

MARIN COUNTY MAJOR CRIMES TASK FORCE



2013

Annual Report

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HISTORY

The **Marin County Task Force** (MCTF) originated in 1977. A small group of local law enforcement officers and a DEA agent recognized the need for a local, multiagency, countywide narcotics enforcement unit. The group approached the Marin Police Chiefs' Association (MPCPA) with their proposal and the MCTF was formed shortly thereafter. With the approval of the MPCPA, the MCTF was established as a countywide investigative unit. The MCTF was granted authority to cross jurisdictional boundaries, countywide. After several years of operation, and at the request of the MPCPA, the MCTF compiled enough statistical data to show the need to focus primarily on illegal narcotic activities within Marin. As a result, in 1979 the cities, towns and the County entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) and the Marin County Major Crimes Task Force was born. The unit was named "Major Crimes" rather than referred to simply as a narcotics task force because some participants felt the word narcotics would not be well received by its citizens and it implied a limitation on the unit's abilities and purpose.

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

In the beginning, the MCTF was staffed and run by personnel from different agencies throughout the county. Funding for the MCTF was also provided by the participating agencies. In 1993, due to growing budgetary challenges and constraints on individual departments and personnel, rather than disband the unit, the Sheriff agreed to staff and oversee the operation of the Task Force. Today, the Sheriff still oversees that operation of the Task Force and it's still staffed primarily by Sheriff's Office personnel.

Also in 1993, the City of San Rafael withdrew all ties from the Major Crimes Task Force, withdrawing personnel and discontinuing its funding of the unit. The San Rafael Police Department had been overseeing and running the Task Force for the 4-years leading up to that point.

HISTORY (CON'T)

In June of 2013, the Town of Sausalito issued a letter of intent to withdraw from the Major Crimes Task Force, no longer wishing to contribute funding towards the unit. The withdraw took effect January 1st, 2014. At this point, the City of Sausalito and the City of San Rafael are the only nonparticipating communities in the county.

Currently, under the umbrella of the Task Force resides:

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

In the past, the MCTF has been staffed by members from local agencies, including the former Larkspur and Corte Madera PDs, as well as Tiburon, Mill Valley, San Anselmo, Sausalito and San Rafael. In addition, we've had members of the United States Park Police, FBI and BNE in our unit.

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

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

JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT PARTNERS



**BELVEDERE - CORTE MADERA - FAIRFAX - LARKSPUR
MILL VALLEY - NOVATO - ROSS - SAN ANSELMO -
TIBURON - COUNTY OF MARIN**

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the Marin County Major Crimes Task Force is to provide a safe environment, free from illegal drugs, for our citizens and to protect the quality of life unique to our county. We strive to achieve these goals through proactive, covert investigations focused on the activities of those involved in illegal narcotic use, sales and distribution. The Major Crimes Task Force is the only fulltime law enforcement unit dedicated to investigating illegal drugs in the County of Marin. Our non-specific jurisdictional authority allows us to coordinate our investigations with other local, state and federal partner agencies. Unlike our local jurisdictional law enforcement agencies, the MCTF has the ability to conduct in-depth, lengthy narcotic investigations. We have the ability and resources to follow our investigations throughout and outside of the county, including out of state and, on a limited basis, out of country.

In addition, the MCTF provides investigative assistance with major crimes to local law enforcement agencies as requested and in accordance with the JPA. We offer highly trained and skilled covert investigative assistance. We supplement existing resources, but we do not replace them.

Through targeting drug dealers and suppliers at the mid to upper levels and reducing trafficking and sales of illegal drugs, we are making progress in our efforts to achieve our goal of providing drug-free communities in Marin. We know that by targeting illegal drugs in Marin we are having a impact on all crime throughout the county. Illegal narcotics are the catalyst and underlying cause for most every aspect of criminal activity; homicides, assaults, burglaries, robberies, auto thefts, larcenies and identity thefts (to name a few). Drugs and drug abuse have a direct nexus to most all crimes. Therefore, it easy to correlate that drug abuse and it's associated crimes affect all jurisdictions and in turn, all of us. Combating illegal drugs and drug abuse makes an impact on all crimes.



