



SANDOVAL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT YEAR 2019



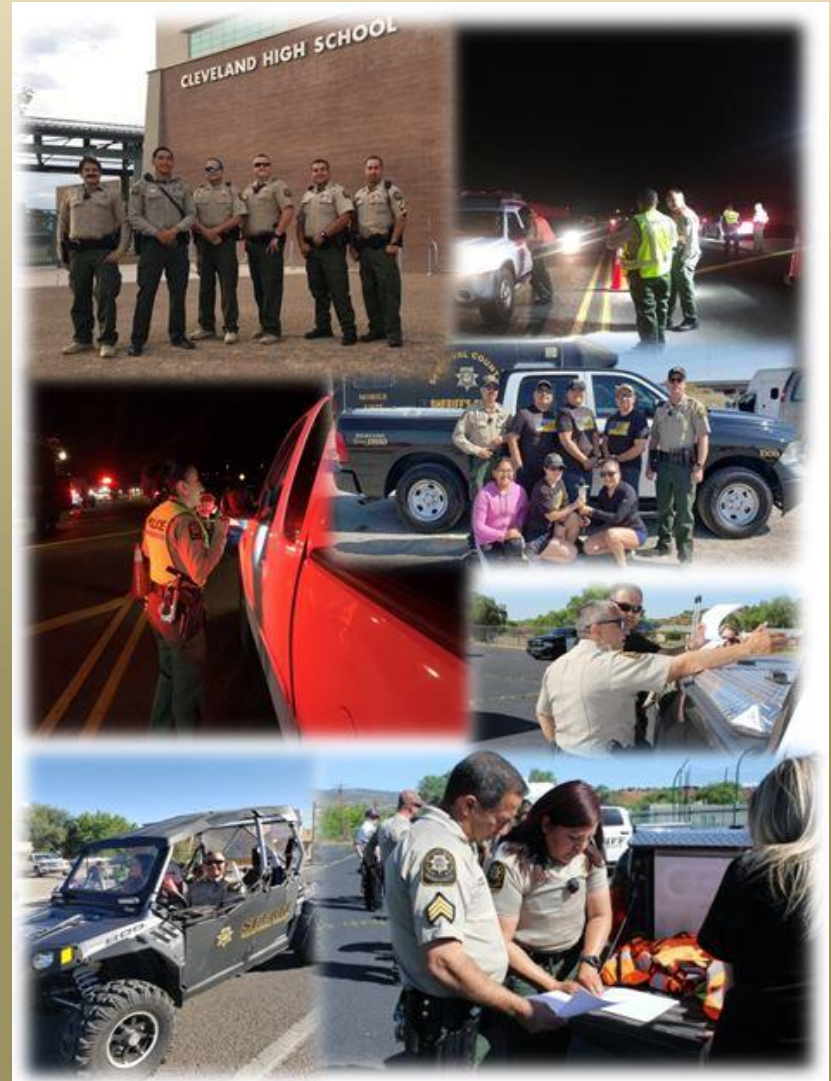


MISSION STATEMENT

*The Sandoval County Sheriff's Office is committed to working in a partnership with individuals, communities, businesses, and other divisions and agencies to provide **Safety and Quality Service** in order to promote a high quality of life for the people of Sandoval County. This will be accomplished through fair enforcement of the law and diligent defense of the rights of all. The Sheriff, deputies and staff strive to provide professional services to the public in an effective, efficient and timely manner through communication, consideration and cooperation.*

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- END OF WATCH



ABOUT SANDOVAL COUNTY

County History

Sandoval County has a rich culture and was a thriving area centuries before Don Francisco de Coronado explored and camped near present-day Bernalillo in 1540. Prehistoric artifacts in many areas of the County date back thousands of years, with archaeological finds suggesting that Sandia Man lived and hunted in the area thousands of years ago.

The area consisting of modern-day Sandoval County was included in one of two partidos, or districts, created in the New Mexico territory. It became part of Santa Ana County, one of seven political subdivisions created in 1852. Sandoval County was first established as a separate entity on March 10, 1903, nine years before New Mexico's statehood. The area that forms Los Alamos County was separated from Sandoval County in 1949.

County Today

Today, Sandoval County encompasses 3,714 square miles of diverse geography and has a population of approximately 140,000 people. It includes the incorporated municipalities of Bernalillo, Cuba, Corrales, Jemez Springs, Rio Rancho and San Ysidro, as well as numerous unincorporated communities, and all or portions of seven Indian pueblos and all or portions of six Tribal entities/lands.

Sheriffs Office General Information

54 Sworn Deputies

3 Court Security Officers

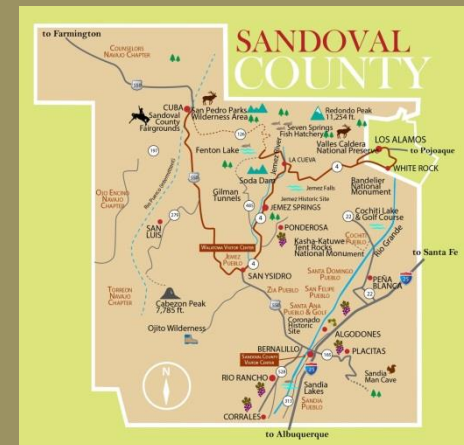
2 Animal Control Officers

6 Civilian Support Employees

1,516 Miles of Roads Maintained that are Patrolled

3,714 Square Miles in Size

13 Pueblos and Tribal Entities/Lands we assist with Law Enforcement concerns



Message from the Sheriff

I am pleased to present the Sandoval County Sheriff's Office 2019 Annual Report.

