

MARIN COUNTY MAJOR CRIMES TASK FORCE



2015
ANNUAL REPORT

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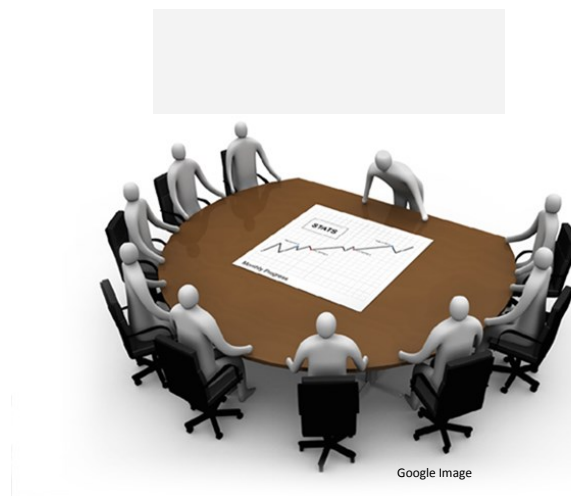
MARIN COUNTY MAJOR CRIMES TASK FORCE

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson / Law Enforcement Representative: Chief Todd Cusimano – Central Marin Police Authority
Law Enforcement Representative: Chief Jim Berg—Novato Police Department
County Board of Supervisors: Judy Arnold
County Administrator’s Office: Matthew Hymel
City Council Person: Pat Eklund – City of Novato
City Manager: Peggy Curran – City of Tiburon
City Manager: (vacant)
Marin Resident: Ed Schulze
Marin Resident: Dan Falzon

MEETINGS

The MCTF Oversight Committee meets quarterly each year.
The meeting notices and agendas are posted for the public prior to each meeting
Notices are posted at the Civic Center and at Novato Police Department.





HISTORY

The Marin County **Major Crimes Task Force** (MCTF) finds its origin in the year 1977. A group of parents of San Rafael High School students had growing concerns over drugs at their local school and with the seedy characters hanging around the school. Coinciding with this, a group of local law enforcement officers, along with a local Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) agent, recognized the need for a countywide, multi-agency, investigative unit to address increasing concerns over illegal narcotics in Marin. They recognized that clearly, individual jurisdictions by themselves could not address the growing problem. This group proposed their idea to the Marin County Police Chiefs' Association (MCPCA) and shortly thereafter the Task Force was formed.

The original Task Force was established as a countywide, general investigations unit charged with assisting local agencies investigate resource intensive crimes in their jurisdictions, as well as narcotic offenses. The Task Force was granted authority by the MCPCA to cross jurisdictional boundaries within the County. After several years of operation, and at the request of the MCPCA, the Task Force compiled statistical data showing the need to focus their investigative efforts primarily on illegal narcotic activities. As a result, in 1979 all the cities, towns and the County of Marin entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA).

Member agencies agreed the name of the unit would be "Major Crimes Task Force" rather than simply a narcotics task force. Some participants felt having the word narcotics in the title would not be well received and it implied a limitation on the unit's abilities and purpose.

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

In the beginning, the MCTF was staffed and run by personnel from different law enforcement agencies. Funding for the MCTF was provided by the participating agencies. In 1993, local law enforcement suffered growing budgetary challenges and personnel shortages. Also in 1993, the MCTF suffered some internal issues, including an internal lawsuit. Rather than disband the MCTF, the MCCMC determined the MCTF needed to be restructured, streamlined and run under and by a single entity.

HISTORY (CON'T) AND OVERVIEW

In 1993, the Oversight Committee was restructured and the MCCMC approached the Sheriff and asked if he would staff and oversee the Task Force operations. The Sheriff agreed and continues to oversee the unit today. The MCTF members are still primarily Sheriff's Office personnel.

Currently, under the umbrella of the Task Force resides:

- **Major Crimes** - is a 8 member unit consisting of a Unit Commander (a Sheriff's Lieutenant), 6 Detectives (3 Deputies, 1 Novato Police Officer, 1 Central Marin Police Officer, 1 DEA Agent and 1 CHP Officer), and a part-time Special Investigations Secretary (Sheriff's Office civilian);
- **COPE** (Coordination of Probation Enforcement) - is a 4 member unit consisting of the Assistant Commander (a Sheriff's Sergeant) and 3 Detectives (1 Probation Officer, 1 Deputy and 1 Novato Police Officer); and
- **Marin County Auto Theft Unit**— is a 2 member unit consisting of 2 Detectives (a Deputy and a CHP Officer).

The Sheriff's Office hasn't always run the MCTF. In the past, the MCTF's operations had been overseen by the San Rafael Police Department, as well as 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 Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) in the unit.

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.

In June of 2013, the City 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.

In April of 2014, the Town of Ross 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 October 14th, 2014. At this point, the City of Sausalito, the City of San Rafael and the Town of Ross were the only nonparticipating communities in the county. However, recent and current negotiations between the County of Marin and the City of San Rafael have resulted in the City of San Rafael agreeing to rejoin the Major Crimes Task Force. The Town of Ross has publicly stated that if the City of San Rafael were to rejoin the Task Force, they would too. In 2015, the City of San Rafael rejoined the Major Crimes Task Force. Conversations with the Town of Ross continue.

The MCTF also operates as a clearinghouse of information and intelligence on criminals and their activity throughout Marin County. The MCTF 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. As a HIDTA member we have 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

2015 MEMBERS AND PARTNERS



Belvedere Police Department
City of Belvedere



Central Marin Police Authority
City of Corte Madera
City of Larkspur
Town of San Anselmo



Fairfax Police Department
Town of Fairfax



Mill Valley Police Department
City of Mill Valley



Novato Police Department
City of Novato



San Rafael Police Department
City of San Rafael



Tiburon Police Department
City of Tiburon



Marin County Sheriff's Office
County of Marin

Other PARTICIPATING AGENCY



California Highway Patrol
State of California
State Partner



Drug Enforcement Agency
United States Federal Government
Federal Partner

2015 NON MEMBER AGENCIES



Ross Police Department
Town of Ross
Withdrew 2014



Sausalito Police Department
City of Sausalito
Withdrew 2014

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Marin County Major Crimes Task Force is to investigate and prevent the illegal activity of highly-mobile mid to upper level drug dealers and suppliers and to disrupt and dismantle their criminal narcotic enterprises operating in Marin County. With the loss of California's Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE), the MCTF fills the void between our local jurisdictions and the Drug Enforcement Agency on the Federal level. The MCTF is the county's defense against the illegal narcotics trade in Marin. Our staffing level, expertise and knowledge allows us to devote resources to long-term, complex narcotic investigations. These investigations are too taxing and overwhelming for local jurisdictions to engage in.

Our professional staff also offers assistance beyond investigations. Our detectives often provide expert testimony in court for other agencies. MCTF Detectives provide briefings and trainings to our partners, identify trends and provide intelligence that they should or need to be aware of.

