

MARIN COUNTY MAJOR CRIMES TASK



2018
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

Co-Chair/City Manager: Todd Cusimano—Town of Corte Madera

Marin Resident: Ed Schulze

Marin Resident: Dan Falzon

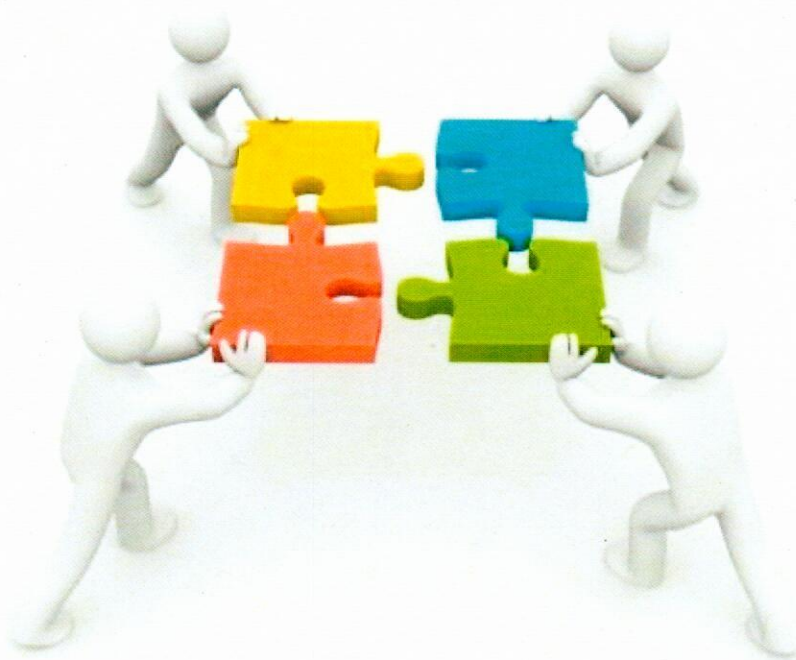


TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>PAGE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
2	Oversight Committee Members
3-4	Table of Contents
5	History
6	Overview
7	Joint Powers Agreement Members and Partners
8	Joint Powers Agreement Members and Partners Map
9	Objectives
10	Staffing, Training, Other
11	Resources and Equipment
12	HIDTA Map of California
13	Drug Testing
14	Covanta Evidence Destruction
15	2018- 2019 Budget (figures and graph)
16	Budget Contributions (figures and graph)
17	Cities and Towns Contribution Breakdown and FY Comparison
17	In-Kind Contributions
18	Budget Fiscal Year Comparisons—Agency Pro Rata Share Table
19	Asset Forfeiture
20	Asset Forfeiture—Federal AF Table
21	2018 Asset Forfeiture—State AF Table
22	2018 State Asset Forfeiture Distributions
23	Case Example #1
24	Case Example #2
25	Case Example #3
26	Case Example #4
27	Case Example #5
28-29	Citizen Reporting
30	Agency by Agency
31	Narcotic Seizures — Types of Drugs and Quantities — Prices
32	Working Together
33	Marin's Makeup
34	What You Don't See

35-36	Trends
37-38	Fentanyl
39	K-9 MAX





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

Currently, under the umbrella of the Task Force resides:

- **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 Assistant (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.

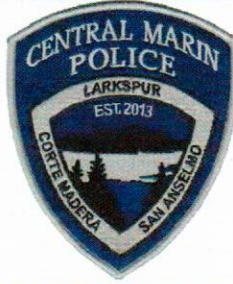


JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT

2018 MEMBERS AND PARTNERS



Belvedere Police Department
City of Belvedere



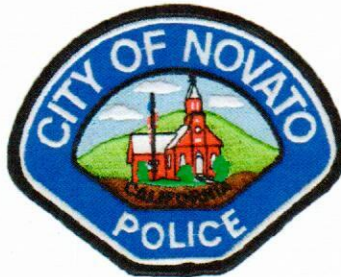
Central Marin Police Authority
City of Corte Madera
City of Larkspur
Town of San Anselmo



Fairfax Police Department
Town of Fairfax



Mill Valley Police Department
City of Mill Valley



Novato Police Department
City of Novato



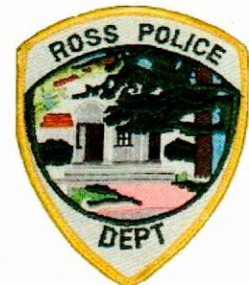
San Rafael Police Department
City of San Rafael



