



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
2014 ANNUAL REPORT



LAW ENFORCEMENT ARM OF THE COURT



Dear Prince George's County Community:

As Sheriff, I am proudest of the results we deliver to the citizens and residents of the county while receiving less than 7% of the county's public safety budget. Results matter and good results are a measure of the work we do. Good results also impact the worldview of our county and our ability to attract businesses and families.

We continue to be challenged in our goal to achieve full authorized strength; however, with support from the Administration and our transparency about our workload and compliance responsibilities, our complement of sworn and civilian staff has grown.

I am pleased by the outstanding work of each of our Bureaus - the Bureau of Court Services providing security and protection at our courthouse facilities; the Bureau of Field Operations in managing the warrant process, with a focus on violent offender warrants and in domestic violence where we have put a spotlight on this crime and the impact it has on our community. Our Bureau of Administration continues to guide our agency, building on the professionalism of our people and developing the standards for who we are, what we stand for and our commitment to how we do our work each day.

Citizens, businesses and the justice system feel the effect of our services. Critical to our effectiveness in delivering high quality service are civilian units such as warrant and domestic violence processing, teletype, investigators and the fugitive section who manage the intake, maintenance and output of thousands of records that result in the resolution of those matters for which citizens or the larger community sought relief.

Other areas of our work allow us to focus on reducing the problems that affect individuals and families in our community. I cannot overstate the importance of our Child Support Enforcement Section's partnership with the State Office of Child Support and Enforcement. We have a direct impact on children and families by assisting in the collection of financial support to custodial parents, serving warrants to non-compliant parents and writs to those summoned before the court to establish paternity.

In our Community Partnership Section under the Bureau of Court Services, we have committed resources to support families by working with seniors to maintain their personal safety and providing guidance to middle school students in our Deputies Assisting Youth (D.A.Y.) Mentoring Program in eight of the county's middle schools.

As we look ahead to new challenges and opportunities, I am thankful to the men and women of the Sheriff's Office for their hard work, and to citizens for their support and partnership.



Sheriff Melvin C. High

Sheriff Melvin C. High



The Executive Office of the Sheriff



Chief Assistant Sheriff
Darrin C. Palmer

The Office of the Chief Assistant Sheriff is commanded by a seasoned executive law enforcement professional, Colonel Darrin C. Palmer. As Chief Assistant Sheriff, Colonel Palmer is “second in command” to the Sheriff and fulfills the duties of the Sheriff in the Sheriff’s absence. Colonel Palmer works closely with the Sheriff in developing agency strategy and formulating processes to achieve the Sheriff’s vision for the agency.

Chief Assistant Sheriff Palmer is responsible for daily oversight of the Command Staff, including the Office of the Inspector General, the Office of Communications and Public Affairs, and the Policy Compliance Division. He oversees the budget, assuring that both manpower and financial resources are utilized efficiently to meet the responsibilities of the agency.

A career law enforcement professional, Chief Assistant Palmer has testified on legislative matters of importance to the safety of the community and to law enforcement. He shares Sheriff High’s commitment to the development and professionalism of agency personnel and to an active role in civic and community activities.

Office of the Inspector General

The Inspector General is responsible for conducting formal, scheduled reviews of every component of the Office of the Sheriff’s compliance with agency rules and policy, state and federal laws and with employment laws and regulations. The Inspector General presides over the resolution of complaints of discrimination and harassment, and ensures that all members of the agency perform consistent with public safety “best practices.”

