



SANDOVAL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT YEAR 2020





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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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, 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

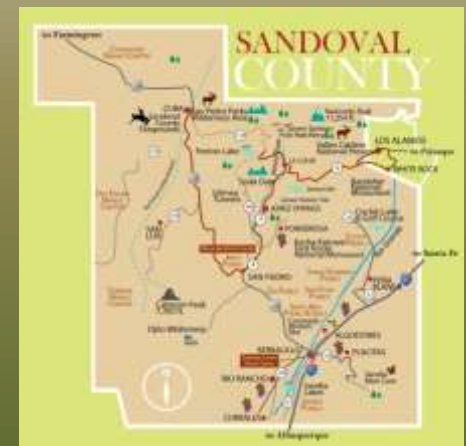
2 Animal Control Officers

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 2020 Annual Report.

2020 was a challenging year and I want to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication. Throughout the past year, members of YOUR Sheriff's Office have worked diligently to provide the highest level of professional public service. There were many uncertainties and stressors this year due to COVID. Many had to learn new ways to accomplish their responsibilities and work amid stressors that we have never experienced before. Since Law Enforcement cannot work from the safety of their home like other professions, deputies were exposed daily to the additional hazard of COVID, which created additional stressors at work and at home with family members. In most categories, crime in Sandoval County has either been lower or flat when compared to previous years. (Highlighted in this report)

It is a privilege to be your Sheriff and I am inspired every day by the professional work that is accomplished by everyone in the agency. Successfully holding back and deterring crime is an example of the excellent job deputies are performing in serving the citizens of Sandoval County.

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 2020



Teamwork is a cornerstone of a professional organization. We need to work on “teamwork” when we interact with each other and when units interact between each other (Patrol interacting with Civil, Patrol interacting with Traffic, Patrol interacting with Investigations, Patrol interacting with Street Crimes unit, Patrol interacting with Investigations, Patrol interacting with Animal Control). Obviously, all these units also interact with each other, like Investigations and the Street Crimes Unit need to work as a team, but you can see why Patrol is the backbone of the Sheriff's Office and the center of the wheel. We have been working the Town of Bernalillo, Corrales and Rio Rancho, who's Administration is also on the same page as “Us all being one TEAM that serves the Community”.

Manpower Initiative Continue aggressive recruiting and hiring in order to keep staff levels at maximum by training and engaging, Deputies interested to recruit. Train deputies interested in the hiring process in conducting backgrounds, interviewing and assist in hiring process and selection.

Pro-active Risk Management Liability Exposure: Continue updating the SOP, training and frequently assessing areas of liability and best practices in areas of Policies, Equipment, Vehicle use, etc. in order to reduce liability risk/exposure.

Informational Sharing and Multi-jurisdictional Task Forces: Continue evaluating and sharing criminal activity information that can be addressed by the Multi-jurisdictional Street Crimes/Drug Task Force and seek out other members that can add assistance and resources towards lowering crime in all jurisdiction within Sandoval County.

Animal Protection: Continue to enhance Sheriff's Office/Community Services Joint initiative to better protect animals. Continue training and collaboration regarding the safety and welfare of animals.

Create a Sex Offender Compliance Deputy: whose primary function is to ensure the compliance and verification of Registered Sex Offenders. A Sex Offender Compliance Deputy will ensure all sex offenders are registered as required and are complying with all aspects of their registration. The deputy will conduct compliance checks on registered Sex Offenders, will complete necessary reports, arrest warrants, search warrants and any necessary documents related to the sex offender deputy's duties. Will also work with local law enforcement partners, providing assistance to Parole Officers, Probation Officers monitoring registered sex offender. The Sex Offender Compliance Deputy will be in uniform, marked patrol unit, and will be subject to other job duties, to include serving civil, etc.

Create a Deputy Police Area Representative, PAR Deputy that will be assigned a specific area to help and assist citizens with needs that are not necessarily conducive to patrol deputies. This will provide a liaison between the Sheriffs' Office and the community. This program is designed to develop a close working relationships with citizens, community groups, neighborhood associations, and businesses, to address special problems



