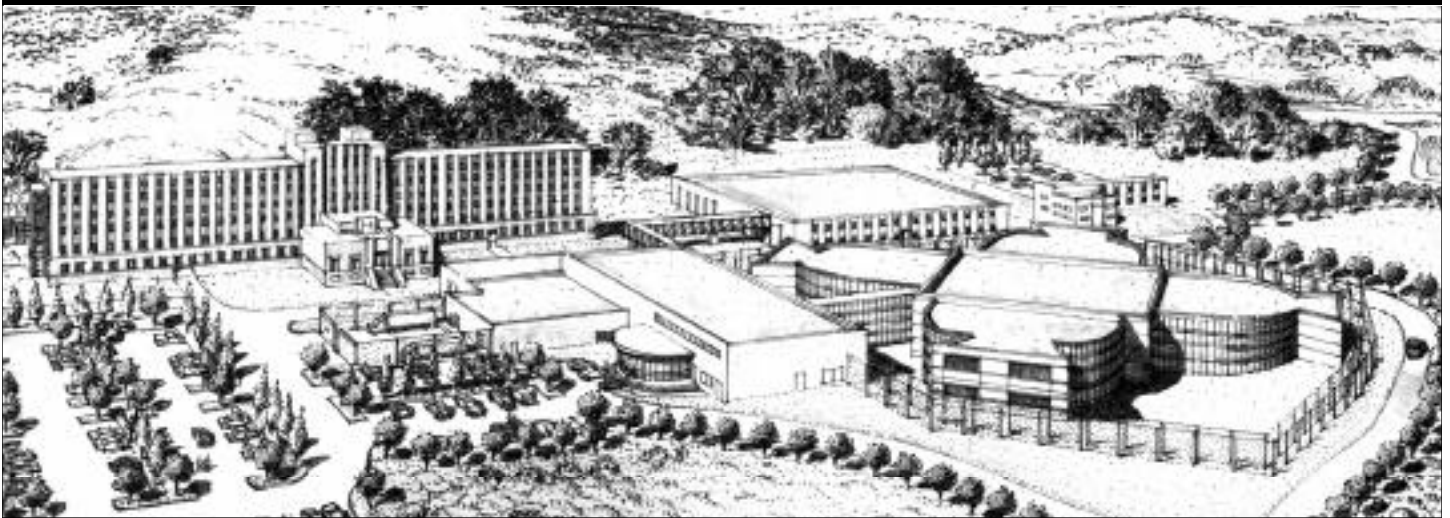


# Sheriff's Star Bulletin

Vol. 1  
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A monthly publication of the San Francisco Sheriff's Department



The proposed new jail facility is in the foreground with County Jails #3, #7 and the Learning Center in the background.

## COUNTY JAIL #3 REPLACEMENT FACILITY APPROVED

San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown and the Board of Supervisors gave final approval last month to a plan to replace County Jail #3 with a new facility. Built in 1932, County Jail #3 has been the subject of a federal class action suit concerning the condition of the old building.

The new facility, pictured in the artist's rendering above, will feature eight housing pods, each holding 48 cells, each of which can house two prisoners. Indoor recreation areas will replace the outdoor yard behind the old building, and a new kitchen, laundry and

administration structure will complete the project.

Total cost of the project, including design, construction and financing, is \$170,000,000. Groundbreaking is anticipated to be this fall.

## NEW TASK FORCES SHAPE FUTURE OF THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Last April, the Management Team met and identified several pressing issues facing the Sheriff's Department, including recruitment and retention, the impact of expansion, training and equipment needs, career development and communication. To address these issues and formulate the best action plans possible, the team created six task forces, each focusing on a specific area. Open to all sworn, non-sworn and Jail Medical staff willing to commit time and talent to exploring ways to improve our performance, the task forces have been meeting regularly throughout the spring and summer. The task forces are: Career

Development; Custody Operations Manual; Department Organization; Policy and Procedures; Professionalism and Recognition; and, Public Information.