STAFFING

The current authorized staffing level for the Major Crimes Task Force is 1 lieutenant, 6 detectives and 1 part-time Special Investigations Assistant. Currently, the MCTF has several Spanish speaking detectives assigned to the unit. Spanish speaking detectives have proven to be an invaluable asset to our operations and to our success; a good portion of the illegal drug trade in Marin County is facilitated by the Mexican Cartels through our Hispanic communities.

TRAINING

Each MCTF detective is mandated to attend an 80-hour, POST certified narcotics investigation course. During this last year, we had four new detectives complete the course. Also, our detectives attend on-going narcotics related training courses as well as the annual California Narcotics Officers' Association (CNOA) conference in which provides for more training. The conference also offers an opportunity for detectives to network with other detectives from around the State and nation. Some of our detectives are also sent to a certified, 2-day Asset Forfeiture course in order to make sure we are properly trained and in compliance when seizing illegally obtained proceeds and assets from suspects. During the past year, 2 of our detectives attended the basic course. In addition, our detectives attend a mandated, annual asset forfeiture update class.



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OTHER

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

The MCTF has a liaison deputy district attorney (DDA) assigned to our unit. The DDA meets with us weekly to go over cases, provide legal direction and opinion and to give updates on cases filed in the courts. Having a DDA liaison greatly improves our relationship with the judicial side of the system and helps minimize and eliminate any issues in our investigations.

We have a narcotic detection canine assigned to the Task Force unit. A 5-year old Labrador retriever mix named "Beau", is under the care and direction of a Detective assigned to the COPE unit. Beau and his handler graduated from a 200-hour narcotic detection course certified by the California Narcotic Canine Association (C.N.C.A) in accordance with California P.O.S.T. The C.N.C.A certification examination has been recognized throughout the United States of America as an acceptable examination for the certification of a narcotic detection canine. BEAU is certified by C.N.C.A and P.O.S.T in the odor identification for cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine and heroin. Beau is trained as a "Passive Alert" narcotics detection K-9. He is trained to stare as a final response that he has detected the odor of any of the above listed narcotics. Beau and his handler continue to participate in monthly update training through Golden Gate K9 in Sonoma County. Golden Gate K9 is well respected and used by a large number of Bay Area agencies for their initial and continuous training.

Our unit consists of 2 Special Response Team members as well as a member of a statewide warrants team and 2 members who are former military trained. Each of these duties and skills are paramount in safe day to day operations, but during the service of search warrants as well as high risk arrests.

We recently purchased a currency scanner/counter which can count large amounts of US currency in a matter of seconds, provide a printout of the denominations and serial numbers as well as detect counterfeit bills.



Cummins Allison

RESOURCES AND EQUIPMENT

The resources that are available and which we provide in any investigation are as follows.

Detectives:

- *Specialized training including 80-hour POST certified Basic Narcotic Investigators Course as well as on-going and continuous narcotic related training*
- *Experience and knowledge in informant development, undercover operations, and asset forfeiture expertise*
- *Expertise in safe entry and arrest methods*
- *Active liaison and networking with local agencies as well as DEA, FBI, BNE, ABC, NCRIC and HIDTA*
- *Expert testimony for court cases (including other agencies)*
- *Assistance to other investigative units with covert surveillance*

Equipment:

- *Vehicles - specially equipped for both undercover and surveillance operations*
- *Radio and wireless undercover recording and transmitting devices*
- *Video and audio recording devices necessary for prosecution*
- *Raid gear, night vision, specialty search warrant entry tools*
- *Air Patrol support and gyro binoculars for static and moving surveillances*
- *Narcotic canine support*
- *Vehicle trackers via GPS and mapping (via court order)*
- *Cellebrite forensic cell phone data retriever*
- *Currency scanner/counter*
- *Fiber optic cameras for walls, concealed, and tight area searches*

