

MARIN COUNTY MAJOR CRIMES TASK FORCE



**2017
ANNUAL REPORT**

MARIN COUNTY MAJOR CRIMES TASK FORCE

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson / Law Enforcement Representative: Chief Mike Norton – Central Marin Police Department

Law Enforcement Representative: Chief Adam McGill—Novato Police Department

Law Enforcement Representative: Captain Robert Mota—CHP

County Board of Supervisors: Judy Arnold

County Administrator's Office: Matthew Hymel

City Council Person: Pat Eklund – City of Novato

City Manager: Dave Donery – Town of San Anselmo

City Manager: Todd Cusimano—Town of Corte Madera

Marin Resident: Ed Schulze

Marin Resident: Dan Falzon



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HISTORY

The Marin County **Major Crimes Task Force** (MCTF) was founded in 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 investigating 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 by a single entity.

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.

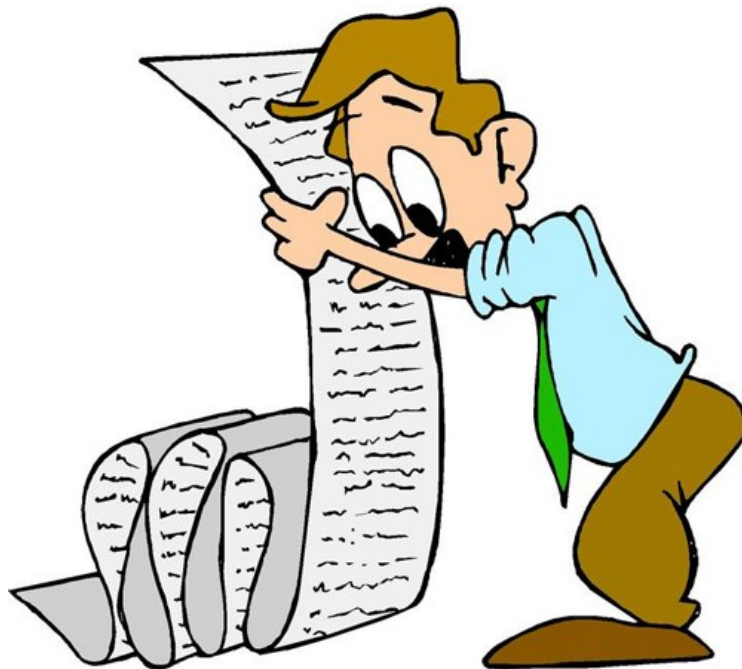
HISTORY (CON'T) AND OVERVIEW

- **Major Crimes** - is an 9 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, 1 CHP Officer, and a full-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).
- **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; those agencies include the former Larkspur and Corte Madera PDs, as well as Tiburon, Mill Valley, San Anselmo, Sausalito, Ross, 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.

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 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

2017 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



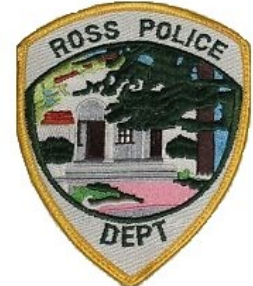
San Rafael Police Department
City of San Rafael



Tiburon Police Department
City of Tiburon



Marin County Sheriff's Office
County of Marin



Ross Police Department
Town of Ross

Other PARTICIPATING AGENCY



California Highway Patrol
State of California
State Partner



Drug Enforcement Agency
United States Federal Government
Federal Partner

2017 NON MEMBER AGENCIES



Sausalito Police Department
City of Sausalito
Withdrew 2014

JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT PARTNERS



BELVEDERE - CORTE MADERA - FAIRFAX - LARKSPUR

MILL VALLEY - NOVATO - ROSS - SAN ANSELMO -

TIBURON - SAN RAFAEL - 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, 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.

By 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 an impact on all crime throughout the county. Illegal narcotics are the catalyst and underlying cause for almost 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 crime. Therefore, it easy to correlate that drug abuse and it's associated crime affect all jurisdictions and in turn, all of us. Combating illegal drugs and drug abuse makes an impact on all crime.



STAFFING

The current staffing level of the Major Crimes Task Force is 9 (nine). The assigned Commander is a Sheriff's Office Lieutenant, 5 (five) 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 full-time DEA agent assigned to us, both are assigned by their respective agencies at no cost. There is a full time Special Investigations Secretary as well (Sheriff's office civilian).

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 15.

Currently, the MCTF is fortunate to have 2 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 mandated to attend an 80-hour, POST certified narcotics investigation course. During this last year, we had two 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 County. 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.

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 allows 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 9-year old Labrador retriever mix, is under the care of a Detective assigned to the Task Force 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 3 Special Response Team members: 1 detective who is a tactical instructor, 1 weaponless Defense instructor, 1 range master, and 4 detectives who are prior military. 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 even 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.*
- *Interview and Interrogation*



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.*
- *Covert Surveillance*



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.