Our goal is to help all law enforcement within our county in the mission of providing our communities a safe environment, free from illegal drugs. We strive to protect the quality of life unique to Marin. We conduct proactive investigations focused on the activities around illegal narcotic use, sales and distribution. The Major Crimes Task Force is the only fulltime, law enforcement investigations unit dedicated to infiltrating the subversive world of illegal drugs in Marin. Our countywide jurisdictional authority and working relationships with allied agencies allows us to coordinate our investigations with other local, state and federal entities. We know that by targeting those that sell and supply illegal drugs in Marin we are making a positive impact on all types of crime affecting all the different jurisdictions. By targeting drug dealers and suppliers at the mid to upper levels and reducing trafficking and sales of illegal drugs, we can achieve our goal. Illegal narcotics and drug abuse are the catalyst and underlying cause of the majority of criminal activity. Assaults, burglaries, robberies, auto thefts, larcenies, identity thefts and homicides all have connections to drugs. Very few crimes that we see do not bear a direct or indirect relationship to illegal drug abuse, possession or sales.

The MCTF is a highly respected investigative unit. Besides the information developed internally, our connections with local, state and federal agencies throughout the county, state and nation allow us to be the receptacle and clearinghouse for criminal intelligence that impacts or may impact Marin.

We take our objective and goals seriously. We serve our partners in the JPA and our county with pride.

DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN (DEC) CASES

Our detectives receive specific training for investigating Drug Endangered Children cases. Unfortunately, this has become an increasing problem, not only in California, but here in Marin as well. These disturbing cases involve parents and guardians whose involvement with drugs have become more important in their lives than caring for and protecting their children. These cases include dealers and suppliers as well as users. Specific laws have been enacted to protect our child victims. The MCTF identifies these victims and will take action to protect them. We have established solid working relationships with Child Protective Services (CPS) and our local courts to address the problem. Our goal is to provide a safe environment for the children and find reasonable resolution for the parents.

STAFFING

The current staffing level of the Major Crimes Task Force is 8 (eight). The 6 detectives assigned to the MCTF, include representatives from the Sheriff's Office, Novato Police Department and Central Marin Police Authority. We also have a CHP officer and a part-time DEA agent assigned to us. Both are assigned by their respective agencies at no cost.

With the addition of the Coordination of Probation Enforcement unit (COPE) and the Marin County Auto Theft Unit, the total staffing level under the Task Force umbrella is 14.

Currently, the MCTF is fortunate to have a Spanish speaking detective 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 and carried out by the Mexican Cartels.

TRAINING

Each MCTF detective is required to attend an 80-hour, POST certified narcotics investigation course. Our detectives also attend on-going narcotics related training courses as well as the annual California Narcotics Officers' Association (CNOA) conference for additional training. The conference also offers an opportunity for detectives to network with other detectives from around the Bay Area, State and nation. Additionally, we send some of our detectives 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. Our detectives attend mandated, annual update classes as well.

OTHER

Each 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 for the sharing of information.

The MCTF has a liaison deputy district attorney assigned to our unit. The DDA meets with us weekly to go over cases, provide legal opinions about investigations and give updates on filed cases. This greatly improves our relationship with the judicial side of our investigations.

We have a narcotic detection canine assigned to the Task Force unit. "Beau", a 6-year old Labrador retriever mix, is under the care 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 Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.). The C.N.C.A canine narcotic detection certification examination has been recognized throughout the United States. Beau is certified by C.N.C.A and P.O.S.T in the identification of the following odors: cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine and heroin. Beau is trained as a "Passive Alert" narcotics detection K-9. He is trained to alert by staring at an object or area 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 used by a large number of Bay Area agencies for their initial and continuous training.

Our unit consists of 2 Special Response Team members, a detective who is part of a statewide warrants team and 2 detectives who are prior military. We also have 2 members of Hostage Negotiations Teams. Each of these duties and skills are important to safe operations during the service of search warrants as well as high risk arrests. Safety is always foremost in any of our operations; our detectives' safety, the public's safety as well as the safety of our suspects. Our goal during any of our operations is to recognize and eliminate any possible hazards before we begin and to react safely and appropriately to threats as they come up. Our goal is for everyone to be safe and go home at the end of the day, with all suspects safely taken into custody. Under normal circumstances this can be challenging for police. Add in an environment fueled by drugs and the challenge becomes much greater.

RESOURCES AND EQUIPMENT

The resources we provide, both detectives and equipment, include:

DETECTIVES:

- *Expertise and knowledge: gained through specialized training, including 80-hour POST certified Basic Narcotic Investigators Course, as well as on-going and continuous narcotic related training.*
- *Informant development.*
- *Undercover operations.*
- *Asset forfeiture expertise.*
- *Safe search warrant entry.*
- *Safe arrest methods and tactical responses.*
- *Liaison: networking with local, state and federal agencies.*
- *Expert testimony for court cases (including other agencies).*
- *Assistance to other jurisdictions and investigative units.*
- *Criminal intelligence.*
- *Covert investigations and 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.*
- *Narcotic canine support.*
- *Trackers via GPS and mapping (via court order).*
- *Forensic cell phone data analysis and retrieval.*
- *Currency scanner/counter.*
- *Fiber optic cameras for walls, concealed and tight area searches.*



LOCAL AGENCY SUPPORT:

- *Asset Forfeiture expertise and assistance.*
- *Liaison with District Attorney's Office.*
- *Search warrant preparation and service expertise.*
- *Trial assistance.*
- *Intelligence resource and support.*

HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA



The Marin County Major Crimes Task Force is a member of the Northern California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) as designated by the Federal Government in 1994. The Northern Californian initiative is comprised of individual local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies within Alameda, Contra Costa, Lake, **Marin**, Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Sonoma counties. These counties and respective agencies are united in the common goal of reducing drug trafficking, drug related crime, violence, and abuse in our communities.

DRUG TESTING POLICY

During 2013, the Marin County Major Crimes Task Force revisited its internal drug testing policy. It was determined to be deficient and unenforceable. The policy was rewritten 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 and Central Marin Police Authority administrations met with their respective police officer unions, as well as the Probation Department’s administration meeting with the Teamsters Union. Policies were drafted and approved by all 4 departments allowing the Task Force administration to arrange for random drug testing of participating officers twice a year, which we have been vigilant in doing.

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 are in full compliance with their respective department’s or agency’s policy.