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

2018 NON MEMBER AGENCIES



Sausalito Police Department
City of Sausalito
Withdrew 2014

JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT



BELVEDERE - CORTE MADERA - FAIRFAX - LARKSPUR

MILL VALLEY - NOVATO - ROSS - SAN ANSELMO -

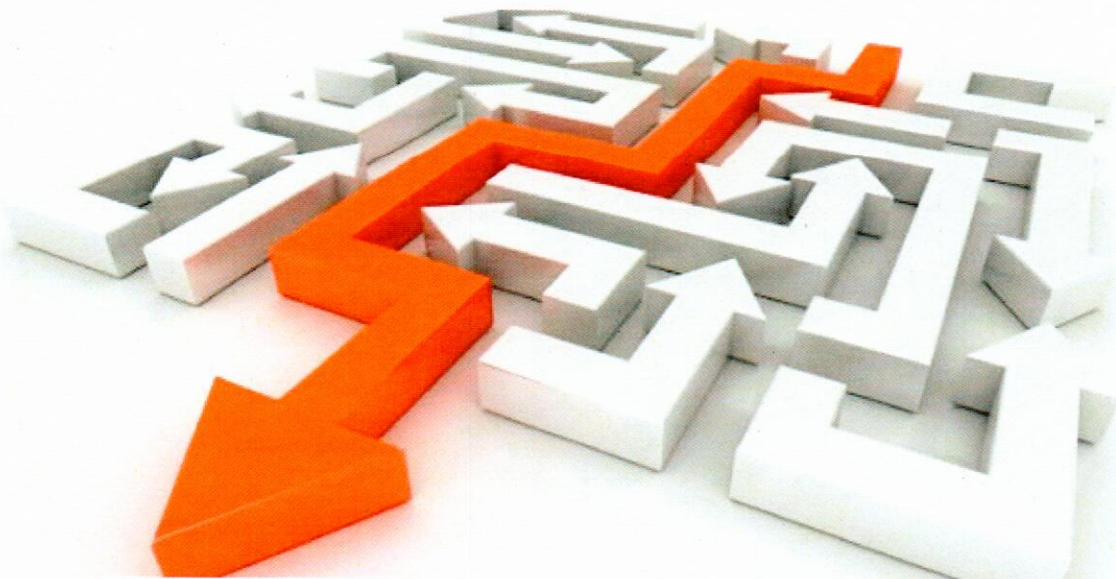
TIBURON - SAN RAFAEL - COUNTY OF MARIN

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 Assistant 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 detectives assigned to the unit. Spanish speaking detectives have proven to be an invaluable asset to our operations and to our success; a good portion of the illegal drug trade in Marin County is facilitated 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 ongoing narcotics related training courses as well as the annual California Narcotics Officers' Association (CNOA) conference 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, one of our detectives attended the basic course. In addition, two of 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. With the assistance of a HIDTA grant the unit acquired "Max", a 3 year old Springer Spaniel mix. Max is under the care of a Detective assigned to the Task Force unit. Max 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. Max is certified by C.N.C.A. and P.O.S.T. in the identification of the following odors: cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine, heroin, ammunition, and smokeless powder. Max 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. Max 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 5 Special Response Team members: 4 detectives that are Tactical Instructors, 2 Weaponless Defense Instructors, 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*



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 department's 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 Christine Wheeler, Urine - CONFIDENTIAL

Lab Management Network

Inc
4445 Eastgate Mall, Ste 200
San Diego, CA 92121
760-712-8408



Lab Management
Network Inc

The County of Marin
1600 Los Gatos Dr. Suite 200
San Rafael, CA 94903

Donor	████████████████████
Overall Result	Negative
Date/Time Collected	Dec. 20, 2018, 8:37 a.m.
Lab Reported	Dec. 20, 2018, 11:45 a.m.
Type	Random Selection (Urine)
Panel	10
Specimen ID	0938502191

Test	Result	Screen Cutoff	Confirm Cutoff
Amphetamine/Methamphetamine	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
Opiates	Negative	2000 ng/mL	2000 ng/mL
Phencyclidine	Negative	25 ng/mL	25 ng/mL
Propoxyphene	Negative	300 ng/mL	300 ng/mL

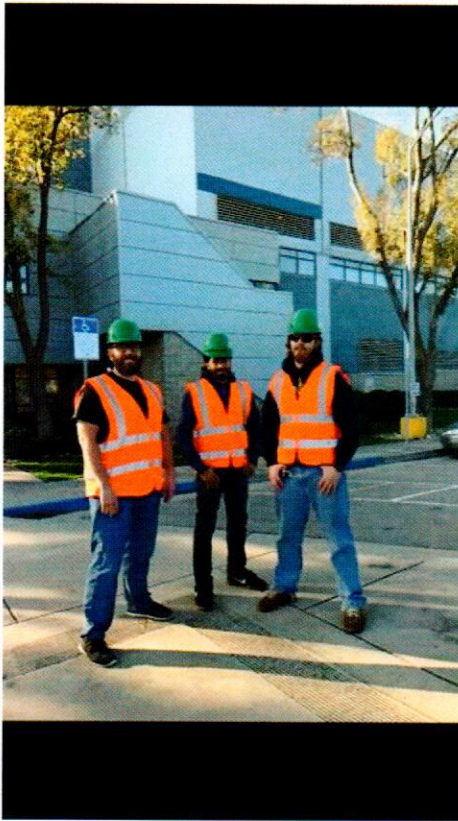
Collected By:
Joyce Holloway
LABCORP 063448
153 Lynch Creek Way
Petaluma, CA 94954
7077652043

