison with District Attorney's Office.*
- *Search warrant preparation and service expertise.*
- *Trial assistance.*
- *Intelligence resource and support.*



HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA



The Marin County Major crimes Task Force is a member of the Northern California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) as designated by the Federal Government in 1994. The Northern Californian initiative is comprised of individual local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies within Alameda, Contra Costa, Lake, **Marin**, Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Sonoma counties. These counties and respective agencies are united in the common goal of reducing drug trafficking, drug related crime, violence, and abuse in our communities.

DRUG TESTING POLICY

During 2013, the Marin County Major Crimes Task Force revisited it's internal drug testing policy. It was determined to be deficient and unenforceable. We rewrote the policy with the realization that it was a meet and confer issue with each affected employee union.

The Marin County Sheriff's Office met with the Deputy Sheriffs' Association and produced an updated policy regarding random drug testing of deputies assigned to narcotic related enforcement units. Likewise, the Novato Police Department administration met with the Novato Police Association and the Probation Department's administration met with the Teamsters Union, who represents their Probation Officers. Policies were drafted and approved by all 3 departments allowing the Task force administration to arrange for random drug testing of their participating officers twice a year.

The California Highway Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration each declined to have their officers participate in our program, but agreed to supply a letter stating their participating officers and agents were in full compliance with their own department's or agency's policy.

To date, we are in full compliance with our own drug program. Each local departments' employee has been tested twice during this last year with negative results for each employee both times. The CHP and DEA have supplied letters of compliance to the Task Force regarding their employees.

Example

Results of Controlled Substance Test

Record Status: Negative
 Test Type: 10-panel poct labcorp
 Collection Date/Time: 10/24/2014 2:11 PM
 Batch ID: 20141024
 Specimen ID: 0995447994
 Date COC Received: 10/24/2014
 Sample Type: Urine
 Test Panel 10 Panel POCT

Laboratory: Labcorp
 1904 Alexander Drive
 RTP, NC 27709
 Collection Site: Labcorp

<u>Test Performed</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Test Performed</u>	<u>Result</u>
Amphetamines	Negative	Barbiturates	Negative
Benzodiazepines	Negative	Cocaine	Negative
Marijuana	Negative	Methamphetamines	Negative
Methadone	Negative	Opiates	Negative
Phencyclidine	Negative	Propoxyphene	Negative

COVANTA

Evidence Destruction

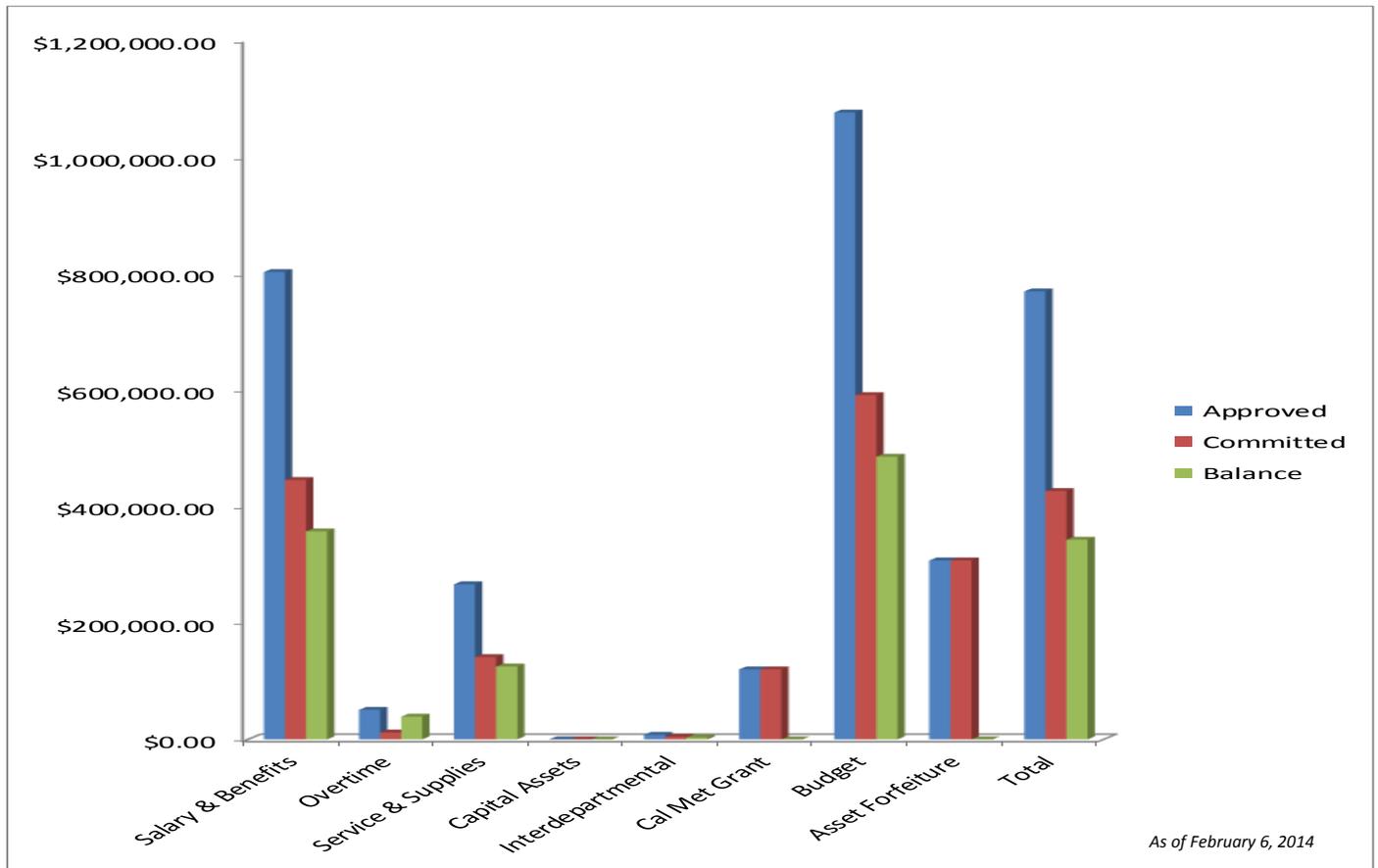
During 2014, the Task Force made 3 separate evidence destruction runs. The trips were made in March, July and in November. All property destroyed is by court order and court approval. Evidence from the Task Force included narcotics, miscellaneous items seized (including unclaimed personal affects) as well as firearms. Electronics are taken to a local resource recovery center for recycling.

