



Clark County Sheriff's Office

707 West 13th Street • PO Box 410 • Vancouver, WA 98666 • (360) 397-2366 • Fax (360) 397-2367

Chuck E. Atkins, Sheriff

Enforcement Branch

Chief Criminal Deputy John Chapman

2016 Year-End Report

Patrol

Clark County is a growing county with an estimated 2% annual increase in population. The estimated population in 2016 is 461,010. Assuming an annual 2% population growth the county population will be approximately 519,000 people by the end of 2022.

This increase in population will undoubtedly create an increase in workload for sheriff's office employees; however this increase in workload will most likely not be uniform across the different workgroups within the sheriff's office. Much of this population increase will occur within the urban growth boundaries of the municipalities within Clark County and may not drive a corresponding increase in workload for our patrol division. We also expect that over the next five years several cities will continue to annex unincorporated areas which will further buffer increases in workload for our patrol staff. This is not to say that our patrol workload will not increase. We do expect increases in patrol workload due to population increases but also due to increasing indications of an upward trend in incidents related to homelessness, mental illness, and drug addiction.

For 2016, two significant issues dominated the year for the Patrol Division. One was a change in the agency report management system (RMS). This was a welcome change from the RegJIN system that came online in 2014; but it was still change. This resulted in re-training all of the enforcement deputies to a new system. Fortunately, the new RMS was far more intuitive and user friendly. The second issue was the shortage in personnel that caused overtime to soar and severely taxed the deputies working extra shift to fill the vacancies.

In order to fulfill our mission to protect and safeguard our community, eleven deputies were removed from a number of specialty unit positions and moved to patrol. This allowed a better response to 911 calls for service at the expense of investigative follow-up. As we gain additional employees, these specialty unit positions will be refilled.

Special Operations Division

The Sheriff's Office Special Operations Division is comprised of highly trained, highly dedicated personnel that work in a variety of specialized policing disciplines to include: Sheriff's Marine Unit, Traffic Unit, Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Unit, Sheriff's Canine Unit, Portland Metropolitan Explosive Disposal Unit, Tactical Detective Unit, Tactical



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Emergency Medics Unit, Crisis Negotiators Team, Air Support Unit, Mobile Response Team (MRT) and our Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT).

The Special Operations Commander has additional duties that include supervision and/or liaison for, or committee membership with: Regional Active Threats Response Policy Group, Region IV Law Enforcement Sub-Committee, WA State Traffic Safety LEL, WA State Target Zero Program, The Safe Street Task Force and the U.S Marshals Violent Offender Task Force.

A well-managed “team” response is critical to the safety of victims, citizen bystanders, public and private business, government officials, school districts, faith based organizations, other law enforcement personnel and all identified suspects. Many of these teams must adhere to national standards and industry best practices; most teams have members that are required to keep up with yearly certifications and/or continuous training and case law updates.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office is committed to recruiting, testing, selecting, training and supporting our many special operations units. The Clark County Sheriff's Office is committed to the citizens of Clark County, our valued law enforcement partners and other identified stakeholders.

Some of the most noteworthy highlights in 2016 included the following accomplishments of the personnel assigned to Special Operations. Those accomplishments are/were:

- Responded to and successfully resolved multiple dangerous emergency call outs
- Planned, staffed, rehearsed and executed numerous pre-planned missions
- Negotiated the surrender of a person in crisis or provided the intelligence and background info necessary for others to respond to a person in crisis
- Logged over a thousand hours of investigation time in support of patrol operations
- Provided hundreds of hours of surveillance in support of a mission or investigation
- Worked as a liaison between LE and the ILWU strikes, the Tesoro Oil Terminal Public Hearings, the Presidential election results protests and other incidents of potential civil unrest
- Provided a safe, family friendly environment at the 2016 Washougal MX
- Patrolled hundreds of miles of waterway, was point of contact with USCG and taught countless classes on boating and water safety
- Was involved in an OIS to defend self and others
- Asked to investigate more than one OIS
- Investigated multiple fatal crashes and provided assistance to other agencies for the same
- Conducted countless commercial vehicle inspections to protect our motoring public



