

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



2019 Annual Report

Presented By

San Benito County Sheriff's Office

Darren Thompson

Sheriff - Coroner

San Benito County Sheriff's Office

2301 Technology Parkway

Hollister, California 95023

831-636-4080

www.sbcsheriff.org

Contents

Sheriff's Message	3
Department Organization	4
San Benito County Map	5
The Numbers - Operations	6
The Numbers - Corrections	7
The Numbers - Other	8
Retirees	9 & 10
Deputies of the Year	11

Sheriff's Message

Finally!

We usually publish our annual report in the first quarter of the year for the previous year's report.

For the 2019 report, which you are holding, production would have taken place during the first quarter of 2020. As you know the first quarter of 2020 was chaotic. We had many other priorities to deal with that took our time and resources away from the production of the report.

In 2019, we completed the jail expansion project which we had been reporting to you for the past two years. Unfortunately, the events of 2020 along with a final inspection issue have prevented us from opening it. Hopefully, that will take place in 2021.

We had many retirements in 2019, which you can read about further on in this report. Many years of experience left our organization to enjoy their lives in what some call the "best part of your life". While we lost many years of experience, we were able to hire several excellent young people as deputies.

The law enforcement profession is changing. The younger crowd looking to join the profession will need to learn new ways to do the job. The new deputies we hired will help shape the future of our organization and will serve their community with a new spirit.

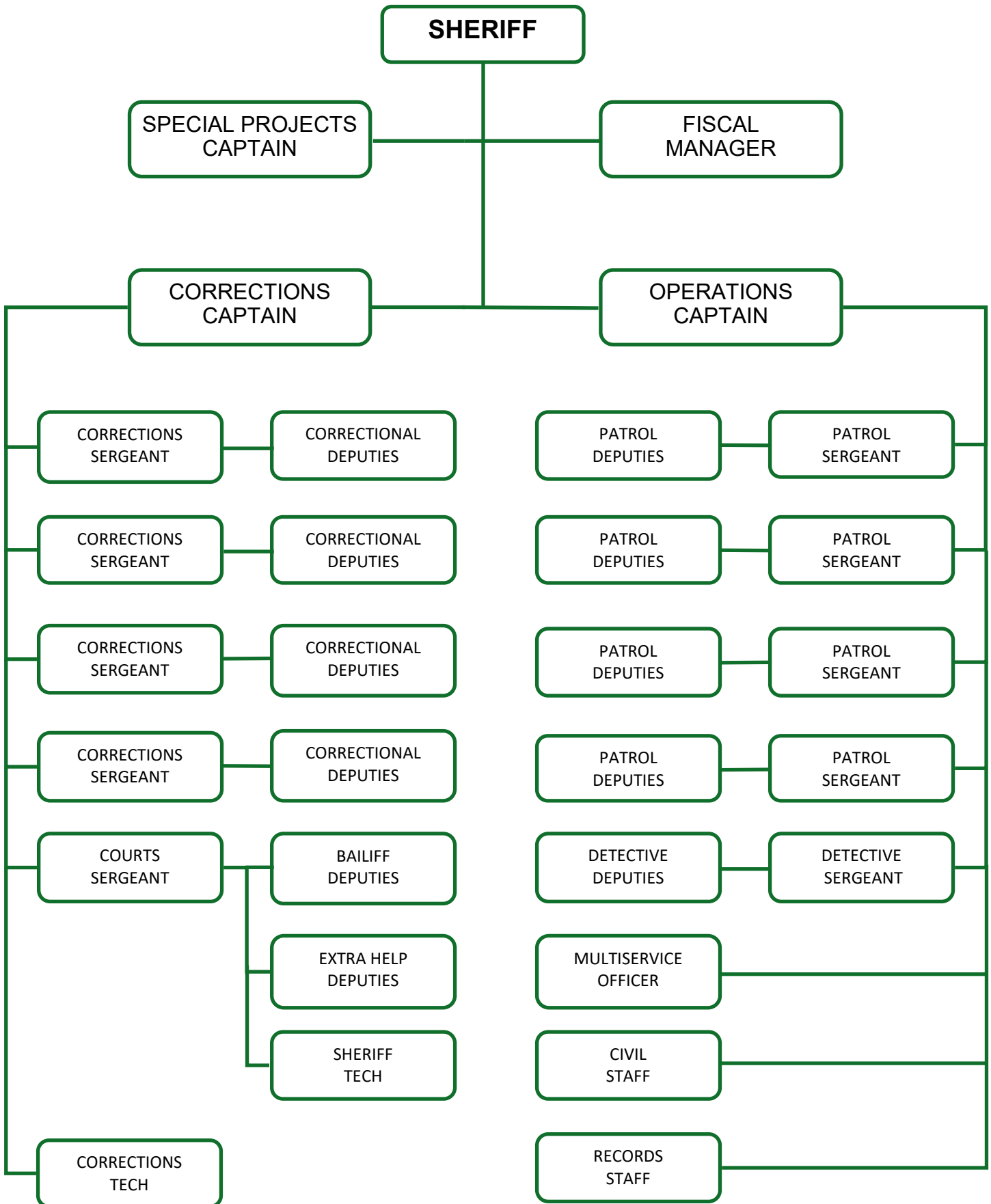
With Lt Escamilla's retirement comes an opportunity to restructure my command organization. The new structure will take effect in 2020 and will be reflected in the organizational chart in the 2020 annual report.