COMMAND & SUPERVISORY STAFF



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

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

Jason Benally, Lieutenant – *Patrol, Traffic Investigations, Fatal Crash Team.*

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

John Casteneda, Lieutenant , *Administrative, Professional Standards, K-9 Unit.*

Audeliz Nieves, Sergeant –*Patrol*

Rene Alvarado, Sergeant- *Patrol*

Scott Holt, Sergeant- *Patrol*

Jonathan Crespín, Sergeant- *Patrol*

Carrie Estrada, Sergeant- *Civil Division*

Olga Guymon, Sergeant – *SORNA*

Tommy Griffin, Sergeant – *Criminal Investigations Division*

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

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

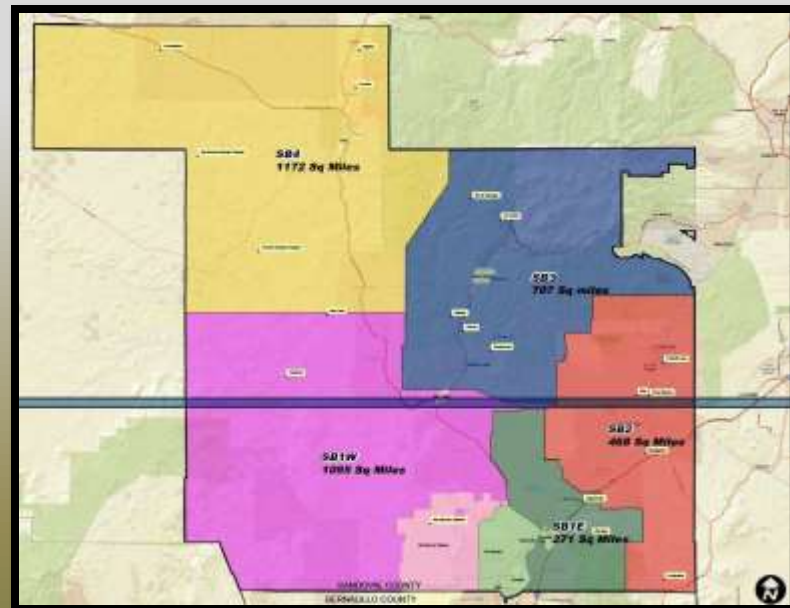


Patrol Division



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 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 – 21,235

Incident Reports Completed & Investigated – 2,081

Vehicle Crash's Investigated – 374

Animal Control Incidents Investigated- 711

Traffic Citations Issued- 3,793

DWI Arrests – 92

Total Arrests -469



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

Patrol / Civil Top 10 - Citations

<u>Deputy</u>	<u>Citations</u>	<u>Division</u>
Rudy Fields	183	Patrol
John Colvin	118	Patrol
Justin Pillera	104	Patrol
Al Nieves	103	Patrol
Patrick Hein	100	Patrol
Michael Olivas	94	Patrol
Jonathan Crespín	79	Patrol
Pedro Chacon	78	Patrol
Donaciano Pacheco	69	Patrol
Flavio Ortega	64	Patrol

Patrol / Civil Top 10 – DWIs

<u>Deputy</u>	<u>DWI</u>	<u>Division</u>
Diana Valencia	7	Patrol
Rudy Fields	6	Patrol
John Colvin	5	Patrol
Pedro Chacon	5	Patrol
Jonathan Crespín	4	Patrol
Robert Strand	4	Patrol
Justin Pillera	3	Patrol
Patrick Hein	2	Patrol
Michael Olivas	2	Patrol
Flavio Ortega	2	Patrol
Eric Steen	2	Patrol

Patrol / Civil Top 10 - Arrests

<u>Deputy</u>	<u>Arrests</u>	<u>Division</u>
Phil Montano	28	Patrol
John Colvin	26	Patrol
Rudy Fields	19	Patrol
Patrick Hein	18	Patrol
Diana Valencia	17	Patrol
Pedro Chacon	15	Patrol
Jonathan Crespín	14	Patrol
Robert Strand	13	Patrol
Justin Pillera	12	Patrol
Flavio Ortega	10	Patrol
Dennis Coulter	10	Patrol

Patrol / Civil Top 10 - Crashes

<u>Deputy</u>	<u>Crashes</u>	<u>Division</u>
Diana Valencia	22	Patrol
Bill Sanchez	19	Patrol
Elias Chavez	18	Patrol
Pedro Chacon	17	Patrol
Daniel Latham	16	Patrol
John Colvin	14	Patrol
Flavio Ortega	14	Patrol
Trent Myers	14	Patrol
Robert Strand	13	Patrol
Dennis Coulter	13	Patrol



Department Totals - 2020

Citations	4055
DWI	89
Arrests	405
Crashes	374



Crime Statistics At a Glance

Crime in "Unincorporated" Sandoval County.



Criminal Homicide:

2017- 4

2018- 1

2019- 1

2020- 5 *Significant Increase over previous years.*

Auto Burglary:

2017- Not Recorded.

2018- 31

2019- 27

2020- 26 *Significant amount reported at trail heads and river parking areas.*

Forcible Rape Reported:

2017-3

2018-1

2019-1

2020-2

Robbery Reported:

2017- 0

2018- 2

2019- 1

2020- 2

Assaults Reported:

2017- 128

2018- 109

2019- 149

2020- 78 *Significant Decrease over previous years.*

Residential Burglary:

2017- 56

2018- 47

2019- 46

2020- 31 *COVID effect people staying home.*



Traffic Services Unit



Traffic Services Deputies work in a partnership with patrol deputies and surrounding agencies to continually improve traffic safety thru 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.