The evidence to be destroyed is brought to the Covanta Energy Plant in Crow's Landing off of Highway 5. The evidence is incinerated by the Covanta Energy facility and witnessed by Task Force staff. Our evidence is used for fuel to produce steam to power generators to produce electrical energy.



**BUDGET
2014-2015**

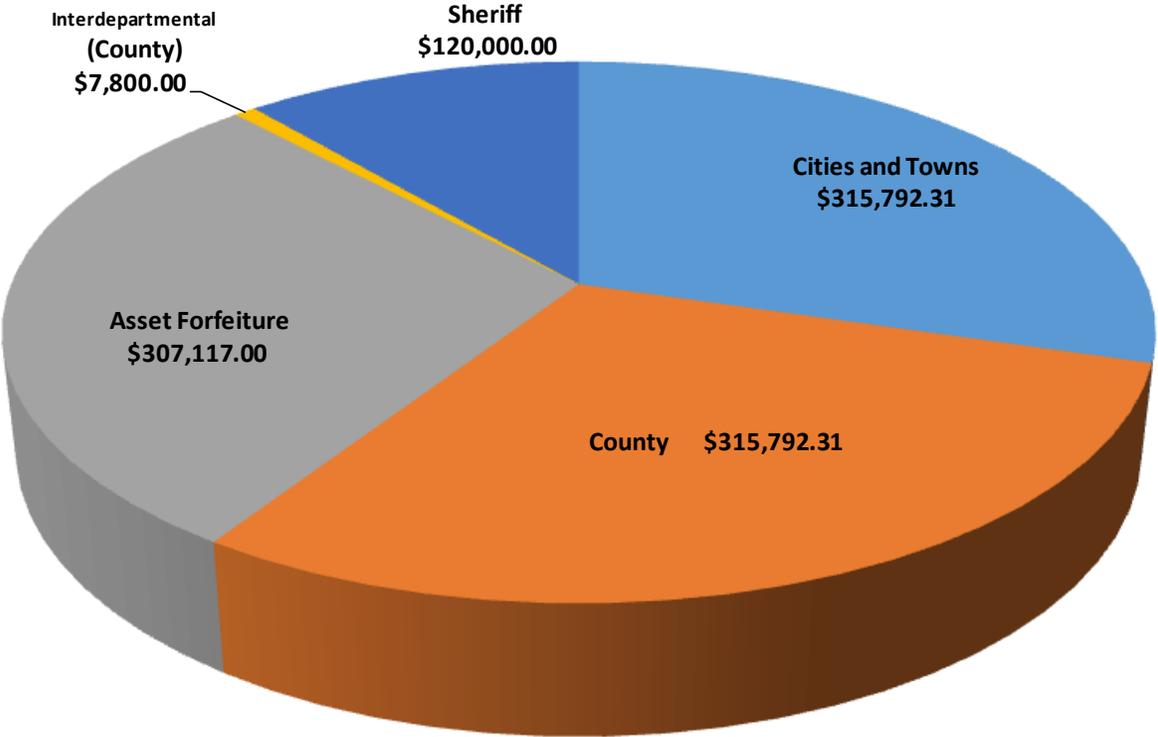
Expenditures	Approved	Committed	Balance	% Remaining
Salary & Benefits	\$802,188.00	\$445,172.37	\$357,015.63	44.51%
Overtime	\$50,603.00	\$11,590.47	\$39,012.53	77.10%
Service & Supplies	\$266,170.50	\$141,185.58	\$124,984.92	46.96%
Capital Assets	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interdepartmental	\$7,800.00	\$4,550.00	\$3,250.00	41.67%
Cal Met Grant	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Budget	\$1,076,158.50	\$590,907.95	\$485,250.55	45.09%
Asset Forfeiture	\$307,117.00	\$307,117.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total	\$769,041.50	\$426,279.70	\$342,761.80	44.57%



BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS

2014-2015

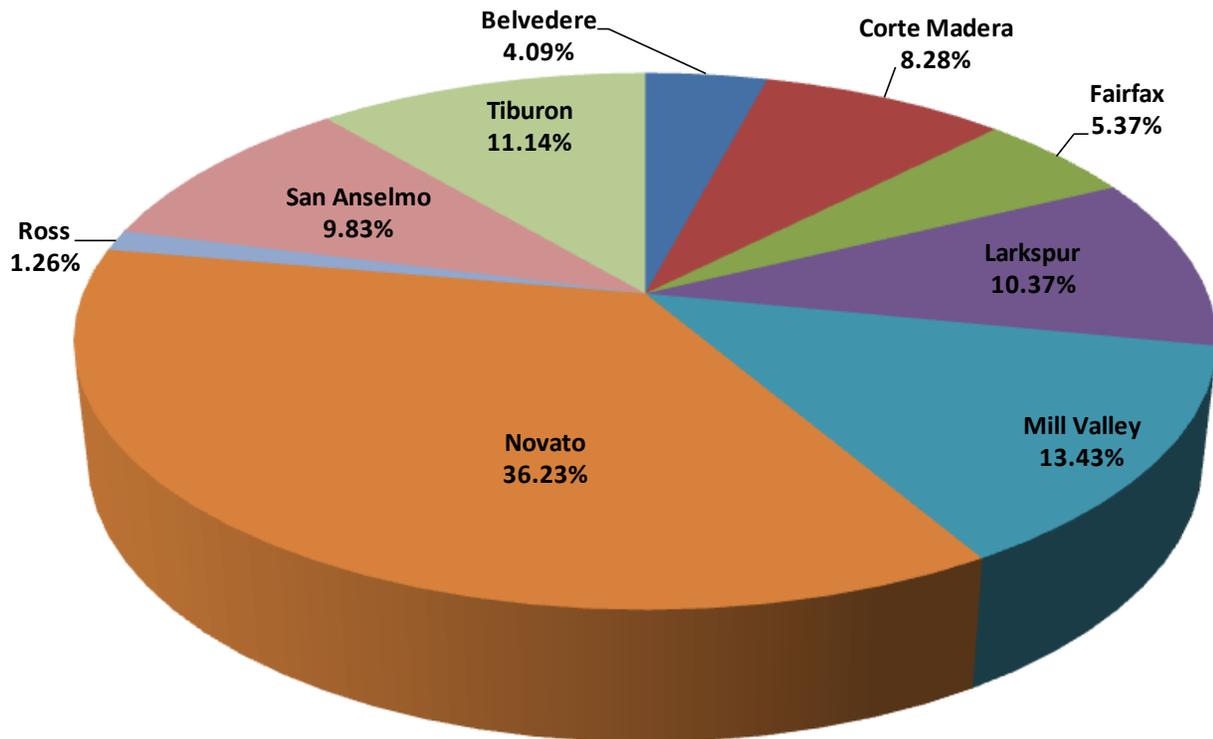
Cities and Towns	\$	315,792.31
County	\$	315,792.31
Asset Forfeiture	\$	307,117.00
Interdepartmental (County)	\$	7,800.00
Sheriff	\$	120,000.00
Total	\$	1,066,501.62



CITY AND TOWN

2014—2015 BUDGET CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN

Agency	Amount	Percentage
Belvedere	\$13,012.11	4.09%
Corte Madera	\$26,323.46	8.28%
Fairfax	\$17,082.54	5.37%
Larkspur	\$32,982.19	10.37%
Mill Valley	\$42,697.41	13.43%
Novato	\$115,216.88	36.23%
Ross	\$3,991.90	1.26%
San Anselmo	\$31,254.49	9.83%
Tiburon	\$35,416.56	11.14%
Totals	\$317,977.54	100.00%



You may notice a \$2,185.23 difference between the \$317,977.54 stated here and the \$315,792.31 on the previous page. This difference was created when Ross pulled out of the JPA. Because the amount was relatively minor, no adjustment was made.

BUDGET FISCAL YEAR COMPARISONS

As with last year’s budget preparations, we again made concerted efforts for the 2014-2015 budget to bring the overall Task Force costs down from the previous fiscal year. We were able to achieve this by reevaluating spending and needs. Adjustments to the Task Force budget were made accordingly, resulting in saving to all our partners.

	2014-2015 Budget		2013-2014 Budget		Decrease
Belvedere	3.74%	\$13,012.11	3.43%	\$13,132.00	-\$119.89
Corte Madera	7.95%	\$26,323.46	7.40%	\$28,341.00	-\$2,017.54
Fairfax	5.03%	\$17,082.54	4.71%	\$18,022.00	-\$939.46
Larkspur	10.06%	\$32,982.19	9.34%	\$35,770.00	-\$2,787.81
Mill Valley	13.14%	\$42,697.41	12.20%	\$46,709.00	-\$4,011.59
Novato	36.10%	\$115,216.88	33.69%	\$129,022.00	-\$13,805.12
Ross	3.64%	\$3,991.90	3.35%	\$12,817.00	-\$8,825.10
San Anselmo	9.51%	\$31,254.49	8.86%	\$33,933.00	-\$2,678.51
Sausalito	0%	\$0.00	3.47%	\$13,288.50	-\$13,288.50
<i>Sheriff</i>			3.47%	\$13,288.50	-\$13,288.50
Tiburon	10.83%	\$35,416.56	10.09%	\$38,621.00	-\$3,204.44
	100.00%	\$317,977.54	100.01%	\$382,944.00	-\$64,966.46



ASSET FORFEITURE BALANCES

The balances shown below are for the Task Force trusts as of February 10, 2015.

Federal Treasury:	\$ 1,987.37
Federal Marshal:	\$46,709.07
State:	\$ 2,340.86
Total:	\$51,037.30



Google Image

ASSET FORFEITURE

What is asset forfeiture and what's the purpose of it?

Asset forfeiture is the seizing of ill-gotten gains from dealers and suppliers who are clearly profiting and living a lifestyle funded through criminal activities and criminal enterprises. It is a known fact that these criminals are more afraid of losing their money, status and power than they are of going to jail or prison.

Asset forfeiture got a bad reputation in the 1970's. You'll probably remember the stories of law enforcement officers seizing yachts and expensive cars based upon a single marijuana seed being discovered in the vehicle. The "seed" went directly to proving their drug transportation cases. The seizing and flaunting of these "prizes" didn't sit well with the public and politicians. Some saw this as an abuse of power and of the system.

Asset forfeiture has an honorable place in fighting drug trafficking and dealing. The seizing of criminal profits from drug dealers and suppliers is a punishment they fear. It's the ultimate equalizer; especially when we turn around and use those same profits to help fund us in our fight against them.

We have laws that prevent criminals from profiting from their crimes. They can't publish a book or make a movie about their crimes and be paid for it. Why would we allow drug dealers and suppliers to retain profits acquired as a direct result of their illegal activities and crimes? If someone stole your car and law enforcement found the suspect driving it around, it wouldn't be very fair to tell you, "We arrested the suspect, but sorry, the crook possesses your car now, so he gets to keep it." You may argue that the money acquired by drug dealers and suppliers is from willing victims. Well, the same can be said about investors that get bilked. Regardless, it doesn't justify criminals making money and profiting.

Since the 1970's, the laws have changed to take away the incentive for law enforcement to seize expensive items. Under California law, vehicles seized can't be put into service and must be sold. Although still allowed under federal law, the incentive has been lessened and stricter guidelines are applied.