This newsletter, the Sheriff's Star Bulletin, is the work of the Public Information Task Force, which includes Lillian Brown, Dep. Loretta Donley, Sgt. Roi Dupre, Eileen Hirst, Nursing Supervisor Randy Hurst, R.N., Dep. George Landis, Dep. Nelson Martinez, Sr. Dep. Jackie Medernach, Sgt. Marie Rockwell, Sr. Dep. Felicia Smith, Dep. Mary Veavea, and Dep. Anjie Versher. In addition to the monthly newsletter, the

task force is exploring ways to increase the Sheriff's Department's visibility in the community. Your suggestions are welcome and can be conveyed to any member of the task force.

### Inside This Premiere Edition

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## SHERIFF'S CORNER

by

SHERIFF MICHAEL HENNESSEY

***Effective communication is important for every organization. I hope that this newsletter helps create a better flow of information to our department and for people who work with us.***

As the Sheriff's Department grows, it is harder than ever to keep up with accomplishments and events at our different work sites. When presenting a slide show of Department activities for the Board of Supervisors, it was difficult for me to keep the presentation to only 20 minutes and still show an example of our more than two dozen different work locations (not counting individual court rooms).

Although we work in what seems like an under-appreciated field, it is surprising how often we receive praise from those who come into contact with our Department. For example, at the end of our budget hearing last month, the Chair of the Finance Committee, Supervisor Leland Yee, commented that he truly appreciated the good work of our employees, in providing security at City Hall, in the jails and elsewhere. (Of course, that didn't mean he was going to give us a lot more money! But, it is still nice to hear comments like that from city decision-makers.) Hopefully, this newsletter will be one way for that positive feedback to reach throughout the Department.

I want to thank the individuals who have worked hard to create this newsletter and encourage everyone to contribute ideas or photos or other items of interest. As anyone knows who has ever had to produce a newsletter, there's a lot of work involved, so the more contributions, the better.

I'm very proud of this Department's work, but then, I hear about accomplishments from throughout our wide range of duties and locations. This newsletter will go a long way to giving us all that telescopic view.

### RECENT PROMOTIONS

Roderick Wallace is to be congratulated on his promotion in July to the rank of Sergeant.

Deputies recently promoted to Senior Deputy who are also to be congratulated include: Ronald Terry, Henry Scott, Colleen Newcomer and Stephanie Colmenero. They were all promoted as of August 5, 2000.

### RETIREES

Congratulations to the following employees who have retired, or will be retiring in the near future.

Lieutenant Bea Smith retired March 11, 2000. Lieutenant Smith started her career with the Department in October of 1973.

Sr. Deputy Carol Murphy retired May 5, 2000. She started her career with the Department in July of 1969.

Deputy Joseph L. Buchanan retired July 7, 2000. He joined the Department in October of 1983.

Sr. Deputy Ethel Parkell retired July 7, 2000. She joined the Department in March of 1972.

Sgt. Michael Pavini will be retiring effective November 1, 2000. He is currently on leave. Sgt. Pavini started his career with the Department in September of 1980.



GOOD DEEDS

*Every day, Sheriff's Department and Jail Medical Services staff serve the public in extraordinary ways that go well above and beyond their duties.*

*Each month, Good Deeds will report on the exceptional work and volunteer activities that exemplify our commitment to serving the community.*

Sergeant Neil Cunningham was in the lobby of County Jail #8 at 11 a.m. on February 4 when he saw a teenaged girl sitting on one of the couches, crying. He approached her, asked her what was wrong and learned that she had run away

from her home in Missouri and come to San Francisco with her boyfriend, who was now in custody on an outstanding warrant. She wanted to go home, but was afraid to call her mother and had no money.

Sergeant Cunningham asked for her mother's phone number and made the call himself, assuring the mother that her daughter was okay. He then called the supervisor of the Greyhound Depot in San Francisco and learned that Greyhound will provide free transportation for runaways if they are escorted to the bus station by a peace officer. The next bus to the girl's home was the next morning.

Knowing that the girl needed a place to stay for the night, Sergeant Cunningham then called the Garland Hotel and arranged for her to get a complimentary room. He drove her to the hotel, made sure that the manager and security personnel knew that the girl was to stay there, and made sure she had money for dinner.

The next morning, Sergeant Cunningham detailed Deputy K. Tan to drive the girl from the hotel to the bus station and make sure she got on the bus. A very grateful mother called a few days later to report that her daughter had made it home safely.