To date, we are in full compliance with our own drug testing 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 from actual results letter

Specimen Detail		Urine - CONFIDENTIAL	
Lab Management Network Inc 4445 Eastgate Mall, Ste 200 San Diego, CA 92121 760-751-0031		 Lab Management Network Inc	
The County of Marin 3501 Civic Center Drive, Ste 145 San Rafael, CA 94903		Overall Result Date/Time Collected Donor (Donor ID) Type Specimen ID	Negative 10/20/2015 Random (Urine) 0995447843
Test	Result	Screen Cutoff	Confirm Cutoff
Amphetamine	Negative	1000 ng/mL	500 ng/mL
Barbiturate	Negative	300 ng/mL	200 ng/mL
Benzodiazepine	Negative	300 ng/mL	200 ng/mL
Cocaine	Negative	300 ng/mL	150 ng/mL
Marijuana	Negative	50 ng/mL	15 ng/mL
Methadone	Negative	300 ng/mL	200 ng/mL
Methamphetamine	Negative	1000 ng/mL	500 ng/mL
Opiates	Negative	2000 ng/mL	2000 ng/mL
Phencyclidine	Negative	25 ng/mL	25 ng/mL
Propoxyphene	Negative	300 ng/mL	200 ng/mL

Report generated by TestVault

COVANTA

EVIDENCE DESTRUCTION

During 2015, the Task Force made 2 separate evidence destruction runs. The trips were made in March and in October. All property destroyed is by court order and court approval. Evidence taken for destruction includes narcotics, manufacturing equipment, miscellaneous items seized (including unclaimed personal affects) as well as firearms. Electronics are taken to a local resource recovery center for green recycling.

The evidence to be destroyed is brought to the Covanta Energy Plant in Crow's Landing off of Highway 5. The evidence is incinerated by the Covanta Energy facility and witnessed by Task Force staff. The heat produced through incineration of evidence is used to produce steam to power generators to produce consumer electrical energy.



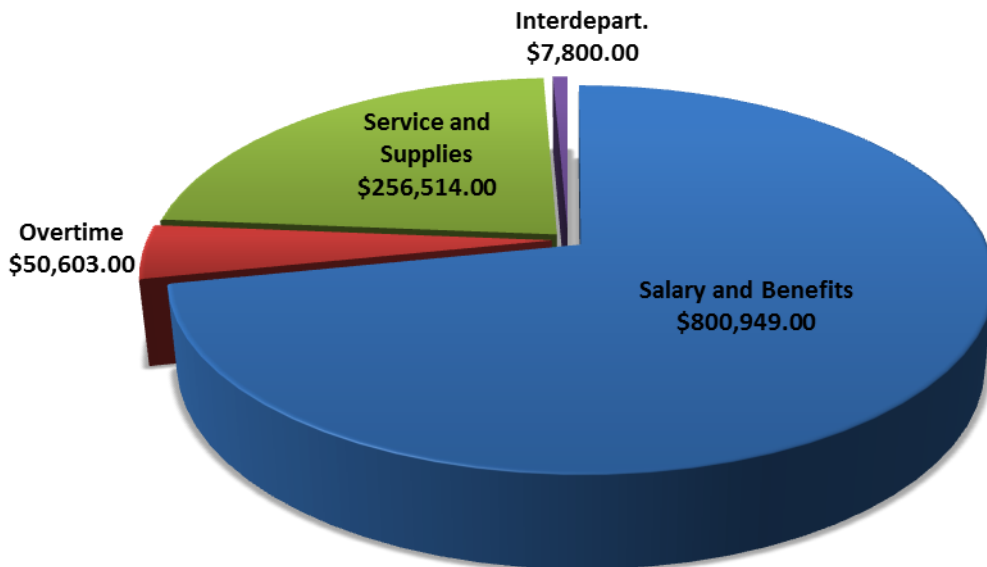
Per current MCTF policy, we are to complete a full, internal inventory audit when there is a change in Commander, Assistant Commander or Property Clerk. We completed a full and complete inventory audit in July when Sgt. Pierre Ahuncain rotated out and Sgt. Brian Fay took his place. An audit of all inventoried property and evidence in the custody and control of the MCTF was accounted for. This also made our second evidence destruction run much easier and efficient.



2015-2016

BUDGET

	Budget
Salary and Benefits	\$ 800,949.00
Overtime	\$ 50,603.00
Service and Supplies	\$ 256,514.00
Interdepartmental (County)	\$ 7,800.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,115,866.00



The Marin County Major Crimes Task Force budget is funded through several different sources. The JPA member agencies pay the Salaries and Benefits portion of the MCTF budget. The cities and towns portion is based upon an agreed upon formula using jurisdictional population and assessed property values. The cities and towns pay 50% of the MCTF salaries and benefits. The County pays the other 50%.

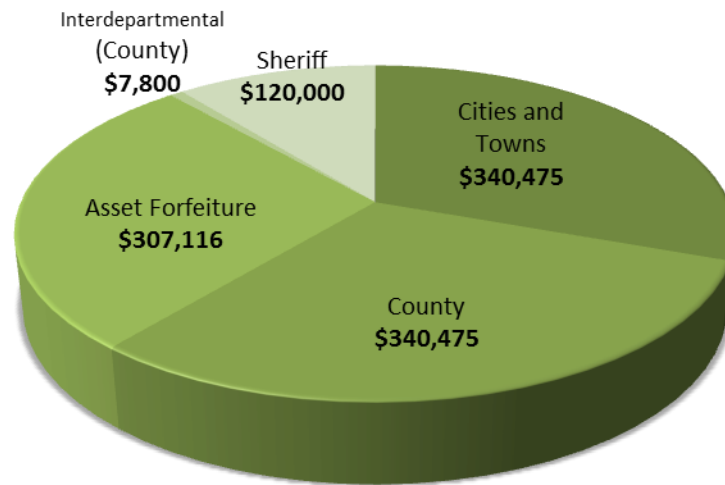
Monies collected through Asset Forfeiture programs goes directly to pay service and supplies, as well as our Capital Assets. The Service and Supplies portion of our budget covers anything other than salaries, including rent, utilities, phones, office supplies, reoccurring fees for service and maintenance of equipment , fuel and vehicle maintenance and repair. Capital Assets generally refers to our vehicles and radios.

We have also received additional funds through the generosity of the Sheriff in the form of grant money and allotted State funding. This money is used to offset costs for all contributing JPA members.

2015—2016

BUDGET CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN

Cities and Towns	\$ 340,475
County	\$ 340,475
Asset Forfeiture	\$ 307,116
Interdepartmental (County)	\$ 7,800
Sheriff	\$ 120,000
Total	\$ 1,115,866



The budgeting of Asset Forfeiture money for the Service and Supplies has been problematic recently. Although a significant amount of seized assets goes through the forfeiture process in both the State and Federal systems, when any of the money will be received is unpredictable. The last fiscal year and this current fiscal year have been lean for distribution of funds. As of this date, the Sheriff has provided a bridge-loan to make last fiscal year's budget whole. The same may be true for this fiscal year's budget. The loan(s) comes with the stipulation that when asset forfeiture money is received, the Sheriff will be paid back first for the money he has loaned the MCTF.

In preparation for this upcoming fiscal years' budget, the Oversight Committee has recommended that, in an effort to be more transparent with our budget, we modify how we prepare our annual budget. Rather than list asset forfeiture money as the funding source of Service and Supplies, we will now break our budget into 2 separate, but inclusive allocations for our JPA members.