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- Provided a WAC and WSPCA certified K9 program and furthered the development and strength of our Regional K9 Program
- Responded to countless reports of suspicious explosive devices and provided expert training on explosives and how best to protect one's self from those devices
- Helped to design a new Marine Boathouse for the Columbia River
- Helped build new surveillance technology for SWAT and TDU
- Trained an entire department on tactical emergency tourniquets and quick clot bandages and provided expert medical support for numerous dangerous missions and training exercises
- Helped plan for future growth through researching and purchasing new equipment
- Flew numerous air support mission on emergency call outs, DTF follows and SWAT missions
- Meticulous tracking of and accountability for all issued equipment, ammo and tools
- Reviewed and offered recommendations to improve endless amounts of policies
- Re-wrote SOPs and training manuals
- Developed new lesson plans for the Skills Manager course catalogs
- Worked with DTF to build two surveillance type undercover SUVs
- Assisted Cowlitz County, Skamania County, Gresham PD, Portland and Multnomah County
- Trained their peers both as in service experts and as career enhancement for others
- Trained hundreds of other first responders on new tactics in the ever changing world of Rapid Responder, Active Threats Training
- Trained hundreds of citizens, small and large businesses and stakeholders on LE role
- Participated in countless Open House events and citizen demonstrations designed to educate the community
- Participated with committee groups on projects designed to improve services and/or reduce liability
- Guided administrators in their decision making by providing wise counsel on a variety of specialized topics

Headquarters Division

The Headquarters Precinct is a division of the Clark County Sheriff's Enforcement Branch. The Headquarters Precinct includes the following units: Accreditation and Planning, Campus, Case Management, Crime Analysis, Internal Affairs, Public Information and Sex Offender Registration. In 2016 there were 13 full time CCSO personnel assigned to the Headquarters Precinct. The members of the Headquarters Precinct are professional and dedicated individuals providing police services to the Clark County Campus and conducting administrative investigations. The Headquarters Precinct also provides accreditation, planning, unusual occurrence and special project support.



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The duty of the Case Management Sergeant is to supervise the Campus Unit; coordinate the courthouse security vendor's staff; coordinate and assign cases for follow-up investigation as well as being the point of contact for outside agency requests for assistance and/or investigations. This person also audits for quality and timeliness of case related report submissions. The Case Management Sergeant receives routine initial reports of crimes and other instances which deputies in the field take and need to complete follow-up investigations; receives requests for follow-up investigations from the Prosecuting Attorney's office (and other law & justice organizations). The Case Management Sergeant also receives referrals for possible investigations from Child Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, and law enforcement agencies outside of the immediate area. This position provides a single repository for this information to be received, assigned and tracked through the Case Management System. The most significant event for Case Management was the "go live" of the new EIS reporting system. EIS has been well received and workflows and processes are becoming stable.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office Crime Analyst's mission is to work with regional law enforcement and specialty units to provide current and pertinent data for use in the apprehension and prevention of criminal activity. In 2016, much of the Crime Analyst's time and effort was spent on the EIS project, cutting into time spent on crime analysis. The implementation of the RMS and associated tasks did not allow for much crime analysis in 2016. We are hopeful that being able to help influence the system design and training will help in future analytical projects, but do not expect to be able to test this until after summer of 2017.

The purpose of the Internal Affairs Unit is to conduct investigations of alleged misconduct and/or violations of Sheriff's Office General Orders. Conducting fair and impartial investigations maintains the integrity of the Sheriff's Office, and is essential in maintaining the public's trust in their law enforcement representatives. The Sheriff's Office has two investigators to investigate major complaints. Special skill and understanding of civil, employment, and administrative law is required to complete these types of investigations in a competent manner. The members of the unit are called upon each year to provide similar services to other agencies within the local area, region, or state.

In 2016, the internal affairs function completed 76 investigations and inquiries. This compares to 77 in 2015. Included in the investigation count were citizen complaints, inquiries, internal complaints, outside investigations and service complaints. Also, a consistent procedure for the purging of IA files was implemented. The unit is now in compliance with state of Washington archive retention standards.



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The PIO position is an integral function within the Sheriff's Office duty to provide timely accurate and useful information to the public through media outlets. Through the media, citizens are informed of the operations and crime prevention efforts of the Sheriff's Office that affect them. The Sheriff's Office recognizes the importance of cooperative media relations and shall take all necessary steps to insure prompt and impartial disclosures of information in all cases of crimes or incidents of substantial importance.