The MCTF uses seized assets to supplement our budget. Currently, asset forfeiture accounts for 100% of our service and supplies budget. The only problem with this system is asset forfeitures are unpredictable. We never know how much in assets we will seize in a given year. We also don't know when we will actually receive the assets. It could be a matter of months or years. While the state requires a conviction before assets can be forfeited, the Federal system only requires proof of illegal proceeds.

Asset forfeitures are generally awarded through a sharing program administered by the local DA's Office on the state level or the US Marshal's Office on the federal level. Each administering agency determines agency involvement and amount awarded on a percentage basis. Currently under the federal system, the feds take 20% straight off the top and the remainder is divided up among the participating agencies. Under the state system, the local DA's Office gets 10% off the top, the State takes another 24% for their general fund and 1% goes to a local, private, nonprofit organization. The remaining 65% goes to participating agencies. However, 15% of that 65% goes into a local special fund to pay for programs designed to combat drug abuse.

2014 ASSET FORFEITURE

The MCTF has several detectives that are specially trained in asset forfeiture and the current asset forfeiture laws. These detectives also attend mandated annual update training to keep us current on the laws.

It should be noted that the asset forfeiture process is a civil process, not a criminal one. For the State to seize assets through the courts, we need to have a criminal conviction.

This table shows the asset forfeitures cases we took during the 2014 year.

	2014	
SO14-160001	\$	1,499.00
SO14-160019	\$	3,650.00
SO14-160022	\$	7,550.00
SO14-160026	\$	21,176.00
SO14-160032	\$	62,000.00
SO14-160038	\$	11,000.00
SO14-160051	\$	3,440.00
SO14-160052	\$	127.07
SO14-160064	\$	18,872.00
SO14-160075	\$	64,593.68
SO14-160094	\$	102,760.00
SO14-160098	\$	329,513.00
SO14-160103	\$	14,559.00
SO14-160114	\$	3,590.00
SO14-160115	\$	15,850.00
SO14-160117	\$	95,800.00
SO14-160119	\$	6,546.00
SO14-160120	\$	1,500.00
SO14-160123	\$	54,025.00
SO14-160124	\$	60,306.00
SO14-160125	\$	6,800.00
	Total \$	885,156.75

Although \$885,000 is a sizable amount of money, we won't receive this amount. The \$885,000 represents the total collective amount. As is common with these cases, some amounts will be returned to the owner through the DA's Office, the courts or plea deals. What does remain subject to forfeiture will be divided up among participants.



Google Image

ASSET FORFEITURE

FEDERAL

As a member of HIDTA and with a DEA Agent assigned to us, we are able to participate in the Federal Asset Forfeiture sharing program. Currently, for a case to be adopted by the AUSA's Office as asset forfeiture only, those cases must meet a \$25,000 minimum threshold. The US Marshal's Office determines the sharing percentages based upon agency involvement. The values listed below have been assigned by the Marshal's Office, but reflect the total value or estimated total value, not the amount we will receive.

Asset Type	Asset Value	Submit Date
Cash/Currency	\$ 31,651.00	
Cash/Currency	\$ 58,765.00	02/05/2015
Vehicles	\$ 50,625.00	10/21/2014
Cash/Currency	\$ 4,260.00	10/21/2014
Cash/Currency	\$ 40,500.00	10/21/2014
Cash/Currency	\$ 39,650.00	10/21/2014
Cash/Currency	\$ 26,000.00	10/21/2014
Cash/Currency	\$ 99,000.00	10/21/2014
Cash/Currency	\$ 85,000.00	10/21/2014
Cash/Currency	\$ 102,760.00	11/10/2014
Financial Instrument	\$ 7,993.05	08/23/2013
Cash/Currency	\$ 156,960.00	08/23/2013
Financial Instrument	\$ 8,698.51	07/01/2013
Vehicles	\$ 9,700.00	11/21/2014
Cash/Currency	\$ 2,450.00	06/02/2014
Commercial Business	\$ 6,400,000.00	04/10/2014
Commercial Business	\$ 3,700,000.00	04/10/2014
Vehicles	\$ 66,225.00	07/11/2014
Vehicles	\$ 43,800.00	07/11/2014
Vehicles	\$ 3,050.00	04/29/2014
Total	\$ 10,937,087.56	

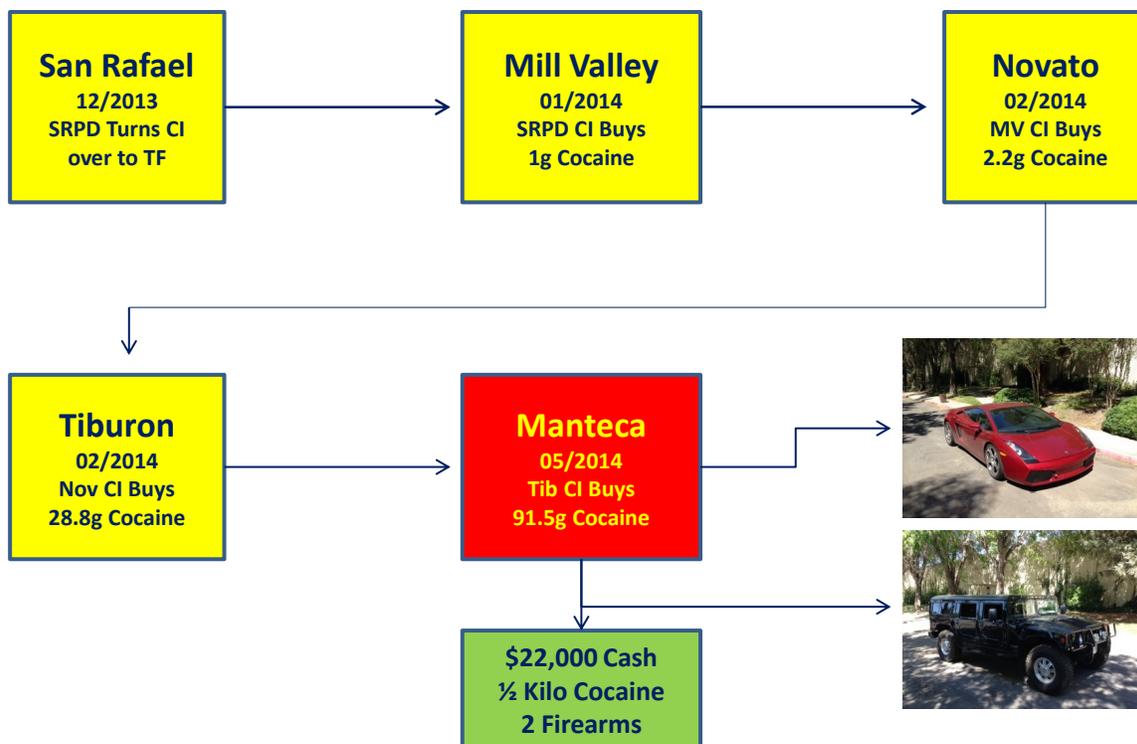
While there is a significant amount of seized assets pending, the total does not represent what we will actually realize. We will get a percentage of each amount based upon what the US Marshal's Office determines our involvement in each case. The total also does not represent the actual total amount. There is property listed where the value is not listed. The hotels for instance, represent several million dollars each at market value. Again, once they are forfeited, we will only receive a portion of the total sale price.

