



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
LAW ENFORCEMENT ARM OF THE COURT

2015

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY



SHERIFF'S ANNUAL REPORT MESSAGE



Well, another year has passed, and the end of the year presents another opportunity to share information about what we did with that year. The following pages in our Annual Report will tell you a great deal about the work of the Sheriff's Office in 2015.

As I think about 2015, I think it was an unusual year in the sense that law enforcement was at the center of much unwanted and often unflattering news. As if in contrast, we saw across the nation accusations of police misbehavior and yet across the world, we saw law enforcement's response to terrorism, saving lives and reducing fear – exemplifying honor, courage and the best of our profession.

Locally, statewide and across the nation, we talked about how to effectively incorporate body-worn camera technology into policing as we did with in-car computers and cameras. We talked at great length about transparency, accountability and community-oriented policing as if they were inventions of the times. But in fact, we know the public thought these were already in place, upon which they could depend and which anchored us in our role as "guardians" of the public's safety. I assure you that is the case with your Sheriff's Office.

Nevertheless, as the following pages will illustrate, our daily work is about the practical aspects of service and fair enforcement, skilled navigation of any environment, and setting and reaching goals beyond our resources. Always with an eye to the future, we are charting course today for tomorrow's organization:

- The independent, objective assessment that we have undertaken, through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), puts our work processes through rigorous review and evaluation.
- Only creativity, flexibility, and innovation keep us ahead of thousands of warrants and other documents we serve – so often to individuals who don't want to receive them.
- Anticipating the future and having a calculus for growth and development – in the right hiring to fill resource gaps and in increasing the knowledge and skills performance capacity of our people so that they out-perform in their roles – guarantee the integrity of our organization to ensure fairness and accountability in the work we do.

I especially want to thank the men and women of the Sheriff's Office and our great citizens who have partnered with us to accomplish the mandated and chosen goals which advance our mutual safety. They know that results are rarely random and public safety is not easily achieved; it requires knowledge, smart ideas, preparation and concerted action. And, at times, it requires reasonable risk taking. I thank them all for their courage to be better and their judgment to be safer.



I hope you will review the information about our work critically and provide us your feedback – so that 2016 will be the best year yet and we can continue our quest for a safer community.

Sheriff Melvin C. High

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF



**Chief Assistant Sheriff
Darrin C. Palmer**

As the Chief Assistant Sheriff, I'm responsible for the daily oversight of the Command Staff, including the Office of the Inspector General, the Office of Communications and Public Affairs, and the Policy and Compliance Division. In essence, my focus every day is to assure that we operationalize the agency's strategy, executing the processes and procedures that will result in the achievement of our mission to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of the Office of the Sheriff.

In 2015, the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing highlighted six "pillars" from which effective law enforcement can reduce crime while increasing community trust. One of the pillars was a focus on technology as a catalyst for improving law enforcement, a tool we've not overlooked in our planning - aligning with the Task Force report - as a constant, not because of the report, but as an ongoing part of our planning.

Training, human interaction and trust are core practices of the Sheriff's Office.

"Our primary strategy continues to be sound community policing; interacting with the community on its concerns and delivering professional service above expectations."

One example is our mentorship to middle school aged youth which is designed to broaden their perspective at a meaningful time in their lives.

It was a tremendous year of community engagement through the Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI) and our regular attendance at the County's Coffee Club meetings to share information and strengthen our partnership with the public, all of which are enhanced through our media outreach.

Inside our report, you'll find we've made critical improvements in the Training Division to enhance deputy and public safety and in the Internal Affairs Division by assigning a Captain to this important position. Especially exciting, under the Bureau of Administration, are the strides we made toward CALEA accreditation. Much was accomplished in 2015; continuing our partnership with the community and meeting the measure of 21st Century Policing standards makes the year ahead even more exciting.

See the full report at http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/taskforce/taskforce_finalreport.pdf.

Mark Spencer
Inspector General



"My daily mission as Inspector General is to ensure that the Office of the Sheriff remains transparent and accountable to the public we serve by timely responding to citizen complaints, reviewing operational standards to assure their consistency with law enforcement best-practices and contemporary legal standards, and to provide oversight of the internal disciplinary process that is fair, effective, and efficient."