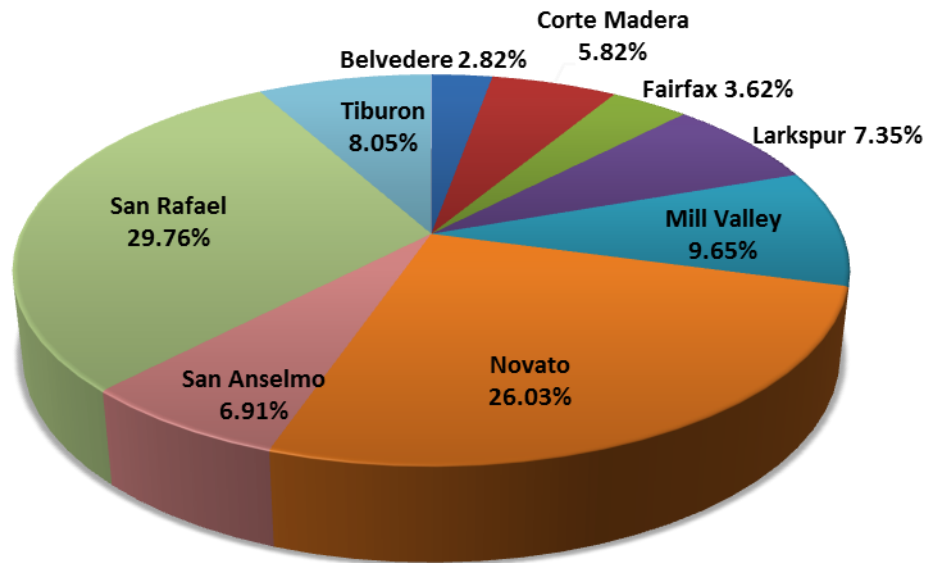
The first allocation will be for salaries and benefits as we currently do. The second allocation will be for service and supplies. The second allocation will be based on the same formula as the first allocation.

This provides for a more sustainable budget going forward. When Asset Forfeiture money is received, JPA members would either not pay the second allocation or be paid back what they paid towards the second allocation.

CITY AND TOWN

2015—2016 BUDGET CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN

Agency	Prorata Share	2015-2016	Apportionment
Belvedere	2.82%		\$ 9,588
Corte Madera	5.82%		\$ 19,799
Fairfax	3.62%		\$ 12,314
Larkspur	7.35%		\$ 25,021
Mill Valley	9.65%		\$ 32,864
Novato	26.03%		\$ 88,621
Ross			
San Anselmo	6.91%		\$ 23,529
San Rafael	29.76%		\$ 101,317
Sausalito			
Tiburon	8.05%		\$ 27,422
Total	100%	\$ 340,475	\$ 340,475



Of the 11 city and town jurisdictions in Marin, currently 9 participate as members of the MCTF JPA. The City of Sausalito and the Town of Ross dropped out of the MCTF JPA in 2013 and 2014 respectively. Conversations with both jurisdictions are on-going.

After a 12-year hiatus, the City of San Rafael re-joined the JPA in March of 2015, which when combined with Central Marin Police Authority’s 2015 decision to provide an officer in lieu of their cash contribution, resulted in reduced costs for all JPA members.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Two of our JPA members provide an officer rather than money. This is known as an in-kind contribution. The agencies are Central Marin Police Authority and the Novato Police Department. Because they provide personnel for MCTF Detectives positions it saves all JPA members money due to the fact the officers are worth more than their respective pro-rata share contributions. If the MCTF had to assign deputies to those 2 positions, the overall salary and benefits costs would go up and those additional costs would have to be shared by all JPA members.

BUDGET COMPARISONS
FOR FISCAL YEARS
2014-2015 and 2015-2016

As with last year’s budget preparations, for fiscal year 2015-2016 concerted efforts were made to make the overall Task Force cost neutral and/or reduce costs from the previous fiscal year. Some increases were however unavoidable because of the increased cost of staffing.

Below is a chart comparing the current fiscal year and the previous, showing the decrease to each partner.

Agency	Prorata Share	2015-2016	Prorata Share	2014-2015	Prorata Diff	Difference
Belvedere	2.82%	\$ 9,588	3.74%	\$ 13,012	-0.92%	\$ (3,425)
Corte Madera	5.82%	\$ 19,799	7.95%	\$ 26,323	-2.13%	\$ (6,524)
Fairfax	3.62%	\$ 12,314	5.03%	\$ 17,082	-1.41%	\$ (4,768)
Larkspur	7.35%	\$ 25,021	10.06%	\$ 32,982	-2.71%	\$ (7,961)
Mill Valley	9.65%	\$ 32,864	13.14%	\$ 42,697	-3.49%	\$ (9,833)
Novato	26.03%	\$ 88,621	36.10%	\$ 115,216	-10.07%	\$ (26,595)
Ross*			3.64%	\$ 3,992	-3.64%	
San Anselmo	6.91%	\$ 23,529	9.51%	\$ 31,254	-2.60%	\$ (7,725)
San Rafael	29.76%	\$ 101,317				
Sausalito						
Tiburon	8.05%	\$ 27,422	10.83%	\$ 35,416	-2.78%	\$ (7,994)
Totals	100%	\$ 340,475	100%	\$ 317,974		

*Ross was only in for a portion of the year



ASSET FORFEITURE

Asset Forfeiture is the seizing and forfeiting of illegally acquired wealth, including money and material items. Persons involved in the illegal drug trade view themselves as successful business people and feel they deserve the same social status and recognition enjoyed by successful, legitimate business people. They want their neighbors and friends to envy their lifestyle and social status. These are the same people who try to blend in your neighborhood. Money is power. They tend to flaunt their material items (expensive cars, boats, jewelry, clothing etc.). These are the same people that would rather spend time in jail or prison than lose their money, status and power. For this reason, forfeiting the assets of drug dealers and suppliers is a great tool for law enforcement. It's the ultimate equalizer; especially when we turn around and use their ill-gotten gains to help fund our fight against them and their fellow criminals.

There are laws that prevent criminals from profiting from their crimes. They can't publish a book or make a movie about their crimes and profit from it. Asset forfeiture laws allow any illegally obtained wealth to be forfeited, thus removing the incentive for being involved in the criminal lifestyle.

Recent changes to Asset Forfeiture laws make it more difficult for law enforcement to seize assets resulting from criminal arrests. Under California law, real property (real estate, vehicles etc.) must be sold and can't be put into service or used by law enforcement. Additionally, laws prohibit us from taking a car that is the sole means of transportation for a family, regardless of how the suspect paid for it. Federal law is currently transitioning to stricter guidelines to make it more difficult for all law enforcement.

