

# Lassen County Sheriff's



## 2007 Annual Report

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*"Serving with Honor Since 1864"*

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This report is also available online at the Sheriff / Coroner link on Lassen County's Website: [www.lassencounty.org](http://www.lassencounty.org)

## A Message from the Sheriff



**Steven W. Warren – Lassen County Sheriff**

As with previous annual reports, I would like to provide a brief overview of the Lassen County Sheriff's Office, its functions, responsibilities and new challenges that we face. I became the Lassen County Sheriff-Coroner in January of 2005 after being appointed by the Lassen County Board of Supervisors. I was later elected to the Office of Sheriff - Coroner in June 2006.

The Office of the Sheriff, commonly referred to as the Sheriffs Department, is responsible for the general law enforcement and public safety throughout Lassen County. There is not an easy or 'canned' definition of what that really means. 'Public Safety' is an 'interactive effort' with many disciplines and allied agencies, covering a wide variety of responsibilities and functions. This report will describe the Sheriffs Office role in that effort.

There are four primary service areas that cover the county's nearly three million acres. We have 101 fulltime positions, 77 of those are Peace Officers, and several part-time and seasonal employees. Staff are assigned into three primary Divisions; Operations, Services, and an Emergency Services-Administration Division. Each Division has a Division Commander that reports to the Sheriff. The Command structure consists of the Under-sheriff and two Assistant Sheriffs.

Each Division contributes to, and interacts with the others, to achieve the '**Primary Goal of providing for Public Safety**', in and around Lassen County. The Divisions have operational units within them that are responsible for specific functions, such as Custody, Fleet Maintenance, Dispatch, Investigations, Patrol, Coroner services, Civil, Court Security, Boating Safety and Patrols, Contract Patrols to US Forest Service and BLM. We also participate in and supervise an Interagency SWAT Unit and the Interagency Narcotics Task Force. A summary and synopsis of each of these primary functions is contained in this report.

The environment of Law Enforcement is ever changing, with additional functions and responsibilities being mandated through changes in statutory law, case law, and legislative actions. New programs are continually being created or evolving, and are often mandated on us without the corresponding resource to provide that service. In fact, resources are generally being decreased as responsibilities and demands increase. In the face of these conditions, we are continually seeking ways to improve the services we provide to our communities. Toward that end, we continually evaluate the needs for services and the public safety trends throughout the County, as well as operational needs within the Sheriffs Office. We have been successful in identifying the needs, then utilizing and directing our available resources in those areas.

We have also been actively seeking program specific funding to enhance our efforts. You will see in this report that we have been successful in obtaining grants through federal and state programs that have allowed us to increase staff for the sole purpose of targeting drug offenders and trafficking organizations, tracking registered sex offenders and the apprehension of sexual violent predators. These programs have been very successful in both the enforcement aspect, as well as the more important aspect of the *prevention* of these types of violations.

***I am very proud of the dedicated and committed staff of the Sheriffs Office and their ability to provide the level of service that they do. As you read through this report, I hope you take pride in this effort also. Thank you very much for your support of the Sheriffs Office, and the other Public Safety Agencies, that help us keep our communities safe.***

## New Grants / Programs



### California Multi-Jurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team

The Governor's Office of Emergency Services administers the California Multi-Jurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team (Cal-MMET) Program.

The Sheriff worked with the Sheriffs of Plumas, Modoc, Trinity, and Siskiyou Counties to develop a plan for a multi-jurisdictional methamphetamine enforcement team that would be funded by the Cal-MMET Program. The funding was secured, and the program became operational in July of 2007. This grant brought approximately \$190,000 to the Sheriff for personnel, equipment, and all travel and training costs associated with this program. A deputy was assigned to the team and he has been working with the Lassen County Narcotics Task Force, and the other partner agencies to meet the goals of the program. The goals of the program are to target methamphetamine manufacturers and traffickers who produce or sell significant quantities of methamphetamine, including precursor trafficking; to disrupt and dismantle their clandestine labs and organizations (manufacturing and distribution); to incarcerate those responsible, and to use state and/or federal law to identify and seize assets related to the sale and distribution of methamphetamine through multi-jurisdictional methamphetamine enforcement teams.

### Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement Team (SAFE)



The Nor-Cal Region III S.A.F.E.

Team is a collaborative effort of 19 agencies who participate in the OES S.A.F.E. Grant. Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement (SAFE) task forces were established in partnership with local and state law enforcement to reduce violent sexual assault crimes through proactive enforcement focused on predatory sex offenders. The Lassen County Sheriff's Office received \$25,000 in grant funding to support this program. Some of the funds are used to partially fund an investigator position that coordinates the program in Lassen County. Some of the funds are also used to pay for ongoing investigations related to Sexual Assault cases. The Sheriff was also able to use some of these funds for the purchase of surveillance and other supporting equipment.

Some of the program goals include: To identify, monitor, arrest and prosecute sex offenders who are in violation of their probation or parole conditions, or in non-compliance of Penal Code Section 290 (sexual offender registration), conduct investigations, surveillances, and "failure to register" sweep operations within the region, reduce the number of registrants in non-compliance within the region, and coordinate public education activities with the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and Rape Crisis Centers in our area.

The Sheriff's Office began participation in this program in July of 2007. At that time there were 14 sex registrants who were out of compliance. That number is now reduced to 6. The SAFE program also acquired 300 copies of the "Net Nanny" Internet Safety software for children and has made it available to the public.

## Boating Equipment Replacement Grant



Sheriff's Personnel worked with the California Department of Boating and Waterways on a project to replace and upgrade equipment supporting the Sheriff's Boating Safety Program. In this grant, the Department of Boating and Waterways awarded the Sheriff's Office \$50,000 to be used to replace and upgrade equipment in the boating fleet. The Sheriff has three primary safety vessels that are deployed at Eagle Lake. Two of these vessels are 1993 Design Concepts 23 foot heavy aluminum boats with fully enclosed cabins. In this grant project, the Sheriff was able to make significant upgrades to both vessels. This will extend their service life, without the cost of purchasing brand new equipment.



The vessels received full electronics upgrades including: Sonar, depth sounder, chart plotter / global positioning satellite, and display screens. This equipment is essential when the vessels are deployed on Eagle Lake in inclement weather when visibility is limited. This equipment will allow Sheriff's Boating Officers to respond to emergency search calls any time a boater is stranded or in danger. The Sonar system can "surface scan" the lake looking for surface contacts so officers can detect stranded boats even when visibility is poor. The full color display allows

boating officers to simultaneously view the depth screen, the chart plotter screen, and the sonar screen. The vessels also got a new coat of "anti fouling" paint. This paint helps protect the boat hulls against the high alkali content of Eagle Lake.

At the completion of the Equipment Replacement Grant, the primary vessels are now re-powered, and equipped with Kodiak Marine 496 motors with Hamilton 212 jet drives with turbo impellers. This motor and jet combination gives all of the vessels the necessary power to move safely through Eagle Lake in even the most difficult conditions. These boats can rapidly respond to emergency calls for boaters needing assistance. They also have all of the pulling power to tow any boat to safety. The Hamilton jet drives allow these vessels to operate in very shallow water without the risk of propeller damage on the rocky bottom. The custom turbo



Impellor gives the jet drive significantly more "bite" in the water and aids in recovery time when / if the drive breaks the surface in rough water. This jet also came with an upgraded grate system to more easily remove weeds and other debris that are prone to clog the jet.



