Throughout the past year, members of YOUR Sheriff's Office have worked diligently to provide the highest level of professional public service. I want to thank the highly talented and dedicated employees of the Sheriff's Office, for their hard work and dedication. While I am proud of our accomplishments, I recognize many variables that contribute to Sandoval County being a safe place where people want to live and work. The strong support from the County Manager and County Commissioner's, and community support and partnerships with the citizens throughout Sandoval County are clearly reflected in our ability to help keep Sandoval County safe. In most categories, crime in Sandoval County has either been lower or flat when compared to previous years. (Highlighted in this report)

Successfully holding back and deterring crime is an example of the excellent job deputies are performing in serving the citizens of Sandoval County.

In 2019, as your newly elected Sheriff, I created a Street Crimes & Intelligence Unit and K-9 Unit with a focus on Narcotics. I created this unit because I have lived and worked as a Law Enforcement Officer in Sandoval County my whole life. I have seen firsthand drug addiction in the lives of friends and neighbors and the heartbreaking destruction it causes. Not to mention its impact on drug-fuelled theft and other criminal activity. Over the last year, this unit although in its infancy has had numerous successes in taking illicit drugs off the street. (Highlighted in this report)

As your Sheriff, I am extremely confident we will continue to build upon the achievements and successes accomplished thus far. I am committed to strengthen area community participation and stakeholders in participative problem-solving and leverage both State and Federal resources.



Sheriff's Goals for 2019

Pro-active Risk Management Liability Exposure: A Management and Employee mandate to identify areas of high risk liability exposure. A management review of areas identified, utilizing the assistance of the County Attorney to determine measures that will be taken to correct and or adopt best practices in areas of Policies, Equipment, Vehicle use, etc. in order to reduce liability risk/exposure.

Multi-jurisdictional Drug Task Force: Create a County multi-jurisdictional drug task force that is comprised of Law Enforcement Officers from the Sandoval County Sheriff's Office, Rio Rancho Police Department, Town of Bernalillo Police Department and other surrounding Law Enforcement agencies that wish to participate. This unit is designed to investigate street level drug trafficking, including but not limited to, drug intelligence, drug interdiction and undercover operatives.

Maximize Grant Potential: Establish a Grant Team that will focus on future grant opportunities and federal financial assistance to support law enforcement and public safety activities including Cops Grant manpower.

Manpower Increase: Increase Deputy Manpower 10% a year over the next 4 yrs. total increase of approximately 22 Deputies over the next 4 yrs.

Competitive Wages: Continue to work with the community for Deputy pay to stay competitive in the wage market.

Professional Development: The goal to establish a reputation of excellence in the law enforcement community by Increasing Professional Training for Deputies and upgrade and enhance equipment that will improve and advance their skill set by following the latest trends in law enforcement training, equipment and tactics. Create and implement a self-sufficient Tactics Unit within the Sheriff's Office that is capable of serving the citizens of Sandoval County in situations that exceed the capabilities of basic law enforcement officers. These situations include responding to and resolving active shooters, hostage situations, serving high risk arrest and search warrants, serving warrants regarding dangerous narcotics distribution, apprehension of fleeing felons, rescuing injured officers or any other situation in which a highly trained tactical response is needed within the county.

Animal Protection: Enhance Animal Protection including comprehensive training and certification of Animal Control Officers and establishing a Sheriff's Office/Community Services Joint County sponsored non-profit Animal facility.

Community Policing & Outreach Initiatives: Create strong programs and services that solve crime, provide education to keep you safe, and serve the community in cost-effective ways such as increase Community Policing initiatives including the creation of Neighborhood Watch groups (*Including an e-mail alert and notify system*) in Cochiti, Jemez, La Madera, Unincorporated areas of Cuba and other various areas of the County.

Create a Strategic Planning Board: whose mission is to support and share in the responsibility with the Sheriff's Office in protecting our community from crime and its consequences. The board will maintain order so as to enhance the quality of life in our neighborhoods by service as a liaison between the community and the Sheriff's Office. Members of the Board would comprise of Sheriff's Deputies, selected County Commissioners, County Manager and citizen members who will encourage the concept of teamwork and greater community – law enforcement interaction to solve the problems of our community.



COMMAND & SUPERVISORY STAFF



Jesse James Casaus, Sheriff
Joe Gonzales, Undersheriff
Allen Mills, Captain

Frank Tomlinson, Lieutenant – *Patrol, Community Services & Animal Control.*

Jason Benally, Lieutenant – *Traffic Investigations, Criminal Investigations & Civil Division.*

Bryan Peters, Lieutenant- *Special Operations, Street Crimes & Intelligence Unit.*