As stated previously, we use seized assets to supplement our budget. The only problem with this system is asset forfeitures are unpredictable. We never know how much assets we will seize in a given year. We also don't know when we will actually receive the assets. It could be a matter of months or years.

Asset forfeitures are generally awarded through a sharing program administered by the local DA's Office on the state level, or the Department of Justice on the federal level. The administering agency determines agency involvement and amount awarded on a percentage basis. Currently under the federal system, the feds take 20% and the remainder is divided up among the participating agencies. Under the state system, the local DA's Office gets 10%, the State takes another 24% for their general fund and 1% goes to a local, private, nonprofit organization. The remaining 65% goes to participating agencies. However, 15% of that 65% goes into a local special fund to pay for programs designed to combat drug abuse.

Asset Type	Asset Value
Real Property	\$ 505,000.00
Vehicles	\$ 48,100.00
Cash/Currency	\$ 4,260.00
Cash/Currency	\$ 40,500.00
Cash/Currency	\$ 99,000.00
Cash/Currency	\$ 85,000.00
Cash/Currency	\$ 31,651.00
Financial Instrument	\$ 8,698.51
Commercial Business	\$ 6,400,000.00
Commercial Business	\$ 3,700,000.00
Cash/Currency	\$ 26,000.00
Total	\$ 10,948,209.51

This chart shows current seized assets pending in the federal system. You can see that 3 of the items are real property. Although the value of each is significant, real property can be unpredictable and is dependent on the current market values and demand. Real property is also subject to liens and encumbrances prior to selling. Likewise, although the total at the bottom of the chart is significant, we will only receive a small portion in each case if awarded.

2015 ASSET FORFEITURE

The MCTF has a number of detectives that are specially trained in asset forfeiture and the current asset forfeiture laws. These detectives also attend mandated annual update training to assure that we are compliant with all current laws.

It should be noted there are 2 different asset forfeiture procedures; civil and criminal. For the State to seize assets through the courts, we need to have a criminal conviction prior to the forfeiture. Under federal law, they can also seize assets civilly, with no conviction. In either case, we need to show a clear and direct connection (nexus) to criminal activity.

This table shows our asset forfeitures cases currently pending with the DA's Office.

Case	Amount	Type
14-160032	\$ 137,254.27	Currency
14-160117	\$ 95,800.00	Currency
14-160124	\$ 60,306.00	Currency
15-1410	\$ 21,000.00	Currency
15-160089	\$ 109,353.00	Currency
15-160042	\$ 14,120.00	Currency
14-160123	\$ 54,025.00	Currency
14-160064	\$ 18,872.00	Currency
14-160026	\$ 21,176.00	Currency
15-160101	\$ 4,540.00	Currency
15-160100	\$ 43,147.00	Currency
15-160103	\$ 13,847.00	Currency
14-160098	\$ 304,591.06	Currency
14-160098	\$ 4,591.06	Currency
15-1293	\$ 32,886.87	Currency
15-1293	\$ 3,900.00	Currency
15-1293	\$ 446,070.00	Jewelry
Total	\$ 1,385,479.26	

Although \$1,385,479 is a sizable amount of money, we won't receive this amount. The dollar amount represents the total seized amount. As is common with these cases, some amounts will be returned to the owner through the DA's Office, the courts or plea deals. The money and real property that does end up being forfeiture is divided up among participants.



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2015 CASE EXAMPLE #1

The following are examples of how a case can start and how we work with other agencies.

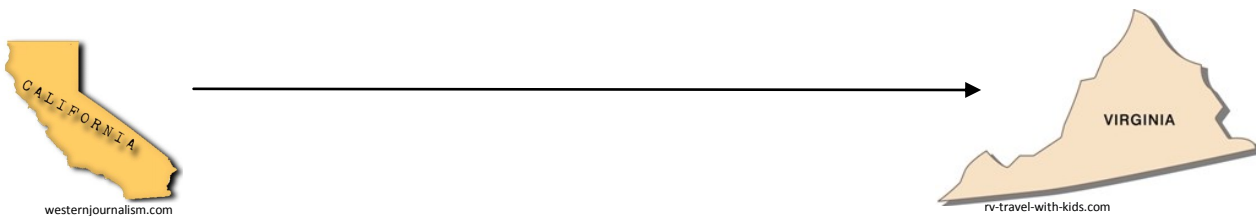
This first case started as a disturbance call in Corte Madera. In the early morning hours, Officers responded to single family home in an upper-class neighborhood. Upon approaching the house, officers noted a broken window near the front door. Officers contacted two 28-year old male subjects at the residence. One subject lived at the residence, the other was from Virginia. They got into an argument and physical altercation after discovering they had left their keys at the bar they just left.

Inside the residence , officers located a significant amount of packaged marijuana ready for shipping, distribution and sales. Suspecting what they discovered at the residence, the CMPA Officers called the MCTF.

Detectives from MCTF debriefed the officers, obtained a search warrant and served it upon the residence. Along with the packaged marijuana, Detectives discovered numerous shipping receipts between SF and Virginia. Detectives discovered and seized over \$60k in bundled cash. Detectives also located a suspected Butane Honey Oil (BHO) lab within the residence.

Detectives from the MCTF worked with the USPS Postal Inspectors Office as well as DEA Agents in Richmond, VA. Through the DEA, MCTF Detectives learned both of our suspects have been suspects in prior DEA cases.

Subsequently, DEA Agents in Virginia intercepted a package shipped from California containing 26 pounds of marijuana. The parcel was repackaged and DEA Agents did a controlled delivery to the address listed. Upon taking possession of the control package, a male and female were taken into custody. Through subsequent interviews with the female, the male suspect asked to use her residence to receive packages, even though he did not live there. She stated he has been dealing illegal marijuana for the 2-years they have known each other and ships marijuana to other persons in Virginia.



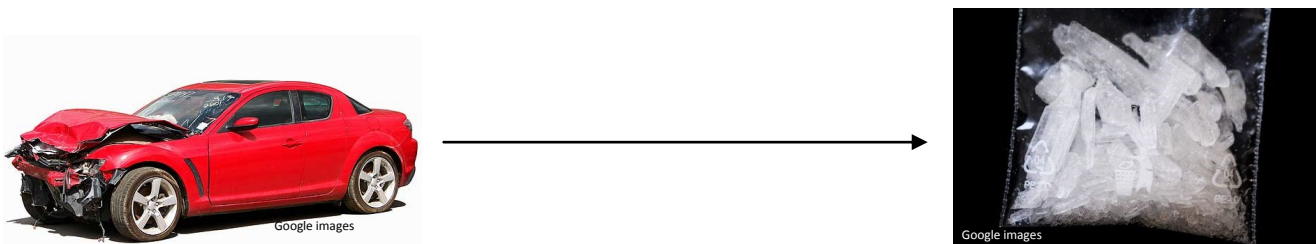
2015 CASE EXAMPLE #2

In the wee morning hours in August, CHP Officers investigated a solo vehicle crash on Highway 101 in the Sausalito area. The driver displayed signs of intoxication and was subsequently arrested.