## Narcotics Task Force

The Lassen County Sheriff's Office has been participating in, and supervising the Lassen County Narcotics Task Force since the late 1980's. The goal of the Unit is to reduce the illegal activities of drug offenders through law enforcement, prosecution, probation, and community education. The unit targets the entire County of Lassen in its' efforts to



enforce controlled substance violations. The investigative section of the Unit consists of a Sergeant from the Sheriff's Office, a Police Officer from the Susanville Police Department, and an Officer from the California Highway Patrol. The probation portion of the unit consists of a Probation Officer from the Lassen County Probation Department. The prosecution component of the unit consists of a Deputy District Attorney from the Lassen County District Attorney's Office. The investigative portion of the unit works to identify and arrest individuals selling, using, or manufacturing illegal drugs. The unit is involved in over 130 cases annually. This unit also provides drug prevention education at Lassen County Schools, and other groups and organizations. The Probation Officer assists with investigations, and monitors compliance of subjects who are placed on probation for drug related violations. The Prosecutor from the District Attorney's Office reviews search warrants submitted by investigators, and prosecutes cases generated by the Unit.

The Sheriff applies for a grant each year that covers a portion of the costs associated with maintaining the Unit. The grant funds are federal funds that are distributed to the States, and managed in California by the Office of Emergency Services.

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## Sheriff's Investigations

Sheriff's Deputies conduct the bulk of all criminal investigations. These field officers handle the follow up investigation on the majority of cases from misdemeanor property crimes to felony crimes against persons. The Deputies who live and work in their respective patrol areas stay more attune to the criminal element in their communities. They also have a better rapport with the community members who are often the victims and witnesses of crime. This gives them the ability to quickly seek those who may have information related to criminal activity and find potential perpetrators. There are times when certain cases are very time and labor intensive, or require additional resources and coordination. The Sheriff maintains a Sergeant to oversee all major criminal investigations within the County to lend support to field Deputies in these types of cases. This Sergeant / Investigator also reviews all reports returned by the District Attorney's Office that may require additional investigation. The Sergeant also reviews all Coroners' Cases in Lassen County.

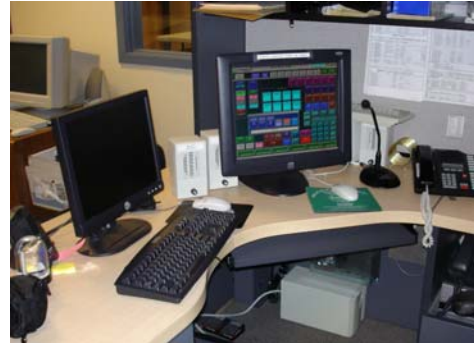
One significant case that Investigations assisted in this year was a kidnapping, assault with a deadly weapon case that began in Susanville and continued to two separate crime scenes out in the county. The suspect was located and is currently in custody in the Lassen County Jail awaiting prosecution.

**CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS**





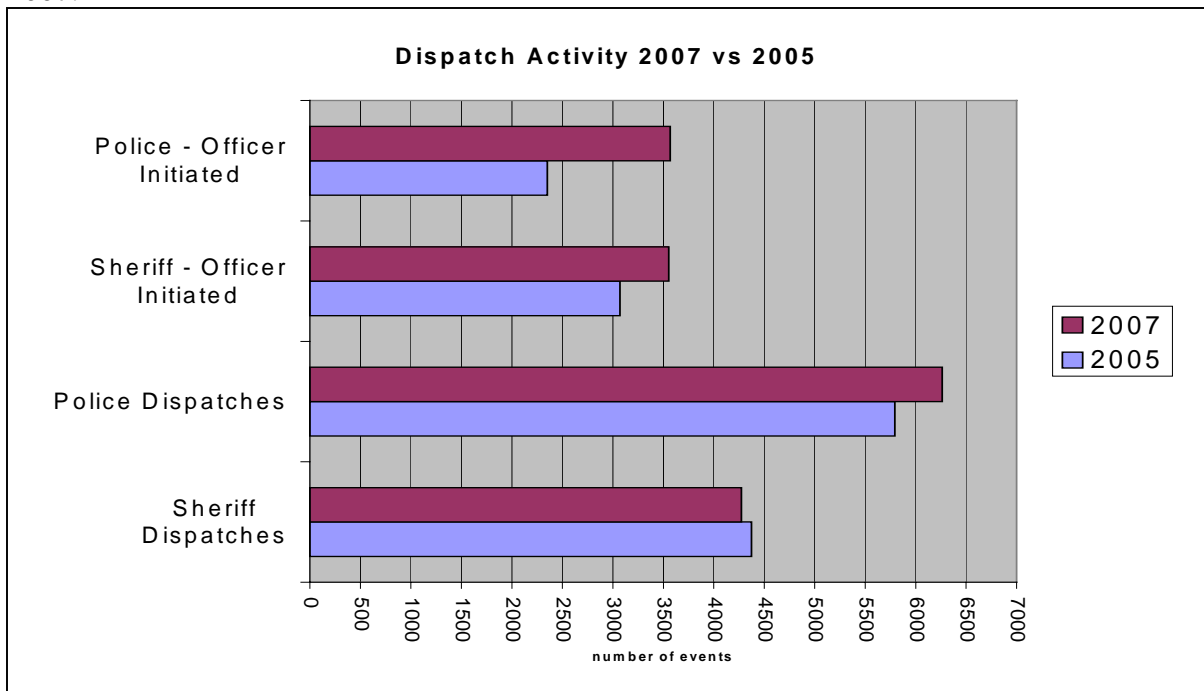
# Public Safety Dispatch Center



The Sheriff maintains and staffs a 24 hour per day, 365 days per year Public Safety Dispatch Center. This dispatch center serves as the primary PSAP (public safety answering point) for the majority of Lassen County and all of the City of Susanville. The Public Safety Dispatch Center handles all 9-1-1 calls for law enforcement, fire, and medical aid. The Dispatch Center also receives all emergency and non-emergency calls for both the Sheriff's Office and the Police Department.

When a Citizen calls for assistance: the dispatcher has to assess the nature of the emergency and then dispatch the appropriate personnel. Dispatchers have to determine if the nature of the emergency should prompt a response from fire, medical, law enforcement, or combinations of the three disciplines. These calls may be transferred to the Susanville Interagency Fire Center for a medical or fire response or they may be dispatched via radio to Sheriff's or Police Personnel. The Dispatchers also deal with all Officer Initiated Events. Any time an officer conducts an investigative follow up contact, serves a warrant, subpoena, or other civil paper, conducts a business check, or performs a vehicle stop, the dispatcher enters these events. This helps to monitor officer's activity and safety and to provide information as needed by the field officers.

During 2007 the Sheriff's Dispatch Center received over 4000 9-1-1 calls and handled more than 17,600 dispatched and officer initiated events combined for the Sheriff's Office and Police Department. This represents a 13% increase in total events from 2005-2007.



# Lassen County Motor Pool

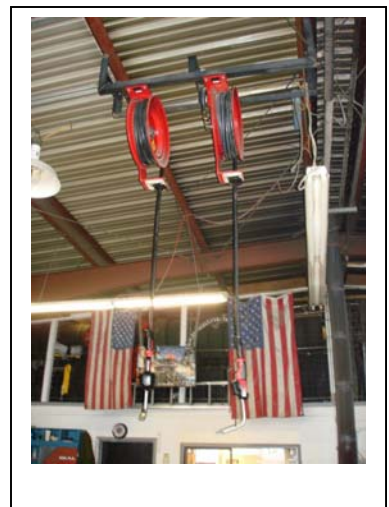
The Sheriff's Office operates the Lassen County Motor Pool. A Correctional Supervisor who serves as the Department's Fleet Manager supervises this program. The Fleet Maintenance crew is comprised of



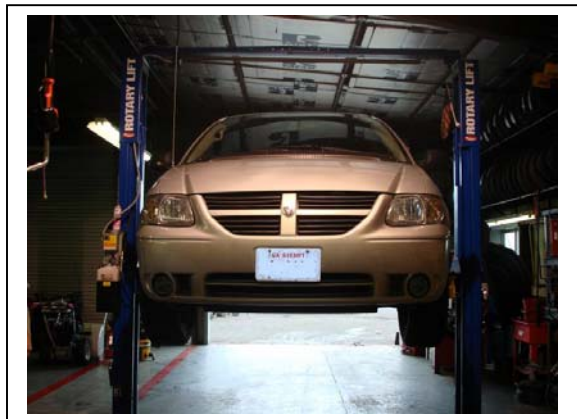
CCF Inmates. Under the direction of the Fleet Manager, this inmate crew handles all of the regular maintenance on the county fleet including all of the Sheriff's Patrol Vehicles. This proactive maintenance schedule extends the longevity of all county vehicles and keeps repair costs down.