SPORTS BRIEFS

*Sheriff's personnel have been involved in a host of sporting events over the past several months, with members taking "the gold" in bowling, weight lifting, softball and Ironman events. The following are the results of some of the events, listed by month.*

APRIL, 2000

ARIZONA POLICE GAMES 2000

In April, bowling and weight lifting teams participated in the Arizona Police Games 2000 in Scottsdale. In Bowling - Unisex "B" Division, the San Francisco Sheriff's Department team of Lt. Taylor, and Deputies Polite, Tongue and Murray took a Gold Medal.

In the Women's Open Doubles Lt. Taylor and Deputy Polite won another Gold Medal.

In Weight Lifting - Senior Women's Division, Deputy Veavea made the Department proud by taking a Gold Medal in Bench Press.

MAY, 2000

A Men's Softball Tournament was held in Elk Grove May 20 and 21. The SFSD team took first place with a record 5-0 score, beating the Sacramento Probation Department for the championship.

A SFSD Women's Team entered the Police Department's 2000 Ironman competition held at the Hall of Justice Police gym and at the SFPD Pistol Range at Lake Merced May 10. The team of Sgt. Devoy, Sr. Dep. Colmenero, Dep. Shelton and Dep. Veavea took a Gold Medal and Sgt. Devoy took a second place in the Women's Open Division. In her first attempt at the competition, Sgt. Devoy beat the top seated Officer Guillory of the SFPD in the shooting and pull-ups events.

JUNE, 2000

The SFSD Men's "B" Division Softball Team played on June 13 in the SFPOA League, finishing in second place out of seven teams. They lost to the Ingleside Police Station in the championship game.



The SFSD Women's Team members who competed in the Police Department's Ironman contest included, from the left, Dep. Shelton, Sr. Dep. Colmenero, Sgt. Devoy and Dep. Veavea.



Randy Hurst, RN

## JAIL HEALTH SERVICES

by

RANDY HURST, RN

DIRECTOR OF NURSING  
JAIL HEALTH SERVICES

***Jail Health Services is an in-house, comprehensive service available to all inmates of the San Francisco County Jails. The service is comprised of over 100 licensed professional nurses, including Registered Nurses (RN) and Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN).***

Dr. Joe Goldenson is Chief Medical Officer and Director of the service. There is a team of clinicians, including both nurse practitioners and doctors who rotate throughout the six jails treating inmates on an outpatient basis.

Clinics are held in all jails to address a myriad of symptoms and diagnoses. Registered nurses treat most illnesses via a system of "standardized procedures." These are doctors' orders for treatment of a variety of disorders, such as cold symptoms, alcohol and heroin detoxification, rashes, and the like.

The nurses are equipped with medical appliances such as EKG, AED defibrillator, IV solutions and catheters, inhalant nebulizers, and pulse oximeters

and have access to a full service pharmacy for most commonly prescribed drugs. All nurses are CPR certified to provide basic life support in the unfortunate event of a sudden cardiac or respiratory arrest.

The nursing staff is experienced in trauma assessment and emergency stabilization. They work closely with the paramedics and San Francisco General Hospital to provide timely emergent medical care. The level of care delivered to the city's incarcerated population does not vary from that of the general community from which they came, and to which most will return.

The jail population can be difficult at times, however, our medical staff consis-

tently approaches the inmates as patients in an outpatient setting who are requesting medical attention. Because of the nature of the setting, the nursing staff often must make quick medical assessments and decisions regarding conditions that could have life threatening consequences.

The relationship between the Sheriff's Department and jail health services is an extremely important one. It is one of mutual respect and cooperation. We often find ourselves working together under the most dangerous and tense situations, with a mutual goal of providing quality medical care to our incarcerated population.

### Did you know?

The hours of the property/money window at County Jail #9 are 7:30 a.m. to noon; 12:30 to 2 p.m.; and 3:15 to 4 p.m. every day, including holidays.

### Did you know?

Deputies at County Jail #9 booked 49,205 arrestees and processed 41,241 releases in 1999.



A Jail Medical nurse examines an inmate patient at County Jail #8.