Sharon Taylor
Communications and Public Affairs



"Our philosophy is transparency and through our media strategy, to maintain an active dialogue with public and media partners that keeps them engaged and informed about the Sheriff's Office. Legislatively, we seek to be a valued resource to lawmakers on law enforcement and the roles and responsibilities of the agency. We have a rich public safety system in the county; our outreach helps the community understand the distinctions between our agencies and the value our collaborations deliver to citizens."

Policy Compliance Division,

known as the Internal Affairs Division, is under the supervision of Col. Palmer. The Division investigates allegations of misconduct by agency personnel, maintains records of internal investigations and complaints, and contributes to the maintenance of agency best practices through its audits and inspections function. In 2015, a Captain was assigned to oversee the Internal Affairs Division to improve the quality of external investigations and a computer-based tracking technology was funded to provide an early warning system in order to ensure officer wellness and safety.

BUREAU OF COURT SERVICES

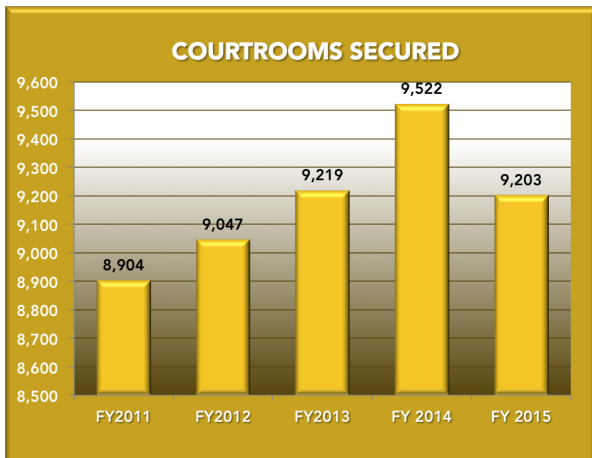


LTC Mark Roccapiore

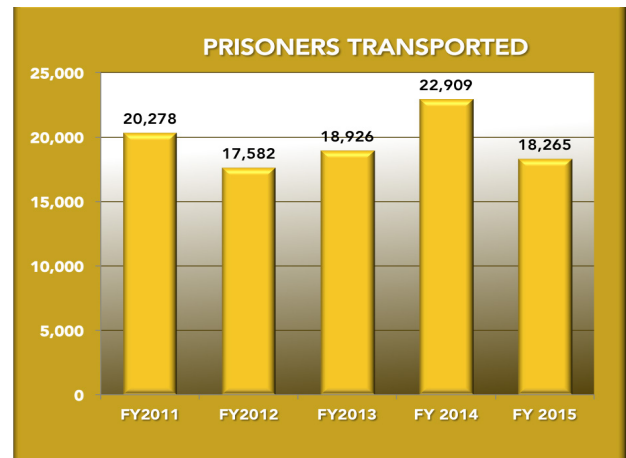
"The Sheriff often refers to the courts and courthouses as the cornerstone of a democratic society where citizens can have their grievances addressed fairly. The security of the facilities and the safety of everyone who enters is the top priority of the Bureau of Court Services. It is an honor to maintain the safety and security of the busiest courthouse complex in the state" where 25-35 courtrooms operate smoothly every day because our members have set everything in motion and are at the ready."

LTC Mark Roccapiore

The Security Division safely screened over a million visitors into the Upper Marlboro Courthouse, detecting and preventing thousands of non-firearm weapons from entering the complex.



Circuit Court Security secured 25-35 courtrooms daily where more than 9,000 court sessions took place, including a number of high profile cases that ran smoothly and without incident using the High Risk Trial Protocol, with support from the Special Operations VIP/Witness Protection Unit and Specialized Services Team (SST).



District Court Security & Prisoner Transport are essential for an efficient, daily operation at the courts. The Division safely transported thousands of prisoners over thousands of miles between the Department of Corrections and the courthouse, around the state, and to and from Northern, VA and Washington, D.C.