John Castañeda, Lieutenant - *Administrative, Professional Standards.*

Audeliz Nieves, Sergeant –*Patrol*

Rene Alvarado, Sergeant- *Patrol*

Scott Holt, Sergeant- *Patrol*

Jonathan Crespín, Sergeant- *Patrol*

Orlando Carrillo – *Patrol*

Carrie Estrada, Sergeant- *Civil Division*

Olga Guymon, Sergeant – *SORNA*

Tommy Griffin, Sergeant – *Investigations Division*

Robert Marshall, Sergeant – *Tactical Tracking Team & Patrol*

William Dunaway, Sergeant - *Street Crimes & Intelligence Unit*

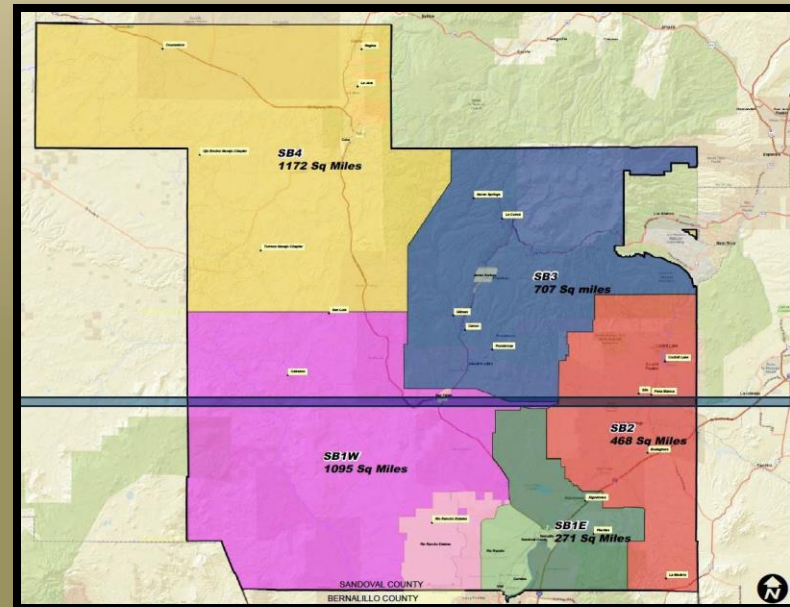


Patrol Division



Patrol is the largest division in the Sheriffs Office. Patrol is currently made up of three shifts that work around the clock, 365 days a year.

When fully staffed, Patrol is staffed with 26 Deputies & 6 Sergeants. Patrol Deputies are primarily responsible to provide for public safety by maintaining order, responding to emergencies, protecting people and property, enforcing motor vehicle and criminal laws, and promoting good community relations.





CALLS FOR SERVICE AND OFFICER INITIATED INCIDENTS



Total Calls for Service – 30,000

(Approx. based on date from previous years due to computer CAD changes in 2018-2019)

Incident Reports Completed & Investigated – 2,237

Vehicle Crash's Investigated – 407

Animal Control Incidents Investigated- 518

Traffic Citations Issued- 4556

DWI Arrests – 109

Total Arrests -616



Deputies ranked in the Top Ten Measurable Law Enforcement Performance Indicators “Traffic Citations, Crashes Investigated, Complaint Reports Initiated, DWI Arrests & Criminal Arrests”

Patrol Top 10 – Citations

<u>Deputy</u>	<u>Citations</u>
John Colvin - TIE	189
Pedro Chacon - TIE	189
Christopher VanHoose	152
Flavio Ortega	145
Donaciano Pacheco	135
Phillip Montano	134
Audeliz Nieves	129
Marcus Ward	128
Kevin Littlejohn	117
Jonathan Crespín - TIE	109
Rene Alvarado - TIE	109
Frank Tomlinson	107

Patrol Top 5 – Crashes Taken

<u>Deputy</u>	<u>Crashes</u>
Flavio Ortega	20
Christopher VanHoose	19
Marcus Ward - TIE	16
Elias Chavez - TIE	16
Jonathan Crespín	15
Diana Valencia - TIE	14
John Colvin - TIE	14
Hayden Walker - TIE	14
Evan Honeyestewa - TIE	14
Pedro Chacon - TIE	14
Trent Meyers - TIE	14
Bill Sanchez - TIE	14

Patrol Top 10 - Arrests

<u>Deputy</u>	<u>Arrests</u>
Phillip Montano	91
Marcus Ward	41
John Colvin	30
Diana Valencia	22
Pedro Chacon - TIE	21
Hayden Walker - TIE	21
Elias Chavez	20
Evan Honeyestewa	19
Christopher VanHoose	17
Flavio Ortega	16
Jonathan Crespín	15

Patrol Top 10 – Reports Taken

<u>Deputy</u>	<u>Reports</u>
Phillip Montano	132
Diana Valencia	67
John Colvin - TIE	66
Marcus Ward - TIE	66
Eric Steen - TIE	66
Flavio Ortega	65
Christopher VanHoose	61
Hayden Walker	55
Evan Honeyestewa	54
Jonathan Crespín	52
Pedro Chacon - TIE	48
Elias Chavez - TIE	48
Trent Meyers	44

Patrol Top 5 – DWI

<u>Deputy</u>	<u>DWI</u>
Marcus Ward	14
Jonathan Crespín – TIE	8
Pedro Chacon - TIE	8
John Colvin	7
Elias Chavez - TIE	5
Frank Concha - TIE	5
Hayden Walker	4





PATROL TOP STORY



On February 14, 2019 at about 0704 hours deputies responded to the active shooter call at Cleveland High School in Rio Rancho. Sandoval County Sheriff's Deputies were among the first wave of law enforcement officers to arrive at the High School. Deputies immediately teamed up with other Law Enforcement Officers in a search to confront and neutralize the shooter. Within minutes the suspect was located outside the building where he was taken into custody without any further incident. Deputies are recognized for their superior performances of duties and outstanding courage in the line of duty, in a perilous situation whereby a major threat to the welfare of school children and the community was imminent.





Crime Statistics At a Glance



Crime in the "Unincorporated" Sandoval County has been held in check and in many cases down.

Criminal Homicide Reported *"Note; All Homicides were solved and presented to the DA for prosecution."*

2017- 4

2018- 1

2019- 1

Forcible Rape Reported *"Note; All Crimes in this category were solved and presented to the DA for prosecution."*

2017- 3

2018- 1

2019- 1

Robbery Reported

2017- 0

2018- 2

2019- 1

Assaults Reported *"Typically family or friend related and are typically solved at the scene."*

2017- 128

2018- 109

2019- 149

Motor Vehicle Thefts

2017- 8

2018- 4

2019- 2 "One was a car left running in driveway in Bernalillo and the other a dirt bike"

Auto Burglaries County Wide: (More than half the vehicle burglaries were unlocked vehicles.)

