



Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone!

It's been a year since I introduced myself to you as the new president of the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation. Since then and before, KCLEF has worked diligently behind the scenes raising money to assist the 29 Law Enforcement Agencies working every day to make Kern County a safe place for its citizens.

The Foundation is just coming away from our "Officer of the Year" Awards Dinner where I had the privilege to observe several officers and citizens who have made us proud by going above and beyond. This is our biggest event but more importantly it is a time for us to recognize the accomplishments of a dedicated group of Kern County's finest.

We honored CHP Officer Ryan Bunting who was viciously ambushed for no apparent reason while sitting on the side of a lonely road enforcing traffic laws. Officer Bunting was shot twice during the attack but was able to return fire as the suspects fled from the area.

In another case, Arvin Police Officer Steven Schmick was on patrol when he attempted to stop a traffic violator who failed to yield leaving the City Limits. After a 12 mile pursuit the suspect lost control and rolled over. Officer Schmick then found himself fighting for his life in a dark muddy field. After a long struggle with the suspect, Officer Schmick feared for his life and had to use deadly force to stop the suspect.

Then there were other kinds of heroes that the Foundation was privileged to recognize such as Businesswoman Leslie Knox who has raised millions to fund the fight against cancer, or Businessman and physician, Dr. Ravi Patel who has been leading the way and has dedicated his life to curing people who have been stricken with cancer.

Sheriff Donny Youngblood was there to present Ray Dezember with our "Lifetime Achievement" award for his outstanding contribution and history of giving to the citizens of Kern County.

Lynn Watkins told a story about a man in trouble and another man willing to stop and help a stranger as he presented Brian Smith our "Good Samaritan" award.

I had an opportunity earlier this year to attend the Kern County Chief Law Enforcement Officers Association annual conference in Avila Beach, California. I have no words to describe how fortunate I feel that we have such a dedicated group of men and women working to make Kern County safer for our citizens.

All the special people we honored have their own story and the KCLEF is proud to acknowledge their accomplishments whether they do it behind a badge or do it behind the goodness in their hearts. You can read more about them and their accomplishments in this newsletter.

We have back to back events coming up starting with our annual "Fall Forum Luncheon" where we honor our "Administrator of the Year." I am very excited about our 1st Annual Golf Tournament coming up on Friday, November 2, 2012 at the Stockdale Country Club. Come out and join us because we have a wonderful event planned for you golfers.

In closing, I am happy to report that our membership is up but we need all you non-members to join us in our efforts to help Kern County Law Enforcement. Special Thanks go out to our supporters and donors who have made a significant contribution to our success.



Jon Busby

ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

On October 4, 2012, come out and join the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation as they gather to recognize the accomplishments of their 2012 honoree, Robert P. Guyton, Jr., Supervisory Senior Resident Agent of the FBI's Bakersfield Resident Agency.

SSRA Guyton started his Law Enforcement career with the Long Beach Police Department where he worked Patrol and Traffic for three years. He transferred to the Bakersfield Police Department where he worked Patrol and in the Special Operations Bureau/Special Enforcement Unit for seven years and achieved the rank of Senior Police Officer.

Guyton left the Bakersfield Police department to attend the FBI Academy in January 2003. His first assignment with the FBI took him to Albany, NY, the Kingston Resident Agency where he was responsible for investigating Counterterrorism, White Collar, and Violent Crimes.

In 2006 Agent Guyton was assigned in the Tucson, AZ, HIDTA/Southern Arizona Border Initiative where he investigated Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations and criminal street gangs. In 2008, he was promoted to Supervisory Special Agent of the MS-13 National Gang Task Force at FBI Headquarters in Washington, DC. SSRA Guyton was responsible for program management of MS-13 cases in the Southeastern United States. He was also responsible for managing programs with the U.S. State Department, specifically the Central American Fingerprint Exchange, Central American Law Enforcement Exchange, and the Transnational Anti-Gang units in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. SSRA Guyton was responsible for initiating the first Anti-Gang Unit in Guatemala to combat transnational gang issues. Based on his work in Central America, SSRA Guyton received the Assistant Director's award for distinguished service to the law enforcement community.