Specimen Detail for
Urine - CONFIDENTIAL

Lab Management Network Inc
 4445 Eastgate Mall, Ste 200
 San Diego, CA 92121
 760-751-0031

The County of Marin
 3501 Civic Center Drive, Ste 145
 San Rafael, CA 94903
 (415) 720-3463



Lab Management Network Inc

Donor	[REDACTED]
Donor ID	****9220
Overall Result	Negative
Date/Time Collected	Dec. 11, 2017, 2:58 p.m.
Lab Reported	Dec. 13, 2017, 2:40 p.m.
Type	Pre-Employment (Urine)
Panel	10
Specimen ID	U995447261
REGULATED BY	Non-DOT

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	10 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	300 ng/mL

Lab:
 Labcorp - NC
 1904 Alexander Drive
 RTP, NC 27709

COVANTA

EVIDENCE DESTRUCTION

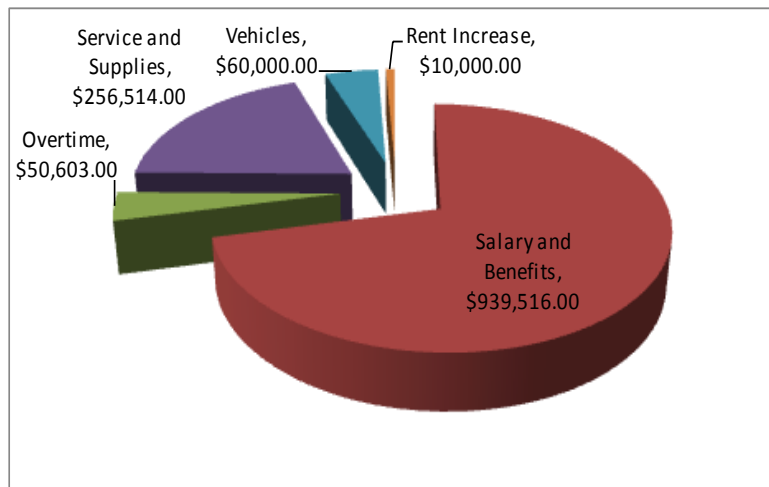
During 2017, the Task Force made 2 separate evidence destruction runs. The trips were made in March and in December. All contraband destroyed is by court order and court approval. Evidence taken for destruction includes narcotics, manufacturing equipment, miscellaneous items seized (including unclaimed personal affects) as well as firearms. Electronics and biohazardous waste 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.



2017-2018 BUDGET

	Budget
Salary and Benefits	\$ 939,516.00
Overtime	\$ 50,603.00
Service and Supplies	\$ 256,514.00
Vehicles	\$ 60,000.00
Rent Increase	\$ 10,000.00
Total Expenditure \$	\$ 1,316,633.00



Note: \$7800 cost to the County of Marin is accounted for separately

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%.

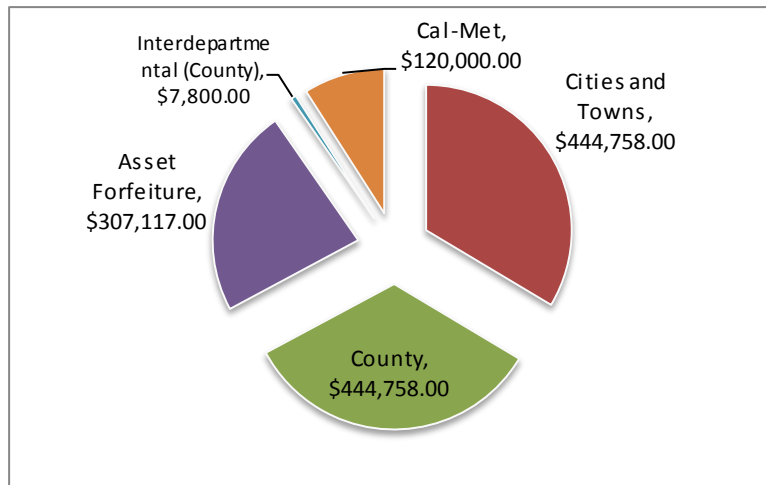
Monies collected through Asset Forfeiture programs goes directly to service and supplies, as well as our Capital Assets. The Service and Supplies portion of our budget covers anything other than salaries, including rent, utilities, phones, office supplies, reoccurring fees for service and maintenance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

2017—2018

BUDGET CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN

Cities and Towns	\$ 444,758
County	\$ 444,758
Asset Forfeiture	\$ 307,117
Interdepartmental (County)	\$ 7,800
Cal-Met	\$ 120,000
Total	\$ 1,324,433



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 monies will be received is unpredictable. The last fiscal year and this current fiscal year have been lean on 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's Office will be paid back first for the money it has loaned the MCTF.

In preparation for this upcoming fiscal years' budget, the Oversight Committee continues to 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.