2017-

2018- 31

2019 - 27

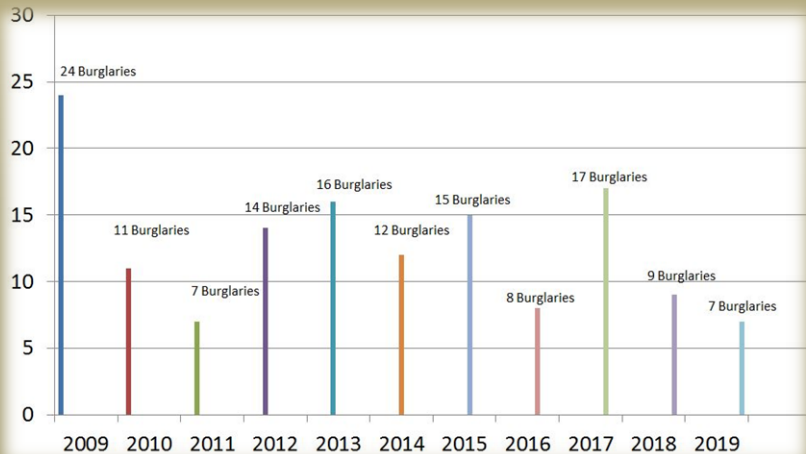
Auto Burglaries Placitas

2017- 8 total Auto Burglaries

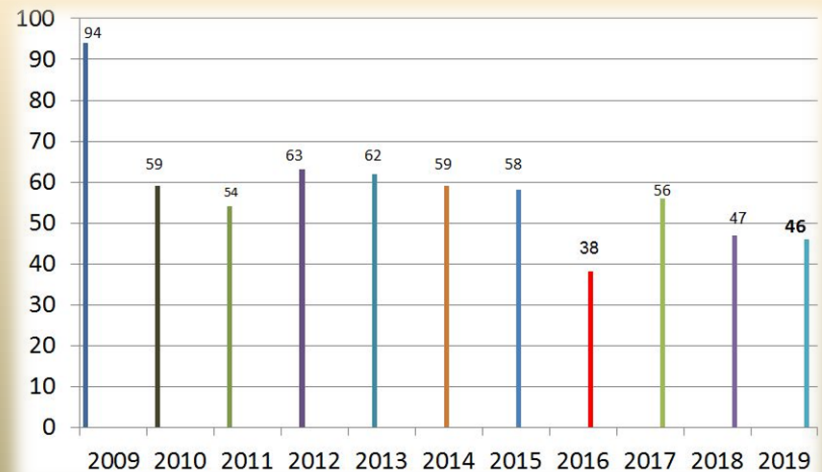
2018 – 6 total (Majority in the Placitas Trails Area near Mile Marker 1 on 165)

2019 – 4 total Auto Burglaries

The Sheriff is keenly aware that being a victim of a “Residential Burglary” can be a traumatic experience for many and can lead to feelings of anger, mistrust of other and fear. Residential Burglaries is a crime that the Sandoval County Sheriffs Office takes very seriously. Patrol Sergeants are quick to step up extra patrols in areas where a Burglary has occurred.



Residential Burglaries Placitas
 2017- 17
 2018- 9
 2019- 7



Residential Burglaries in Sandoval County
 2017- 56
 2018- 47
 2019- 46

Every Residential Burglary is assigned to a Detective who aggressively investigates every lead. Detectives check pawn shop data bases and scour social media for stolen property.

As your Sheriff, I am proud the Clearance rate for the crime of Residential Burglary for 2019 was approximately 23.9% above the national average of 13.5%.



Traffic Services Unit



Traffic Services Deputies work in a partnership with patrol deputies and surrounding agencies to continually improve traffic safety through enforcement, crash investigation, special event planning and safety education.

Enforcement activities include: excessive speed enforcement initiatives, road rage and aggressive driving enforcement, BKLUP, Click-It-Or-Ticket enforcement, participation in DUI Task Force initiatives, Placitas "Free-Roaming Horse" corridors traffic enforcement, bicycle safety saturation and drug interdiction operations. **In 2019, Sandoval County Deputies arrested 184 impaired drivers (DWI/DUI) and issued 6,695 Traffic Citations.**

Traffic Services Deputies on a daily basis are responsible for the investigations of major vehicle crashes to include fatal collisions. In 2019, Sandoval County Deputies investigated 701 vehicle crashes. Deputies coordinated numerous special events, including funeral motorcade escorts. In 2019, Sandoval County Deputies assisted with the Rio Rancho Presidential visit.

Education activities include: child safety seat installation events, participating at high schools driver safety events, and social media message via "Traffic Tip Tuesday".

Throughout the year the Sandoval Sheriff's Office participates and commits deputies to Safer New Mexico Now programs that enhance roadway safety and help make communities safer.





Traffic Fatal Team



When a fatal or serious traffic crash occurs in Sandoval County the Sandoval County Sheriff's Office Fatal Crash Investigation Team is responsible for the investigation. The need for a highly trained and specialized team was brought about by the intricacy of traffic collisions and to further understand complex causal factors. The Fatal Crash Investigation Team consists of a Lieutenant and (2)-two Deputies with advanced training in crash investigation and reconstruction. The object of the team is to provide the Sheriff's Office with the tools and knowledge to investigate and analyze major injury or fatal collisions. The goal of the team is to be able to identify the factors and causes of collisions that occur in the County and develop information that may lead to the prevention of further incidents.

Members of the team are deputies assigned to Traffic and other units within the Sheriff's Office. Members can be called in at any time of the day or night for an investigation. They are trained in various levels of collision investigation including At Scene Investigations, Crash Reconstruction, and Mathematical Calculations to Determine Speeds, Skid Mark Analysis and Velocity Calculations. Members are also versed in the use of scanning equipment and computer aided diagramming software. This equipment is used to create a factual diagram of the scene, which can later be used in the reconstruction of a collision or for use in court.

In 2019 team members have investigated 8 fatal or major injury collisions and have assisted the Operations and Investigations Division on numerous crimes scenes. Members are committed to providing quality investigative assistance and to identifying causational factors to help prevent further incidents from occurring in the County of Sandoval.

In addition to collision investigations, team members are available to respond to assist the Operations and Investigations Divisions with homicides or other major cases.