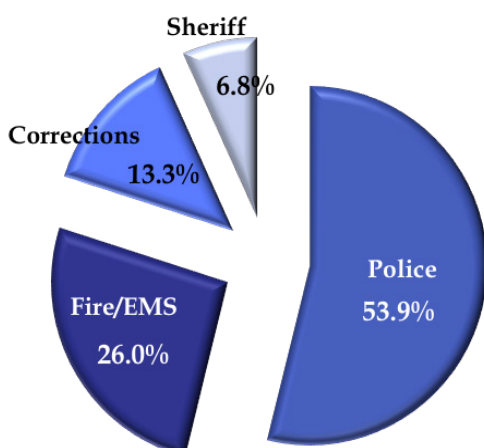
Office of Communications and Public Affairs

The Office of Communications and Public Affairs manages a multi-pronged communications strategy of press releases, social media, publications and community events designed to keep the media and the public engaged and informed about the Office of the Sheriff. Communications also has principal responsibility for Legislative Affairs, working closely with local and state legislators on legislative matters related to law enforcement and other areas of responsibility in the Office of the Sheriff.

Policy Compliance Division

Under supervision by the Office of the Inspector General, the Policy Compliance Division, commonly known as the Internal Affairs Division, investigates and resolves allegations of misconduct by agency personnel. It maintains agency records of internal investigations and complaints against employees and contributes to the maintenance of agency best practices through its audits and inspections function.

FY 2014 Overall Public Safety Spending



Police	\$270,847,500
Fire/EMS	\$130,929,300
Corrections	\$66,842,300
Sheriff	\$34,124,800

“I am proudest of the results we deliver to the citizens and residents of the county while receiving less than 7% of the public safety budget.”

Sheriff Melvin C. High

Bureau of Court Services (BCS)

A Day in Court

Security at the Upper Marlboro Courthouse is the top management priority for the Bureau of Court Services. Courthouse security is the responsibility of the Courthouse Building Security Division, the Circuit Court Security Division and the District Court Security & Prisoner Transportation Division. Well before the doors of the courthouse open to the general public, and before Attorneys, Judges and other court employees prepare for the day's business, those teams have begun the work of assuring the day's business of the court runs safely, securely and as smoothly as possible.

Every day Sheriff's Deputies work closely with the District and Circuit Court staff and with the Prince George's County Department of Corrections (PGDOC) to verify the day's court docket and to identify prisoners who have been summoned for a court appearance. The PGDOC ensures that prisoners are ready for transport to the courthouse where they are escorted to the courthouse "holding" area. This function is essential to assure that court proceedings are neither halted nor delayed.



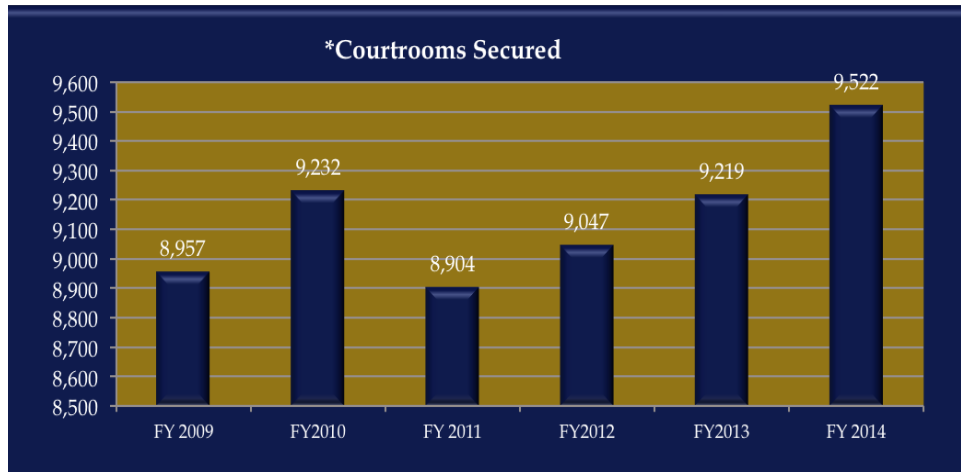
LTC Mark Roccapriore



The Prisoner Transportation Division is responsible for the safe and secure transport of all persons in custody and wanted in Prince George's County. This single squad of Deputies travels to and from other jurisdictions and facilities throughout the Metropolitan Washington Region. Two-Deputy teams pick-up and deliver in-custody persons, from various facilities, including the State Penitentiary, County Adult or Juvenile detention centers, mental health residential facilities, as well as from some addiction treatment centers. The squad traveled over 125,000 miles in over 5,000 trips last year, while being tasked with both highway safety and care and custody of their passengers.

who has business with the courts and they are posted at all courthouse entrances and at the Circuit Court's Judicial Services building. These men and women facilitate the safety of all who enter and exit the busiest courthouse complex in the state, and screened nearly 1.3 million people into the complex last year without incident. In the course of that work, they detected over 10,000 unauthorized and non-firearm weapons.