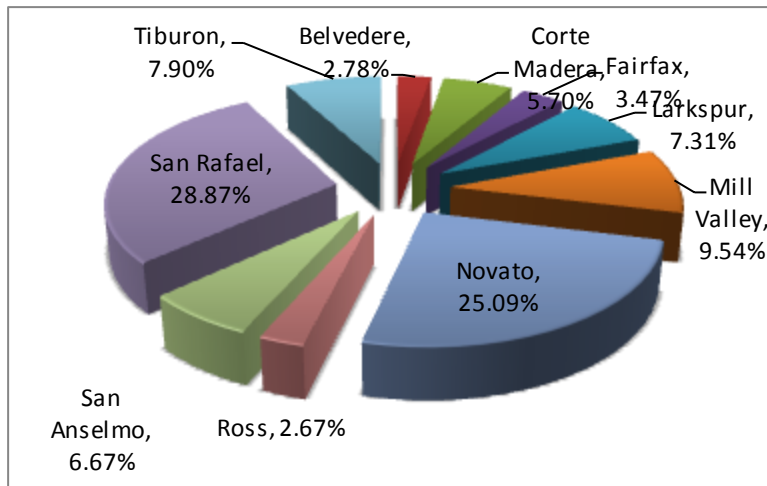
The first allocation will be for salaries and benefits as we currently do. The second allocation will be for service and supplies. The second allocation will be based on the same formula as the first allocation.

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

2017—2018 BUDGET CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN

Agency	Prorata Share	2017-2018	Apportionment
Belvedere	2.75%		\$ 12,243
Corte Madera	5.76%		\$ 25,599
Fairfax	3.42%		\$ 15,221
Larkspur	7.29%		\$ 32,411
Mill Valley	9.49%		\$ 42,228
Novato	25.22%		\$ 112,156
Ross	2.61%		\$ 11,604
San Anselmo	6.61%		\$ 29,386
San Rafael	29.01%		\$ 129,010
Sausalito			
Tiburon	7.85%		\$ 34,900
Total	100%	\$ 443,758	\$ 443,758



Of the 11 city and town jurisdictions in Marin, currently 10 participate as members of the MCTF JPA. The City of Sausalito dropped out of the MCTF JPA in 2013. Conversations with Sausalito are on-going.

The City of San Rafael re-joined the JPA in March of 2015, and the City of Ross in 2016 which, when combined with Central Marin Police Authority's 2015 decision to provide an officer in lieu of their cash contribution, would result in reduced costs for all JPA members. Due to the recent increase of salaries for the Sheriff's office, there will be a slight increase in contribution 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
2016-2017 and 2017-2018**

As with last year’s budget preparations, for fiscal year 2016-2017, 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, vehicles, and benefits.

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

Agency	Prorata Share	2017-2018	Prorata Share	2016-2017	Difference	Prorata Diff
Belvedere	2.75%	\$ 12,243	2.72%	\$ 10,116	0.03%	\$ (2127)
Corte Madera	5.76%	\$ 25,599	5.65%	\$ 21,012	0.11%	\$ (4587)
Fairfax	3.42%	\$ 15,221	3.53%	\$ 13,128	0.11%	\$ (2093)
Larkspur	7.29%	\$ 32,411	7.14%	\$ 26,553	0.15%	\$ (5858)
Mill Valley	9.49%	\$ 42,228	9.36%	\$ 34,809	0.13%	\$ (7419)
Novato	25.22%	\$ 112,156	25.36%	\$ 94,313	0.14%	\$ (17,843)
Ross	2.61%	\$ 11,604	2.75%	\$ 10,227	0.14%	\$ (1377)
San Anselmo	6.61%	\$ 29,386	6.72%	\$ 24,991	0.11%	\$ (4395)
San Rafael	29.01%	\$ 129,010	29.98%	\$ 107,775	0.97%	\$ (21,235)
Sausalito						
Tiburon	7.85%	\$ 34,508	7.79%	\$ 28,971	0.06%	\$ (5537)
Total	100%	\$ 444,758	100%	\$ 371,896		



ASSET FORFEITURE

What is asset forfeiture and what's the purpose of it?

Asset forfeiture is the seizing of ill-gotten gains from dealers and suppliers who are clearly profiting and living a lifestyle funded through criminal activities and criminal enterprises. It is a known fact that these criminals are more afraid of losing their money, status and power than they are of going to jail or prison.

Asset forfeiture got a bad reputation in the 1970's. You'll probably remember the stories of law enforcement officers seizing yachts and expensive cars based upon a single marijuana seed being discovered in the vehicle. The "seed" went directly to proving their drug transportation cases. The seizing and flaunting of these "prizes" didn't sit well with the public and politicians. Some saw this as an abuse of power and of the system.

Asset forfeiture has an honorable place in fighting drug trafficking and dealing. The seizing of criminal profits from drug dealers and suppliers is a punishment they fear. It's the ultimate equalizer, especially when we turn around and use those same profits to help fund our fight against them.