Criminal Investigations Unit



The Criminal Investigations Unit is comprised of highly motivated and trained sworn deputies who provide support in many areas. The division's values of Integrity, Professionalism, Accountability, High Quality Service and Customer Focus are in line with the Sheriff's Office Mission.

Criminal cases requiring further investigation are received in large part from the initial reports taken from deputies while on patrol. Initial Incident reports are submitted to the Criminal Investigations Division and reviewed by the Detective Sergeant for assignment. Detectives are responsible for various types of investigations, which may include: homicide, robbery, burglary, auto theft, identify theft, organized crimes, missing persons, juvenile crime, fraud, narcotics, criminal intelligence, aggravated assault/battery, sexual assault, computer crime, domestic violence, arson, and other various crimes. Detectives spend a considerable amount of time assisting deputies in the field and responding to calls to assist, while maintaining their own caseload. Detectives also utilize several online programs to track property and locate stolen property. Currently, the unit is supervised by a Lieutenant and staffed by one sergeant and two detectives.



The Criminal Investigations Unit investigated 85 cases in 2019.



STREET CRIMES & INTELLIGENCE UNIT



When Jesse James Casaus took office as the new Sheriff, one of his first priorities was to address the illegal drug problem in Sandoval County. **THE STREET CRIMES & INTELLIGENCE UNIT**, was created to be a multi-purpose unit that could address not only street level drug trafficking, but also other criminal activity. The unit consists of a Lieutenant, Sergeant, 2 Investigators and a K-9 Deputy.



CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/SEIZED	QUANTITY/WEIGHT	STREET VALUE
STOLEN VEHICLES	6	
STOLEN LICENSE PLATES	4	
FIREARMS	11	
WARRANTS	42	
NARCOTICS- HEROIN	20.5g	\$2,050
NARCOTICS- FENTANYL	10g	\$180,000
NARCOTICS- COCAINE	61.8g	\$2,500
NARCOTICS- SUBOXONE	20 Dosage Strips	\$100
NARCOTICS- METHAMPHETAMINE	179.9g	\$3,500
NARCOTICS- OXYCODONE	7 Pills	\$100
NARCOTICS- MARIJUANA	1,620.8g (3.57 Pounds)	\$12,000
NARCOTICS- METHADONE	189g	\$500
NARCOTICS- XANAX	1.75 Pills	\$10
NARCOTICS- CONCENTRATED THC	16g	\$1,200
NARCOTICS- PRESCRIPTION PILLS	1000 (Mixed)	UNK
"Collected stats are activity to April 1, 2020"		TOTAL: \$201,960

This unit spent the early part of 2019 , working with DEA and other Narcotic agencies in the state in an effort to model successful Narcotic Units and avoid the pitfalls and mistakes that are normally made by newly created units. Once the Unit hit the ground running the result has been the arrests and prosecution of numerous street dealers, several recovered stolen vehicles and a substantial amount of illegal drugs including the very dangerous synthetic opioid "Fentanyl".



CIVIL DIVISION



The Sheriff's Civil Unit is supervised by a Lieutenant and staffed by a Sergeant, (3)-three deputies, (3) Court Security Officers and a civilian Clerk. The Civil Unit provides a wide variety of services for Sandoval County, these include, but not limited to:

- Acts as a messenger of the Courts in all civil matters such as service of civil process, execution of court orders and process service.
- Provides armed Law Enforcement Officers at the County Court House and adjacent county buildings, to ensure the safety of persons and property.
- Responsible for the court ordered transportation and extradition of prisoners from detention facilities to and from court. Prisoner extraditions can occur as close as a neighboring County to as far as the state of New York. *(Sandoval County Deputies conducted 1,924 prisoner transports in the year 2019. Transport orders have increased, year after year over the last 10 years and increased approximately 67% over the last three years.)*

The Sheriff's Civil Clerical personnel process incoming requests for service, enter them into the civil computer system and distribute process service and enforcement actions to the field deputies for completion. Clerical personnel collect money pursuant to wage garnishments, bank levies and other enforcement actions and distribute it to the judgment creditor(s) or a designee towards satisfying the judgment. Clerical personnel also process claims, stays, exemptions and bankruptcies on civil enforcement actions and communicate with the courts to determine dispositions. Clerical personnel maintain records, return writs to the court and distribute proofs of service or service attempt reports to the requester of a service or enforcement action.

Civil Division Activity

Writs Served – 177

Summons Served – 637

Subpoenas Served – 1136

Domestic Violence Orders etc. – 494

Prisoner Transports - 1924 (Prisoner Transports have increased substantially over the last 5 years and require a sizeable amount of time, money and manpower.)



Evidence & Property Division



The management and storage of Evidence is vital to prove the circumstances of an event and aids in proving an individual's guilt or innocence in a case. The Evidence & Property Division safely and securely stores items in more than 3,000 cases, classified as evidence, safekeeping or found property collected by the Sandoval County Sheriff's Office. The division is supervised by the Captain and staffed by Gabriela Chacon who is a trained "Certified" Property & Evidence Specialist. Gabriela Chacon has been trained in specific guidelines based on federal, state and local statutes to be in compliance with the law and industry best practices in the retention, storage and release or disposal of property and evidence.

Property and Evidence responsibilities include:

Property and Evidence specialist receives all property taken into the department's custody including, but not limited to, cash, jewelry, guns and various weapons, narcotics, vehicles, bikes, blood samples, urine samples and other evidence related to assaults, robberies, thefts, homicides and other crimes.

Manages the daily operations of the evidence/property room and maintains a record of all property movement transactions within the facility as well as movement to courts, crime labs, investigations and property viewings.

Safeguards and maintains the integrity of all property and evidence which can withstand detailed scrutiny in accordance with state laws and departmental policies and procedures.

Arranges for and/or transports evidence to and from the state laboratory for scientific examination and updates movement of evidence on the computer system.