In January 2011, Guyton reported as the SSRA of the Bakersfield Resident Agency and is responsible for managing criminal and counterterrorism investigations in Kern and Inyo Counties.

Keynote SPEAKER...

Carl Beckett, DEA Resident Agent in Charge, Bakersfield RA

Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) Carl Beckett in 1999, Beckett started with the Drug Enforcement Administration, where he worked in Newark, New Jersey in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Section (HIDTA) until 2005, when he was transferred to Cartagena, Colombia, where he supervised numerous special operations.

In 2010, RAC Beckett was transferred to Bakersfield as the Resident Agent in Charge of the Bakersfield Resident Office. The DEA Bakersfield Office is responsible for all federal drug investigations in both the Kern and Inyo Counties.

Agent Beckett will speak about the Marijuana Issues that Kern County and California face as a whole, and the controversies that surround the subject.

FALL FORUM LUNCHEON 2012

Administrator Of The Year Awards



SSRA Robert P. Guyton Jr.
FBI
Bakersfield, California RA

WHEN Thursday, October 4, 2012

WHERE Stockdale Country Club

PRICE \$25 per person or \$300 per table

TIME 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

TICKETS Contact Pauly Wren @ 861-7911

THE FIGHT AGAINST MS-13

By Kevin D. Zimmermann

Editors Note: Chief Deputy Kevin Zimmermann began his career with the Kern County Sheriff's Office in 1990 as a Correctional Officer. He promoted through the ranks of Senior Detentions Officer, Detentions Sergeant, Deputy Sheriff, Senior Deputy, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Commander, and Chief Deputy. Chief Deputy Zimmermann is responsible for operational oversight of the Detentions Bureau, which includes the Downtown Services Division and the Lerdo Facilities Division. He is responsible for management oversight of approximately 600 Sheriff's employees and contracted support staff. Throughout his career, Zimmermann has had the opportunity to work in many specialized areas of the Sheriff's Office including: Homeland Security, Detective, Field Training Officer, POST Academy Recruit Training Officer, SWAT Team Member, Personnel Supervisor, Internal Affairs Supervisor, Patrol (Deputy, Senior Deputy, Sergeant, Lieutenant, & Commander), Honor Guard Member, and Contract City Sergeant.

Chief Deputy Zimmermann has demonstrated a sustained commitment to higher education throughout his career. His academic credentials include the following;

Associate in Arts (History): Bakersfield College

Bachelor of Science (Business Management): University of Phoenix

Master of Professional Studies (Homeland Security): The George Washington University

Trying to describe the world's gang problem without discussing those prevalent in the Americas, would ultimately provide an imbalanced understanding of the strength of the problem. American gangs of every ilk are notoriously young, predictably violent and hail predominantly from economically impoverished communities (Seelke, 2009). The dynamics of gangs in the United States have proven largely territorial in nature with strong tendencies towards violence and opportunistic crime.

Gang collaborations across formal state borders are more frequent due to communication and technology advancements (Franco, 2010). This level of collaboration has allowed certain gangs to mature into effective transnational criminal entities (Franco, 2010). Transnational gangs present a more pronounced security threat to the state and naturally require more complex (collaborative) security strategies to combat (Franco, 2010). It is only in these collaborations that states have come to recognize a position of strategic strength in their battle against gangs.

The Mara Salvatrucha (better known as MS-13) has proven to be a formidable challenge for anti-gang and enforcement strategists throughout the United States, Mexico and most of Central America (Logan, 2010). The spread of MS-13 from the mean streets of Los Angeles into the impoverished communities of Central America was assisted by the aggressive immigration policies of the United States dating back to the 1990s (Brewer, 2007).