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.

Since the 1970's, the laws have changed to take away the incentive for law enforcement to seize expensive items. Under California law, vehicles seized can't be put into service and must be sold. Although still allowed under federal law, the incentive has been lessened and stricter guidelines are applied.

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.



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.



Asset Type	Asset Value
Financial Institution	\$ 350,000.00
Vehicles	\$ 44,450.00
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
Cash/Currency	\$ 44,000.00
Commercial Business	\$ 6,400,000.00
Commercial Business	\$ 3,700,000.00
Total	\$ 10,798,861.00



2017 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 that 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
13-160047	\$ 1,269.00	Currency
13-160105	\$ 19,500.00	Currency
14-160051	\$ 3,440.00	Currency
14-160117	\$ 95,800.00	Currency
14-160123	\$ 29,025.00	Currency
14-160124	\$ 38,306.00	Currency
15-160084	\$ 67,121.00	Currency
15-1600100	\$ 43,147.00	Currency
15-160103	\$ 13,847.00	Currency
15-1293	\$ 285,920.00	Jewelry
16-160099	\$ 11,210.00	Currency
17-160006	\$ 7,452.00	Currency
17-160024	\$ 26,530.00	Currency
17-160032	\$ 7,357.00	Currency
17-160049	\$ 26,000.00	Currency
Total	\$ 675,924.00	

Although \$675,924.00 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.



2017 CASE EXAMPLE #1

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

Butane Honey Oil Laboratory in Novato

A Central Marin Police Authority Officer conducted a traffic stop for mechanical violations. The investigation led to the discovery of a large quantity of Butane Honey Oil (BHO). The subject was arrested for possession with intent to sell. While being interviewed the subject stated he is part of the manufacturing process and that he and others had an active manufacturing facility at their house in a residential area of Novato.

MCTF Detectives were notified and immediately began surveillance at the Novato residence while other detectives began the process of obtaining a search warrant. Prior to the service of the search warrant, one subject was observed leaving the residence in an Uber, he was detained after a traffic stop pending the search warrant service. Upon the service of the search warrant a third involved party was located inside the residence.

MCTF Detectives located an active commercial size laboratory currently in the process of manufacturing BHO inside the house. The house was used as a warehouse for the manufacture, packaging, and shipping of massive quantities of Electronic Cigarettes containing BHO.

The processing of the scene required hazmat specialists to respond and make the laboratory safe prior to it being dismantled. All suspects were booked into Marin County Jail for Manufacturing a Controlled Substance.



2017 CASE EXAMPLE #2

Interstate Shipping of Marijuana based in Fairfax

After obtaining information about a parcel being shipped out of state from San Rafael, MCTF detectives responded and seized the parcel. After a positive alert by a narcotics K9, a search warrant was served on the parcel. Inside was 3 lbs. of processed marijuana. Continued investigation led to the discovery of the identity of the suspect and his current residence in Fairfax.

Detectives conducted surveillance and with the assistance of Fairfax PD conducted a traffic stop of the suspect as he left the residence. Inside the vehicle, detectives located cash and composite knuckles. A search warrant was then served on the residence. Inside they located approximately 78 lbs. of marijuana. Additionally detectives located 7 firearms, 3 high capacity magazines, miscellaneous ammunition, a switchblade, a throwing star, a nunchaku, suspected psilocybin mushrooms, and LSD. Approximately \$7,400 was seized from the suspect's person and residence. The suspect was booked into MCJ for multiple felonies.



CASE EXAMPLE #3

Texas Trio Shipping Marijuana Arrested While Boarding a Plane at SFO

After obtaining information of two packages being shipped from a location in Marin to Texas from a CI, MCTF detectives seized the packages. A narcotics dog was utilized and the k9 alerted to the odor of narcotics emitting from the packages. A search warrant was obtained for the two packages. Inside detectives located over 642 items of marijuana, concentrated cannabis products, and edible marijuana items.

Detectives obtained a license plate and suspect description of three people involved in the shipping of the boxes. The vehicle was a rental vehicle and due to be returned that evening at SFO. Detectives responded to the airport and the rental vehicle location where they obtained surveillance images of the subjects who had returned the vehicle moments before.

Detectives responded to the airport where they began a physical check of all gates for flights to Texas. The subjects were observed in line to board a flight; with the assistance of DEA and SFO Police Officers the three subjects were detained. In interviews they admitted their involvement of the shipping of marijuana products. All three were arrested and booked into Marin County Jail.