## SPOTLIGHT ON COUNTY JAIL #9



Captain Tom Arata  
Facility Commander, County Jail #9

San Francisco County Jail #9, the Intake and Release Center, officially opened for business in October, 1996, with then-Captain Vicki Hennessy as facility commander, marking the end of bookings at County Jail #1, and the resolution of nearly 18 years of litigation over conditions at that facility. Located on the first floor of 425 7th Street, Jail #9 features a central multi-station booking, medical triage and id processing area ringed with holding cells that allow for separation of arrestees as they progress through the booking process. Also contained within the central core is space for confidential medical and psychiatric

interviews, the Supervised Citation Release Project and the Own Recognizance Release Project. The watch commander's office is raised to provide a clear view of the entire facility. Thick glass doors on the holding cells minimize noise to the point where even when the facility is crowded on a busy night, County Jail #9 sounds more like a business office than a major metropolitan booking hub.

Current facility commander, Captain Tom Arata, says the action really picks up when court calendars are completed at 4:30 p.m. and the releases of 75 to 80 prisoners per day begin. Peak intake period is between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m., when booking staff can expect to process 70 to 100 prisoners a night.

"Booking is a specialized skill that relies on technical expertise as well as intuition developed over years of experience," said Captain Arata. "Our resident experts, like Deputy Mary Ruffin and Deputy Kirk Fowles have years of institutional memory to draw on and can literally sense when there is a discrepancy on a booking."

All arrestees who are not cited out or

do not immediately make bail are dressed in at County Jail #9 and their street clothing and belongings stored in the property room, where a huge conveyor system holds 2640 zippered heavy-duty garment bags and an entire wall full of bins holds heavy or bulky items. This replaces the old property room, a tiny cavern in the basement of the Hall of Justice where clothing and other items were stored in brown paper bags.

The latest innovation at County Jail #9 is the PID computerized fingerprint system that matches fingerprints of releasees electronically. No longer do staff have to rely on a visual match of prints and wristband information to verify identity.

The toughest part of the job at County Jail #9, according to Captain Arata, is handling arrestees who are mentally ill, combative or inebriated when they arrive. "Nobody comes through the door happy," said Captain Arata. "It takes good training, patience and a lot of cooperation among deputies, Jail Medical and Jail Psych to determine the most appropriate immediate course of action for each arrestee and to complete the booking process."

### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ... STATION TRANSFER UNIT

*The Sheriff's Department assumed responsibility for station transfers from the Police Department in July of 1997. The office is located in County Jail #9 and the unit operates in the field, picking up prisoners from district police stations and delivering them for booking at County Jail #9. Senior Deputy Robert Mikovich, who graciously consented to provide "A Day in the Life" view of STU, has been with the unit since August of last year.*



Senior Deputy Robert Mikovich

How many tires are replaced in a month on your vehicles?  
We go through about five tires.

Where is the best place to eat when you are in the field?  
In the Bayview: Moshi Moshi on 3rd Street  
In the Taraval: The Tennessee Grill at 1128 Taraval Street, good meat and potatoes.  
In the Ingleside: Roxie Food Center - 1901 San Jose Ave., good sandwiches.

Where do you use the restroom when you are in the field?  
Bayview Police Station  
Cliff House Restaurant  
Academy of Science in Golden Gate Park

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## Jail Programs

### STRIKE OUT VIOLENCE DAY

Mark your calendars and tell your friends! Once again we are collaborating with the San Francisco Giants to host the Third Annual Strike Out Violence Day on Sunday, September 10th when the Giants will play the San Diego Padres at the new Pacific Bell Park in San Francisco. Strike Out Violence Day is designed to bring leadership and solutions to stopping violence in our homes and communities. This year, the pre-game ceremony will remember those individuals here and throughout the country who have been victims of violence and will recognize restored ex-offenders and the many people and organizations advocating against violence.

Pacific Bell and Nokia are sponsoring this year's event and donating over \$10,000 in cellular phones for domestic violence survivors and teachers. This year the Giants Community Fund will award \$50,000 in grants to local violence prevention agencies. These grants will be used to support violence prevention and victim empowerment programs.

The game is sold-out but we have secured a limited number of tickets so get yours soon!

#### Ticket Prices

View Level Seats \$25

Bleacher Seats \$20

Centerfield Bleacher \$15

Group discounts for the purchase of 25 tickets or more.