Lab:
LabCorp
1904 Alexander Drive
RTP, NC 27709

COVANTA
EVIDENCE DESTRUCTION

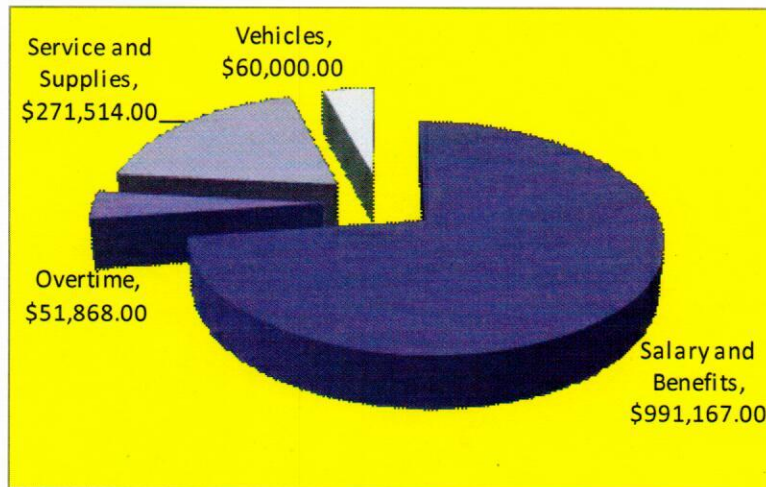
During 2018, the Task Force made 2 separate evidence destruction runs. The trips were made in May and in December. All contraband destroyed is by court order and court approval. Evidence taken for destruction includes narcotics, manufacturing equipment, miscellaneous items seized (including unclaimed 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.



2018-2019 BUDGET

	Budget
Salary and Benefits	\$ 991,167.00
Overtime	\$ 51,868.00
Service and Supplies	\$ 271,514.00
Vehicles	\$ 60,000.00
Total Expenditure \$	\$ 1,374,549.00



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 accessed property values. The cities and towns pay 50% of the MCTF salaries and benefits. The County pays the other 50%.

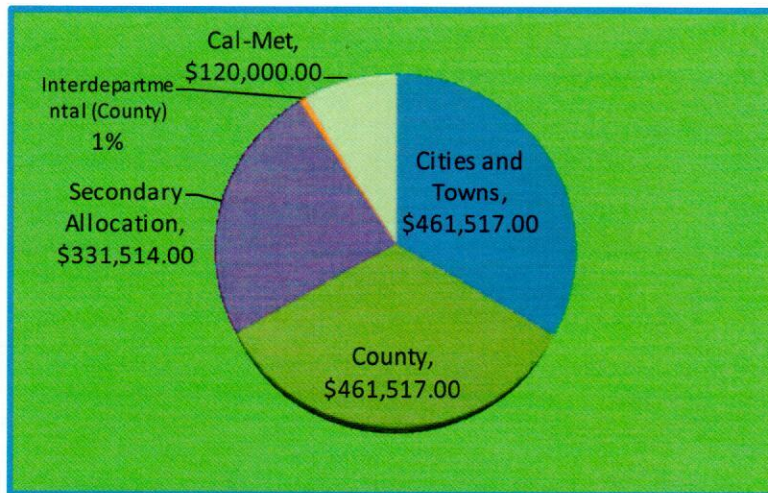
Monies collected through Asset Forfeiture programs goes directly to service and supplies, as well as our Capital Assets. The Service and Supplies portion of our budget covers anything other than salaries, including rent, utilities, phones, office supplies, reoccurring fees for service and maintenance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

2018—2019

BUDGET CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN

Cities and Towns	\$ 461,517.00
County	\$ 461,517.00
Secondary Allocation	\$ 331,514.00
Interdepartmental (County)	\$ 7800.00
Cal-Met	\$ 120,000.00
Total	\$ 1,374,549.00



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.

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.

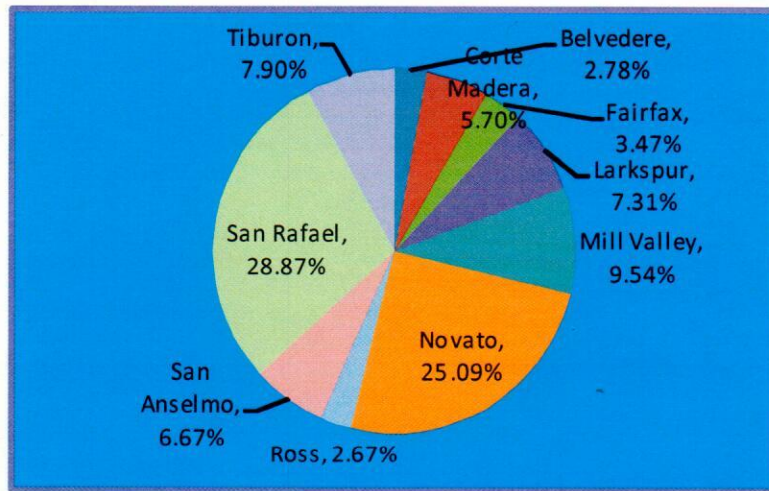
The first allocation will be for salaries and benefits as we currently do. The second allocation will be for service and supplies. The second allocation will be based on the same formula as the first allocation.