Deputies assigned to the Circuit Court Security Division are entirely responsible for Circuit Court courtrooms, which handles the full range of criminal cases, including the most violent crimes, such as murder, rape and robbery. Circuit Court also handles a wide range of civil proceedings, including domestic relations cases such as child custody and child support, divorce and juvenile matters. Cases that become contentious may require more than one Deputy to maintain order. Deputies maintain security for an average of 26 Circuit Court courtrooms a day that may involve anywhere from 40 prisoners on an average day to a high of as many as 85.



Circuit Court is also where most high risk trials with heightened security needs take place. The High Risk Court Proceedings (HRCP) protocols introduced last year with the cooperation of the Circuit Court Judiciary and the State's Attorney's Office enhanced the planning for such trials to facilitate adequate staffing, in-custody witness transport and other special circumstances. The protocols were refined in 2014 to include the intelligence gathering resources of the County Police (PGPD) and PGDOC and to utilize the preplanning tool for high risk trial pre-trial proceedings and sentencing hearings.



Supporting Courthouse Security

Three units with specialized training support all aspects of courthouse operations and security. The Special Operations' V.I.P./Witness Protection Team (VIPER) and Special Services Team (SST) are units with specialized training that are routinely deployed for high risk trials. They assisted in over 65 high risk court proceedings including defendants charged with multiple murders, defendants associated with

the violent street gang MS-13, the defendant charged with the death of a PGPD Officer and the defendant who killed a U.S. Marine in a botched robbery.

Planning Ahead for Courthouse Security

Since the Oklahoma and World Trade Center bombings, courthouses and other government facilities have done the essential work of planning for similar threats and emergency conditions. In recognition of this post-9/11 reality, the Bureau of Court Services spent a full year planning the first, full-scale, courthouse-wide Active Assailant training drill at the Upper Marlboro Courthouse. Our planning team studied courthouse shootings from around the country and integrated the applicable best practices from these incidents into our courthouse emergency action plan for testing on the day of the drill.

The three objectives for the exercise were to test law enforcement's response to an active assailant, protect the visitors and employees inside the complex and to test the time it takes to return the courthouse to a safe, fully operational status. No small undertaking, the exercise included over 250 people, including law enforcement personnel from approximately 14 different agencies and approximately 100 volunteer civilian visitors.

"We're confident that our review from the "After-Action Report" will reveal several opportunities to create and revise Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to enhance emergency response at the courthouse," said LTC Roccapriore.



The Courthouse Building Security Division's Explosive Ordinance Detection (EOD) K-9 Unit, whose Deputy/K-9 dog teams are certified in explosives detection, is tasked daily with patrolling the grounds of the courthouse. They also respond to Deputies needing assistance

and to other emergencies such as fire alarm activations; responses to sick or injured persons, disorderly persons, fights, and other criminal acts such as drug and weapons possessions, which have resulted in arrests.



The Role of Technology in Security

Technology continues to enhance all aspects of courthouse security. Mobile Data Terminal technology provided in the K-9 Unit cruisers last year has helped K-9 Deputies manage and respond to calls

more efficiently and enabled them to monitor dispatch calls for service in and around the courthouse. In addition, Lock-up Control Panels that control all the doors within the courthouse prisoner "holding" areas were replaced and in full operation in March. The Courthouse complex's CCTV system has continued to grow as well in the numbers of cameras and through the ability to view and record more footage.