CASE EXAMPLE #1

The below is an example of how we work an investigation. This case started as a patrol officer arrest in San Rafael. The suspect told the patrol officer he wanted to help himself out by cooperating with law enforcement. The patrol officer contacted the Task Force. Our detectives interviewed the suspect and determined he was a good candidate. He was of low risk and provided our detectives with good information. He facilitated the purchase of narcotics from a Mill Valley subject. The buy was successful. Like the previous suspect, the Mill Valley dealer wanted to help himself out. He then facilitated a narcotics deal in Novato. That buy was successful. Like the previous 2 suspects, the Novato dealer wanted to help himself out. He agreed to help Task Force detectives with a narcotics deal in Tiburon. That purchase was successful. Each time detectives agreed to work with the suspect, the purchase of narcotics were for larger and larger amounts. Following suit, the Tiburon suspect wanted to help himself out and agreed to help Task Force detectives by arranging a purchase from his supplier who was from out of the area. Since he supplied Marin, not only through the Tiburon dealer, but through others, he was a good target. This case started in December of 2013 and ended in May 2014 with the arrest of the supplier. It took a great deal of time to identify each target, confirm there was no conflict with other law enforcement for each target, along with surveillance of our suspects to determine where each lived. A case of this magnitude takes time, manpower and resources.

Anatomy of a case

(Marin to Manteca)



CASE EXAMPLE #2

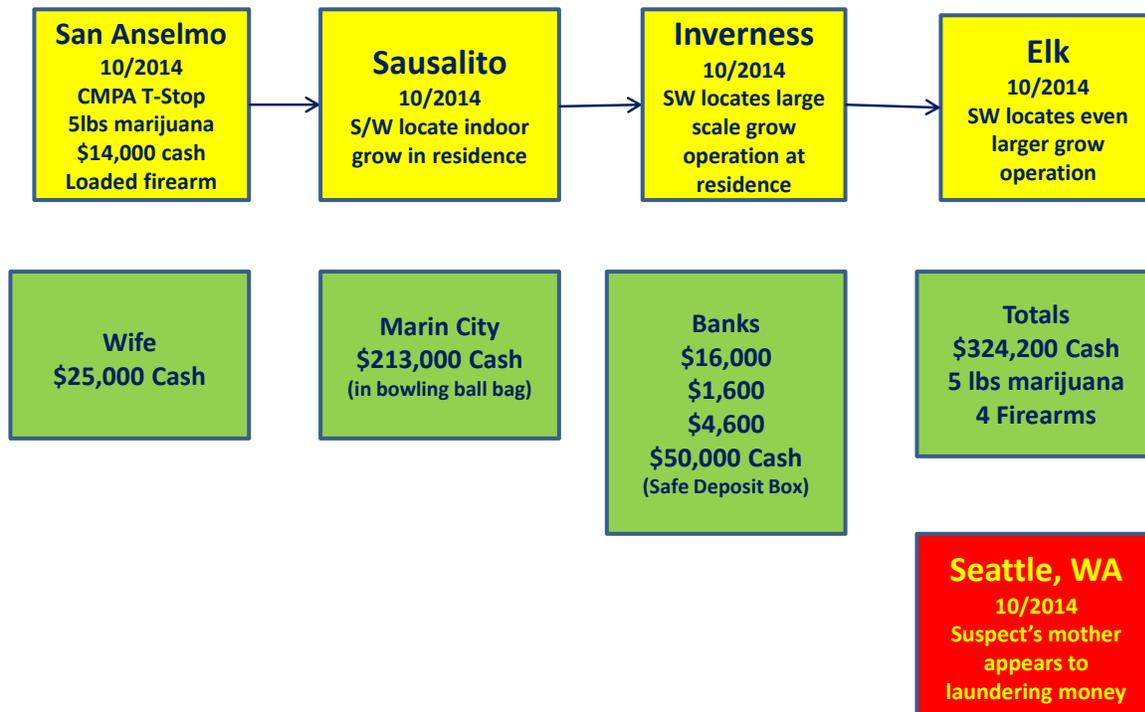
This case started as a traffic stop by a Central Marin Police Authority officer in October of 2014. What started as a suspected intoxicated driver in San Anselmo, turned into a seizure of 5lbs of Marijuana, \$14,000 in cash and a loaded firearm. CMPA contacted Task Force detectives for assistance. The case led to the City of Sausalito where an indoor Marijuana grow was located; to the suspect's wife going to Marin City where \$213,000 in cash was located; to a large scale Marijuana grow in Inverness; to the area of Elk, California where an even larger Marijuana grow operation was located; to Seattle where the suspect's mother lives and who we believe was laundering money for her son.