Case example #4

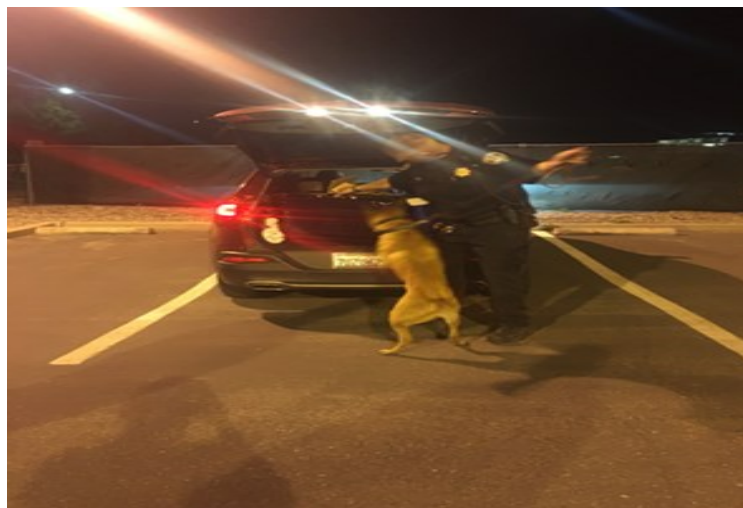
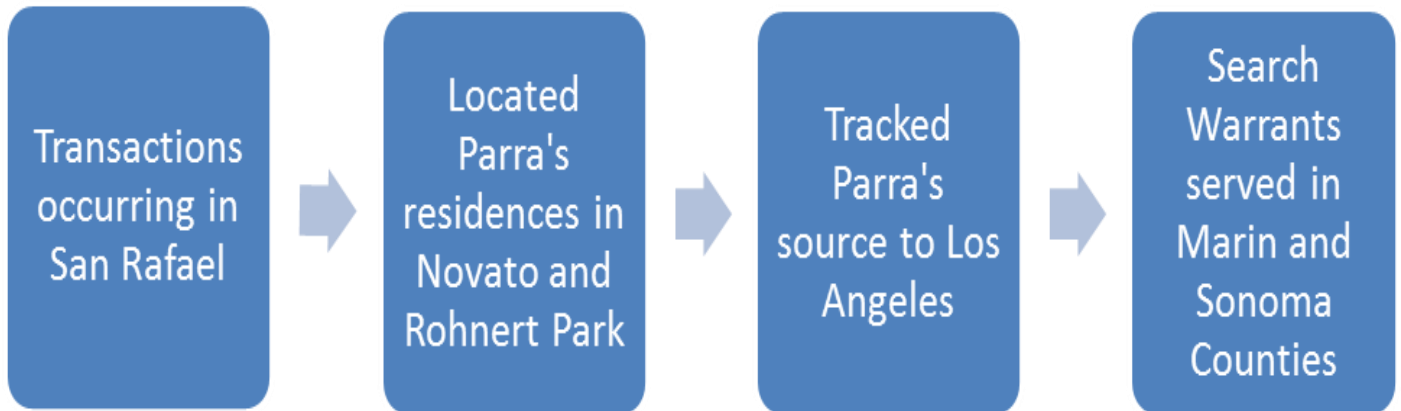
Operation Nova Caine

In 2014 MCTF detectives began to investigate Alejandro Parra. An initial attempt to purchase narcotics was unsuccessful and Parra fled to Mexico. In 2015 Parra returned and MCTF detectives were able to conduct controlled narcotics purchases with Parra. Since 2015 nearly 4 lbs. of cocaine has been purchased from Parra and the investigation has included the assistance of DEA with funding through OCEDTF. Multiple wiretap warrants were issued and numerous co-conspirators were identified.

In 2017 the case cumulated in the service of several search warrants and arrest warrants. With the assistance of Napa Detectives, Los Angeles area detectives, air surveillance resources ,and narcotics K9s four targets were stopped in three separate traffic stops. One traffic stop resulted in the seizure of \$20,000.

With the assistance of Novato PD, Rohnert Park DPS, Marin County SO, Sonoma County Task Force, and DEA four simultaneous search warrants were served on the target locations, 3 in Marin County.

At this time there have been four suspects, including Parra, arrested and pending federal prosecution. Four additional subjects are pending indictment by federal prosecutors.



Case example #5

A Mill Valley man was arrested in an undercover investigation targeting cocaine sales in Ross.

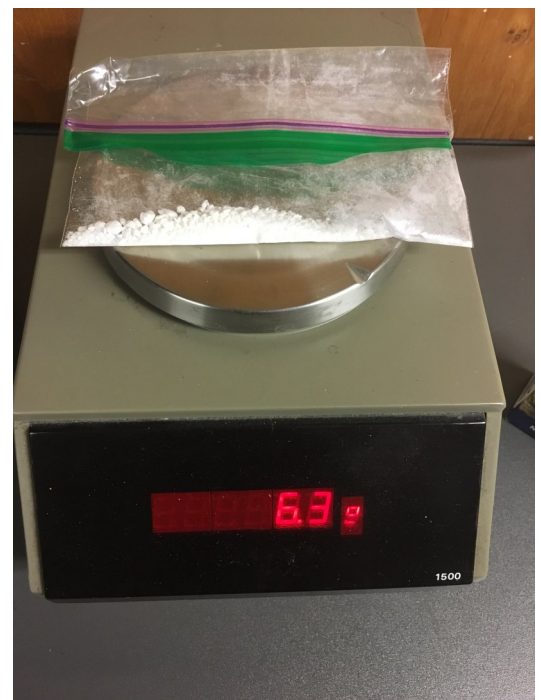
Bijan Bakhtiari, 24, was booked into the county jail on suspicion of cocaine possession for sale and transportation of cocaine, according to the Marin County Major Crimes Task Force.