The Community Partnership Division

Helping Young People Grow

Continuing the work of mentoring young people in eight of the county's middle schools, the Community Partnership Sections Positive D.A.Y. (Deputies Assisting Youth) team built on its success with new programs, activities and partnerships. The team continued the blocks of instruction on important topics such as bullying, etiquette, conflict resolution and cultural diversity, but it also added a module about healthy relationships.



Positive D.A.Y. also continued to provide other learning opportunities for young people with field trips to the Bureau of Engraving, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, the Air & Space Museum, WUSA TV Channel 9 and WKYS Radio 93.9. Students also had an eye-opening experience working in a business on a trip to a county-based Edible Arrangements franchise. In community activities, students served 300 seniors at a Thanksgiving luncheon at the Roscoe C. Cartwright Masonic Lodge 129 in Accokeek, MD.

After many sessions on life enrichment skills, discipline and positive behavior strategies, Positive D.A.Y. Deputies know that nothing says success better than results. With a focus on Attendance, GPAs, Behavior, Suspension and Tardiness, improvement was measureable in each category – student absences were less than 2%, GPA scores were up among 67% of students, 83% of students' behavior scores were above satisfactory and less than 5% of students were suspended.



Positive D.A.Y. extended its reach with after-school partnerships with the Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, Inc., a program that supports the Achievement Linking Innovation, Vision, and Engagement (ALIVE) program. The goal of ALIVE is to improve reading and math scores, reduce suspensions and increase family engagement in schools.

A Community Where Seniors Thrive

The Senior Outreach Section facilitates the Sheriff's Senior Safety Presentations to senior communities throughout the county. The goal of the initiative is to help seniors navigate the resources available to them in the Sheriff's Office and from the County and Municipal governments. Focusing in the areas where seniors have been targeted, the Sheriff's topics include identity theft, phone scams, recognizing and preventing senior abuse, planning for emergencies, the Vials of Life program, and the 'Cell Phones for Seniors' program.



Known as 'The Sheriff talks with citizens' the Sheriff met last year with over 4,000 seniors at 154 events and the team has forged strong partnerships with the County's Department on Aging, the Advisory Committee for Aging, many of the county's churches and faith-based groups, and with various senior apartment and assisted living facilities.



Bureau of Field Operations

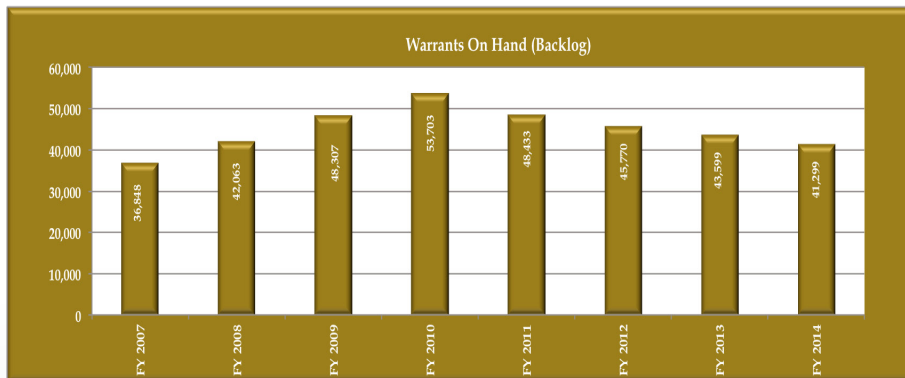
Building on a Successful Warrant/Fugitive Strategy

Violent offender warrants continued to be the priority focus of the Warrant/Fugitive Division. A grant from the Governor's Office for Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) gave that focus a significant boost to begin FY14. The grant was awarded for an operational design known as the Violent Offender Warrant Suppression or VOWS, a multi-week operation that resulted in over 650 arrests and the disposal of more than 1200 warrants.

Working collaboratively with federal, state and local law enforcement partners, VOWS began with teams comprised of more than 60 law enforcement partner personnel. The initiative was enormously successful, with 85 arrests closing 104 warrants at the kickoff and 107 arrests to close 120 warrants in the final week. The result was a major impact on the number of outstanding violent offender warrants which were already down from 642 workable warrants when Sheriff High took office. By the end of FY 2014, violent offender warrants had been reduced to 364.