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

2018—2019 BUDGET CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN

Agency	Prorata Share	2018-2019	Apportionment
Belvedere	2.78%		\$ 12,830
Corte Madera	5.70%		\$ 26,306
Fairfax	3.47%		\$ 16,015
Larkspur	7.31%		\$ 33,737
Mill Valley	9.54%		\$ 44,029
Novato	25.09%		\$ 115,795
Ross	2.67%		\$ 12,323
San Anselmo	6.67%		\$ 30,783
San Rafael	28.87%		\$ 133,240
Sausalito			
Tiburon	7.90%		\$ 36,460
Total	100%	\$ 461,517	\$ 461,517



Of the 11 city and town jurisdictions in Marin, currently 10 participate as members of the MCTF JPA. 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

As with last year's budget preparations, for fiscal year 2017-2018, 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	2018-2019	Prorata Share	2017-2018	Difference	Prorata Diff
Belvedere	2.78%	\$ 12,830	2.75%	\$ 12,243	0.03%	\$ (587)
Corte Madera	5.70%	\$ 26,306	5.76%	\$ 25,599	0.06%	\$ (707)
Fairfax	3.47%	\$ 16,015	3.42%	\$ 15,221	0.05%	\$ (794)
Larkspur	7.31%	\$ 33,737	7.29%	\$ 32,411	0.02%	\$ (1326)
Mill Valley	9.54%	\$ 44,029	9.49%	\$ 42,228	0.05%	\$ (1801)
Novato	25.09%	\$ 115,795	25.22%	\$ 112,156	0.13%	\$ (3639)
Ross	2.67%	\$ 12,323	2.61%	\$ 11,604	0.06%	\$ (719)
San Anselmo	6.67%	\$ 30,783	6.61%	\$ 29,386	0.06%	\$ (1397)
San Rafael	28.87%	\$ 133,340	29.01%	\$ 129,010	0.14%	\$ (4330)
Sausalito						
Tiburon	7.90%	\$ 36,460	7.85%	\$ 34,508	0.05%	\$ (1952)
Total	100%	\$ 461,517	100%	\$ 444,758		



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.



The top chart shows current seized assets pending in the federal system. You can see that two 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 of the chart is significant, we will only receive a small portion in each case if awarded. At the very bottom are the figures for federal asset forfeiture distributions that Marin County Major Crimes Task Force received in 2018.

Asset Type	Asset Value
Financial Institution	\$350,000.00
Cash/Currency	\$4,260.00
Cash/Currency	\$40,500.00
Cash/Currency	\$99,000.00
Cash/Currency	\$85,000.00
Commercial Business	\$6,400,000.00
Cash/Currency	\$73,823.00
Total	\$7,052,583.00

Payment Type	Case Number	Amount Seized	Transaction	Amount Paid
Cash Distribution	17-DEA-626722	\$44,000.00 U.S. Currency	07/13/2018	\$34,320.00
Cash Distribution	17-DEA-626746	Vehicles - Truck - 2016 Toyota	07/18/2018	\$25,548.51
Cash Distribution	17-DEA-630185	\$20,429.00 U.S. Currency	07/18/2018	\$7,967.31
Cash Distribution	14-FBI-003189	\$31,651.00 U.S. Currency	09/13/2018	\$5,360.17

2018 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.

DA CASE #	AMOUNT	TYPE
18-16-07	\$ 98,551.18	Currency
18-16-06	\$ 71,400.00	Currency
18-16-05	\$ 26,170.00	Currency
18-16-04	\$ 6,765.00	Currency
18-16-03	\$ 7,037.74	Currency
	\$ 3,811.00	Jewelry Appraisal Value
18-16-02	\$ 7,018.00	Currency
	\$ 12,820.00	Jewelry Appraisal Value
18-16-01	\$ 2,334.00	Currency
17-16-08	\$ 26,530.00	Currency
17-16-05	\$ 2,550.00	Currency
17-16-04	\$ 1,063.00	Currency
17-16-02	\$ 7,452.00	Currency
17-16-01	\$ 81,340.00	Currency
16-16-09	\$ 4,900.00	Currency
16-16-08	\$ 17,100.00	Currency
16-16-07	\$ 5,840.00	Currency
16-16-05	\$ 44,222.00	Currency
15-16-04B	\$ 3,900.00	Currency
15-16-13	\$ 109,353.00	Currency
15-16-10	\$ 21,000.00	Currency
15-16-05	\$ 18,872.00	Currency
15-16-04	\$ 32,886.87	Currency
	\$ 160,150.00	Jewelry Appraisal Value
14-16-10	\$ 45,788.71	Currency
12-16-01	\$ 3,585.00	Currency
10-16-11	\$ 12,405.00	Currency
10-16-05	\$ 5,110.00	Currency
09-16-10	\$ 54,100.00	Currency
08-16-14	\$ 43,912.25	Currency
08-16-09	\$ 1,424.00	Currency
07-16-04	\$ 1,700.00	Currency
06-16-06	\$ 6,572.00	Currency
06-16-04	\$ 1,712.52	Currency
06-16-02	\$ 5,620.00	Currency
06-16-01	\$ 6,444.93	Currency
05-16-11	\$ 2,045.07	Currency
05-16-09	\$ 4,607.00	Currency
TOTAL:	\$ 968,092.27	

2018 ASSET FORFEITURE

Although \$968,092.27 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. Below you find the state asset forfeiture funds that the Marin County Major Crimes Task Force received in 2018.