Traffic Services Deputies are responsible on a daily basis for the investigations of major vehicle crashes to include fatal collisions. In 2020, Sandoval County Deputies investigated 374 vehicle crashes. Deputies coordinated numerous special events, including funeral motorcade escorts.

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 2020 team members have investigated 6 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 Division 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.





STREET CRIMES & INTELLIGENCE UNIT



Street Crimes and Intelligence Unit Crime Activity Stats January 2020 – December 2020

The Sheriffs mandate to address the illegal drug problem in Sandoval County, was the creation of “THE STREET CRIMES & INTELLIGENCE UNIT”, 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, & Investigator and works closely with the K-9 Unit and Patrol Deputies that have been specifically trained in identifying Narcotic Activity.

In 2020, the unit also started a task force initiative with the Town of Bernalillo Police, Corrales Police and Rio Rancho Police with the mission to address not only street level drug trafficking, but also property crimes, specifically burglaries.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY/SEIZED	QUANTITY/WEIGHT	STREET VALUE
STOLEN VEHICLES	7	
STOLEN LICENSE PLATES	4	
FIREARMS	16	
WARRANTS	47	
NARCOTICS- HEROIN	54.4g	\$6,415
NARCOTICS- FENTANYL	10g	\$180,000
NARCOTICS- COCAINE	73.6g	\$2,995
NARCOTICS- SUBOXONE	37 Dosage Strips	\$185
NARCOTICS- METHAMPHETAMINE	267.17g	\$15,942
NARCOTICS- OXYCODONE	520.5 Pills	\$15,505
NARCOTICS- MARIJUANA	3548.94g	\$27,385
NARCOTICS- MARIJUANA (MATURE PLANTS)	11	\$22,000
NARCOTICS- METHADONE	528g	\$1,398
NARCOTICS- XANAX	413.75 Pills	\$8,270
NARCOTICS- CONCENTRATED THC	1610g	\$49,000
NARCOTICS- PRESCRIPTION PILLS	1000 (Mixed)	UNK
THC E-Cig Cartridges	85	\$2,125
Narcotic Arrests (Non-Warrant Based)	2	
		TOTAL: \$331,220

CASH: \$42,734.61



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 743 prisoner transports in the year 2020. Transport orders decreased due to COVID and court closures.)

- 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 – 94

Summons Served – 459

Subpoenas Served – 829

Domestic Violence Orders etc. – 438



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.

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



2020 Animal Control Statistics

Total Calls for Service: 499
Self-Initiated Calls: 212
Total Livestock Attacks: 14
Total Bite (Human) Reports: 15
Total Other (Dog vs Dog) Attacks: 5
Total Dogs Impounded: 71 Cats: 38
Total Dogs Adopted (Direct from Animal Control): 14
Total Dogs Transferred to Other Shelters: 31 (Unknown – 10)
Total Dogs Euthanized (injury/dangerous/unadoptable): 5



Total Citations: 100

Total Animals Handled:

Dog: 221 Cat: 38 Bat: 2 Snake: 9
Horse: 1 Livestock: 14 Other: 8

- Impounded animals are either:
 - Returned to Owner
 - Adopted out via our Lost Pets website
 - Transferred to other shelters for long term foster care / 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. 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.

2020 was a challenging year for Community Relations, the difficulty in problem solving and by communication between citizens and deputies in many instances was initiated in new ways using email, text and social media platforms, due to COVID.





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 a person can be found or reached. In 2019, the Sheriff mandated the creation of a dedicated Search & Rescue Team to improve the agency's 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. Based 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 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 achieving 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!



DEPUTY AWARDS



Nominee for 2020 Deputy of the Year: Deputy Brian Espinoza

Deputy Anthony Armijo

Deputy Patrick Hein

Deputy Phillip Montano

Deputy Diana Valencia

Sergeant Orlando Carrillo

Distinguished Service Award: Sergeant Audeliz Nieves

Sheriff's Meritorious Service Award: Lt. Bryan Peters

Sergeant William Dunaway

Deputy Anthony Armijo

Deputy Diana Valencia

Commanders Commendation Award: Deputy Brian Espinoza

Deputy AJ Noriega

Sergeant Orlando Carrillo

Outstanding Public Service Award: Deputy Brenda Gutierrez

Deputy Pedro Chacon

Deputy John Colvin

Deputy Della Murray

Deputy Flavio Ortega

Deputy Patrick Hein

Deputy Phillip Montano

Deputy AJ Noriega



2020 Deputy of the Year:
Deputy Luke Osborn



SHERIFF's FLEET MANAGEMENT & EQUIPMENT UNIT



The primary function of the "Sheriff's Fleet Management & Equipment Unit" 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 maintains inventory records. Identifies and evaluates "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 Fleet Management & Equipment Unit 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. 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.
- Implementing training goals and objectives set by the Sheriff's Office as assigned.
- Maintaining Training Request Routing and Processing Procedures as set by the Captain.
- Monitoring and making recommendations to command staff for remedial training.
- Conducting 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

Updates, 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.