Local Agency Support:

- *Asset Forfeiture expertise and assistance*
- *Legal liaison with District Attorney's Office*
- *Search warrant preparation and service expertise*
- *Trial assistance*
- *Intelligence information, resource and support*
- *Cellphone information download and retrieval*



DRUG TESTING POLICY

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

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

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

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

Example

Results of Controlled Substance Test

Record Status: Negative	Laboratory: Labcorp
Test Type: 10-panel poct labcorp	1904 Alexander Drive
Collection Date/Time: 12/26/2013 12:44 PM	RTP, NC 27709
Batch ID: 20131227	Collection Site: Labcorp
Specimen ID: 0230356442	
Date COC Received: 12/26/2013	
Sample Type: Urine	
Test Panel 10 Panel POCT	

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

COVANTA

Evidence Destruction

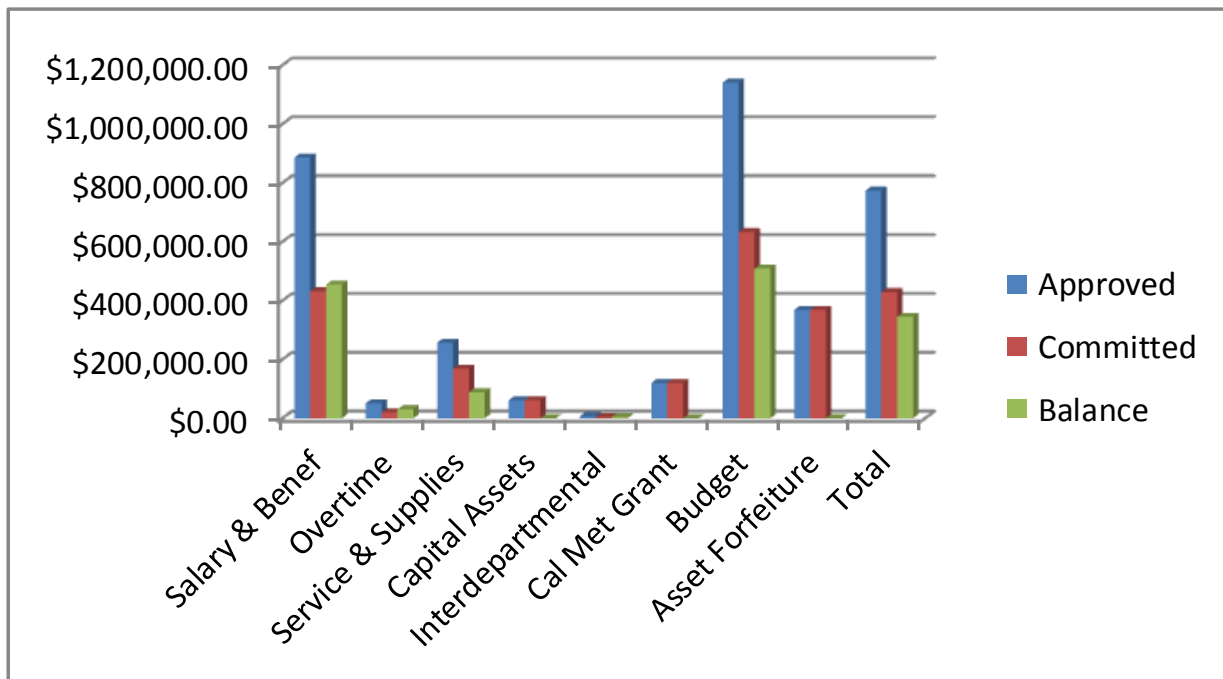
On Thursday, October 17th, 5 members of the Task Force, along with 6 members of the Sheriff's Office Investigation Division, brought loads of evidence respectively to the Covanta Energy Plant in Crow's Landing off of Highway 5 for destruction. Evidence from the Task Force included miscellaneous items seized (including personal affects, clothing, luggage) as well as firearms and narcotics.