During an inventory search of the vehicle, Officers located 1.5 lbs. of suspected Crystal Methamphetamine in the trunk area. The CHP Officers called the MCTF.

The suspect lived in San Jose and has a criminal history, including prison time, for false imprisonment, robbery and burglary.

MCTF Detectives obtained and served a search warrant at the suspect's listed address in San Jose. No other narcotics were located. This case is still on-going.



CASE EXAMPLE #3

This case involved a crystal methamphetamine dealer from Vallejo who has been selling in Marin for over 3 years. We arranged to have one of our undercover detectives introduced to the suspect. The introduction was successful and we able to make multiple purchases of crystal meth from our suspect.

When deals were arranged, the suspect would meet our undercover at the Vintage Oaks Shopping Center in Novato. Of note is that on several occasions, the suspect had his 18-month old son, his 5-year old nephew and his 6-year old niece with him while he sold crystal meth to our undercover detective.

Subsequent to his arrest, MCTF Detectives served a search warrant on the suspect's residence in Vallejo. The suspect lived in a single family dwelling with his wife and child, as well as with his wife's 2 brothers.

During the service of the search warrant, detectives located another 4 ounces of meth in the residence. Due to the endangering of the children, this was a DEC case referral.



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CITIZEN REPORTING

A valuable source of information regarding illegal narcotic activity we receive is from our local citizens. We generally receive these tips over the phone. Many people making these type of reports wish to remain anonymous, which we honor. Our citizens may report individuals they suspect of drug dealing or suspicious activity in their neighborhoods that they suspect is related to illegal drug activity. We take that information and compare it to any information we may already have regarding the persons or place. If the information appears to have credence, we will go out and try to either corroborate the information or determine if it is unfounded or it can't be determined at the current time. Regardless, the information is important to us.

These tips sometimes lead to a compliance check on marijuana grows. Many citizens who are compliant with current State guidelines grow their marijuana crop at home. Unfortunately, not everyone is thrilled about this. A lot of these complaints come from families with kids. They object to the pungent odor of the marijuana wafting through their neighborhood. They also fear for the safety of their kids as well as the neighborhood. While marijuana is termed a victimless crime, we still see grow houses being robbed or ripped off. It is not the non-violent crime pro marijuana advocates want everyone to believe. Persons operating marijuana grows or storage locations often arm themselves with legal and illegal weapons and firearms

The other side to this is it leads us to "for profit grows" that have little or nothing to do with providing medicine to patients under the Compassionate Use Act. The amount of money generated by today's marijuana trade is staggering. Yesterday's dealers of "white dope" have moved to "green dope" instead. In speaking with those dealers, they tell us they feel the climate and tolerance for marijuana use is such that, even if caught, the punishment will be quite minimal, if there is any punishment at all.



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AGENCY BY AGENCY

Each participating agency in the MCTF JPA has a TF Detective assigned as a liaison. We try to keep in contact with each agency by attending briefings, through personal contacts and through phone calls. Our intent is to keep an open line of communication between our 2 entities. It also gives each agency their own MCTF source to go to when needed.

The below table is a breakdown of 2015 numbers of contacts and investigations by agency.

Agency	Contacts	Cases	Arrests	Search Warrants
Belvedere	15	0	0	0
Central Marin	36	9	1	2
CHP	52	7	3	4
Fairfax	15	4	0	0
Mill Valley	17	5	1	1
Novato	80	21	5	3
San Rafael	58	40	10	12
Sheriff	100	13	6	4
Tiburon	14	1	0	0
Misc	17	17	1	14
Totals	404	117	27	40



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2015 NARCOTICS SEIZED OR PURCHASED

Drug	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	Totals	Pounds
Cocaine	36.4	11.9	141.6	116.3	306	0.7
Hash	586.8	0.0	0.0	48.1	635	1.4
Heroin	0.6	1.0	1.2	0.4	3	
Hydrocodone*	17.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	17	
LSD	5.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	7	
Marijuana Plants	478.0	2,804.0	0.0	18.0	3,300	
Marijuana Product	103,575.6	133.6	283.9	220,485.0	324,478	715.4
MDMA	28.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	28	
Methamphetamine	0.0	0.0	0.0	18.0	18	
- ICE (Crystal)	2,364.3	64.0	974.2	0.0	3,402	7.5
Morphine*	0.0	0.0	13.0	0.0	13	
Psilocybin Mushrooms	36.8	0.0	7.0	0.0	44	
Xanax/Zoloft*	0.0	1.0	7.0	0.0	8	

All raw numbers represent grams except plants. * represents pills.

PRICES

We paid the following street prices during our undercover buys this last year.

Cocaine: \$60 - \$100 a gram
\$600 an ounce

Crystal Meth \$60 - \$80 a gram
\$350 - \$740 an ounce

Heroin \$100 a gram

LSD \$10 a tab

Marijuana \$2,000 to \$3,000 per plant / \$50 1/8 oz. / \$200—\$400 oz.

Psilocybin \$150 an ounce
(Mushrooms)

It is not unusual for prices to fluctuate during the year. Prices may fluctuate dealer to dealer as well as supplier to supplier. Like any commodity, supply and demand have a lot to do with price. Also, buying larger quantities will bring the price down. As well, with manufactured drugs like cocaine and methamphetamine, there are different grades produced. Higher grades lead to higher prices.

WORKING TOGETHER

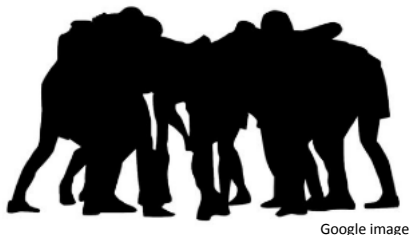
As with any business, investors want to know what their return on investment is. They want to know what product or service they are getting in return for their money. They want to know if the company is being run properly. Government is no different. While we are a governmental agency serving other governmental agencies, we are still expected to provide valuable services to our partners and their constituency.

There is no other local law enforcement agency or unit that can do what the MCTF does. Likewise, there is no State of Federal agency or unit that has the local knowledge to do what we do. Marin County is blessed with very good law enforcement. This sometimes lulls us into believing there is no crime in Marin. With each agency doing their part and working together, we enjoy efficient and responsive public safety. While we are not exempt from crime or criminals, we pride ourselves on providing a safe county for our residents to live and work in. Sometimes, its hard to imagine how life in Marin would be if local law enforcement didn't keep crime and criminals in check.

We are proud to be part of Marin's law enforcement community. As such, we continually look at the service we provide. How are we doing? Are we being fiscally responsible? Is there anything we need to change. Are we providing a needed service to our partners? Are we being responsible to Marin's communities and residence. With guidance from the JPA Oversight Committee and the Chiefs of Police we are confident we are on the right track and meeting the needs of our partners, communities, residents, and the County.