This case is still on-going. However, it is a great example of Task Force detectives working in partnership with local law enforcement agencies. CMPA could not have investigated this case by itself. CMPA does not have the personnel, time, or resources to independently investigate a case of this magnitude.

Why do you pay into the Task Force? What do you get out of the JPA? You get a professional team of detectives. You get personnel and resources to investigate narcotic cases your agency alone doesn't have. You get a force of up to 14 people to handle narcotic cases, not only throughout Marin, but in your jurisdiction. All for less than the price of one officer. That's an insurance policy that pays off.

Anatomy of a case

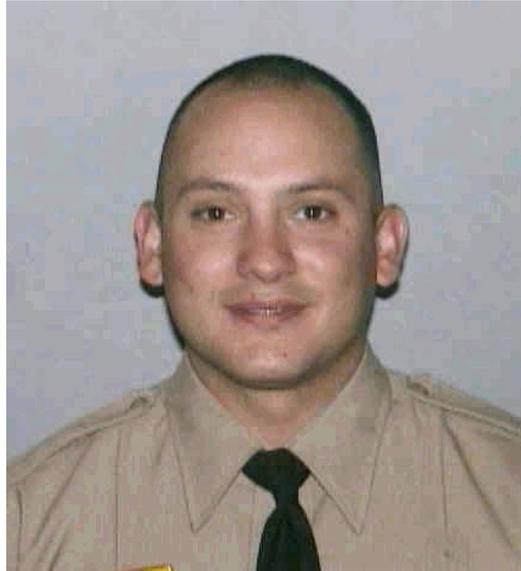
(Marin to Elk)



RECOGNITION

For all his hard work on the Manteca case, Detective Edgar Villalobos was recognized and honored by the California Narcotic Officers' Association in December. Recognition of one of our detectives is a huge compliment. It makes all of us in the unit proud. It should make all our JPA partners proud as well. Proud of what good work we do for you and the County of Marin. Our recognition is your recognition also. We at the Task Force are honored by your support and your belief in us. Without each of you, there would be no Task Force. We thank you.

TF Detective Honored



On December 12th, Task Force Detective Edgar Villalobos was recognized and honored by the Region 1 of California Narcotic Officers Association (CNOA) for his work on the Manteca case.

AGENCY BY AGENCY

Agency	Contacts	Cases	Arrests	S/Ws
Belvedere	19	1	0	0
CHP	108	10	0	3
Central Marin	73	36	10	12
Fairfax	49	6	3	1
Mill Valley	62	26	12	15
Novato	191	30	11	9
Sheriff	266	58	21	25
Tiburon	46	6	2	2
Totals	814	173	59	67



2014 NARCOTICS SEIZURES

Drug	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals	2013's
Adderall (pills)					566.0								566.0	
Cocaine (grams)	0.9	48.2	1,391.9	108.5	646.7	7.5		7.5	32.4	35.8	2.6		2,282.0	248.1
- Crack (grams)		5.4											5.4	28.0
Ecstasy (grams)										8.0			8.0	64.0
GBL (grams)							2,485.0						2,485.0	
Hash (grams)	259.2	247.1							6.6		52.9		565.8	
Heroin (grams)	0.5							1.1					1.6	55.0
Hydrocodone (pills)				317.0	909.0	47.8							1,273.8	
Ketamine (grams)								1.0					1.0	
LSD (doses)			3.0										3.0	1.0
Marijuana Plants		44.0	101.0					160.0	817.0	179.0			1,301.0	1,633.0
Marijuana Product	2,579.8	1,645.8	5,267.4				23,587.2	36,214.8	137.8	451.2	1,916.4	453.0	72,253.4	177,806.0
MDMA (grams)									6.8		6.1		12.9	24.0
Methadone				119.0									119.0	
Methamphetamine				42.5					3.2	29.9	2.6		78.2	
- ICE	19.4	487.1	323.2		1,359.7	11.1	104.0	3.2				1.5	2,309.2	1,557.0
Morphine				160.0									160.0	1,769.0
Norco (pills)				108.0									108.0	
Opana (pills)				5.0									5.0	
Oxycontin (pills)				200.0		5.0				3.0			208.0	1,773.0
Psilocybin Mushrooms											2.0		2.0	3.0
Viagra (pills)								30.0					30.0	
Xanax (pills)			4.0	37.0				2.0					43.0	

Prices: We paid the following street prices during our undercover buys this last year.

Adderall:	\$2 a dosage unit (pill)	Methamphetamine lce:	\$60—\$70 a gram
Cocaine:	\$90 a gram and between \$700—\$900 an ounce		\$650 an ounce
Ecstasy:	\$10 a dosage unit (pill)		\$6,000 a lb
Heroin:	\$100 a gram		
Hydrocodone:	\$4 a dosage unit (pill)		
Methadone:	\$75 a gram		

Working Together

Each budget year the “what’s in it for us?” question comes up. You need to know why should we belong to the MCTF and what return you get on your investment. Here’s a couple real life scenarios that hopefully will help answer that question.

Take the example of the patrol officer who makes a traffic stop for a moving violations. After speaking to the driver and making normal observations, your officer realizes there is more here than he or she expected. It goes beyond a traffic violation and has moved into the illegal narcotics spectrum. Your officer knows something is amiss, but lacks the training and knowledge, let alone the time, to investigate further. Detectives from the MCTF are available 24-hours, around the clock. We are available by phone to answer questions or we can come out to the scene. We can adopt the investigation in part or in whole. We will work with your officers or we can adopt the case and keep your department apprised of the progress. We can obtain search warrants, or assist your officers in writing and serving them. Again, search warrant service takes significant manpower to do it properly and safely.

What does your officer do when he or she arrests someone for drugs and that person suddenly wants to cooperate and give information regarding other drug offenses around the county? What happens if the suspect says he or she wants to work? This is a common scenario. Most departments are limited on staffing and can’t afford to take an officer off the street. The information may not even pertain to events or persons directly in your town or city. Your officers may not have the knowledge and experience to handle and work an informant. To conduct a thorough investigation and follow-up takes a commitment of resources, manpower and time. It takes knowledge and experience to follow the complexities of these investigations.