This paper will provide a foundational description of MS-13's origin and it will minimally speak to their transformation into a legitimate transnational threat. This paper will collaterally describe the mechanics of the essential collaborations between states, agencies, and philosophies designed to combat the growing threat of MS-13 in the United States, Mexico and Central America. Finally, this paper will clarify the steps necessary to advance a successful strategy for combating the strength of MS-13 and their associated criminal activities.

The Situation

El Salvador's 12 year civil war (during the 1980s and 1990s) created an immigration flood toward the United States that continues even today (Franco, 2010). Some estimates suggest over 300,000 Salvadorians settled in the Los Angeles area during the 1980s and approximately 2.5 million currently live in the United States (Davis, 2005). Having so many Salvadorians converge on the barrios of Los Angeles created an immediate impact on the existing social fabric. The Salvadorians were not accepted into the existing culture and they were naturally targeted by the predominant territorial-gangs (Franco, 2010). The Salvadorians ultimately created their own gang structure (MS-13 cliques) based on the L.A. model for protection and direct competition (Franco, 2010).

Many of the Salvadorians were hardened by active participation in the ravages of civil war so they were able to develop a particularly savage gang genotype (Franco, 2010). MS-13 gang members became known for their brutality and for a propensity to assault their rivals with machetes (Google Videos, 2010). MS-13 members actively participated in protracted gang warfare and many found themselves residing in the U.S. prison system.

The highly structured organizational traditions of MS-13 promoted rapid recruitment and territorial expansion (Logan, 2010). MS-13 cliques can now be found in 42 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (Logan, 2010). The United States government responded to this growing trend by creating and implementing an aggressive criminal-alien deportation program that ultimately resulted in thousands of MS-13 gang members returning to El Salvador and other Central American countries (Brewer, 2007).

These prodigal sons effectively replicated the MS-13 brand in the cities and towns of El Salvador and Central America (Quintero, 2007). The social climate in El Salvador was apparently ripe for an MS-13 epidemic due to contributing factors such as poverty, social exclusion, lack of education, and unemployment (Seelke, 2009). The Salvadorian MS-13 cliques eventually grew to include representation in every state in the country, containing some 300 cliques in 1992 (Brewer, 2007). The deported MS-13 gang members naturally maintained family and gang ties to the United States, which hastened the formation of transnational criminal activity (Franco, 2010). These ties facilitated a budding transnational capability for MS-13 to exploit.

In addition to the 42 U.S. states, MS-13 cliques can now be found in large numbers in Mexico and Central America (Seelke, 2009).

MS-13 cliques in the U.S. and elsewhere have involved themselves in all manner of criminal activities consistent with an organization in the process of expanding its global influence. MS-13 cliques are known to participate in extortion, drug sales, murder for hire, kidnapping, smuggling (drugs, weapons, autos, humans), drive-by-shootings, robbery, prostitution and a host of other activities consistent with crimes of opportunity (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). Recent reports also confirm MS-13 collaborations with the drug cartels of Mexico and elsewhere, which supports the premise that the organization is maturing globally (Franco, 2010).

The United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) estimated the Central American gang population to be 70,000 strong with the majority coming from MS-13 and 18th Street (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010).

Mano Dura (The Firm Hand): El Salvador Takes a Swing

El Salvador has recognized the magnitude of their gang problem and has decided to take an aggressive stand against them. The Salvadorian legislature approved an anti-gang law in 2003 that held no pretence of balancing security with civil liberties (Creedon, 2003). The government's new anti-gang strategy was dubbed, "Mano Dura," (Firm Hand) and thanks to this new measure, the full weight of the law was brought to bear against the gangs of El Salvador (Creedon, 2003). Mano Dura's crown jewel was a two to five year prison sentence for gang membership and was complemented by a host of relaxed search and seizure thresholds (Creedon, 2003). The measure also provided security latitude that had the potential for wide spread abuse. Politicians have since expanded the Mano Dura campaign into a, "Super Mano Dura," campaign that called for increased sanctions for gang membership and gang association (Brewer, 2007).