LTC Regina A. Taylor



Following the success of the VOWS operation, an additional opportunity to reduce violent offender warrants took shape with the formation of a Cold Case Squad – a small unit of deputies capable of taking a more forensic investigative look at violent offender warrants. Focusing on suspects who are wanted for a year or longer, these Deputies follow a single thread that leads to a critical connection and ultimately capture.

“Adding new tools like the Cold Case Squad to our overall warrant strategy helps us capture violent offenders and that contributes to crime reduction.”

Sheriff Melvin C. High

Domestic Violence Intervention Division (DVID) - Experience in the Fight Against Domestic Violence

The Office of the Sheriff created the Domestic Violence Unit in 1992 when a legislative change to Maryland Family Law authorized the Sheriff to remove, with necessary force, offenders from victims' residences – significantly improving the process for victims to gain relief through the courts. Additional changes to the Family Law Code in 1995 and a legislative change in 2003 made it easier for citizens to file for both peace and protective orders, adding to the role of the Sheriff in Domestic Violence. Since that time, the Office of the Sheriff, with a wide range of experience, has been the champion in a full-on attack against domestic violence with a clear set of protocols. That work is the responsibility of the DVID, whose strategies include:

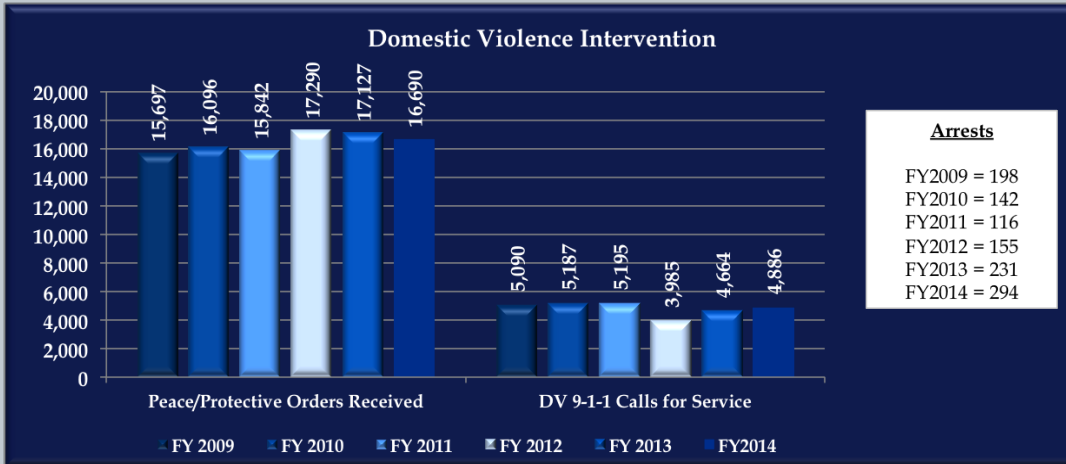
- Enhanced domestic violence training for all (DVID) members and new officers.
- Investigative and Mandatory arrest protocols specific to incidents of domestic violence.
- Specific referral information and directions for domestic violence victims through Special Victim Assistants (SVAs).
- Domestic Violence Coordinating Council Forum for collaboration between members of criminal justice and direct service providers.
- Creation and maintenance of a comprehensive statewide registry of protective orders.

DVID Deputies interact with victims and potential victims as well as abusers and potential abusers during one of the three processes that comprises the DVID response to domestic violence: DVID deputies are the law enforcement personnel who serve the vast majority of protective orders (and peace orders) in the county; DVID deputies are the designated first responder to domestic violence calls in Police District III; and, DVID civilian Special Victim Assistants (SVA) respond to victims of domestic violence by following up directly with victims for whom Deputies submitted a Fatality Review Report. SVAs are also available to victims at the Office of the Sheriff Headquarters and at the Upper Marlboro and Hyattsville Courthouses.