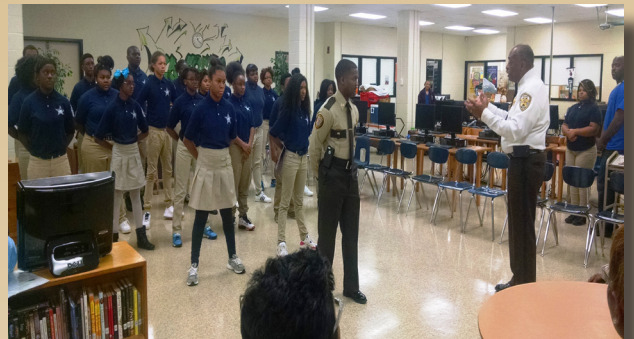
Flexibility, Professionalism, Resolve - When water pipe damage brought the Upper Marlboro Courthouse to a standstill, Court Services Divisions worked closely with District and Circuit Court personnel to facilitate court operations at off-site venues, moving prisoners and setting up courtrooms. Meanwhile, the Security Division maintained security as contractors made repairs. The District Court and Prisoner Transport Division helped secure District Court operations to facilitate the continuation of the court's business at the Hyattsville Courthouse, while the Circuit Court placed personnel at several off-site venues.

The Community Partnership Division:

The Positive D.A.Y. (Deputies Assisting Youth) Program - Engaging Young People at a Stimulating Time in Their Lives

Middle School can be an exciting but scary transition for students. The Sheriff's Positive D.A.Y. (Deputies Assisting Youth) mentors students through this important growth period of learning social system skills, self-management and responsibility skills that they can use to move forward with confidence.

"Our Positive D.A.Y. deputies get to see young people blossom and grow right before their eyes." **Captain Patrick Jones, Commander Community Partnership Section**



Middle School Positive D.A.Y Cadets in Action

The young people chosen for Positive D.A.Y. make a personal commitment to being in the program and to being a cadet. Across the program's nine middle schools, the Program has resulted in marked improvement in grade point averages (GPA), behavior, and attendance with reductions in tardiness, and in the number of suspensions. Every 8th Grade Cadet graduated and went on to high school and the average GPA for all cadets is 2.65.

Seniors Section

Keeping Seniors Safe, Healthy and Informed About Predator Scam Calls Continued in 2015



The media helped us notify citizens when the Office of the Sheriff became aware that citizens, many of whom were seniors, had been targeted by scam callers pretending to be from the Sheriff's Office. We notified the public many times with help from the media. We talked about the scams in meetings, and in our social media and the newsletter. In every case, the scam caller claimed the citizen had an open, outstanding warrant or court action that could be resolved by them sending money, usually on prepaid card to the caller.

With the media's help and our own outreach we let citizens know that neither the Sheriff nor any other law enforcement agency asks a citizen to put money on a prepaid card for any reason.



Keeping seniors informed on public safety matters.

Our certified instructors also introduced a National Alzheimer's Association information module entitled "The 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's" for dozens of seniors and their family members.

alzheimer's 
association[™]

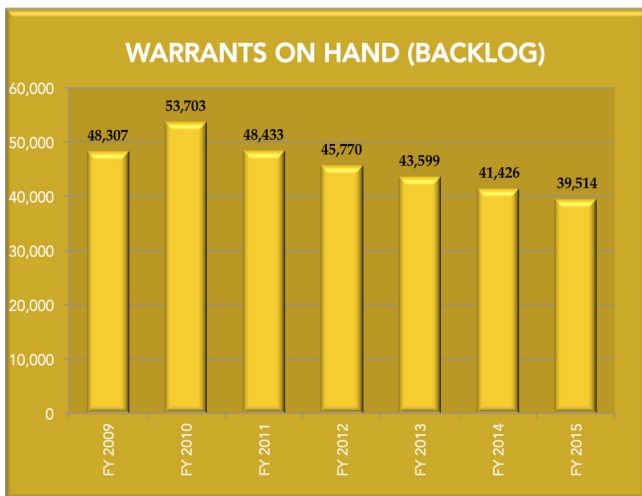
BUREAU OF FIELD OPERATIONS



"We often talk about the Sheriff's Office being the law enforcement arm of the courts. The Bureau of Field Operations is where that enforcement begins."
LTC Regina A. Taylor, Bureau of Field Operations

Deputy Safety Begins with Accurate Information from Civilian Staff in Warrant Processing and Fugitive Investigations.

Warrant Processing inputs and removes thousands of warrants into the Sheriff's Office database each year, focusing on timeliness and accuracy of information in the system. That information is reviewed further by the staff of **Fugitive Investigations**, where extensive database checks help investigators gather as much information as possible about the person named in the warrant, including verifying that they're alive and not incarcerated. Investigators are searching for the best address, a photo or State ID, and any aliases that may connect to other aliases and warrants on file.



The Downward Trend in Warrants On-Hand (Backlog) Continues - Down 26.4% since 2011, from a high of 53,703 in 2011 to 39,514 in 2015.