Over 1 ton of miscellaneous evidence and 80 lbs of narcotics seized by the Task Force was burned and turned into electrical energy.

2013—2014 Budget Review and Status

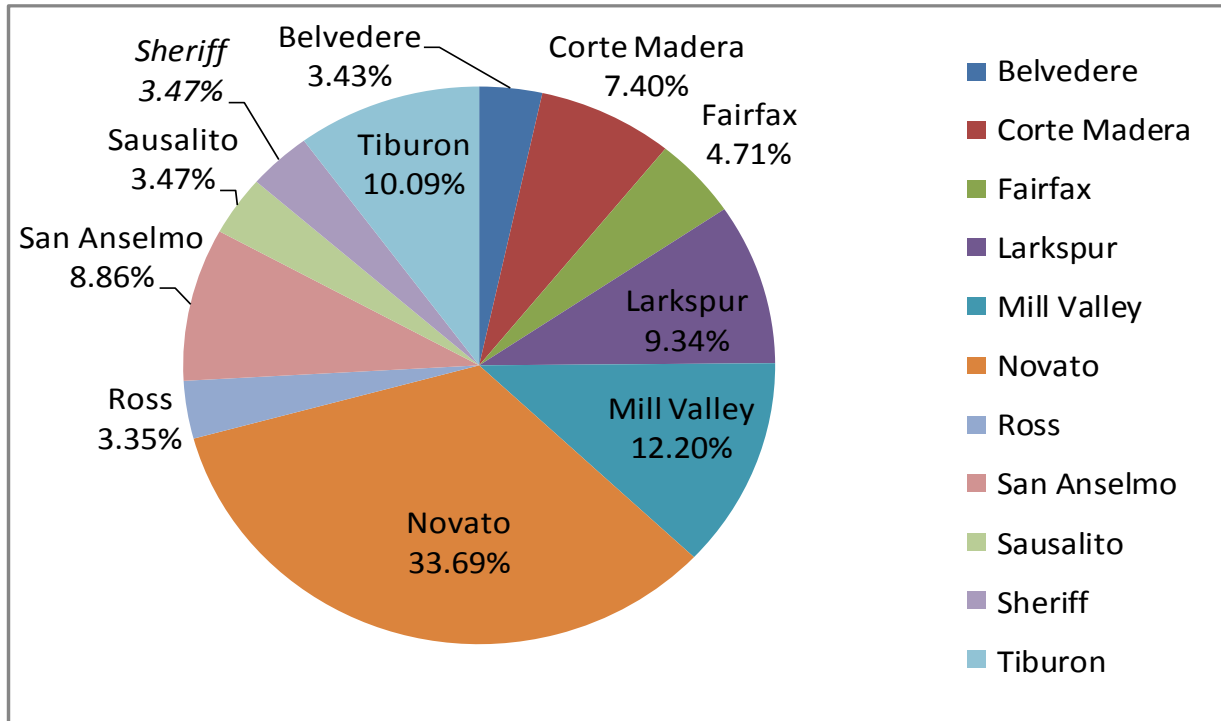
Expenditures	Approved	Committed	Balance	% Remaining
Salary & Benefits	\$885,890.00	\$431,605.61	\$454,284.39	51.28%
Overtime	\$50,603.00	\$19,897.10	\$30,705.90	60.68%
Service & Supplies	\$256,514.00	\$168,067.97	\$88,446.03	34.48%
Capital Assets	\$60,814.00	\$60,814.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Interdepartmental	\$7,207.00	\$3,603.50	\$3,603.50	50.00%
Sheriff 1x Contribution	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%
<i>Budget</i>	\$1,141,028.00	\$632,471.82	\$508,556.18	44.57%
Asset Forfeiture	\$367,931.00	\$367,931.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total	\$773,097.00	\$428,527.67	\$344,569.33	44.57%



It should be noted that the Service and Supplies category is inclusive of office rent, utilities and alarm monitoring, as well as vehicle costs such as fuel, maintenance, repairs and equipment installations and removals.