As a partner with the MCTF, you get a detective who can come into court and offer expert testimony, even if it’s not our case. We will help make your officer’s case, even if we weren’t involved in the investigation. Your department can get assistance when faced with a significant (major) crime or series of crimes of significance. We often help with surveillances, locating suspects and assisting with search warrant services.

What do you get? You get an entire investigative unit; a staff of up to 14. All for less than the cost of one officer. For most of our JPA partners, the cost is a fraction of the cost of a single officer.

Illegal drugs in Marin is a countywide issue. No single agency can address the drug problem alone. However, together we can make a difference. Together, through the MCTF, we can make a positive difference.

MARIN'S MAKEUP

Whether you live in this county, work here, or both, Marin has much to offer. Marin sits across the bay from San Francisco and takes in the northern portion of the world famous Golden Gate Bridge. The north end of Marin greets the famed wine country of Sonoma county. The west embraces the pacific ocean while the east looks upon the bay waters separating Marin from Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Marin's Highway 101 is also a thoroughfare for the transporting of drugs and money up and down our state.

Marin is considered a medium sized county within our state. Marin covers 520.31 square miles of land and another 308 square miles of water. The 2013 estimated overall population for Marin was 258,365, a 2.4% increase from 2010. Caucasians make up 86.2% of the population of Marin; females are the majority at 51.1%. The largest demographic are persons between 19 and 64 years of age, at 55.5%. Of person 25 years or older, 92.4% are high school graduates or higher and 54.6% have Bachelor's degrees or higher.

There are 3,144 counties and county equivalents in the US. In 2012, Marin ranked 17th as one of the top 25 wealthiest US counties having a population of at least 65,000. Santa Clara was the only other California County listed, coming in at 14th. Marin's median household income was listed as \$90,535 while Santa Clara's was listed as \$91,425. In 2011, Marin ranked 46th out of the top 100. In 2010, Marin was ranked 17th, and in 2009 Marin came in at 20th.

WHAT YOU DON'T SEE

(IMPACTS US ALL)

Businessmen: They live among us. Marin's well educated, very affluent population is a good place to hide in plain sight. There are those in the drug trade that live among us. They blend in as business men and women and as our neighbors. Some appear to be very affluent and financially successful. They may even own a business. However, their roots are in the drug trade. Usually, they are veteran dealers with experience and age. They may have been involved in the drug trade as far back as the 70's and 80's when Cocaine was king and everyone was making money. We now see they have moved into the brokering side of drug deals. Far less hands on product than before. Many are involved in the currently very lucrative black market of Marijuana. Shipments are going throughout the United States. We are currently working on several such cases.

Hand to hand: Like our neighboring counties around us who are plagued with street level dealing, Marin has it too. If you know what you're looking for, you can drive down streets in some areas and communities in Marin and witness hand to hand deals. You can see constant vehicle and foot traffic going to a residence or business at all hours of the day and night. We know, because we see it in the course of our investigations. Hands with the money shaking hands with the ones that hold the dope. Simple, proven, drug culturally accepted practice street dealing. Quick trips to and from a source. We conceal ourselves in the shadows and the background to identify these people to begin our investigation. Our goal is to arrest the dealer and work our way up to their supplier and ultimately the source.

Load vehicles: Marin is a thoroughfare from the south to the north and back south again. We know that vehicles carrying money and vehicles carrying drugs travel right through Marin on our highways. They come from as far south as Mexico and some go through the top of our state and beyond. Marin also acts as a drop off point and supply line for drug cartels. Law enforcement stops only a small fraction of these couriers.

WHAT YOU DON'T SEE

(con't)

Mules: We have arrested people within drug trafficking organizations that move product to and through Marin. They are called mules. Their job is to carry the load of drugs that supply the mid-level dealer, who in turn supplies the street level dealers. We know the Mexican Cartels have strongholds on the west coast, in California and in Marin. We know mules work throughout the Bay Area bringing product here. These are the kind of cases we like; tracing the mule back to their source. Putting them out of business and plugging that pipeline.

EDUCATING OUR OWN

Schools are institutions of learning. Besides reading, writing and arithmetic, students also learn the social aspects of living. Schools are a resource and information conduit for our kids. Not only do they learn about life, they also learn about drugs.

Marin County law enforcement's presence in our schools has helped keep students and faculty safe. While providing education to the students and faculty about social trends, they also identify threats and issues.

When a School Resource Officer (SRO) starts seeing a disturbing social trend at the local school, we become a resource for them. Through our on-going trainings, conferences and publication updates, we generally are aware of trends occurring around the state and country before we experience them here. Detectives from the MCTF pass information on to SROs about an emerging trend in schools and with kids. That information allows the SRO to identify trends in their own local schools.

We recently had a case where a confidential informant identified a subject suspected of selling narcotics to students at a local high school. The suspect lives locally and was in his early 20's. We were able to observe the suspect meeting with high school age kids, but didn't observe him actually selling to them. However, we were able to get one of our detectives introduced to him where the detective bought illegal narcotics from the suspect, allowing us to build a case against him. We were able to arrest the suspect and get him off the street.

In the past, MCTF and COPE detectives would go to local high schools and put on educational presentations regarding illegal narcotics and school trends for the students and faculty. Unfortunately, we had to stop using our Detectives because some kids remember them outside of school. This posed an officer safety issue and a potential case compromise for detectives working undercover. We still provide sealed narcotics display kits, which we loan out to local law enforcement for uniformed officers to use for school presentations (some of which are former TF and COPE detectives). We also loan our kits out to the head instructor of Administration of Justice program at the local junior college for use in his classes. That instructor is a former officer and former Commander of the MCTF.