The Motor Pool has made some recent equipment upgrades to better maintain the fleet. Most new vehicles now come with larger sized wheels as compared with older year models. To handle these larger wheels, the Motor Pool purchased a new Coates Rim Clamp Tire Mounting Machine. (Pictured left) The Motor Pool also purchased a roof mount bulk oil dispensing system. (Pictured right) Motor Pool can now take advantage of better pricing by utilizing bulk lubricants.



The Motor Pool also purchased a hydraulic vehicle lift system. This lift far exceeds both the capability and the safety features of the old "bumper lift" system. Now, the Motor Pool can raise vehicles for regular service without compromising employee safety and without the risk of damaging the undercarriage or bumpers of county vehicles.



The Sheriff still utilizes the Motor Pool to equip all new patrol cars. Motor Pool is able to install the security screens, gunlocks, radio equipment, light bars, sirens, and control heads for the new patrol vehicles at a substantially reduced



cost as compared with using private vendors for this service. During 2007 the Sheriff added three Dodge Durango 4-wheel drive Sport Utility Vehicles to the patrol fleet. The Sheriff now has one sport utility vehicle assigned to each outlying area, and two in the Susanville Office.



## Law Enforcement Chaplains



The Lassen County Law Enforcement Chaplains Program was created in 2002. The program is currently staffed by three local chaplains who volunteer their time to support the program. The Lassen County Sheriff's Office, Susanville Police Department, and California Highway Patrol, all participate in the program. The law enforcement chaplains aid the law enforcement community, and the people of Lassen County. They provide guidance, counseling, and comfort in times of crisis. The chaplains program has proven to be a valuable resource. The Chaplains have provided these services to law enforcement personnel and to members of the community. They are always available and have responded to support law enforcement and community members in critical incidents throughout Lassen County and the City of Susanville. They participate in ride-a-longs with the law enforcement agencies and also assist with traffic control during road closures for: vehicle accidents, parades, and the uptown main street "trick or treat" program.

## Sheriff's Posse

The Lassen County Sheriff's Posse was created in 1945. The Posse has many purposes: to further the welfare and peace of the county; to sponsor and conduct horse shows, rodeos and other public entertainment venues; and to assist the Sheriff in the maintenance of peace, enforcement of law and the suppression of riots and insurrections.

The Sheriff's Posse is involved in a number of community activities. They host the Little



Britches Junior Rodeo for the youth. They host the annual Saint Jude's Biz Johnson Trail ride which raises funds for the Saint Jude's Children's Research Hospital. The Posse rides with the Sheriff in local parades. They provide security at the County Fair. They volunteer many hours of time at local rodeos and other equine activities. They provide a scholarship to help local graduates in their quest for higher education. The Sheriff's Posse has proven to be a valuable asset to the Lassen County Sheriff's Department and the citizens of the county.





## Overview of Statistics

Enforcement Activity	
Felony Arrests	205
Misdemeanor Arrests	511
Crime Reports	894
Citations	788
<b>Total</b>	<b>2398</b>

Dispatch Activity	
9-1-1 Calls	4053
Sheriff Dispatches	4272
Police Dispatches	6263
Sheriff - Officer Initiated	3071
Police - Officer Initiated	2351
<b>Total Dispatch &amp; Officer Events</b>	<b>17658</b>

Coroner's Inquiries by Area	
Susanville	71
Herlong / Doyle	11
Westwood	7
Eagle Lake / Big Valley	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>98</b>

Adult Detention Facility	
Bookings	2063
Average Daily Population	105

Civil Papers Served	
Susanville	1021
All other Patrol areas	196