The Evidence Property Specialist responsible for logging and maintaining all property received on a case until there is final court adjudication. There are various requirements concerning the storage and disposal of property. These laws specify the amount of time an item must be retained by law enforcement and the process of required notifications.

The division has constant checks and balances including audits, inventories, safety inspections and random spot checks performed throughout the year to assure all policies and best practices are being followed.





K-9 UNIT



The Sandoval County Sheriff's Office established its K-9 Unit in 2019. This new unit consists of Sandoval County Sheriff's Deputies Luke Osborn, with K9 Maverick Baron Harris and Deputy A.J. Noriega with K9 Candice. K9 Maverick Baron Harris was donated by The Hometown Foundation Inc. who supports Law Enforcement agencies with Police K-9s as well as to support them with vital safety equipment and training. The department's K-9 unit serves an invaluable role assisting the agency and others in the accomplishment of mission objectives. The superior sense of smell, hearing and potential aggressiveness of a trained law enforcement canine is a valuable supplement to law enforcement manpower.

Deputy Osborn and Noriega have a strong commitment to the program. The dogs live with the family of the handler and obey their handlers without hesitation and are able to work under the most stressful situations. The dogs have an innate sense of when they will be required to assist their partner, and they look forward to coming to work. Currently, the K-9 unit will be working a modified swing shift with hours from 2:30 P.M. to midnight.

K9 Maverick Baron Harris is trained in detection, tracking and trailing. The unit train for real life applications of tracking, building searches, area searches, obedience, suspect apprehensions and anything else a patrol K-9 might encounter. K9 Maverick Baron Harris is specifically trained in the tracking and trailing of fleeing felons and lost children or missing persons. Maverick is trained in searching large areas or buildings for hiding suspects, and can enter small areas that deputies would not be able to access. He is also invaluable in high-risk situations such as foot chases where the dogs' speed and tracking ability are extremely useful. In 2019, K9 Maverick Baron Harris was deployed and utilized to locate and save a lost hiker in the Sandia Mountain Foothills.

K-9 Candice is a Narcotic Specific dog trained to detect marijuana, cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamines. K-9 Candice is trained to search vehicles of various types from small cars to large trucks. Buildings and structures varying in size and complexity to include detention and jail type environments.



The K-9 Unit also participates in numerous civilian functions each year. These include school visits and demonstrations at local civic groups, public education programs and recruiting events.



ANIMAL CONTROL



Total Calls for Service: 518

Self-Initiated Calls: 1112

Total Animal Control Reports: 144

Total Livestock Attacks: 65

Total Bite Investigations (Human) Reports: 11

Total Other (Dog vs Dog) Investigation Attacks: 15

Total Dogs Impounded: 83

Total Dogs Adopted (Direct from Animal Control): 14

Total Dogs Transferred to Other Shelters: 20

Total Dogs Euthanized (injury/dangerous/unadoptable): 16

Total Citations: 129

Total Reports by Animal:

- **Dog: 131 Cat: 6 Bat: 2 Snake: 5**

➤ **Impounded animals are either:**

- **Returned to Owner**
- **Adopted out via our Lost Pets webpage**
- **Transferred to other shelters for long term foster / adoption**

➤ **All wildlife trapped are relocated to safe areas away from city limits**

➤ **Animals are only euthanized by a licensed veterinarian due to untreatable injuries, proven to have attacked or killed other animals or humans (non-owner), or feral / unadoptable aggression (post behavior evaluation)**





SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION UNIT



The Sandoval County Sheriff Office Sex Offender Registration Enforcement (SORE) Unit, is composed of (1)-one Sergeant, a civilian coordinator and is assisted by Deputies in the field. The SORE Unit registers and keeps track of registered sex offenders, through registrations at the Sheriff's Office, home verification visits. SORE also registers offenders on several pueblos. The unit assists Probation & Parole on special enforcement operations, including keeping kids safe "Halloween Operation's"

The New Mexico State legislature finds that sex offenders pose a significant risk of recidivism; and the efforts of law enforcement agencies to protect their communities from sex offenders are impaired by the lack of information available concerning convicted sex offenders who live within the agencies' jurisdictions. The purpose of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act is to assist law enforcement agencies' efforts to protect their communities by: requiring sex offenders who are residents of New Mexico to register with the county sheriff of the county in which the sex offender resides; requiring sex offenders who are residents in other states, but who are employed in New Mexico or who attend school in New Mexico, to register with the county sheriff of the county in which the sex offender works or attends school; requiring the establishment of a central registry for sex offenders; and providing public access to information regarding certain registered sex offenders.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS TEAM



The Community Relations Team is committed to improving the quality of life within Sandoval County. Many strategies are utilized to fulfill this commitment, including a strong partnership with Patrol Deputies, Traffic Deputies, Detectives, School Resource Deputy, various civilian employees, and supervisors depending on the task. The Community Relations Team also works hand in hand with Sandoval County Community Services and the County Public Information Officer. The team's primary mission is to encourage the concept of partnerships between the Sheriff's Office and the community. Community Relations Team members work with residents, homeowners' associations, citizen advocates, Neighborhood Watch and various community agencies to identify and address problematic issues. The bond between the citizens and the Sandoval County Sheriff's Offices has always been strong and united, and prevention, problem solving and most importantly communication between citizens and deputies have been the key to protecting our community from crime and its consequences.

Below is a summary of the Community Relations Team's activities and accomplishments in 2019:

- Team members assisted and attended Homeowners Association meetings.
- Were instrumental in supporting the departments participation in various community events such as NM Special Olympics (*torch run, tip a cop*) Senior Olympics, Toys for Tots and community parades.
- Participated in recruiting events such as the Cuba Health Fair, Cuba County Fair, and the State Fair.
- Participated in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, fielding two locations within the County.
- Participate in Pueblo Feast Day celebrations.
- Participated in various Animal vaccination clinics sponsored by the SCSO Animal Control.
- The Sandoval County Sheriff's Office currently has (1)-one School Resource Deputy who works closely with administrators in area schools to create a safer environment for both students and staff.