Cities and Towns Contributions

Agency	Amount	Percentage
Belvedere	\$13,132.00	3.43%
Corte Madera	\$28,341.00	7.40%
Fairfax	\$18,022.00	4.71%
Larkspur	\$35,770.00	9.34%
Mill Valley	\$46,709.00	12.20%
Novato	\$129,022.00	33.69%
Ross	\$12,817.00	3.35%
San Anselmo	\$33,933.00	8.86%
Sausalito	\$13,288.50	3.47%
<i>Sheriff</i>	\$13,288.50	3.47%
Tiburon	\$38,621.00	10.09%
Totals	\$382,944.00	100.00%



Note -The Sheriff will make up the \$13,288.50 deficit created by the Town of Sausalito withdrawing from the Task Force midway through the fiscal year. Therefore, no fiscal impact from Sausalito’s withdrawal will be realized by the remaining partner cities and towns. In addition, the Sheriff has contributed an additional \$120,000 to keep overall costs down equally for both the Cities and Towns, and the County.

CITY AND TOWN

CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN AND FY COMPARISON

During the 2013-2014 budget preparations, concerted efforts were made to bring the overall Task Force budget costs down from the previous fiscal year. We were able to achieve this by reevaluating spending and needs. Adjustments to the Task Force budget were made accordingly, resulting in saving to all our partners.

Below is a comparative between the current fiscal year and the previous, showing the decrease to each partner. *(It should be noted that for this fiscal year, the Sheriff contributed \$120,000 to subsidize the overall revenues.)* Therefore, city and town contributions were lowered by \$60,000, as was the county's contribution.

	2013-2014 Budget		2012-2013 Budget		Decrease
Belvedere	3.43%	\$13,132.00	3.43%	\$14,262.00	\$1,130.00
Corte Madera	7.40%	\$28,341.00	7.40%	\$31,384.00	\$3,043.00
Fairfax	4.71%	\$18,022.00	4.71%	\$20,029.00	\$2,007.00
Larkspur	9.34%	\$35,770.00	9.34%	\$39,128.00	\$3,358.00
Mill Valley	12.20%	\$46,709.00	12.20%	\$50,961.00	\$4,252.00
Novato	33.69%	\$129,022.00	33.69%	\$143,886.00	\$14,864.00
Ross	3.35%	\$12,817.00	3.35%	\$13,954.00	\$1,137.00
San Anselmo	8.86%	\$33,933.00	8.86%	\$37,358.00	\$3,425.00
Sausalito	3.47%	\$13,288.50	6.94%	\$29,202.00	\$2,625.00
Sheriff	3.47%	\$13,288.50	-N/A-	-N/A-	-N/A-
Tiburon	10.09%	\$38,621.00	10.09%	\$42,320.00	\$3,699.00
	100.01%	\$382,944.00	100.01%	\$422,484.00	\$39,540.00



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ORGANIZED CRIME DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCES

In September of 2012, we became involved in a case, which we identified as a having direct connections to an organized criminal enterprise or drug trafficking organization. The depth of and length of investigation wasn't realized until months later.

In May of 2013, we identified this case as qualifying as an OCDEF case, subject to Federal funding for investigators' overtime. Since that time the MCTF has received \$24,167.84 in federal funding. This qualifies as unexpected income or miscellaneous revenue.

This case is reaching a point of closure and should be brought to a conclusion shortly after the first of the year. We have identified 3 main targets as well as 5 places of interested for search warrants.