A Comprehensive Approach to Domestic Violence

Serving Peace and Protective Orders

Unfortunately, recordkeeping since 2009 indicates that the numbers of peace and protective orders that are issued continue to be high, fluctuating slightly within the range just under 16,000 to slightly over 17,000. In accordance with court order and recognizing that a protective order may be the first legal step a victim takes against an abuser, Sheriff's Deputies are tasked with serving protective orders quickly.



Responding to Domestic Violence 9-1-1 Calls in Police District III:

Sheriff's Deputies have been the first responder to domestic violence calls in Police District III. In FY14, the DVID Deputies responded to 4,886 domestic violence 9-1-1 calls in District III and made 294 arrests. In addition, DVID Deputies served 500 domestic violence warrants.

Domestic Violence is a crime. The protocol for on-scene

domestic violence arrests involves deputies conducting an investigation, gathering all evidence at the scene of the incident, including taking photos of injuries sustained by a victim, taking photos of any object or weapon used in the commission of the crime. Continuing to prepare a case, they must properly secure all evidence for accountability as it pertains to the chain of custody, complete the domestic violence supplemental and lethality assessment reports, incident report, and a statement of charges against the arrested individual. As with other arrests, Deputies present cases to a State's Attorney prior to the County Commissioner and follows through to the scheduled trial date.

A beneficial by-product of the District III Domestic Violence 9-1-1 initiative to the county is that it reduces County Police out-of-service time in District III, enabling District III police officers to continue to patrol communities, resulting in a net increase in the availability of officers for calls, reduced response times to other calls for service and increased police visibility.



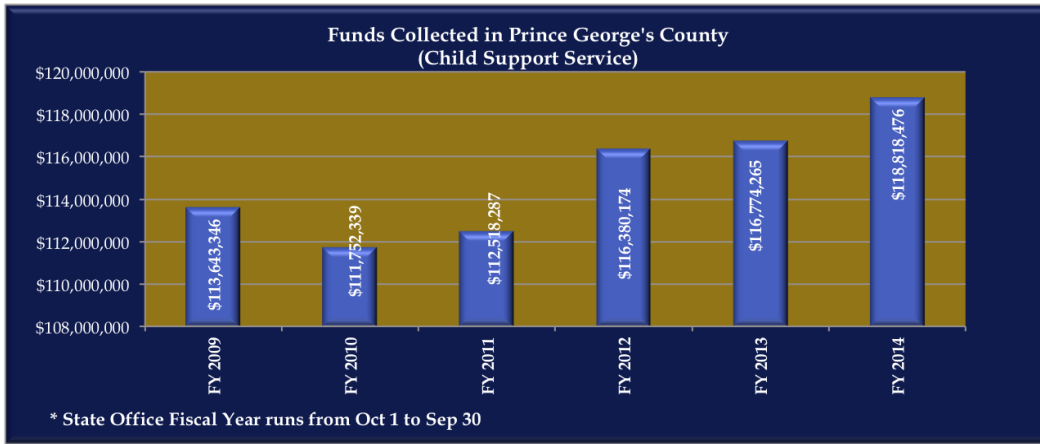
SVAs – Serving Victims

DVID Special Victim Assistants receive Lethality Assessment Reports from Deputies and make follow-up calls to victims. They play a vital role in helping victims of domestic violence in the aftermath of a violent incident, such as resources that facilitates their safety and may include assistance for food, lodging, legal assistance, counseling services and assistance navigating the court system.

SVAs are trained, experienced professionals who know from experience that the road from victim to survivor is more complicated than asking victims what they are so often asked: Why do you stay? Helping victims find safety, care for children, find housing, legal or medical assistance may be the most immediate decisions victims face rather than the decision of whether to take some other action. The partnerships SVAs have with other professionals in domestic violence are essential to helping victims achieve immediate relief and comfort.