2018 ASSET FORFEITURE DISTRIBUTIONS FROM MCDA

Report Generated 1/29/2019

DA CASE #	Amount Seized	Amount Received	Date Received
16-16-01	\$ 154,140.00	\$ 86,315.85	10/24/2018
15-16-15	\$ 4,540.00	\$ 2,501.95	10/24/2018
17-16-03	\$ 7,357.00	\$ 3,961.86	10/24/2018
15-16-12	\$ 21,881.00	\$ 502.54	10/24/2018
14-16-03	\$ 38,801.00	\$ 6.78	10/24/2018
11-16-08	\$ 2,966.00	\$ 4.16	10/24/2018
14-16-13	\$ 4,001.37	\$ 610.15	10/24/2018
14-16-19	\$ 136,254.27	\$ 34,225.29	10/24/2018
15-16-19	\$ 34,480.00	\$ 19,276.85	10/24/2018
15-16-08	\$ 14,120.00	\$ 7,872.48	10/24/2018
14-16-11	\$ 320,032.42	\$ 27,511.94	5/24/2018
TOTAL		\$ 182,789.85	

2018 CASE EXAMPLE #1

Marin County drug investigators intercepted 12 pounds of suspected MDMA shipped from the Netherlands to Marin and Sonoma counties. Authorities arrested two Petaluma residents on Wednesday on allegations of trafficking the substance.

The street value of the evidence could range from \$110,000 in bulk to as much as \$540,000 if converted to ecstasy pills.

The investigation started in January after the task force received information about three parcels that each contained a pound of suspected MDMA. The shipments originated in the Netherlands and were sent to Novato, San Rafael, and Windsor.

The case remains under investigation.

MDMA, or 3,4-methylenedioxyamphetamine, is a synthetic chemical that acts as both a stimulant and a hallucinogen, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. The agency said MDMA in the United States is typically produced at labs in Canada and the Netherlands and smuggled here.



2018 CASE EXAMPLE #2

Fairfax bar scrutinized in drug investigation

Authorities arrested one suspect and cited two others in an investigation into drug activity at a Fairfax tavern. The bar, Peri's at 29 Broadway, could face license sanctions as a result of the investigation.

"It's not something that I want going on in this town," said Fairfax police Chief Christopher Morin. "It brings a certain element into town that can end up causing us trouble."

The investigation began last month and involved the Marin County Major Crimes Task Force, the Fairfax Police Department, and the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

The task force conducted surveillance in the bar, made undercover purchases from the suspect, and arrested the alleged dealer. Detectives also searched an apartment on Broadway as part of the investigation.

Mario Chavez Lopez, 32, was booked into the Marin County Jail on six counts of alleged drug possession for sale. He was released pending further review by the Marin County District Attorney's Office.

Agents with ABC conducted a separate operation and cited two men who were smoking marijuana in the bar. ABC identified them as John Varn, 28, of San Anselmo, and Aidan Haberstroh, 27, of Fairfax.

The citations, under the code for smoking or ingesting cannabis in public, are infractions that carry a fine of up to \$100.

The state is still deciding potential action against Peri's.

"ABC is reviewing all investigative reports for possible administration action that could result in possible suspension or revocation of the license," John Carr, a spokesman for the department.

The bar's management could not be reached for comment.



CASE EXAMPLE #3

Novato man gets prison for weapons stash

A Novato man was sentenced to more than three years in prison for keeping a weapons cache that included 11 guns, a trove of magazines and ammunition, a bayonet, handcuffs, and large knives.

Gregory Frank Delange, 49, is barred from possessing the weapons because he is a convicted felon.

The county probation department discovered the cache last August during a search of Delange's residence on Novato Boulevard. A probation officer found the weapons hidden in a chamber cut into a wall behind a mirror.

Agents also found a manual for producing homemade bombs and receipts for aluminum nitrate, a potential explosive, according to court filings. In addition, Delange had about a quarter ounce of methamphetamine in his bedroom.

The guns included a Glock semi-automatic pistol; two Remington pump-action shotguns; a Remington semi-automatic shotgun; a Phantom semi-automatic shotgun; a Western Auto Supply bolt-action rifle; a Marlin semi-automatic rifle; a U.S. Carbine semi-automatic rifle with a bayonet attached; a Sears bolt-action rifle; a Colt semi-automatic assault rifle; and a Bushmaster semi-automatic assault rifle, according to the probation department.

The Glock was the only gun registered to Delange and most had no registration.

Delange accepted a plea offer, admitting to five counts of weapons possession by a felon. The plea deal carried a sentence of six years and four months in prison.



Case example #4

DEA/Marin Task Force Operation of Canal Narcotics Traffickers

In the early months of 2018, a joint operation with Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Marin County Major Crime Task Force (MCMCTF) began an investigation into a large scale drug trafficking ring in the Canal neighborhood of San Rafael. A Marin County Major Crimes Undercover Detective was able to infiltrate the drug trafficking ring in the Canal area of San Rafael. This Undercover Detective was able buy methamphetamine from multiple people inside of this drug trafficking organization on more than one occasion. Each purchase involved multiple ounces of crystal methamphetamine.

The DEA obtained federal indictments on two of the suspects and search warrants at three locations in the Canal neighborhood. During the afternoon of September 18th, the MCMCTF, DEA, San Rafael Police Department and Marin County Sheriff's Office executed search warrants on Harbor St, Louise St, and Fairfax St in San Rafael. As a result of this operation, investigators seized nearly 1.5 pounds of methamphetamine, over a half pound of cocaine, and approximately eleven thousand dollars as of today's date.



Case example #5

Marin drug probe snares 3 in San Rafael, Novato

Investigators arrested two suspects and cited a third for an alleged drug sales operation being run from a San Rafael residence.

The investigation started in September when the Marin County Major Crimes Task Force developed information about suspected drug sales at a home on Yosemite Road off Smith Ranch Road.