TACTICAL RESPONSE TEAM



The Tactical Response Team (TRT) is a group of specially trained deputies that are utilized in a variety of law enforcement situations that exceed the capabilities of standard patrol resources. The TRT is used when circumstances exist that would establish a reasonable belief that there is a potential for violence sufficiently greater than that which would face police officers during normal and lawful execution of duty.

Each Tactical Response Team member must complete a minimum 60 hour Basic S.W.A.T. certification course covering instruction in areas of special weapons applications, tactical operations used in the apprehension of violent individuals, use of force, less than lethal weapons & munitions, search and rescue techniques, and chemical restraints. Each member receives additional training to include defensive tactics, tactical shooting, building entry, tracking an individual in any terrain, land navigation and orientation skills, running sustained operations in rural areas or compromised urban environments and other skills utilized in Search and Rescue (SAR) missions.

Members of the Tactical Response Team serve in other capacities within the agency, and are only called upon as a team during incidents where they are needed. Qualifications to become a member of the Tactical Response Team include successful completion of a rigorous physical agility test, advanced firearms qualifications and work-performance evaluations.





SEARCH & RESCUE TEAM



Traditionally, Sheriff's Patrol deputies are the first to respond to a lost or missing person. Search & Rescue calls are characterized by constantly changing task demands and collaboration between emergency response agencies such as Law Enforcement, Fire, Health Services "EMS" and various State and volunteer organizations. The ability to save a life or affect a successful rescue is often dependent upon how quickly the person can be found or reached. In 2019, the Sheriff mandated the creation of a dedicated Search & Rescue Team to improve the agencies abilities to collaborate and coordinate efforts during an emergency. This newly established program is currently staffed with a Lieutenant and (3)-three Sergeants *(Will expand as potential team candidates are trained.)* who have a sufficient

understanding of the responsibilities, needs, plans, and capabilities of their own and other participating agencies. A Team Member will assist deputies in the field as a coordinator, resource manager, etc. and once on scene will be the Incident Commander for the Sheriff's Office. Each Team Member will have access to resource contact lists regarding specialized personnel with the Sheriff's Office, an example Tactical Tracking Team, K-9 Unit and contact lists for outside agency resources such as Air Support, High Angle Rescue SAR units, etc.

Depending on the size and scope of the incident, other responding Team Members will be tasked with specific tasks and responsibilities depending on the situation, having the ultimate goal of providing additional expertise that assists in a successful rescue.





PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS



The Professional Standards Unit is an internal administrative investigations unit staffed with personnel who report directly to the Undersheriff and Sheriff. Lieutenant John Casteneda oversees the day to day operations of receiving, tracking and managing the case load of complaints and compliments. To ensure the public's trust and maintain the Offices' integrity, this unit conducts immediate and objective investigations of all complaints. It is essential that all allegations of employee misconduct are thoroughly and objectively investigated to assure the public that official misconduct will not be tolerated and, at the same time, provide a vehicle whereby officers unjustly accused can be vindicated. Lieutenant Casteneda handles the majority of complaints that are based on a misunderstanding of accepted law enforcement practices or the duties of the officer or other agency member. Many times, this type of complaint is quickly resolved after speaking with a supervisor and the citizen filing the complaint. When lengthy, complex or serious allegations of employee misconduct are alleged, Lieutenant Casteneda is assisted by supervisory staff that serves in other capacities within the agency. All assisting staff have extensive criminal and administrative investigation expertise and training. Another function of the unit is to investigate risk management issues, conduct internal audits concerning appropriate use of force standards, vehicle driving issues and other department policies and functions. The unit also works in cooperation with the County Attorney and reviews matters of civil liability for the Sheriff's Office and other county entities. The Professional Standards Unit also oversees Deputy Compliments and Awards. (See 2019-2020 Awards page)

Standards provide a measure for accountability. Sheriff Deputies are appointed by the Sheriff and exercise extraordinary authority over their fellow citizens. This responsibility requires accountability. Accountability is achieved by imposing high standards of conduct on police, including through a discipline code which deputies voluntarily accept upon their appointment. These higher standards apply to conduct both on and off-duty. Sheriff Deputies want to both be seen as professional, not just for their own satisfaction, but to enjoy public confidence that is necessary for democratic policing to succeed. It may be more so now, when law enforcement is under consistent scrutiny. The Sheriff believes fostering and promoting a sense of professionalism strengthens the relationship and trust between the citizens of Sandoval County and the Sheriff's Office!



2019 – 2020 AWARDS



2019 Deputy of the Year: Deputy LittleJohn

**Nominee for 2019 Deputy of the Year: Deputy Pedro Chacon
Sergeant Jonathan Crespín**

**Distinguished Service Award: Sergeant Rene Alvarado
Deputy Eric Steen
Deputy Trent Meyers**

**Sheriff's Meritorious Service Award: Detective Eric Miller
Lieutenant John Castaneda
Deputy Flavio Ortega**

Outstanding Public Service Award: Deputy Mary Ann Bullhead

**Sheriff's Unit Citation Award: Sergeant Jonathan Crespín
Deputy Pedro Chacon
Deputy Marcus Ward
Deputy John Colvin
Deputy Anna Wendt
Deputy Orlando Carrillo**

**Employee Performance Award: Victoria Aragon
Gabriella Chacon**





SHERIFF'S FLEET MANAGEMENT & EQUIPMENT UNIT



This year, the new Sheriff created a "Sheriff's Fleet Management & Equipment Unit" whose primary function is to provide:

- Sheriff's Office employees with safe and reliable vehicles so they can more effectively perform their duties responding to emergencies and providing quality police service to those who live and work in Sandoval County and surrounding areas.
- Sheriff's Office employees with uniforms, protective equipment, materials, and other "police specific" equipment. Makes equipment and supply purchases and maintain inventory records. Identify and evaluate "police specific" equipment and technologies that are the most effective, safe, functioning and long lasting.