For their partnership, our JPA agencies get a detective who can come into court and offer expert testimony on their cases. We provide expert advice for their investigations. We provide assistance with significant (major) crimes or series of crimes. We can help with surveillances, locating suspects and assisting with search warrant and arrest services. We provide an entire investigative unit of 14 staff members, all for less than the cost of one officer. For most of our JPA partners, that cost is in fact only a small fraction of the cost of a single officer employed by their respective police departments.

Illegal drugs in Marin is a countywide issue. No single agency can address the drug problem alone. However, together we can make a difference. Together and through the MCTF, we can make a positive difference.



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MARIN'S MAKEUP

Whether you live in this county, work here, or both, Marin has much to offer. Marin sits across the bay from San Francisco and takes in the northern portion of the world famous Golden Gate Bridge. The north end of Marin greets the famed wine country of Sonoma county. The west embraces the Pacific Ocean while the east looks upon the bay waters separating Marin from Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Marin's Highway 101 is also a thoroughfare for the transporting of drugs and money up and down our state.

Marin is considered a medium sized county within our state. Marin covers 520.31 square miles of land and another 308 square miles of water. The 2014 estimated overall population for Marin was 260,750, a 3.3% increase from 2010. Caucasians make up 86% of the population of Marin; females are the majority at 51.2%. The largest demographic are persons between 19 and 64 years of age, at 55.3%. Of persons 25 years or older, 92.4% are high school graduates or higher and 54.6% have Bachelor's degrees or higher.

There are 3,144 counties and county equivalents in the US. In 2012, Marin ranked 17th as one of the top 25 wealthiest US counties having a population of at least 65,000. Santa Clara was the only other California County listed, coming in at 14th. Marin's median household income was listed as \$90,535 while Santa Clara's was listed as \$91,425. In 2011, Marin ranked 46th out of the top 100. In 2010, Marin was ranked 17th, and in 2009 Marin came in at 20th.

WHAT YOU DON'T SEE (IMPACT'S US ALL)

Upper Level: Marin's well educated, very affluent population is a good place to hide in plain sight. There are those in the drug trade who live among us. They blend in as business men and women and as our neighbors. Some appear to be very affluent and financially successful. They may even own a legitimate business. However, their roots are in the drug trade. Usually, they are veteran dealers with experience and age. They may have been involved in the drug trade as far back as the 70's and 80's, when Cocaine was king and everyone was making money. We now see they have moved into the marijuana brokering side of drug deals. Far less hands on product than before. Many are involved in the currently very lucrative black market of Marijuana. Shipments are going throughout the United States. We are currently working on several such cases.

Hand to Hand: Like our neighboring counties around us who are plagued with street level dealing, Marin has it too. If you know what you're looking for, you can drive down streets in some areas and communities in Marin and witness hand to hand deals. You can see constant vehicle and foot traffic going to a residence or business at all hours of the day and night. We know, because we see it in the course of our investigations. Hands with the money shaking hands with the ones that hold the dope. Watching people make quick trips to and from a suspected source. We conceal ourselves in the shadows and the background to identify these people to begin our investigation. Our goal is to arrest the dealer and work our way up to their supplier and ultimately to the source.

Load Vehicles: Marin is a thoroughfare from the south to the north and the north to the south. We know vehicles carrying money and drugs travel through Marin. They come from Mexico and below and travel through our state to points beyond. Marin is among many drop off points for drug cartels. Law enforcement stops only a small fraction of these load vehicles and couriers.

WHAT YOU DON'T SEE (CON'T)

Mules: We have arrested people within drug trafficking organizations that move product to and through Marin. They are called mules. Their job is to carry the load of drugs that supply the mid and upper level dealers. They, in turn, supply the street level dealers. We know the Mexican Cartels have strongholds on the west coast and in Marin. We know mules work throughout the Bay Area bringing product here. These are the kind of cases we like; tracing the mule back to their source in an effort to put them out of business and plug the pipeline.

EDUCATION

Schools are institutions of learning. Besides reading, writing and arithmetic, students also learn the social aspects of living. Schools are a resource and information conduit for our kids. Not only do they learn about life, they also learn about drugs.

Marin County's law enforcement presence in our schools helps keep students and faculty safe. We provide education to the students and faculty about social trends; they also identify threats and issues.

When a School Resource Officer (SRO) starts seeing a disturbing social trend at the local school, we become a resource for them. Through our on-going trainings, conferences and publication updates, we generally are aware of trends occurring around the state and country before we experience them here. Detectives from the MCTF pass information on to SROs about emerging trends in schools and with kids. That information allows the SRO to identify trends in their own local schools.

We recently had a case where a confidential informant identified a subject suspected of selling narcotics to students at a local high school. The suspect lives locally and was in his early 20's. We were able to observe the suspect meeting with high school age kids, but didn't observe him actually selling to them. However, we were able to get one of our detectives introduced to him where the detective bought illegal narcotics from the suspect, allowing us to build a case against him. We were able to arrest the suspect and get him off the street.

In the past, MCTF and COPE detectives would go to local high schools and put on educational presentations regarding illegal narcotics and school trends for the students and faculty. Unfortunately, we had to stop using our detectives because some kids remember them outside of school. This posed an officer safety issue and a potential case compromising issue for detectives working undercover. We still provide sealed narcotics display kits, which we loan out to local law enforcement for uniformed officers to use for school presentations (some of which are former TF and COPE detectives). We also loan our kits out to the head instructor of the Administration of Justice program at the local junior college for use in his classes. That instructor is a former officer and former Commander of the MCTF.

While we no longer directly and personally serve the local schools, there are county funds available to local law enforcement for this purpose. Therefore, we now rely on local law enforcement to fulfill the presentation role. We support them with our displays and update them on current trends and concerns. It's a partnership that is safe for us and one that works for local law enforcement and the schools.

TRENDS

The current trends we are seeing are:

The top 3 drugs that Bay Area narcotics task forces are dealing with are marijuana, meth and cocaine. Black market marijuana continues to be our biggest issue. While marijuana is still illegal under federal law, the MCTF does not arrest people who are in compliance with the spirit of California's Prop 215, the Compassionate Use Act of 1996, nor do we confiscate any marijuana grown or in possession which is in compliance with current state guidelines. However, the black market business of marijuana is illegal and remains very prevalent. The market for California grown weed is both extremely profitable for those involved in this illegal activity and demand remains strong. People in the black market business of marijuana have a total disregard for the law and intent of Prop 215. We see indoor grows where a home is rented from an unsuspecting landlord for cash in advance. The suspects have no qualms about bypassing the power meter, electrical box, tearing out walls and ceilings for ducting and ventilation, using chemicals and fertilizers while creating significant health and environmental issues in a house they don't own. The renters will walk away leaving the landlord a huge mess to clean up and costly repairs to make. The same holds true of outdoor grows. Illegal grows are often found on public lands or someone else's private lands. Growers terrace southern slopes, cut down trees and brush, divert springs and streams, use fertilizers as well as deer and animal repellants and poisons and leave huge amounts of garbage on the lands for someone else to deal with. The costs to taxpayers for clean ups and restorations are staggering. Another fact is that a single maturing marijuana plant needs about 6 gallons of water a day. Here in California, we continue to experience water shortages caused by drought. These grows add to the problem.