The resident is Johnny Henderson, 58, according to Sheriff's Lt. Rudy Yamanoha, Commander of the task force. Investigators identified the source of the drugs as Timothy Melchior, 32, who lives in the Ignacio area of Novato.

Investigators obtained search warrants for their residences and executed them. Henderson and Melchior were booked into the Marin County Jail and have been released pending a review by the district attorney's office.

The third suspect, Damian Kirsch, 30, of San Rafael, was cited and released.

Investigators seized about half a pound of suspected methamphetamines, an ounce of suspected cocaine, nearly half an ounce of heroin, 2.7 pounds of marijuana, and more than \$12,000 in cash. The street value of the drugs was estimated at \$10,000.

The investigation included members of the MCMCTF, the Marin County Coordination of Probation Enforcement Unit, the Marin County Sheriff's Office, the San Rafael Police Department, and the Novato Police Department.



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:

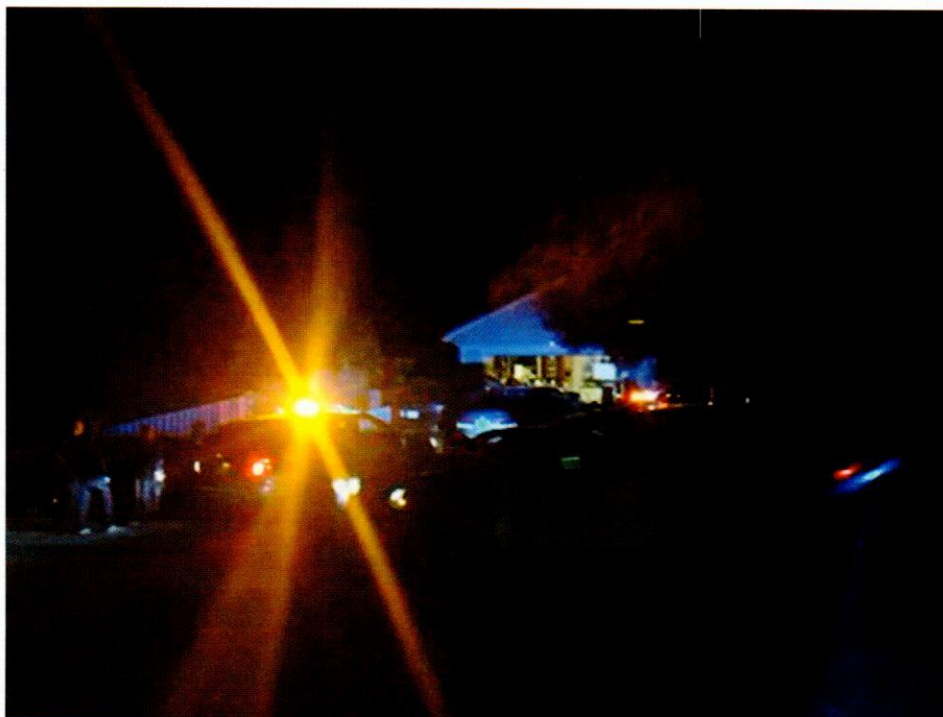
In the beginning of February, the Marin County Major Crimes Task Force and the Novato Police Department received complaints about drug activity and narcotics sales occurring at a residence on Kenwood Court. Detectives from the Task Force and the Novato Police patrol teams began to actively monitor this area with assistance from the Novato Response Team. A number of contacts and arrests were made of individuals leaving this residence for narcotics related offenses, which helped verify and confirm the information we were receiving from the community. As a result of this information, Marin County Major Crimes Task Force Detectives obtained a search warrant for this residence.

On Thursday, February 8th, 2018, Novato Police officers stopped a man leaving this residence and located a small amount of methamphetamine on him. At the same time, Marin County Major Crimes Task Force detectives and NPD officers went to the residence to serve a narcotics related search warrant.

Detectives located and detained numerous people in and around the property, including a 10 year old child. During search of the residence Detectives found a large quantity of methamphetamine inside a bedroom along with more drugs in the backyard and garage area.

During the execution of the search warrant 50 year old Novato resident Luu Quach was arrested for suspicion of selling narcotics, child endangerment, destroying evidence, and violation of his narcotics related probation. Detectives contacted 52 year old Jesus Santana at the property, arrested him for possessing narcotics and being under the influence of a controlled substance. They also contacted 33 year old Lillian Brown of Novato, who was arrested for possessing narcotics paraphernalia and violating her probation.

The Marin County Major Crimes Task Force and allied agencies work in partnership with the communities to provide a safe environment and to detect, apprehend, and prosecute the drug offenders who affect neighborhoods. Our job in the Marin County Task Force could not be possible without the help of the community. who provides us vital information on a regular basis..



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 2018 numbers of contacts and investigations by agency.