OCDEF FUNDS

May	\$2,721.09
June	\$4,284.93
July	\$1,602.60
August	\$4,735.21
September	\$6,897.33
October	\$1,650.72
November	\$0
December	\$2,275.96
Total	\$24,167.84

Asset Forfeiture Account Balances

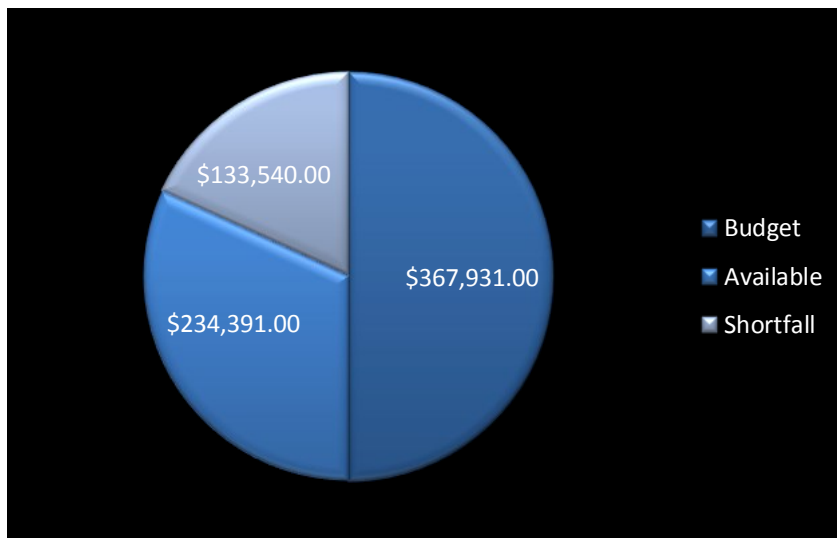
Asset Forfeiture Funds Available

Federal Treasury	\$37,883.65
Federal Marshal	\$77,731.72
State	\$118,776.60
Total	\$234,391.97

The current budget includes an asset forfeiture adjustment of \$367,931. On the following page is a breakdown of current, pending asset forfeiture cases totaling \$256,519.26. However, we can not predict when we will receive the funds. Cases can be concluded in several months to several years.

Given the current balance of asset forfeiture funds of \$234,391, we have less than needed to complete a similar budget for next year. Currently, the shortfall will be \$133,540. While this is cause for concern, it forces us to reevaluate our budget and accommodate more cuts. One cost saving measure will be to reduce our Capital Assets budget by \$60,000; most necessary vehicle replacements were accomplished this past budget year. By cutting Capital Assets, it will reduce the expected shortfall to \$73,359.

If we do not receive the pending 265,519.26 in time for the new budget year, the Sheriff has offered to loan the MCTF the necessary money to make our budget whole. We will then repay the Sheriff upon receiving our asset forfeiture shares.



Month - Agency Agencies Sharing	Split %	Amount Seized	MCTF Share	Other Agency Share
Jan - CHP		\$47,736.00		
MCTF/CHP	40/60		\$19,094.40	\$28,641.60
Feb - SO		\$43,280.00	(Money Returned)	
MCTF/DA	0/0		\$0.00	\$0.00
Mar - SRPD		\$980.00		
MCTF/SRPD	65/35		\$637.00	\$343.00
Apr - NPD		\$19,852.00		
MCTF/NPD	40/60		\$7,940.80	\$11,911.20
May - SO		\$38,511.14		
MCTF/Marshal	80/20		\$30,808.91	\$7,702.23
- SO		\$200,800.00		
MCTF/Marshal	70/30		\$140,560.00	\$60,240.00
- SRPD		\$1,269.00		
MCTF/SRPD	65/35		\$824.85	\$444.15
Jun		\$0.00		
Jul		\$0.00		
Aug - SRPD		\$24,611.00		
MCTF/SRPD	30/70		\$7,383.30	\$17,227.70
Sep		\$0.00		
Oct		\$0.00		
Nov - CHP		\$16,492.00	(Money Returned)	
MCTF/CHP	0/0		\$0.00	\$0.00
- SO		\$19,500.00		
MCTF/DA	65/35		\$12,675.00	\$6,825.00
Dec - SO		\$38,801.00		
MCTF/DA	65/35		\$25,220.65	\$13,580.35
- SO		\$16,000.00		
MCTF/DA	65/35		\$10,400.00	\$5,600.00
- NPD		\$1,499.00		
MCTF/NPD	65/35		\$974.35	\$524.65
Totals		\$469,331.14	\$256,519.26	\$153,039.88