The brokering and sales of illegal marijuana are our most involved investigations. There is an active network of marijuana brokers working across the US. Sales of large quantities of marijuana to the east coast are common as the price of marijuana on the east coast is higher than on the west coast, yielding more profits. Even in Colorado where marijuana has been legalized for recreational use and dispensaries are abundant, the black market thrives. Why? Black market weed is cheaper to buy than the state sanctioned product where costs are driven up by taxes.

This leads us to the age-old question that divides both sides, is marijuana a gateway drug? There is a strong belief by the anti-marijuana segment that smoking marijuana leads to other, harder drugs. And yes, by definition, marijuana is a drug. The pro-marijuana segment rebuts the statement by stating marijuana is as safe as drinking a beer.

What we see from our perspective is not everyone who smokes marijuana moves on to harder drugs. However, everyone who uses harder drugs has smoked or smokes marijuana.

With the issue of legalizing marijuana likely to appear on our ballots in 2016, we need to take a hard look at the states where marijuana has already been legalized. What are those states truly experiencing? Is what the people in Washington and Colorado were promised what they really got? Are those the things California wants for our future and for the future for our kids? We'll all have to answer those questions in our own way as we decide as a state what we want the future of California marijuana laws to be.

TRENDS (CON'T)

Here's something else to consider. The chemical in marijuana that gets people "stoned" or "high" is tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). The national average THC level in marijuana around 1995 was close to 5%. The THC levels of the current grade or strain of marijuana averages around 20%. In layman's terms, that's a light beer compared to multiple shots of vodka.

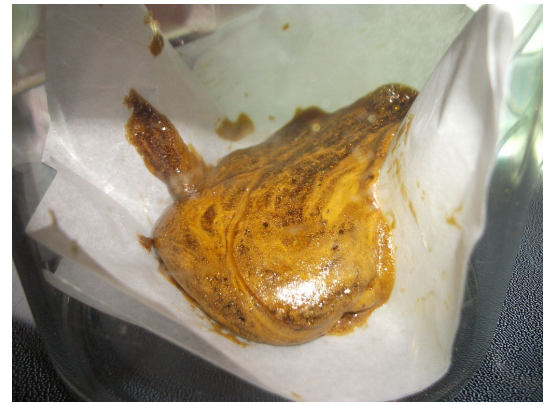
Compounding the issues is the fact we are seeing more Honey Oil (named for color only). Among its nicknames are "wax" "earwax" and "710" (OIL upside down). Honey Oil is extracted from the cuttings and shake (the leftovers) of the Marijuana plants. Through a chemical process (usually butane) the THC is extracted from the plant as an oil. The oil may take on a brownish, sometimes earwax appearance. The THC level in Honey Oil ranges of 30-90%. Some testing has boasted a THC level of 99%. Besides the obvious health risks regarding the increased THC level, the butane process is highly flammable and has resulted in many destructive and deadly fires. These fires have destroyed structures and dwellings and severely burned and killed both suspects and innocent, uninvolved persons. Bay Area wide we are experiencing more and more of these labs. Exposure to open flames will ignite the flammable gases causing devastating explosions.



theavtimes.com



Growshopalien.com



commons.wikimedia.org



highstrain.com



herbaldispatch.com



krtrtv.com

Having all this in mind, the question raised is, are we trading common sense for a chance to get high? Since its legalization in Colorado, the State of Colorado is experiencing a dramatic increase in traffic related deaths due to impairment from marijuana. Would you allow someone high on THC to drive you or your kids home? Our battle against D.U.I.s is going up in smoke. Not to mention our healthier, smoke free environments.

COLORADO

The following information and stats are from a report titled:

“The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado—The Impact” Volume 3 September 2015

It was prepared by the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

Legalization:

2006-2008: Early medical marijuana era

2009-Present: Medical marijuana commercialization and expansion era

2013-Present: Recreational marijuana era

Youth Marijuana Use:

From 2008-2014 drug related suspension and expulsions from school increased 40%. The majority for marijuana.

In 2013, 11.16% of youth between 12 and 17 years of age were considered current marijuana users compared to 7.15% nationally.

There is a 20% increase in 12 to 17 year old probationers testing positive for marijuana since its legalization.

Adult Marijuana Use:

In 2013, 29% of adults between 18 and 25 years of age were considered current marijuana users compared to 18.91% nationally.

In 2013, 10.13% of adults between 26 years of age and older were considered current marijuana users compared to 5.45% nationally.

There is a 49% and 87% increase respectively in 18 to 25 year old probationers testing positive for marijuana since its legalization in 2013.

Driving Impaired:

From 2010-2014 marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 92%, compared to an 8% increase in all traffic deaths only.

In 2014 marijuana-related traffic deaths increased by 32%. This is the same year marijuana businesses began operating.

Treatment:

Over the last 10 years, the top 3 treatment admissions are alcohol (12,943 average), marijuana (6,491 average) and methamphetamine (5,044 average).

Crime:

Overall crime in Denver increased 12.3% from 2012-2014.

Other:

Denver has more medical marijuana centers than pharmacies (198 compared to 117).



MARIN COUNTY

Marin has a affluent and interesting history. From the Marin Civic Center designed by Frank Lloyd Wright to the world famous Golden Gate Bridge that joins us with San Francisco.



www.keepmarinmarin.org

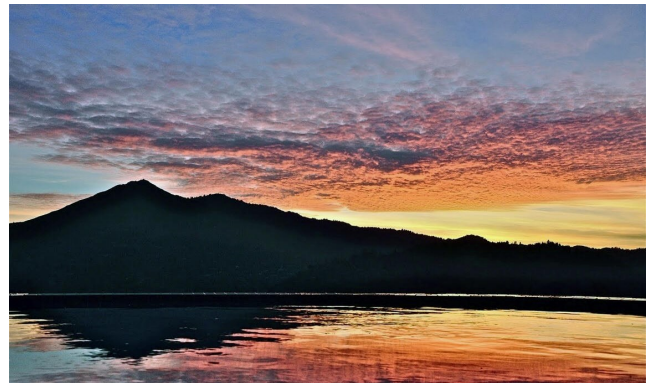


Photo by D. Wick

From the infamous Alcatraz Island to the “Sleeping Lady” of Mt. Tamalpais and Skywalker Ranch, home of famous film creator, producer George Lucas.



www.investorplace.com



www.rntl.net



lucasfilm.com

Marin has a rich history. It had a rich history before you and I got here and it'll have a rich history long after you and I are gone. We need to protect the present to preserve the future.