Agency	Contacts	Cases	Arrests	Search Warrants
Belvedere	16	0	0	0
Central Marin	137	11	1	1
CHP	382	1	0	0
Fairfax	33	12	1	1
Mill Valley	85	8	0	0
Novato	238	75	15	23
San Rafael	182	116	18	19
Sheriff	355	17	0	2
Tiburon	29	2	0	0
Ross	15	0	0	0
Misc.	29	13	0	4
Totals	1490	255	35	50

2018 NARCOTICS SEIZED OR PURCHASED

Drug	1st Qtrr	2nd Qtrr	3rd Qtrr	4th Qtrr	Totals
Cocaine	84.1	78.5	284.2	36.6	483.4
Hash	122	0	0	0	122
Heroin	32.1	5.3	30.3	88.7	156.4
Ketamine	21.5	0	0	0	21.5
LSD	0	58.8	0	0	58.8
MDMA	5,984.8	10.8	1.0	99	6,095
Marijuana Product	35,396.5	4,082.4	0	38821.1	78,300
Methamphetamine	101.2	529.0	1,129.7	316.1	2,076.0
Xanax/Zoloft*	0.0U	111.0	56.0	132.0	299.0

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.



image

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 2018 estimated overall population for Marin was 260,955 with 67,000 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 \$91,477.

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.

WHAT YOU DONT SEE (IMPACT'S US ALL)

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 (CONT)

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.

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.

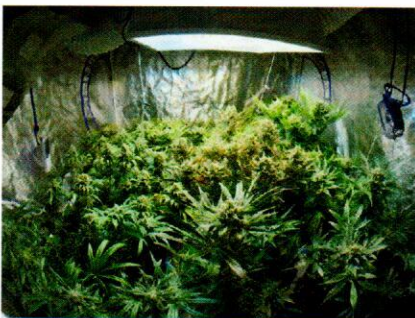
While we no longer directly and personally serve the local schools, there are county funds available to local law enforcement for this purpose. Therefore, we now rely on local law enforcement to fulfill the presentation role. We support them with our displays and update them on current trends and concerns.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

TRENDS

The 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.

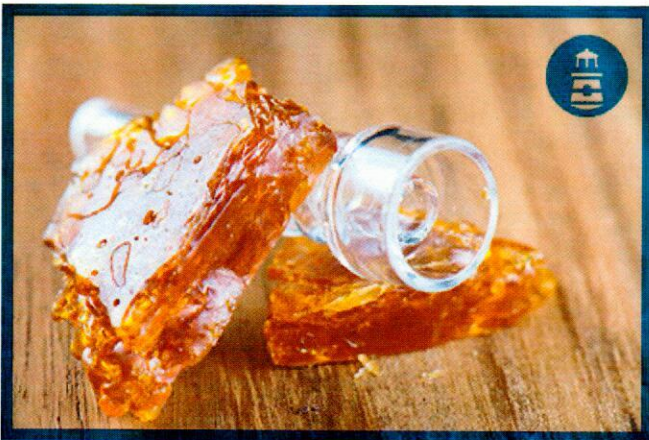
This leads us to the age-old question that divides both sides, is marijuana a gateway drug? There is a strong belief by the anti-marijuana segment that smoking marijuana leads to other, harder drugs. And yes, by definition, marijuana is a drug. The pro-marijuana segment rebuts the statement by stating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

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.



krcrtv.com

California

The following information is from “The DEA United States Drug Enforcement Administration reports”

What is Fentanyl?



What is it?

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is 80-100 times stronger than morphine. Pharmaceutical fentanyl was developed for pain management treatment of cancer patients, applied in a patch on the skin. Because of its powerful opioid properties, Fentanyl is also diverted for abuse. Fentanyl is added to heroin to increase its potency, or be disguised as highly potent heroin. Many users believe that they are purchasing heroin and actually don't know that they are purchasing fentanyl – which often results in overdose deaths. Clandestinely-produced fentanyl is primarily manufactured in Mexico.

What is its origin

Fentanyl was first developed in 1959 and introduced in the 1960s as an intravenous anesthetic. It is legally manufactured and distributed in the United States. Licit fentanyl pharmaceutical products are diverted via theft, fraudulent prescriptions, and illicit distribution by patients, physicians, and pharmacists. From 2005 through 2007, both fatal overdoses associated with abuse of clandestinely produced fentanyl and law enforcement encounters increased markedly. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 1,013 fatal overdoses recorded from April 2005 to March 2007. More recently, there has been a re-emergence of trafficking, distribution, and abuse of illicitly produced fentanyl with an associated dramatic increase in overdose fatalities.

What are common street names?

Common street names include:

Apache, China Girl, China Town, Dance Fever, Friend, Goodfellas, Great Bear, He-Man, Jackpot, King Ivory, Murder 8, and Tango & Cash.

What does it look like?

Fentanyl pharmaceutical products are currently available in the following dosage forms: oral transmucosal lozenges commonly referred to as fentanyl “lollipops” (Actiq), effervescent buccal tablets (Fentora), sublingual tablets (Abstral), sublingual sprays (Subsys), nasal sprays (Lazanda), transdermal patches (Duragesic), and injectable formulations. Clandestinely produced fentanyl is encountered either as a powder or in counterfeit tablets and is sold alone or in combination with other drugs such as heroin or cocaine.

How is it abused?

Fentanyl can be injected, snorted/sniffed, smoked, taken orally by pill or tablet, and spiked onto blotter paper. Fentanyl patches are abused by removing its gel contents and then injecting or ingesting these contents. Patches have also been frozen, cut into pieces, and placed under the tongue or in the cheek cavity. Illicitly produced fentanyl is sold alone or in combination with heroin and other substances and has been identified in counterfeit pills, mimicking pharmaceutical drugs such as oxycodone. According to the National Forensic Laboratory Information System, reports on fentanyl (both pharmaceutical and clandestinely produced) increased from nearly 5,400 in 2014 to over 14,600 in 2015, as reported by federal, state, and local forensic laboratories in the United States.

