

# **Clark County Sheriff's Office Custody Branch Annual Report 2006**



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# Chief's Message

It is always difficult to look back and encapsulate a full year in just a few paragraphs. Which items are noted? Which items are most important? Which items are the ones to be noted to show our strengths, weaknesses, where we have excelled? This compilation shows those items that, hopefully, are most important to share.

The jail facilities of the Clark County Sheriff's Office continue to face on going space issues. When the original downtown facility opened in 1984, it had a bed space capacity of approximately 300. This number has fluctuated over the years of operation until it has reached a maximum number of 614 for a total of 814 beds. In 2001, the Jail Work Center opened and relieved some space issues for a short time. During 2006, a feasibility study was concluded letting Clark County officials know that on current land holdings it is possible to locate another jail expansion. This study was undertaken in response to the continuing upward trends of inmate population as well as an exponential growth in that segment that requires special care, for either medical or mental health concerns. This was the precursor to the planning group now being assembled by Undersheriff Joe Dunegan. Things that are being taken into consideration during the planning phase will be the number of beds needed, type of beds needed, type of services needed, possible partnerships, and special-needs inmates. While it will take four to five years before a jail expansion can open, staff currently do an excellent job of dealing with the existing jail, the over crowding, and the ever-changing inmate.

Currently, there are four small projects underway to ease some of the stress placed on the infrastructure of the jail. The North Lobby of the CCLEC is being remodeled to add four booths that will allow some of the 18,675 professional visitors to conduct video visits with their clients. Four additional video arraignment booths are under construction, with one dedicated to use for the Battleground Courts. An inmate restroom is being added to the main holding area in booking, this should ease some of the inmate movement in that area. In addition, plans are being finalized to use half of the current library space as an expanded medical unit. With these and other small changes, the current facility is being stretched even further in an attempt to meet the needs of an ever-growing clientele.

# Operations

Administration is most fortunate to have resourceful and talented staff, which does an exceptional job under difficult circumstances. It is very easy to look at statistics, numbers and data then use these as indicators of success or failure. The nature of corrections work requires dedication by staff; this is something you cannot tabulate in a column or add up data and take the mean average at the end of the year. This Branch's success therefore is a shared effort by every member of the Branch, line and support staff.

Jail Operations for 2006 was an extremely busy year. Custody Staff throughout the year faced many new challenges; increasing populations, special-needs inmates and managing daily operational needs. These needs included hiring and training seventeen new officers. Ironically even with the influx of personnel, the year ended with five budgeted positions still vacant. In 2005, it was commonplace for required mandatory overtime, extending officers' 12-hour shifts to 16 hours almost daily. While not eliminated in 2006, at only 228 occurrences the number of instances shows a 50% reduction.

Assaults on officers have declined in the past three years from an all time high of thirty in 2004, to sixteen in 2005, with 2006 resulting in ten assaults on officers. Following this same trend, Officer injuries in 2005 accounted for thirty-four on the job injuries compared with thirteen injuries in 2006. The difference between 2005 and 2006 was staffing increases and the introduction of the taser in the jail setting. Staff discovered most inmates became more compliant when risking the chance of being tased versus a physical confrontation. Classification changes associated with security tier lockdown restrictions also made conditions safer for inmates and staff.

## Main Jail Operations

Main Jail Operations is comprised of Day and Nightshift Operations managed by Commanders Mike Anderson and Kim Beltran. For most of 2006, the CCLEC had 558 beds for a population that averaged 613. This placed booking restrictions on Police Agencies processing some Misdemeanant and Class C Felons in the jail throughout the year. On December 16, 2006, the former Work Release area re-opened designated as "H" Pod. This, in theory, added an additional 56 beds increasing operational beds to 614. It is important to note that while bed numbers were increased, this merely moved already housed inmates off the floor in other areas of the facility. The facility is still operating with the same capacity issues. As 2006 ended the facility reached an unthinkable milestone; there are now more than double the number of bed spaces in the facility than when it opened; double bunking is not new, triple bunking is. In 1984, no one envisioned the CCLEC or Clark County's Justice System serving these kinds of numbers. On February 12, 2006, the system reached it's all time record (to date) of 875 inmates in our system.