*Ticket sales will benefit programs for survivors and victims of violence.*

For tickets, make your check out to "Community Works" and send to:

**HALE GUERRA**

SFSD/Programs/CJ8

425 7th Street, First Floor

San Francisco, CA 94103

Or contact Hale at 415.522.8057, or by email at halebyrd@hotmail.com to request your tickets.

### REENTRY COURT - PILOT PROGRAM FOR RSVP

In February of this year, Attorney General Janet Reno announced that the San Francisco Sheriff's Department was selected as one of nine jurisdictions in the country (the only one in California and the only Sheriff's Department) to participate in a Reentry Court initiative designed to support recently released offenders in successful reintegration into the community. The concept for San Francisco's Reentry Court was developed in conjunction with guidelines set forth by the Department of Justice and is in the process of being developed.

Guidelines for Reentry Court are currently being devised by representatives of the District Attorney's Office, Public Defender, Probation, the Mayor's Criminal Justice Council, Department of Public Health, San Francisco Trial Courts, the Sheriff's Department, and numerous community collaborators.

Modeled after Drug Court, the goals of this pilot program in SF will be to reduce crime and offender recidivism among violent offenders being released from the county jail. San Francisco's Reentry Court aims to promote public safety by addressing the needs of this population (RSVP participants), their victims, and the community.



### PROGRAMS GRANT UPDATE

Programs recently received a sizeable grant from the Goldman Foundation, which will enable us to work more closely with learning disabled prisoners and their families.

### "UNCOMMON GROUND" THEATER

Based on the success of RSVP's community theater presentation "UnCommon Ground" (five sold out performances last fall), there have been numerous requests by criminal justice and social services agencies for additional performances. Some of these have been modified or shortened to accommodate time constraints of the requesting agency.

[cont'd from page 5]

### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ... STATION TRANSFER UNIT

How often do you assist the SFPD?

As much as possible, maybe one time per shift.

Why are there so many commendations of STU staff? We respond to anything at anytime. It just seems to fall into our laps. All of the members of the unit are motivated. Lt. Denman set the tone. He wanted us to initiate law enforcement activities and enforcement. He wanted to show that we were equal to the SFPD in all areas.

How fast do the vans go?

They go as fast as the department policy states. I heard that they will do 55 mph.

Have you ever ridden in the back of the van? What is it like? Yes I have, but not as a custody. It was of my own free will. It was very uncomfortable, with unique smells.

[cont'd on page 7]



## Training Notes

### NEW IMPROVEMENTS AT THE TRAINING DIVISION

By Deputy Nelson Martinez #1333

***The Training Division has come up with a monthly training newsletter that is very informative. The newsletter emphasizes academy information, as well as giving details on upcoming training and recent participants.***

If you are interested in attending a training, please follow your chain of command and submit an interest letter to your facility administration. For further information you can call the Training Unit at 415-553-9600, or for general inquiries send an email to [raining@sfsheriff.org](mailto:raining@sfsheriff.org).

Unfortunately the field units get priority when it comes to training, but we must understand that these units are more likely to come across a critical incident. With this in mind, I would suggest enrolling in a class on your own. There are several institutions that offer a variety of courses, including the San Francisco Police Department which is always offering officer safety courses as well other interesting classes. I was fortunate to attend the Wound Ballistic Class that was presented by Robert Kong, a retired Senior Special Agent with the Department of Defense. I would recommend this class to our deputized staff as it was not only informative but exceptionally well presented by Mr. Kong, who is considered a guru in wound ballistics and is well known throughout the country.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Department also offers a number of courses. Their EVOG course is an eight-hour course that is very well presented. Their instructors are retired lieutenants



Deputy Nelson Martinez

and captains from the California Highway Patrol and retired Oakland and Walnut Creek officers.

HSS International offers a variety of Special Operations Training. Their only downfall is that their training is not POST certified. But if you are into a 100 percent hands-on, 360-degree, heart pumping, realistic, fun experience give them a try. (Their motto is "This place is probably for you.") They offer training from Tactical Swimmer School to Ship and Boat Interdiction to High Risk Entries.

Please keep in mind that if you sign up for any outside training you must notify the Training Division prior to taking the class.

If any of these classes are of any interest to you contact the following agencies at the numbers listed below:

San Francisco Police Regional Training Facility – 415-695-6941

Alameda County Regional Training Facility – 510-551-6970

HSS International – 714-3739036  
Web address:

[www.hikestalkshoot.com](http://www.hikestalkshoot.com)

[cont'd from page 6]

### A DAY IN THE LIFE OF ... STATION TRANSFER UNIT

How many accidents have there been  
Reported five.