AF Sharing \$469, 331.14



AGENCY BY AGENCY

Agency	Contacts	Cases	Arrests	S/W
Belvedere	28	1	0	1
CHP	86	7	5	4
Central Marin	107	18	10	7
Fairfax	33	4	1	0
Mill Valley	66	3	1	3
Novato	231	53	19	19
Sausalito	48	3	2	2
Sheriff	280	73	22	17
Tiburon	51	3	0	0
Totals	930	165	60	53

TRENDS:

1. We are still experiencing the pendulum swing between Cocaine and Methamphetamine. This is a cyclical event. When the price of meth begins to climb, we see more Cocaine on the streets and visa versa. We are currently seeing the shift from meth to Cocaine, although both are still popular.
2. The Mexican Cartels are still heavily involved in bringing illegal narcotics into our county and selling them to our citizens. Most of our cases, whether meth or marijuana, can be traced to Mexico and a myriad of different drug trafficking organizations that emanate from that region of North America.
3. With the legalization of recreational Marijuana in the State of Colorado, and soon Washington as well as others, we are experiencing a surge in marijuana brokering and trafficking here in California. There is a large amount of money to be made in illegal Marijuana sales. It appears, with the looming prospect of marijuana's legalization in our state, traffickers are making a run to try and capitalize on the current underground market.
4. We are still seeing the disturbing trend by middle school, high school and college age kids of diverting prescription drugs for personal use. The abusers are obtaining the narcotics from unsuspecting relatives, false prescriptions, willing doctors or off the street. These drugs include Oxycontin, Adderall, Ketamine, Xanax, Vicodin, Zoloft. They run the gamut from muscle relaxers, A.D.D. medication, depressants, and anti-depressants.

2013 SEIZURES

TYPES OF DRUGS AND QUANTITIES

Narcotic	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals	Last Year
Cocaine			.1g		4g	29g	14g	14g	22g	30g	28g	107g	248.10	616.45
Cocaine (Crack)										14g	14g		28.00	1.1g
Ecstasy (pills)									64				64.00	1.00
Hashish	43g								12g				55.00	150.40
Heroin				1g									1.00	1.80
Honey Oil		68g								10g			78.00	0.00
LSD (doses)	1												1.00	2,000.00
Marijuana	4,456g	737g			131,544g	9g	33g	49g	81g	5,889g		35,008g	177,806.00	88,593.20
Marijuana Plants	142		933						558				1,633.00	1,957.00
MDMA Powder										10g	14g		24.00	18.50
Meth (Ice)	37g	170g	89g	54g		112g	116g	116g	323g	15g	63g	462g	1,557.00	257.05
Morphine (pills)									1,767	2			1,769.00	0.00
Oxycontin (pills)			26					19	1,726	2			1,773.00	3.00
Psilocybin Mushrooms			3g										3.00	0.00
RX Pills (misc.)		42			5				499	4	12		562.00	1,027.00

AREAS AFFECTED:

All areas and jurisdictions within Marin County are affected by illegal narcotics. However, I refer to page 12, 'Agency by Agency', which shows jurisdiction of our cases during the past year.

CASE ORIGIN / CASE CONCLUSION:

Our cases originate throughout the county and in a multitude of jurisdictions. Origins include interviews with arrestees, citizen informant and undercover buys on the street, in homes and in businesses such as bars and restaurants.

While cases may originate in one jurisdiction, they tend to lead us to other jurisdictions in and outside of Marin.

Cases concluding in the City of San Rafael all start outside the city limits (with the exception of cases originating from probation contacts).

19 cases concluded in SR:

Central Marin - 4	Novato - 7
COPE - 1	Sheriff - 7

CONCLUSION

**Marin is the home of many. A few are famous, a few are infamous.
Most are just like you and me.
Together we can make a difference.
Together we make Marin a safe and unique place to live.**



Google Image