Three other projects brought physical changes to the building. Each cell in 2006 had a new tamper proof grill installed over the existing cell vent, reducing the ease of inmates to make metal weapons. Maintenance Staff installed tamper proof plate covers over all cell switches and outlets, eliminating a long-standing problem of inmates tampering with electrical wires creating the potential for fire and electrocution. In addition, rubber bumpers were installed on the walls to eliminate cement divots being chipped in the walls by the various carts used in the facility.

## **Jail Work Center Operations**

Commander Joe Barnett manages all facets of the Jail Work Center operations. This 200-bed facility is remote from the main jail. It houses low risk inmates for either the work release or industry programs located at that site. Inmates are either working in an existing job in the community while serving their time or are placed in one of the many job functions on the site. Inmate labor is used to support laundry, food services, computer recycling and site ground maintenance.

### **In Custody**

This specific group of the County's inmate population is constantly moving. Officers track movement to their various jobs, offset sleep patterns as well as watch for safety and security of the facility, themselves and the inmates. This facility is managed as direct supervision, which places officers closer to inmates rather than removed as at the main jail.

### **Work Release**

The Clark County Sheriff's Office operates a work release facility out of the Jail Work Center. Currently, Clark County contracts with the State of Washington to house up to 30 state inmates. These individuals are typically those transitioning back to the community from prison. The remaining number is made of persons referred by local courts. Eighty-six individuals were terminated from this program for various reasons. In 2006, through tremendous staff effort, the work release program at this site passed the accreditation process and is now an acknowledged American Correctional Association (ACA) facility.

## Operation's Support

The majority of the Jail's staff works in Operations for one of the two facilities. It is most difficult to discuss the job and tasks performed by these individuals on a daily basis. The less is remembered about what they do is actually an indication of how well their job is performed. However, the infrastructure that buttresses this main group of employees is easier to quantify and highlight.

### Classification

This unit under the direction of Commander Anderson is responsible for placing inmates into appropriate housing based upon their current charges, past charges, behavior, and supervision needs. This unit is comprised of Custody Officers, Morrow, Bjorkman, Brunelle, and Krupicka and led by Sergeant Karlsen. Classification saw numerous small changes that ultimately made it more efficient and effective. One such change was a specific computer application allowing documentation of changes made to an inmate's classification allowing accurate and simple tracking. The largest change for this unit was opening H-pod. This allowed numerous other options for specialty housing needs that has reduced conflicts and crowding throughout the facility.

### Security Response Team (SRT)

The Security Response Team is responsible for conducting frequent and sometimes emergency searches within the facility to reduce contraband and increase safety. They are also tasked with responding to emergencies, conducting cell extractions, and providing a tactical analysis of hostile situations. This specialized unit, supervised by Commander Beltran, and lead by Sergeants Clark, Dougher, and Wolfe, performed ten strikes throughout 2006 for a total of 236 hours and amassed a total of 174 training hours on tactics such as; blocking kicks, punches, tackling attacks, weapon retention, ground grappling techniques, and headlock evasion. This team coordinated the opening of H Pod and provided secure transitioning for all inmate movement on that day. Membership for the year fluctuated between 18 to 23 active persons. The highly knowledgeable and skilled members of the SRT team make the two facilities a safer place for officers as well as inmates.

### Transport

The Transport Unit is responsible for inmate movement outside the jail. This includes trips to medical appointments, other jurisdictions, court dates, and the mental health hospital. In 2006, this equated to 20,488 people taken to court; 2,876 moved by mini-chain; 203 medical transports; 140 taken to Western State and 3,391 seen in Video Arraignment.

Sergeant Chris Wolfe, under the leadership of Commander Evelyn, took over the helm of Transport at the beginning of 2006. Shortly thereafter, he adapted to the daily chores associated with this unit and is working closely with Judges and Court Administrators. This unit continues to maintain a high level of professionalism while working to meet the needs of the Court. Sergeant Wolfe continues the work begun by his predecessor of continually looking for ways to benefit the group. This includes the importance of the relationships between Courthouse Deputies and the Transport Officers. Recent combined regularly scheduled training periods have been going quite well.

## **Medical**

Prison Health Services, Inc. has been the contracted provider for inmate health care since 2001. This company has overseen every aspect of physical and mental health care for the Main Jail, Jail Work Center and Juvenile Justice Center. In 2006, this equated to 56,987 inmates being seen by the medical unit and mental health counselors seeing 9,055. While expecting these numbers to increase, Jail Administration approved a set of plans to remodel the existing library space to give more room to the Medical Unit. This construction will give some relief, but only temporarily.