The Task Force, the county's interagency drug squad, started the investigation about five months ago after receiving information about a cocaine dealer operating in Ross. The Task Force was able to make undercover purchases from the suspect.

Task Force detectives, Ross police, and Marin County Probation officers set up a bust for Wednesday night in Ross. Investigators arrested Bakhtiari when he arrived at the pre-arranged location and sold cocaine to an undercover detective.

After the bust, investigators searched Bakhtiari's residence in Mill Valley and confiscated a small-caliber handgun that was unregistered.

Bakhtiari was released on bail pending a review by the Marin County District Attorney's Office. Reached by phone on Thursday, he declined to comment on the allegations.



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 are 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, determine if it is unfounded or, decide if 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.



Example:

The 'Canal Buy Program' was a collaboration between the Marin County Major Crimes Task Force, the Santa Rosa Office of the DEA, and the San Rafael Police Department. Ultimately we would seek the assistance of numerous surrounding county Task Forces and Federal Agencies. The Canal Buy Program arose from the requests of the community to address the high volume of narcotic sales specifically in the Canal area in the City of San Rafael. The program was designed to have an undercover officer make numerous street level buys which in turn would result in numerous street level dealers being arrested, but it quickly evolved into something much greater.

The undercover detective began the program by soliciting narcotics from individuals at a small restaurant and bar. The detective was able to make numerous small purchases from numerous subjects (cocaine and methamphetamine) rather quickly and in time he was a staple in the restaurant. The detective began to form a working relationship with a female named Maria Aleman. Aleman was a very brazen individual who told the undercover detective numerous times that she would teach him the ropes of narcotics dealing and she could provide as much cocaine and methamphetamine as he wished. The detective began by purchasing grams of cocaine and methamphetamine from Aleman, but eventually moved on to ounces and multiple ounce buys. The undercover detective used Aleman's arrogance to his advantage which enabled him to purchase more and more cocaine from her.

During the investigation and surveillance, detectives learned Aleman was working as a "middle man" for another individual, Armando Sanchez. When the undercover detective would order larger quantities of cocaine from Aleman, he would meet her at a location, and provide Aleman with the money. Aleman would then walk nearby and meet with Sanchez. Detectives were able to surveil Sanchez by means of ground, air and electronic trackers.

On September 21, 2017, in coordination with numerous Police Departments, Bay Area Narcotics Task Forces, State and Federal Agencies; the Marin County Major Crimes Task Force organized a buy/bust which included 4 residential search warrants and a residential probation search which were to be executed simultaneously with the bust. For the bust, the undercover detective ordered a half pound of cocaine from Aleman. When Sanchez arrived to deliver the cocaine to Aleman both subjects were arrested and all 5 residential searches were executed simultaneously.

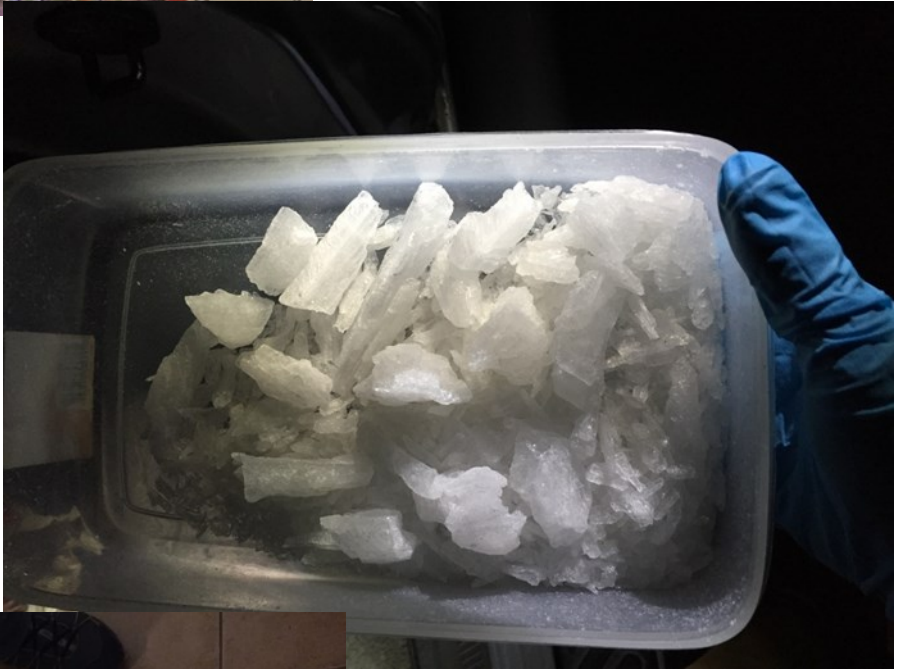
Approximately 7.5 pounds of cocaine total