What is the effect on the body?

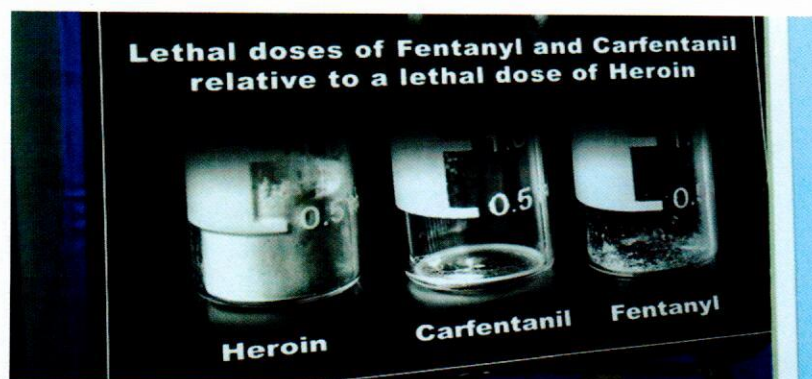
Fentanyl, similar to other commonly used opioid analgesics (e.g., morphine), produces effects such as relaxation, euphoria, pain relief, sedation, confusion, drowsiness, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, urinary retention, pupillary constriction, and respiratory depression.

What are the overdose effects?

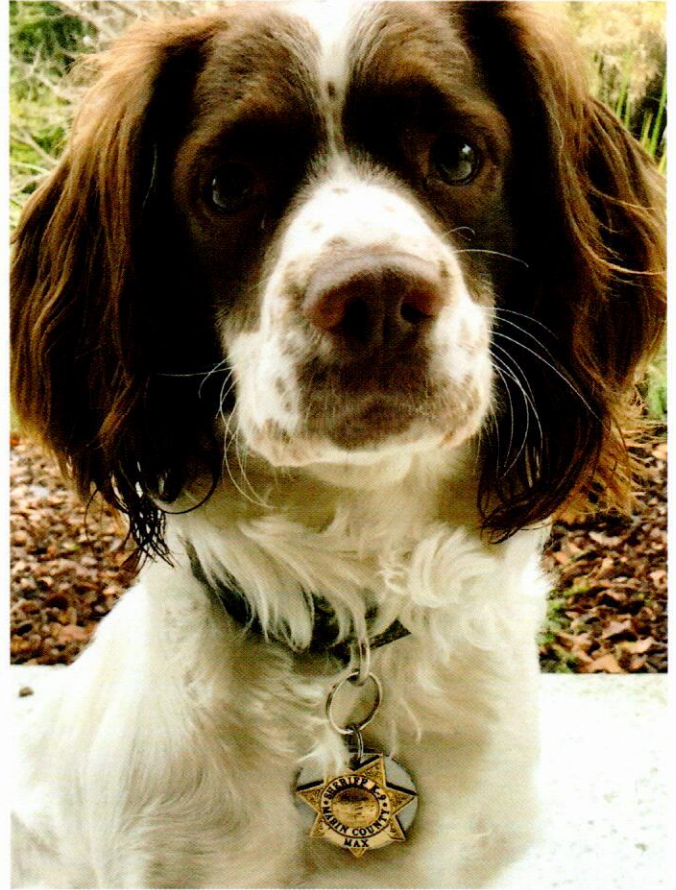
Overdose may result in stupor, changes in pupillary size, cold and clammy skin, cyanosis, coma, and respiratory failure leading to death. The presence of triad of symptoms such as coma, pinpoint pupils, and respiratory depression are strongly suggestive of opioid poisoning.

Which drugs cause similar effects?

Drugs that cause similar effects include other opioids such as morphine, hydrocodone, oxycodone, hydromorphone, methadone, and heroin. What is the legal status in the Federal Control Substances Act? Fentanyl is a Schedule II narcotic under the United States Controlled Substances Act of 1970.



K-9 "MAX"



In March of 2018, the Marin County Major Crimes Task Force suffered a great loss when narcotics K9 Beau was unexpectedly medically retired. HIDTA graciously provided the MCMCTF with a grant to purchase a new narcotics K9.

Detective Corin Priest was appointed the position of Task Force K9 handler and through Golden Gate K9 selected a three year old male springer spaniel named Max. K9 Max came to the unit from Ireland and was eager to work the second he stepped foot on California soil.

In April of 2018 Detective Priest and K9 Max were certified through the California Narcotics Canine Association (C.N.C.A.), in accordance with California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST). After completing over 280 training hours, K9 Max is certified in the detection of methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, marijuana, ammunition, and smokeless powder.

Detective Priest and K9 Max have trained in a wide variety of areas including but not limited to; interior/exterior building search, interior/exterior vehicle search, open area, parcels, luggage, lockers, and walls.

Since May of 2018 K9 Max has located approximately 100 grams of methamphetamine, 4 grams of heroin, and 27 grams of liquid heroin. While assisting Novato Police Department, Max located a discarded firearm during an investigation.

Detective Priest and K9 Max continue to train monthly and are looking forward to a long successful career together. The MCMCTF is very grateful for HIDTA's contribution and the opportunity to continue their Narcotics K9 program.

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.