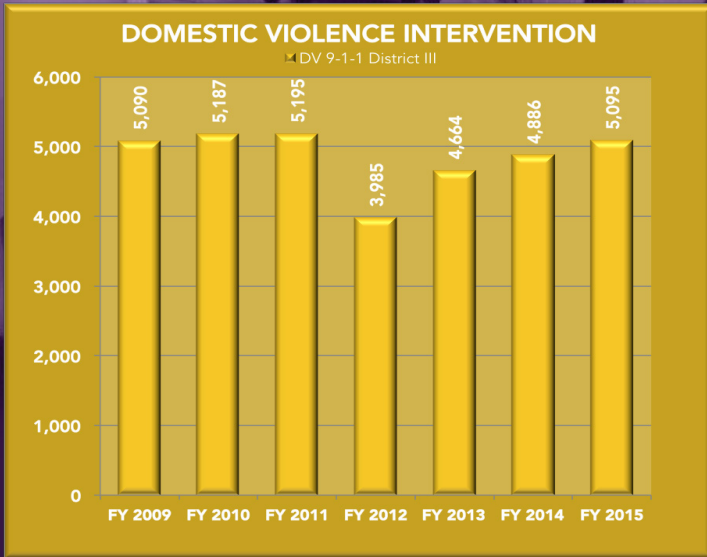
Our strategy to continue to reduce warrants on hand – the backlog – is still focused on violent crime warrants as priority and to stay current on new warrants. Within that framework, our multi-pronged approach resolves warrants through the aged warrant invalidation law, notifying individuals directly by mail, and through our interface with the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). These efforts are augmented by valuable joint operations, grant funding, and collaboration with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies



EYE ON TECHNOLOGY

The Civil Operations Division, includes the Civil Section which serves documents after a court ruling and the Landlord and Tenant (L&T) Section. Last year the Division completed its first full year's utilization of the CivilServe Technology, a software program that helped the Civil Operations Division achieve greater reporting and accountability.

Domestic Violence Intervention Division (DVID) Purple Light Nights[®]



Domestic Violence Deputies – first responders in Police District III – responded to over 5,000 domestic violence 9-1-1 emergency calls in the District, while also serving Peace and Protective Orders throughout the county.



DVID's Special Victim's Assistants' (SVAs) capacity to help more people was enhanced with the hiring of three bilingual SVAs with a grant from the Governor's Office on Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP). SVAs served nearly 5,000 individuals affected by domestic violence who accessed the SVAs through referrals, walk-ins and at the court facilities. SVAs reach out directly to victims who deputies interviewed at domestic violence calls who were considered to be in danger.

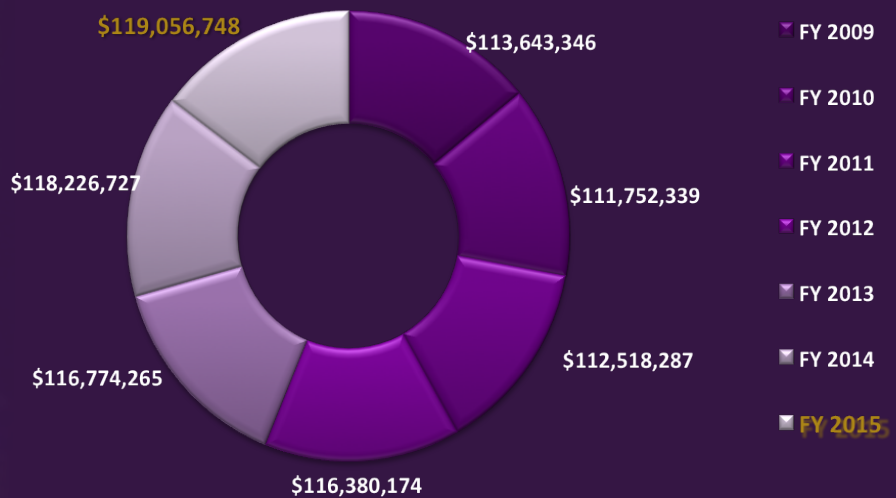
A Powerful Message Launched "Purple Light Nights[®]" in Maryland: "Domestic Violence Has No Place in Our Community"

The Office of the Sheriff launched "Purple Light Nights[®]" with a lighting ceremony in October to begin Domestic Violence Awareness Month. "Purple Light Nights[®]" is a national domestic violence awareness project in cities and counties in 30 states, and in Canada and 18 villages in Guam. The Sheriff was joined by professional partners in domestic violence, county government, county law enforcement and citizens to create a unified voice in the fight against domestic violence. By distributing purple lightbulbs at the ceremony, Sheriff High started a tradition of asking citizens to shine a light in their window or on their porch every night in October to signal the county's unified voice in the fight against domestic violence.