During 2006, the maximum amount of contract extensions was reached and the Sheriff's Office was required to send out a Request for Proposal for Inmate Health Care. Two entities responded and after a long comparison process, Wexford Health Sources was chosen and awarded a contract in December. Most of the existing staff was retained and the Sheriff's Office is looking forward to a wonderful working relationship with this new partner.

## **Food Services**

This unit at the Jail Work Center managed by Clark Campbell, services the Main Jail, Jail Work Center, and the Juvenile Detention Facility. Using inmate labor, Food Services cooks and distributes meals to the listed facilities three times each day, seven days each week for 1,218,269 meals prepared and delivered in 2006. This year, raw food costs were kept to an average \$.66 per inmate meal. This includes all the special meals that are prepared for specific medical or other dietary needs.

In an effort to be more environmentally friendly and reduce landfill waste, the following changes were implemented: elimination of many packaged or wrapped food items in the meal trays, recycling cooking grease and continuing to recycle metals and cardboard.

On a final note during the annual Public Health Department inspection of the kitchen, Food Services once again received an excellent report: 100% compliance. This rating is something most restaurants fail to achieve.

## **Laundry Services**

This unit services the Main Jail, Jail Work Center, Juvenile Detention Facility, and the Medical Examiner's office. Using inmate labor, laundry is collected, cleaned, repaired, and then re-distributed to the respective units five days per week. The total clothes and linen washed in 2006 was 511,264.8 lbs with a monthly average of 42,605.4 lbs. This includes a partnership with Evergreen School District clothes closet system, which recycles items unclaimed from it's "lost and found" for those students with economic need which had 1,828 lbs of items laundered. Leaving the total for Medical Examiner's clothing at 484 lbs.

## **Jail Industries**

Utilizing inmate labor, this unit has partnered with various agencies and companies to help reduce e-waste from entering landfills. In 2006, this program generated over \$63,000 and recycled 680 tons of material that may have otherwise ended up in a landfill. These materials included; 6,068 Cathode Ray Tubes or C.R.T.s. This is mentionable because C.R.T.s contain toxic materials such as lead, mercury, and cadmium. Staff from the Solid Waste division estimates a savings of \$50,000 for taxpayers.

## Night Maintenance

Throughout 2006 and for the past 6 years, one Jail Industry Technician with a crew of approximately 10 inmate workers provided janitorial services for the following areas: Central and West precincts, CBC Corrections, and the Clark County Law Enforcement Center. The duties for this unit have changed in 2007. Now this crew will clean only the main-jail portion of the Clark County Law Enforcement Center and the Jail Work Center. All other areas will now be serviced by the vendor that cleans the rest of the County buildings. This will allow a greater focus for this group to clean the living units.

## Support Services

2006 was a very busy year for Support Staff as well as the rest of the Branch. The Unit is very instrumental in providing information and assistance needed for the Commanders and staff. There is a consistent increase in request for Jail Clearances from professional visitors as well as from the various programs offered at both facilities. For 2006, 560 persons were added to the clearance list, 122 were removed with 29 being denied access. All medical bills are now processed and paid by Jail Administration Support Staff, in 2006, this equated to \$2,587,756.16. The research and tracking for this is a substantial undertaking and is handled efficiently and effectively by staff. Job Checks for Work Release inmates are preformed and maintained. In addition, Work Release's ACA accreditation was accomplished with the aid of and monitored by Support Staff.

## Branch Awards

It is always a pleasure to honor staff. Especially those that exemplify the best of standards and ideals or those who during difficult times rise to the occasion when it is most needed. This year it is with pride that the following staff are acknowledged.

### Live Saving Awards

Custody Officer Vince Johnson	Custody Officer Tom Drake
Custody Officer Stan Yinger	Custody Officer Eric Bjorkman
Custody Officer Randy Robison	Custody Officer Andy Wicks
Custody Officer Luke Hatcher	Custody Officer Paul Bond
Custody Officer Brittney Cordell	Sergeant Paul Dougher

### Medal of Merit

Sergeant Neal Karlsen: For his efforts in developing and implementing an objective, risk-based classification system.



## **Certificates of Appreciation**

Sergeant Dan Plotner: Recognized for his leadership and work with the Computer Recycle Program.