Who is the best /most interesting driver?  
Deputy Bustos. He can maneuver one way streets very well.  
Former Deputy R.Scott was an interesting vehicle operator.

Which stations are the most comfortable, have best snacks, etc.?  
Bayview Station is number 1, but we don't stay long enough at any station to get comfortable. No comment on Central Station.

Which stations assist us the most?  
Northern Station. Officer Bell helps out a lot with the STU.

### Did you know?

Caleb V. Smith no longer carries the San Francisco Sheriff's Department uniform. A new contract with another vendor is in the works. If you are desperate for a uniform item, call Senior Deputy Naomi Martinez at 554-7225. Stay tuned.



## Muster Board

On August 17, U.S. District Court Judge William Orrick dismissed Jones v. City and County of San Francisco, the 9-year class action lawsuit against conditions at County Jail #3, conditioned on the City's commitment to build a replacement jail.

Telephone services at the Hall of Justice Complex will be switched from AT&T to Aviya (formerly Lucent) with extended and improved services during September and October. The switch will be made at 930 Bryant over the weekend of September 15; at 425 7th Street on September 22; and, at the Hall of Justice and 555 7th Street on October 6.

The Sheriff's Department received a \$25,818 grant in July from the National Institutes of Justice to purchase 145 bullet-proof vests. All sworn personnel are expected to be equipped with vests by December. Vouchers were issued in August. Questions? Call Personnel.

The Sheriff has instituted a new policy to provide trigger locks to all deputies for use on their service weapons. Deputies will also be able to purchase trigger locks through the Department for use on off-duty weapons.

## SESSQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

**Plans are coming together for what promises to be a smashing celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the San Francisco Sheriff's Department. Members of the Deputy Sheriff's Association and Department personnel have been working together to plan a multi-faceted commemoration that will include a civic ceremony and evening party on September 29, as well as issuing commemorative pins, belt buckles and special collector edition badges.**

A civic Commemorative Ceremony will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Civic Center Plaza on Friday, September

29. All sworn staff will be in dress uniform for the ceremony that will include speakers, historical highlights of the Department and presentations by the Sheriff's Mounted Posse, Air Squadron and Honor Guard.

A reception and celebration for all Department members and invited guests will be held that evening at the Anchor Steam Brewery. Efforts have been made to keep the cost reasonable so that everyone who wants to attend can. Tickets will be available from the DSA.

Commemorative star lapel pins will be provided for all employees, and sworn staff can purchase a Sesquicentennial Commemorative Badge that can be worn through October of 2001. A 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Belt Buckle is also being offered for any department member who wishes to purchase one.

Order forms for the Commemorative Badge and Belt Buckles are available at all facilities and from the DSA.

## SIXTH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT JUST AROUND THE CORNER

*By Deputy George Landis*

**Knock the cobwebs off your golf clubs and get ready to strut your stuff. The 6th annual SFSD and DSA Golf Tournament is just around the corner on Monday, October 9, 2000. This year's site, the Rio Vista Golf Club, is primed for our 0900 hours shotgun start.**

Submit your \$130 entry fee with your foursome and come out firing. Entry fee includes green fees and cart, refreshments, prizes, and a prime rib dinner. The price is \$140 if paid after October 1st. If you don't golf, come by, socialize and stay for the \$20 prime rib dinner only.

As a special treat, the first 49 golfers get a free bus ride from the Hall of Justice. Please hurry, the bus ride must be reserved in advance.

Chairperson Sr. Dep. Paul Varni has spent all year preparing for this event. All proceeds to benefit the DSA Scholarship Fund. Please make all checks payable to: Sheriff's Golf Tournament and mail to Sr. Dep. Henry Scott, City Hall, Room 456, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

This newsletter is produced by the Sheriff's Public Information Task Force

Send information and comments to:

*Sheriff's Star Bulletin*

San Francisco Sheriff's Department

Room 456 City Hall

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

Email: [sheriff@ci.sf.ca.us](mailto:sheriff@ci.sf.ca.us)

ph 415-554-7225 fax 415-554-7248