“The comprehensive, problem-solving nature of our domestic violence strategy is consistent with that of the national Family Justice Center model, which addresses family violence and contributes to prosecutorial success in domestic violence cases. We look forward to the opening of the County’s Family Justice Center.” Sheriff High

Child Support Enforcement – A Partnership That Works



A \$2.4 million grant from the State Office of Child Support Enforcement funds the Child Support Enforcement Unit. There can be no understatement of the importance of the work the Child Support Enforcement Unit does in serving court documents to resolve outstanding matters of importance to

children and families – serving nearly 4,000 Civil Summonses, Writs and Warrants related to child support and child custody, and to establishing paternity.

In Child Support collection, the partnership between the Sheriff's Child Support Enforcement Unit and the State Office of Child Support Enforcement may be one of the most successful in the state, working together to facilitate the collection of over \$118,000,000 or generating nearly a 5000% Return on Investment (ROI) to the state and ultimately to taxpayers.

“With a \$2.4 million grant and partnering with the State Office of Child Support Collection, we facilitate the collection of over \$118 million in child support. That’s a return on the state’s investment of nearly 5000 percent; we have an outstanding partnership with the State and we’re proud of that work.”

Sheriff Melvin C. High

Civil Division – Certainty of Service and Law Enforcement Supervision

The two sections in the Civil Division – the Civil Section and the Landlord and Tenant Section (L&T) are required for the service of documents on behalf of several parties after a ruling has been issued by the court. In the Civil Section, service by Civil Section Deputies may be required by the court, as in the case of a legal dispute between businesses. In other cases, the State’s Attorney’s Office may ask that witness subpoenas be served by the Sheriff and a citizen may prefer to have law enforcement deliver documents to a third party.

Landlord and Tenant (L&T) Section

The Sheriff has no legal role or authority in the legal phase of housing disputes; however, the presence of Sheriff’s Deputies on the scene of an eviction represents an independent and impartial law enforcement presence that assures respect and consideration of the needs of each of the parties to the dispute and to the needs of the community. The L&T Section has been very effective in scheduling and managing the eviction process with timely notifications and utilizing multi-team, multi-day operations to maximize efficiency.



Bureau of Administration

Leading Innovation in Planning, Research & Development

Planning, Research & Development (PRD) define the agency's philosophy, establishing its structure and its policies and procedures. PRD establishes the guidelines for employee performance in service to and in contact with the community; complaint management and use-of-force reporting; response to emergency conditions and employee wellness.

Bureau of Administration Assistant Sheriff Orlando Barnes, served a second year on the county's "Wellness Committee", working with other county leaders to plan and develop programs and activities to encourage health and well-being among county employees and their families. Assistant Sheriff Barnes also served again as Commissioner of the Prince George's County Wellness Basketball League, presiding over all activities associated with the league and the championship game at the Novak Field House at Prince George's Community College.