The Clark County Sheriff's Office SOR unit continues to provide cost effective, timely and efficient service to the community despite an increasing work load and the constant requirement for accuracy. In 2016, the SOR unit averaged nearly 1,400 sex offenders requiring differing levels of monitoring. The SOR Unit is viewed as a model program by other regional SOR units, state and federal agencies with the responsibility for monitoring sex offenders and alerting the public to newly released SOR. The SOR unit currently monitors 1,347 sex offenders including 90 convicted sex offenders that are homeless and by state law must report in (*in person visit*) with SOR detectives weekly. At request of WASPC/SOPB, create a policy for the process and criteria regarding a sex or kidnapping offender's request for assigned risk level classification review.

Accreditation and Planning functions include project research and management, multi-year planning, administrative reporting, operational planning and maintenance of written directives, and accreditation master files. This unit is responsible for monitoring and reporting on changes, programs, policies and procedures to assure compliance with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. – CALEA.

Significant Events:

- The Sheriff's Office social media presence continues to have the largest number of followers and likes of all public safety Facebook sites in SW Washington
- Planned a successful and well attended Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony
- Participated in planning security for the Oil Terminal Hearings
- Numerous successful identification and apprehension made from tips generated on Facebook posts asking for the public's assistance in identification of suspects
- CALEA PowerDMS files, proofs and written directives are **85%** completed and on track for the 2017 CALEA Assessor's visit
- Sgt. Neiman re-appointed as NWPAC Vice-President

Investigations Division

Investigative Services include the following units: Major Crimes, Children's Justice Center, Domestic Violence/Child Recovery and the Drug Task Force. Both the Drug Task Force and the Children's Justice Center are multi-jurisdictional in nature with law enforcement and support



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personnel from several agencies. The annual report for the Children's Justice Center is not included in the Investigative Services annual report. The Children's Justice Center produces its own annual report each year. Investigative Services has one detective assigned to the Digital Evidence Cybercrime Unit (DECU). DECU is hosted by the Vancouver Police Department. There are 14 full time CCSO personnel assigned to Investigative Services with approximately 4-6 vacancies. The members of the Investigative Services are professional and dedicated individuals investigating a broad range of incidents and providing accreditation, planning, unusual occurrence and special project support.

Reserve Unit

The Clark County Sheriff's Reserve is organized and serves at the discretion of the Sheriff. The Reserve function is to provide supplemental personnel for routine law enforcement activities, to enhance public service functions of the Sheriff's Office, and to assist where needed. The Reserve Deputy is commissioned and sworn with full law enforcement powers.

An effective reserve law enforcement volunteer program is often measured by basic metrics such as the number of hours of volunteer service or the number of arrests or citations issued. Our program is no different. We can point to the fact that our 31 reserve deputies donated 3,864 volunteer hours of patrol time to our community in 2016, answered 1,011 calls for service, and made 603 traffic stops.

Every reserve deputy is required to perform community service work including the staffing of prescription drug take-back events, providing traffic control for parades and conducting child fingerprinting at community outreach events. In 2016, our reserve deputies performed 524 hours of community service work. Between patrol hours, community service, and hours donated in support of various Sheriff's Office activities, our reserve deputy sheriffs donated 9,424 hours to the citizens of Clark County in 2016.

Goals for 2017

1. Close Central Precinct - Approximately 20 years ago the Clark County Sheriff's Office began using a portion of a public works building in Brush Prairie as a Central Precinct. This facility is no longer tenable as a law enforcement facility as it fails to meet current county code and is in need of significant ongoing maintenance. The precinct facility will most likely close during the first quarter of 2017 with all staff being moved to the West Precinct. Our goal is to locate a new Central Precinct in the Brush Prairie or Battle Ground area, either through new construction, shared space with other public safety agencies, or through the purchase or lease of an appropriate facility.



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2. Diversify the Workforce - Law enforcement is often viewed as a white male dominated industry. Over the years this view has shifted somewhat as barriers to employment have been reduced. As an industry, gains have been made primarily through the increase in the number of female employees; however the employment of people from ethnically or racially diverse backgrounds has lagged. Within the Clark County Sheriff's Office, the demographics of our workforce continue to significantly differ from the community we serve. Our goal is to significantly increase the diversity of our workforce to better match the community we serve.

3. Maintain Adequate Staffing - The safety of our employees and our community demand that staffing be sufficient to fully staff critical assignments including patrol, corrections, and support functions. Recruitment and retention of a quality workforce is an increasingly challenging endeavor as the pool of qualified applicants shrinks, an aging workforce retires, and as negative viewpoints of law enforcement reduce the attractiveness of criminal justice related jobs. Our goal is to hire and retain a diversified workforce which is adequate to maintain the safety of our employees and our community.