Child Support Arrears Owed by Persons Arrested

Our Child Support Enforcement Unit, in partnership with the State Office on Child Support Enforcement is enormously important to children in the care of custodial parents. Child Support Enforcement located individuals who had failed to make court-ordered child support payments in excess of \$119 million and also served over 3300 civil summonses, writs and warrants for child support and custody, and for establishing paternity.



BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION



LTC Orlando D. Barnes

"Professionalism requires sound policies that follow best-practices in law enforcement. Building on and maintaining the highest standards of professionalism among our sworn and civilian staff is critical to our effectiveness in all the work we do."

LTC Orlando D. Barnes

CALEA Accreditation Stands for Professionalism

Under the leadership of the Planning and Research Division, last year the Sheriff's Office applied for accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). CALEA is a nationally recognized law enforcement designation that enables us to demonstrate, through an examination of our processes, our commitment to excellence and professionalism. The step of applying for accreditation follows the Self-Assessment Phase, during which the agency reviewed all of its written directives, and examined its internal processes and procedures in comparison to

CALEA standards. "CALEA Accreditation certifies that what we say we do is verified by the records we keep, and while it is no small undertaking it facilitates our pursuit of professional excellence," Captain Rolf A. Thorsen, Planning, Research & Development - CALEA.

Training and Personnel Services is Responsible for Academy Recruit Training and Yearly In-Service

In-service professional development training is an important investment to evaluate and improve skills, and to keep deputies and civilians aware of legal changes, "best practice" policies and other innovations in law enforcement.

Highlights:

- With prior years' approvals from the Maryland Police and Corrections Training Commission (MPCTC) for our supervisor and command officer training classes, we developed an in-house computer lab to enhance our training capacity, including easy access to computer-based training modules.
- With a combination of grant and general funding, we've replaced critical safety gear, purchased equipment and added requisite training, such as Crisis Intervention Training, to keep deputies safe in dangerous situations. Even experienced Deputies received new training to familiarize themselves with "handling" our new all-wheel drive (AWD) vehicle fleet.
- Training incorporated the first four days of yearly in-service training into a practical, scenario-based exercise and tests deputies' existing and new skills learned during in-service on the fifth day.



2015 New Hires



The Teletype Division

The custodian of agency records, the Teletype Division is a 24-hour a day essential operation that communicates with other jurisdictions about individuals who may be wanted in Prince George's County, and facilitates transfer and exchange of individuals between the county and other jurisdictions. Teletype responds to public inquiries and directs callers to the appropriate area of the Sheriff's Office to meet their needs. It also makes emergency notifications to the agency and maintains records vital to agency personnel.





Prince George's County
Office of the Sheriff
5303 Chrysler Way
Upper Marlboro MD 20772



Briefing before Active Shooter Drill in the Upper Marlboro Courthouse

FREQUENTLY USED NUMBERS

Office of the Sheriff	301-780-8600	Housing & Community	
Fire/EMS Dept.	301-883-5200	Development	301-883-5531
Homeland Security	301-780-8313	Social Services	301-209-5000
Police Department	301-772-4740	Prince George's County Schools	301-952-6000
State's Attorney's Office	301-952-4295	Prince George's Community	
Community Relations	301-952-4729	College	301-336-6000
Elections Board	301-430-8020	Parks & Recreation	301-699-2582
Environmental Resources (DER)	301-883-5810	Doctors Community Hospital	301-552-8188
Public Works & Transportation	301-883-5600	MedStar Southern Maryland	
Family Services	301-265-8401	Hospital Center	301-868-8000
Health Department	301-883-7879	Prince George's Hospital Center	301-618-2000



The Prince George's County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing services that are fair, impartial, and effective while incorporating the highest standards of personal conduct and performance. The Sheriff's Office employs skilled dedicated professionals, committed to public service. We will serve the public responsibly while being held accountable to the highest moral, ethical, and legal standards. We believe in continuous improvement in all our endeavors, always striving to achieve excellence.