Food Services Manager Clark Campbell: Recognized for his leadership in managing the Food Services Unit, reducing operational costs, and managing reimbursement payments associated with Juvenile School to Lunch Program.

## **Exemplary Performance Award**

Custody Officer Brad Jett: Recognized for swift actions to control an inmate who had a concealed knife in his waistband in the intake area and was removing the knife in a threatening manner.

## **Officer of the Year**

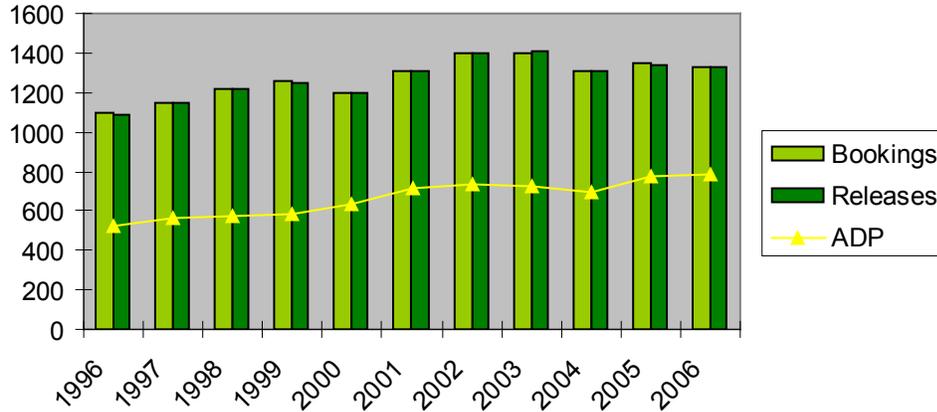
Randy Tangen's colleagues have written the following words in praise of his work with the Custody Branch: "Officer Tangen is a true professional in every sense. His appearance is always beyond reproach and his knowledge of policy, procedures and the inner workings of the department are complete. He is an FTO that all students can look up to and strive to emulate. Randy Tangen is one officer that has earned the respect of Custody Officers on all squads. His professional approach to his job, his co-workers and the inmates stands above all others."



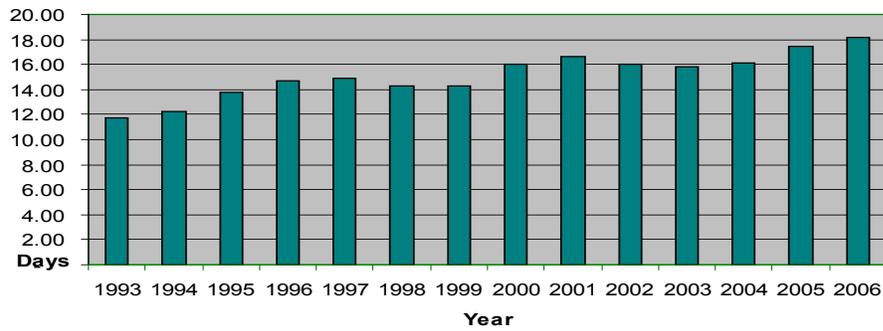
## **Supervisor of the Year**

The Clark County Sheriff's Office recognized Sergeant Chris Wolfe as its choice for Supervisor of the Year in 2006. Sergeant Wolfe was selected for the position of Transport Sergeant in January of 2006. Since that time, Sergeant Wolfe has been very instrumental in building relationships with Superior and District Court Judges, Prosecuting Attorneys, Court Clerks and various other agencies within Clark County and the State of Washington. Sergeant Wolfe has demonstrated his ability to communicate his vision in a professional manner and energize the transport unit as a team. He is described as both energetic and enthusiastic and as being a "take charge person." His critical thinking skills have been crucial in preparation for five high-profile trials over the past year and he has received praise for ensuring the security of the citizens of Clark County, the Judges, his staff and the inmates. He has also done an excellent job of coordinating transports to outside medical appointments in Washington and Oregon, always focusing on the safety of his Custody Officers.