It is an honor and a pleasure to serve with the men and women of the San Benito County Sheriff's Office who serve their community with pride and dedication every single day.

Darren Thompson
Sheriff - Coroner



Department Organization



San Benito County

San Benito County is located in the Coast Range Mountains of California. As of 2013 the population was 56,884. The county seat is Hollister, which includes nearly two-thirds of the county's population. The cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista are the two incorporated cities that join the communities of Aromas, Bitterwater, New Idria, Paicines, Panoche and Tres Pinos to make up the population centers.

The County was established on February 12, 1874, from the inland portion of Monterey County. The city of Hollister was chosen as the county seat. The county grew so quickly that in 1887, additional acreage, including the New Idria quicksilver mines, were acquired from Merced and Fresno Counties.

The boundaries have remained unchanged since 1887.

San Benito County is 1,396 square miles – 893,440 acres. The County is comprised of an eclectic mix of industry, tourism and attractions.

The County is proud to feature several world-class wineries as well as the Pinnacles National Park. One of a very few State-run off highway vehicle parks, Hollister Hills SVRA, is just a few minutes from downtown Hollister. El Camino Real passes through the county and includes one mission in San Juan Bautista.



Mission Statement

The mission of the San Benito County Sheriff's Office is to serve the public by establishing a partnership with the community; To protect life and property, prevent crime and solve problems.

The Sheriff's office is mandated by the constitution of the State of California to provide the following services to San Benito County residents:

Corrections

Court
Security

Coroner

Search &
Rescue

Civil
Processes

Operations

Deputies handle two types of calls or events as they are called:

One is a call for service where someone calls 9-1-1 or otherwise contacts the Sheriff's Office for police services.

The other is an event that Deputies initiate themselves. These can be traffic stops, security checks or other types of field initiated events. Every event is closed with a disposition that details what happened with the situation



Calls are assigned a priority based on the initial information received by the call-taker at the 9-1-1 communications center. Priority 1 calls are handled first, while priority 4 calls are handled after all other calls have been cleared.

Deputy Initiated Activity		Event Dispositions (2018 data)		Area	Location	Total Events
Traffic stop	2039	No report required	8577	Beat 1	Western San Benito County	2515
Vehicle/subject check	1816	Subject(s) contacted	2049	Beat 2	Eastern San Benito County	9488
Civil	1304	Report taken	745	Beat 3	San Juan Bautista	2655
Other	279	Traffic citation	216	Beat 4	Southern San Benito County	222
Area check	5836	Criminal citation	125	Hollister	Calls within the City of Hollister	3104
Security check	279	Arrest made	341	<p>Priority 1 - Red Immediate threat to safety or in progress felonies</p> <p>Priority 2 - Blue In progress threat to property or non-violent crime</p> <p>Priority 3 - Yellow Misdemeanor calls for service</p> <p>Priority 4 - Green All other calls for service</p>		
Follow up	803	Response Times				
Attempt to contact	103	Priority 1 - Red	13:37			
Flag down	80	Priority 2 - Blue	14:58			
Foot patrol	99	Priority 3 - Yellow	17:40			
Probation search	78	Priority 4 - Green	25:40			



Corrections

The San Benito County Jail is a 25,000 square foot facility with 26 correctional deputies who work to ensure the health and safety of individuals held in the facility. The jail serves a population of approximately 127 inmates daily. The rated capacity is 142. Additionally, 40 people are assigned to work alternative programs every day. The jail also contributes to the electronic monitoring program which is run by the Probation Department where there is an average daily attendance of 24.

Annually, approximately 147,000 meals are served. Jail medical personnel see approximately 6,242 inmates per year and provide medication and triage to other treatment modalities that may be required. Transportation deputies safely delivered over 3,270 inmates to local courts every year. Corrections deputies drive over 50,000 miles annually to facilitate inmate pickup and delivery statewide. Trips include transport to and from medical care, local and abroad; delivery to state prison reception centers post sentencing; and pick up from all California Counties as we are notified.

The Sheriff's Office offers a work alternative program (SWAP) to allow individuals meeting certain criteria, to serve their sentence through the performance of community based service work assignments. The Sheriff's Office assigns convicted low level offenders to specific worksites throughout the County of San Benito. Eligibility is based on court orders, type of charges, number of days to serve, other charges pending and previous attendance history.



2019 Bookings by agency	
Sheriff's Office	1203
Hollister Police Department	759
California Highway Patrol	130
San Benito County Probation	84
Other (Parole, CA State Parks)	38
Inmates Transported	
To and from court	2917
To other counties	226
To State prison	35
Medical appointments	40
Alternative to incarceration	
Work alternative (SWAP)	284
Electronic monitoring	83
Letter from the D/A	114



Other Duties

Civil processes

The Sheriff's Office provides civil process and court document service to the entire county (including the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista).