Approximately 1.5 pounds of methamphetamine

Approximately 12 Law Enforcement Agencies assisted including over 80 Officers

Over \$18,000 US currency and one hand gun

This case made an enormous impact on the Canal Community. The effects of the Canal Buy Program are still being felt in the community today. I have been told by numerous informants that subjects are scared to sell narcotics as they have all heard about the bust. Detectives have been able to cultivate new informants as a result of the operation and will continue to work leads associated with the case.



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 2017 numbers of contacts and investigations by agency.

Agency	Contacts	Cases	Arrests	Search Warrants
Belvedere	11	0	0	0
Central Marin	52	13	0	6
CHP	204	1	0	0
Fairfax	18	16	0	1
Mill Valley	38	2	0	1
Novato	128	18	7	8
San Rafael	132	128 (See *)	17	78
Sheriff	330	13	0	1
Tiburon	17	1	0	0
Ross	6	3	1	0
Misc.	57	12	3	7
Totals	923	204	22	97

- San Rafael Jurisdiction.: 58 case reports were dedicated to the illegal shipping of narcotics from an undisclosed business.
- San Rafael Jurisdiction: The Canal Buy Program generated 45 case reports (refer to pg. 28)

2017 NARCOTICS SEIZED OR PURCHASED

Drug	1st Qtrtr	2nd Qtrtr	3rd Qtrtr	4th Qtrtr	Totals
Cocaine	123.1G	276.9G	2,901.2G	102.9G	3,404.1
Hash	1,357G	2,859.9G	5.0G	0G	4,221.9G
Heroin	0.0	6.6G	0.0G	0.1G	6.7G
Hydrocodone*	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0G	10.0G
LSD	1.0G	28.0G	0.0	0.0	1.0G
Marijuana Plants	926.0	4,963	0.0	0	5,889.0G
Marijuana Product	228,706G	150,461.5G	34,131.8G	34,194.5G	447,493.8G
Methamphetamine	73.2.0G	87.8.0G	610.4G	110.8G	882.2G
Xanax/Zoloft*	0.0U	33.0G	105.0G	0.0	138.0G

PRICES

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

Cocaine: \$60 - \$100 a gram
 \$600—\$1000 an ounce

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

Heroin \$50-100 a gram

LSD \$10 a tab

Marijuana \$2,000 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 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 or 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.



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 (11% developed) and another 308 square miles of water. The majority of the land is either agriculture production, designated as open space or watershed areas, in park lands, resulting in nearly half of the county's land area being in some form of protected open lands. The 2017 estimated overall population for Marin was 261,221 with 68,000 in unincorporated Marin County. The population is expected to reach 275,000 by 2020. This is an increase of 12% since 2000. The annual median income is \$93,257.

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

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

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 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. 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

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.

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 Proposition 64 state guidelines. However, the black market business of marijuana is illegal and remains very prevalent. The market for California grown weed is 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 significant 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.



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 experiencing more and more of these labs. Exposure to open flames will ignite the flammable gases causing devastating explosions.



ORGANIZED CRIME DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCES

In September of 2016, 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 January of 2017, we identified this case as qualifying as an OCDETF case, subject to Federal funding for investigators' overtime. Since that time the MCTF has received \$20,937.49 in federal funding. This qualifies as unexpected income or miscellaneous revenue.

We have identified 9 main targets as well as 8 places of interested for search warrants. This case is closed and pending trials in the Federal courts.

January	\$3,982.24
February	\$304.84
March	\$609.68
April	\$12,310.04
May	\$2,281.53
June	\$1,449.16
Total	\$20,937.49



What is Fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid analgesic that is similar to morphine but is 50 to 100 times more potent. It is a schedule II prescription drug, and it is typically used to treat patients with severe pain or to manage pain after surgery. It is also sometimes used to treat patients with chronic pain who are physically tolerant to other opioids. In its prescription form, fentanyl is known by such names as Actiq, Duragesic, and Sublimaze. Street names for fentanyl or for fentanyl-laced heroin include Apache, China Girl, China White, Dance Fever, Friend, Goodfella, Jackpot, Murder 8, TNT, and Tango and Cash.

How do people use fentanyl?

When prescribed by a physician, fentanyl is often administered via injection, transdermal patch, or in lozenges. However, the fentanyl and fentanyl analogs associated with recent overdoses are produced in clandestine laboratories. This non-pharmaceutical fentanyl is sold in the following forms: as a powder; spiked on blotter paper; mixed with or substituted for heroin; or as tablets that mimic other, less potent opioids. People can swallow, snort, or inject fentanyl, or they can put blotter paper in their mouths so that fentanyl is absorbed through the mucous membrane.