While we no longer directly and personally serve the local schools, there are county funds available to local law enforcement for this purpose. Therefore, we now rely on local law enforcement to fulfill the presentation role. We support them with our displays and update them on current trends and concerns. It's a partnership that is safe for us and one that works for local law enforcement and the schools.

TRENDS

The current trends we are seeing are:

The top 2 drugs that Bay Area narcotics task forces are dealing with are marijuana and meth. Black market marijuana is our biggest issue. While marijuana is still illegal by federal standards in our state, the MCTF does not arrest people who are in compliance with California's compassionate medicinal parameters, nor do we confiscate any marijuana grown or in possession which is in compliance with state guidelines. However, the business of black market marijuana is still illegal and very prevalent. The market for California grown weed is both lucrative and in demand. People in the black market business of marijuana have a total disregard for the law and for others. An example of this is indoor grows where a home is rented for cash or cashier's check from an unsuspecting landlord. The suspects have no qualms about bypassing the power meter, electrical box, tearing out walls and ceilings for ducting and ventilation, using chemicals and fertilizers while creating significant health and environmental issues. Once done or discovered, the renters walk away leaving the landlord a huge mess to clean up and with costly repairs to make. This is also true of outdoor grows. Illegal grows are often found on public lands or someone else's private lands. Growers terrace southern slopes, cut down trees and brush, divert springs and streams, use fertilizers, deer and animal repellants and poisons and leave huge amounts of garbage on the lands for someone else to deal with. The costs to taxpayers for clean ups and restorations are staggering. Another disturbing fact is that a single maturing marijuana plant needs about 6 gallons of water a day. Here in California, where we continue to experience a severe drought, that's cause for concern.

The brokering and sales of illegal marijuana are our most involved investigations. There is an active network of marijuana brokers working across the US. Even Colorado is buying from California brokers and dealers, because they are having a hard time keeping supplies on hand. Sales of large quantities of marijuana to the east coast are common as the price of marijuana on the east coast is higher, yielding more profits.

This leads us to the age-old question that divides both sides, is marijuana a gateway drug? There is a strong belief by the anti-marijuana segment that smoking marijuana leads to other, harder drugs. And yes, by definition, marijuana is a drug. The pro-marijuana segment rebuts the statement by stating marijuana is safer than drinking a beer.

Truth. Not everyone who smokes marijuana moves to cocaine, meth, heroin or other narcotics. However, what we see firsthand is everyone who uses cocaine, meth, heroin or other narcotics has smoked or smokes marijuana.

At a recent HIDTA conference, guest speakers from the State of Washington spoke. In Washington, recreational marijuana use is legal. They are noting a sharp decline in school grades for kids 12 to 18 years of age. Kids going into rehab for marijuana use is up 46% in that state.¹ With 2016 right around the corner, California needs to take a good look at the States where marijuana has been legalized. Denver Colorado has more marijuana dispensaries than Starbucks.² They have also suffered a huge influx in their homeless population.

¹ Steve Briggs, Division Counsel, DEA Seattle, WA and Daniel Scott, Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge, DEA Seattle, WA speaking on Marijuana Legalization in Washington at the NCHIDTA Commanders Symposium in Monterey February 18th, 2015.

² 60 Minutes— "Medical Marijuana: Will Colorado's "Green Rush" Last. December 22, 2013

TRENDS (con't)

Through legislation, and originally under the guise of medicine, the message to the public is marijuana has health benefits and is safe. Similarly, we are telling our children that smoking and eating marijuana is okay. Even though California went to great lengths to stay healthy and ban smoking in public areas, that law seems to have gotten lost behind a cloud of pot smoke.

We are also seeing more Honey Oil. Honey Oil (named for color only) is extracted THC from the Marijuana plants, usually the cuttings and shake (the leftovers). Through a chemical process (usually butane) the THC is extracted from the plant as an oil. The THC level in Honey Oil is staggeringly higher than the plant itself. Besides the obvious health risks regarding the increased THC level, the butane process is highly flammable and has resulted in many unintended fires inside dwellings and burns to the involved parties. Several years ago, we had a home in Mill Valley destroyed by fire because of a honey oil manufacturing in the basement area. In San Anselmo, 2 brothers suffer burns and contents inside a garage were damaged or destroyed due to a honey oil extraction operation. In 2014, a Honey Oil operation caused fire to a home where a child lives.

Honey oil is also odorless. Thanks to the invention of e-cigarettes, users can place the Honey Oil in the e-cigarette and smoke it without drawing attention to themselves. Kids have learned this too.

We are seeing less prescription pill abuse and Heroin is making a come back. People who abused Oxycontin and other prescription drugs are find the costs are prohibitive, so they are switching to Heroin. Besides being more affordable, Heroin is easier to obtain. Heroin is showing up in the far northern part of our state where marijuana and methamphetamine rule. Heroin has rarely been found in the far northern part of our State until recently.

Cocaine, which was making a comeback is now falling off again. Methamphetamine (meth) is becoming dominate again. Meth and cocaine have always been in competition with each other for popularity. Popularity is usually dictated by street price. When cocaine prices rise, methamphetamine prices drop and visa versa. Street prices are dictated by supply. When law enforcement makes a large seizure or puts a significant supplier or organization out of business, it has a direct affect on what the streets have to offer. We saw that when Mexican authorities put an end to one cartel who manufactured and distributing meth. Suddenly, meth sales in our area dropped and meth was hard to get.



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MARIN COUNTY

Marin has a affluent history in the entertainment and rock and roll music industries. Such honored musical artists as the Grateful Dead, Huey Lewis and the News, Night Ranger, Journey, Santana, Greg Allman, New Riders of the Purple Sage, Van Morrison, the Doobie Brothers, Sammy Hagar and Metallica to name but a few, all have roots in Marin's history. Like many artists, many have or had a relationship with drugs. Probably the most notable and sad is Gerry Garcia of the Grateful Dead who died of a heroine overdose while attending a treatment facility here in Marin.



The Doobie Brothers



Marin has a rich history. It had a rich history before you and I got here and it'll have a rich history long after you and I are gone. We need to protect the present to preserve the future.