The Sheriff's Fleet Management & Equipment Unit is under the supervision of a Lieutenant with a Deputy assigned as the Fleet & Equipment Coordinator. The Sheriff's Office's fleet includes marked Patrol vehicles, Command vehicles, Investigations and Administrative vehicles. In addition, the sheriff's office has support, utility, tactical and search and rescue equipment. The Coordinator is responsible for many aspects involving our vehicles, including assisting Fiscal Year budgeting, acquisition, licensing, insurance, emergency equipment up-fitting, preventative maintenance and repair. In addition, the coordinator handles fleet related equipment and supplies, vehicle driver assignments and rotation to ensure the most efficient and effective long term use of each of our vehicles. The coordinator is also responsible for the general oversight of the Sheriff's Office's equipment and supply function, to include, issuing equipment and other supplies to department personnel, identifying and evaluating "police specific" equipment, making equipment and supply purchases, and maintaining inventory records. The sheriff's quartermaster also assists administrative personnel with the oversight and inventory of other department assets as needed.





TRAINING AND SAFETY COORDINATOR



The Sheriff and Undersheriff recognize that effective law enforcement is a cornerstone in the protection of our constitutional rights; and the mission of law enforcement is not only to protect and serve, but to operate in an efficient, effective manner that is in the best interest of the community we serve.

The Training and Safety Coordinator works under the supervision of a Lieutenant and duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

TRAINING

Coordinates and assists with:

- NMLEA Biennium Training & Training through the department's Virtual Academy program.
- Training in the field and classroom setting & Continuing Professional Training and other training programs as assigned.
- Education programs related to the Sheriff's Office and the community
- Implements training goals and objectives set by the Sheriff's Office as assigned
- Maintains Training Request Routing and Processing Procedures as set by the Captain
- Monitoring and making recommendations to command staff for remedial training
- Conducts research, schedules training, prepares training materials as assigned
- Performs a variety of administrative, professional, and technical tasks in support of the assigned area of responsibility
- Accurately maintain and update records and files both in house and with NMLEA

SAFETY

- Participates as a liaison between the Sheriff's Office and Sandoval County Risk Management
- Issues Risk Awareness Program training on a weekly basis & maintains records and required documentation to Risk Management
- Attends Risk Management meetings as a committee member
- Complies with OSHA rules and standards regarding the Sheriff's Office Building.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE AND POLICY UPDATE

Update, outdated written procedures and policies to reflect "Best Police Practice" that are constitutional, effective, reduce liability and improve communication, skills, knowledge, ethics, and attitudes that will improve overall policing of the community.



END OF WATCH



Joseph "Joe" Anthony Harris, Sr. was born in South Ozone Park, Brooklyn, New York to Arthur and Helen Harris. He grew up on Long Island with his big Italian family. In the late 1970s, he moved to New Mexico with his parents and finished school at Cibola High School. In 1984 he joined the Rio Rancho Police Department and was one of the original Rio Rancho Police Officers. Harris was cross trained in Law Enforcement/Fire Fighting and EMT. While at RRPD He started the D.A.R.E. program, the G.R.E.A.T. program, Neighborhood Watch, Mc Gruff the Crime Dog, and worked with the Citizen Police Academy and any other program he could bring to the department that had to do with community safety. Sergeant Harris served with the Sandoval County Sheriff's Office for six years prior to his untimely death. While serving with Sandoval County, he started the D.A.R.E. program and was very instrumental in expanding Neighborhood Watch programs throughout the county.



Sergeant Harris was killed, while working a Sheriff's Office stakeout targeting the "Cookie Bandit", who was an unidentified suspect in cabin burglaries in the Jemez area for over 6 years. Sergeant Harris, during the arrest, although mortally wounded by gunfire was able to return fire and kill the "Cookie Bandit" who was later identified as Joseph Henry Burgess. Burgess wanted for a double homicide in Canada. Burgess is also a potential suspect for other murders in New Mexico, California, Arizona, and Oregon, and had eluded Law Enforcement for over 40 years.

He is survived by his wife and five children and is buried at Vista Verde Memorial Park in Rio Rancho, New Mexico.



END OF WATCH



Robert W. Baron was born on September 10, 1966 to James Bernard and Karola Baron of Simi Valley, CA. He graduated from California State, Northridge with a BA in Political Science and Public Administration. Early in his career Baron worked as a Juvenile Probation Officer in Los Angeles County. Prior to moving to New Mexico Baron worked as a Wildland Firefighter and as a Federal Park Service Ranger. As a Federal Park Ranger, Robert received the "Exemplary Act Award" for his quick actions in saving the life of a park visitor who suffered a major heart attack. Robert joined the Sandoval County Sheriff's Office in 2006 and was a dedicated Deputy, Detective and Sergeant, and he had a passion for improving the Sheriff's Office. Assigned as a Detective, he was extremely diligent, hardworking, always answered the call and was conscientious of victims and their families while working all cases regardless of their seemingly insignificant importance or their high profile nature of a case, such as homicide. Robert loved his community, church and helping others. He dedicated time as a Boy Scout leader mentoring scouts and in law enforcement organizations such as Law Enforcement United, an organization committed to "Honor the Fallen, and Remember the Survivors." He participated in the 2010, 250+ mile Memorial Bicycle Ride ending in Washington D.C. Memorial, in memory of Sgt. Joe Harris in 2010.



On December 5, 2013, Robert had been dispatched to I-25 in response to reports of multiple, minor motor vehicle crashes and disabled vehicles under blizzard conditions. He was fatally injured when he was outside of his vehicle and struck by a motorist while assisting motorists and investigating the crashes.

He had served in law enforcement for a total of 25 years and is survived by his wife and son.