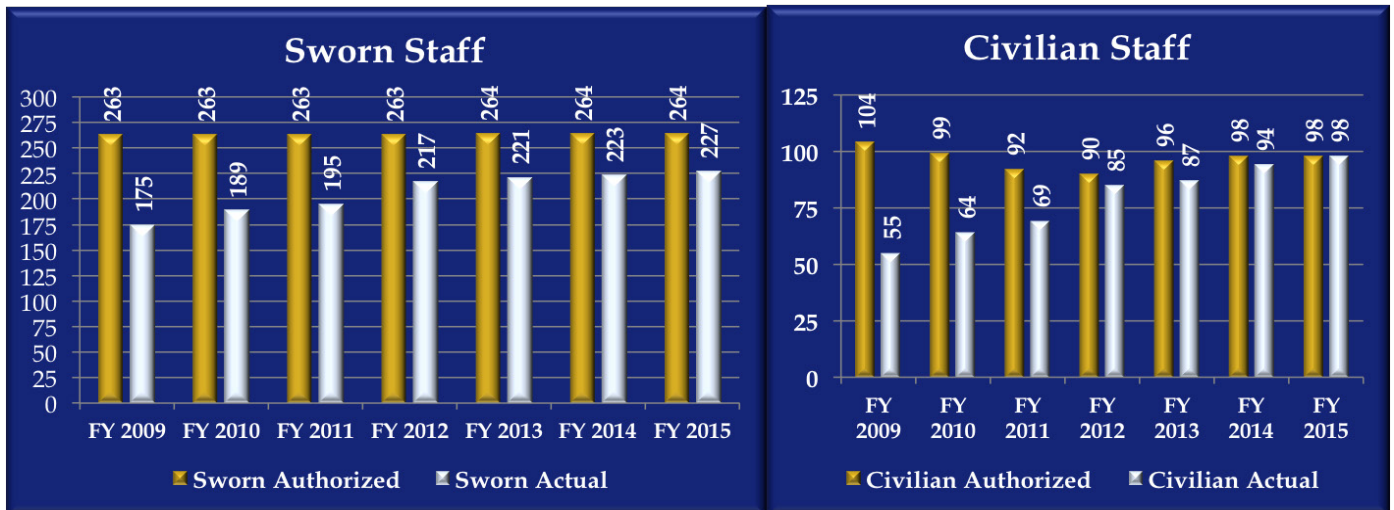
LTC Orlando D. Barnes



A goal of the Sheriff's administration is to provide meaningful and effective services to our community. Consistent with that goal, Assistant Sheriff Orlando Barnes was confirmed to the county's "Mental Health Advisory Committee" and was nominated and confirmed by the Maryland Sheriff's Association to serve on the Governor's "Task Force to Study Access of Individuals with Mental Illness to Regulated Firearms." The Task Force authored a report for the Governor and State legislators on their findings.

Asset Management Division

The Asset Management Division accounts for fixed assets assigned to the Agency. It manages issues related to acquisition and use of such assets primarily through the Vehicle Services Section and Property and Supply Services. The Division also oversees Records Management and a 24-hour Teletype Unit.



With responsibility for the Information & Technology Unit, the Division has concentrated its efforts on acquiring and implementing more modern systems and processes in the daily work of the agency, such as the new warrant database that went online in FY13 and which provided greater interoperability with newer systems and with the courts. The new system responded to more than a million queries in FY14.

Planning for continuous improvement, the IT staff is researching radio frequency identification (RFID), a process to digitize the input and retrieval of the high volume of paper the agency is required to retain. Components of the County's Records Management System (RMS) that have been installed have already begun to reduce time and redundancy in handling agency paperwork. Reductions in time and redundancy are expected to continue as the system is incorporated into the paper-driven processes currently in use.

Training and Personnel Services

The Sheriff's Office is committed to continuous personnel development as a critically important aspect of meeting greater workplace challenges in an economic environment that is challenged for resources, even when such training removes personnel from the normal business rotation.

The Bureau of Administration has sought to be innovative and reduce the cost of meeting professional development requirements by establishing Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission (MPCTC) approved courses in-house when possible. It initiated an in-house course to meet the MPCTC requirement that newly promoted sergeants and lieutenants complete "First Line Supervisors Training" and "Administrators School" training courses, respectively. Extending the opportunity to other law enforcement partners, the Division invited nearby state agencies to participate and provided the training for investigators in the State's Attorney's Office and to municipal agencies.



SST Team members training together and supporting the "Victim's Assistance" 5K Run.

Planning and Research Division

Serving as a nexus of Sheriff High's commitment to excellence in service to the community and developing the full potential of every employee, the Planning & Research Division (PRD) drafts and revises Office of the Sheriff policies in critical areas such as the safe transport of detainees and due process in disciplinary procedures; manages the agency accreditation program; researches strategic planning initiatives; and, conducts internal and external surveys.

PRD extends the reach of the Office of the Sheriff through professional collaboration with other members of the Chesapeake Region Law Enforcement Accreditation Alliance (CRLEAA); the Maryland Association of Police Planners (MAPP); and, participation in the Prince George's County Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI).





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



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

DIAL211

Prince George's
CountyClick 311
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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.