Why is fentanyl dangerous?

Opioid receptors are also found in the areas of the brain that control breathing rate. High doses of opioids, especially potent opioids such as fentanyl, can cause breathing to stop completely, which can lead to death. The high potency of fentanyl greatly increases risk of overdose, especially if a person who uses drugs is unaware that a powder or pill contains fentanyl. Fentanyl sold on the street can be mixed with heroin or cocaine, which markedly amplifies its potency and potential dangers.

The medication naloxone is an opioid receptor antagonist that reverses opioid overdose and restores normal respiration. Overdoses of fentanyl should be treated immediately with naloxone and may require higher doses to successfully reverse the overdose.

Fentanyl

MCTF detectives conducted presentations to all agencies on the dangers of Fentanyl. Fentanyl is an emerging opiate that is causing an epidemic of overdoses nationwide. Fentanyl is transdermal which drastically increases its danger for first responders, simply touching the substance can cause it to enter the blood stream. Fentanyl also is highly potent when compared to well known opiates such as heroin.

A few of the additional new difficulties being address are; Fentanyl is often pressed into the form of pills which cause it to appear harmless and prevent its discovery as a controlled substance, normal field narcotics tests are not effective in identifying the drug, and numerous variants (carfentanyl) are being developed quickly.

Currently MCTF detectives can request a TruNarc machine from DEA and get a substance tested for the presence of Fentanyl. New DOJ guidelines limit the field testing of suspicious narcotics to prevent accidental exposure to first responders. MCTF detectives are continuing to observe the emerging trends caused by the use of synthetic opiates.



California

The following information are from “The Encyclopedia Politics reports”

“California Proposition 64, Marijuana Legalization (2016)”



Marijuana users:

Proposition 64 legalized the recreational use of marijuana for adults aged 21 years or older, permitting smoking in a private home or at a business licensed for on-site marijuana consumption. Smoking was to remain illegal while driving a vehicle, anywhere smoking tobacco is, and in all public places. Up to 28.5 grams of marijuana and 8 grams of concentrated marijuana are legal to possess under this measure. However, possession on the grounds of a school, day care center, or youth center while children are present remains illegal. An individual is permitted to grow up to six plants within a private home as long as the area is locked and not visible from a public place.

Marijuana sellers:

According to this proposition, businesses needed to acquire a state license to sell marijuana for recreational use. Local governments could also require them to obtain a local license. Businesses were not authorized by the proposition to sell within 600 feet of a school, day care center, or youth center. The initiative also prevented licenses for large-scale marijuana businesses for five years in order to prevent "unlawful monopoly power."

Marijuana taxation:

Proposition 64 created two new excise taxes on marijuana:

- A cultivation tax of \$9.25 per ounce for flowers and \$2.75 per ounce for leaves, with exceptions for certain medical marijuana sales and cultivation.
- A 15 percent tax on the retail price of marijuana.
- Taxes will be adjusted for inflation starting in 2020. Local governments were authorized to levy taxes on marijuana as well.



Marijuana revenue:

Revenue from the two taxes will be deposited in a new California Marijuana Tax Fund. First, the revenue will be used to cover costs of administrating and enforcing the measure. Next, it will be distributed to drug research, treatment, and enforcement, including:

- \$2 million per year to the UC San Diego Center for Medical Cannabis Research to study medical marijuana. \$10 million per year for 11 years for public California universities to research and evaluate the implementation and impact of Proposition 64. Researchers would make policy change recommendations to the California Legislature and California governor .
- \$3 million annually for five years to the Department of the California Highway Patrol for developing protocols to determine whether a vehicle driver is impaired due to marijuana consumption.
- \$10 million, increasing each year by \$10 million until settling at \$50 million in 2022, for grants to local health departments and community-based nonprofits supporting "job placement, mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, system navigation services, legal services to address barriers to reentry, and linkages to medical care for communities disproportionately affected by past federal and state drug policies."

The remaining revenue will be distributed as follows:

- 60 percent to youth programs, including drug education, prevention, and treatment.
- 20 percent to prevent and alleviate environmental damage from illegal marijuana producers.
- 20 percent to programs designed to reduce driving under the influence of marijuana and a grant program designed to reduce negative impacts on health or safety resulting from the proposition.

Marijuana penalties:

Individuals under age 18 convicted of marijuana use or possession are required to attend drug education or a counseling program and complete community service. Selling marijuana without a license is punishable by up to six months in a county jail, a fine up to \$500, or both.

With Proposition 64's approval, individuals serving criminal sentences for activities made legal under the measure became eligible for resentencing.

MARIN COUNTY

Marin has a affluent and interesting history and sightseeing attractions. From Muir Woods National Monument to the world famous Golden Gate Bridge that joins us with San Francisco, Point Reyes National Seashore, Point Bonita Lighthouse, and the beautiful Bolinas Ridge.