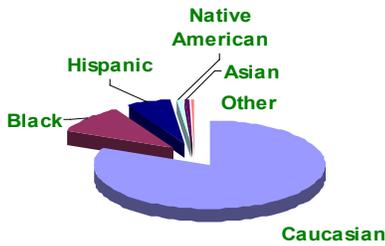
Monthly Averages Book & Release



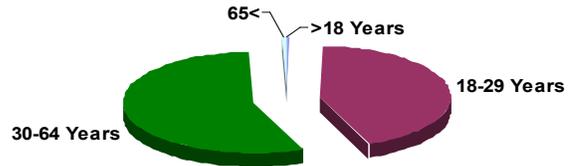
Historical Length of Stay



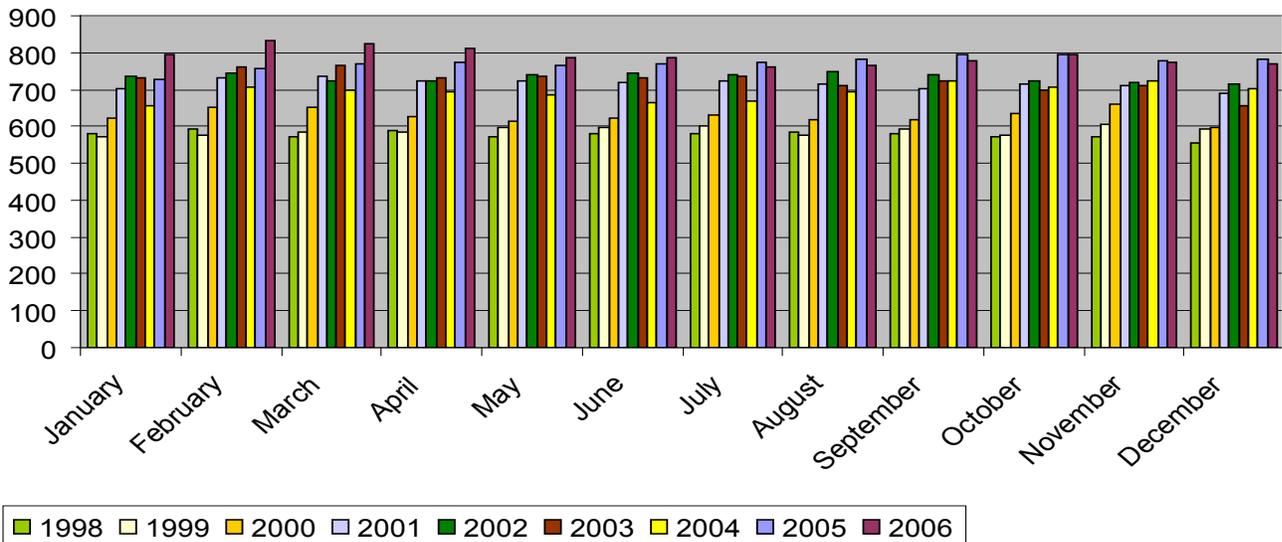
Ethnic Demographics 2006



Age Demographics 2006



Population by Month



# 2006 Jail Statistics

## Jail Population

Average Daily Population	790
Average Length of Stay	18.12 days
Bookings	15,922
Releases	15,918

## Work Release Operations

Walk Away	2
Terminations	86
New Admissions	565

## Transport

Inmates to Court	20,488
Mini Chain	2,876
Medical	203
Western State Hospital	140
Inmates to Video Arraignment	3,391

## Inmate Discipline

Major Infractions	856
Minor Infractions	1,538
Top Three Major Infractions	
Three Minors equal a Major	
Possible Smoking	
Possible Unauthorized Medication	

## Medical Unit

Inmates Seen by Staff	56,937
Seen by Mental Health Counselors	9,055
Contract Cost per Inmate Booked	\$142.45
Medical Cost per Inmate Per Day	\$8.97

## Staffing

Jail Administration	5
Custody Sergeants	20
Custody Staff	134
Support Staff	5
Food Service	15
Laundry/Industry	4
Medical Contract Positions	21

## Food Service

Total Meals Served	1,218,269
Restricted Diets	82,737
Cost Per Meal	\$1.34

## Classification

Interviews	7,130
Screen for Work Release	134
Made Trustee	199

## Jail Industry

Offender Hours	176,859
Kitchen Hours	122,512
Laundry	29,928
Janitorial	8,874
Industry	4,841
Outside & Grounds Crew	10,230
Other	474

## Jail Operations

Escapes	0
Escape Attempts	0
Suicides	0
Suicide Attempts	9
Assaults on Staff	10
Officers Injured	13

## Office Information

Professional Visits	18,675
Criminal Histories	560
Removed from Jail Access	122
Denied Jail Access	29
One Time Clearances	165



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