It takes an average of 2 attempts to complete 1 process service. For 2019, the 1451 completed services took approximately 2,800 attempts. The civil processes served included:

Evictions 78	Orders 286	Levies 98	Subpoenas 209	Summons 7
------------------------	----------------------	---------------------	-------------------------	---------------------

Coroner

San Benito County Sheriff's Deputies act as the coroner. Initial death investigations are handled by Sheriff's deputies and further investigation is conducted by Sheriff's detectives. The County contracts with the Santa Clara County Coroner's office for autopsies as needed. In 2019 the Sheriff's office handled 279 death cases. Of those, 37 were sent to Santa Clara County.

Registrant tracking

Sheriff's detectives also verify the compliance of those residents living in the County who are required to register with the Sheriff's Office as part of a court order.

A total of 64 registered sex offenders live in the county (not including the City of Hollister). All were but 1 were in compliance for 2019. The one individual out of compliance is wanted.

Courts

The new San Benito County Superior courthouse building completed its sixth year of operations.

Full time Deputies serve as bailiffs while temporary extra help Deputies, (TEHDS), provide building security and single point of entry visitor screening. The court operations team is led by one court operations Sergeant. Court operations fall under the corrections division and is overseen by Captain Tony Lamonica.

The courthouse is open approximately 250 days per year from 8am to 5pm. Over the course of a year, deputies screen an average of 75 people per day who come to the building for various reasons. That equates to approximately 19,000 people screened each year.

For 2019, items found in the screening process included:

Knives 331	Chemical agents 56	Permanent markers 3	Other 72 Razor blades, bolt cutters, can opener
----------------------	------------------------------	-------------------------------	--

Retirees

When eight long time employees retire it's a big deal. When the Sheriff's Office is small to begin with, it's a huge deal! Together, 196 years of expertise, dedication and professionalism retired.

It's going to be hard to fill that void but we wish the following ladies and gentlemen the best as they set off on the next chapter in their lives.



Lieutenant Edward "Ed" Escamilla—10/01/1995 to 4/09/2019

24 years of service

Ed's assignments included: Correctional Officer, Jail Sergeant Jail Lieutenant and administrative Lieutenant.



Sergeant Kelly Burbank—10/29/2006 to 5/30/2020

14 years of service

Kelly's assignments included: Patrol Deputy, Patrol Sergeant and range master.



Deputy Edward "Ed" Nino—8/14/1986 to 12/29/2018

32 years of service

Ed's assignments included: Patrol Deputy, K-9 handler, San Juan Deputy, FTO and bailiff.

Ed is now a temporary Deputy working in courts 12/31/2018 to present.



Deputy Richard "Rich" Brown—8/27/1990 to 5/28/2018

28 years of service

Rich's assignments included: Patrol Deputy, San Juan Deputy, School Resource Officer and bailiff.

Rich is now a temporary Deputy working in courts 05/29/2018 to present

Retirees



Deputy Marc Williams—1/15/2004 to 4/01/2020

16 years of service

Marc's assignments included: Patrol Deputy, FTO, bailiff, San Juan Deputy and range master.



Correctional Deputy Woodrow "Woody" Brown 6/23/2007 to 12/28/2018

11 years of service

Woody's assignments included: Correctional Officer, court security and transportation.



Evelia Gomez—3/20/1996 to 9/04/2020

24 years of service

Evelia's assignments included: Records clerk, civil clerk and supervisor.



Reserve Deputy Greg Bryan—1/23/1973 to 1/23/2020

47 years of service

Greg was a Reserve Deputy longer than most have been in their entire law enforcement career!

Deputies of the Year

Each year, two members of the Sheriff's Office are selected for the honor of being awarded Deputy of the year. What's unique about the selection process is that it's a peer award. Each member of the Sheriff's Office nominates the person who they feel deserves the award. Being selected by their peers is quite an honor!

From Sheriff Thompson: "It's my pleasure to announce the results of your votes for Deputy and Correctional Deputy of the Year for 2019."

The 2019 Deputy of the year is Silvestre Yerena.

Here are a few quotes from emails I received about Deputy Yerena:

"Deputy Yerena has demonstrated an eagerness to work with others and regularly assists in developing deputies, who have less experience in police work than him."

"He lets his work speak for its self and he is always taking on new challenges. I really admire his work ethic and sense of humor."

"He is never lazy and isn't afraid to take a call and talk to people and figure out a solution to solve the problem."



The 2019 Correctional Deputy of the Year is Deputy Richard Blayney.



Here is one of the quotes about Deputy Blayney:

"In his short time working for San Benito County, Blayney has demonstrated strong leadership abilities and has developed professional relationships with patrol deputies."

Please congratulate these two men on their selection for this peer award.

I'm so proud of the work you all do every day and every night, and it's an honor to be your Sheriff.

Sheriff Darren Thompson



San Benito County Sheriff's Office
2301 Technology Parkway
Hollister, CA 95023

831.636.4080
www.sbcsheriff.org