Opponents of the law immediately recognized the lack of specificity in the measure's language that would provide the necessary boundaries for enforcement (Creedon, 2003). The government authorized a security collaboration between the military and the National Civilian Police to combat the growing influence of MS-13 and similar gangs (Creedon, 2003). The latitude of the law predictably resulted in civil liberties abuses by security forces.

Evidence of those abuses was published in a 2007 report by the International Human Rights Clinic. The report chronicled empirical data relating to the first year of the Mano Dura project. Between July of 2003 and August of 2004, the police detained 19,275 people suspected of belonging to a gang (Brewer, 2007). The majority of those detained were originally arrested, "because of their appearance, their dress, or because they had tattoos or used 'signs,' reasons that are insufficient to establish criminal responsibility in court" (Brewer, 2007). Interviews with active gang members, former gang members and non-gang members suggested the arrests would often be accompanied by police beatings and other threatening behaviors (Brewer, 2007).

The police apparently released some eighty-four percent of the arrestees because there was, "no cognizable grounds for their arrest" (Brewer, 2007). Another seven percent of the arrestees were released due to a lack of evidence, bringing the total released to a staggering 90 percent (Brewer, 2007). These numbers are a significant indication of a growing



KEVIN D. ZIMMERMANN
Chief Deputy

chasm between acceptable security measures and the dignity associated with civil liberties.

The prison population in El Salvador predictably ballooned from 7,500 in 2001 to over 12,500 in 2006 (Brewer, 2007). The Director General of Penal Centers attributed the increase to the arrest and incarceration of gang members (Brewer, 2007). El Salvador's prison population has a capacity of 8,000 beds so the conditions have rapidly declined to dangerous levels. (Brewer, 2007). The growing prison gang populations were reportedly responsible for two mass killings during the last 6 years (Brewer, 2007).

Thirty-one inmates were killed in 2004 at the La Esperanza detentions facility and 21 were killed in 2007 at the Apanteos prison (Brewer, 2007). Authorities suggested each incident was motivated by gang violence and segregation problems associated with prison overcrowding (Brewer, 2007). These prison failures are indicative of the serious flaws in the entire Mano Dura philosophy and with those associated with operational integrity.

The Mano Dura campaign (and Super Mano Dura) has proven ineffective and, in some respects, counterproductive. In fact, the homicide rate in El Salvador actually rose dramatically since the program's inception (Brewer, 2007) The Homicide rate in 2004 was 43.4 per 100,000 citizens and the rate unexplainably rose to 55.5 in 2005, making El Salvador one of the deadliest countries in the world (Brewer, 2007). Salvadorian politicians continue to stand by the tenets the Mano Dura philosophy and they have predictably tried to shift the blame of their skyrocketing homicide rates to the U.S. immigration policy (Brewer, 2007).

Recognizing the Strength in Collaboration: A Global W.O.G. Approach

The growing transnational capabilities of the MS-13 organization have caused an appropriate reaction from the primary state actors. MS-13 transnational collaborations with drug cartels and other MS cliques are now understood to be a significant security threat that cannot be defeated through the strength of a one-dimensional security philosophy. The United States has taken the lead role in collaborating with the Central American and Mexican governments to develop a comprehensive strategy to combat transnational gangs (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). There is some question that the strategy is weighted too heavily toward solving the gang problem in the United States through criminal alien deportation programs (Brewer, 2007). This issue aside, each nation has recognized the strength of working together to rid the region of violent gangs and each has committed to moving in that direction.

According to the United States Government Accountability Office report, "Of these (transnational gangs), gangs with ties to Central America such as MS-13 and 18th Street have been specifically identified as posing serious threats to the public safety of communities in the United States and in Central American countries due to their extremely violent nature, the breadth of their criminal activities, and their rapid expansion" (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010).

This recognition has brought the full force of the United States government to bear in the regional anti-gang arena facing the Americas. The following U.S. Government entities represent the first phase of the whole of government approach to combating gangs (and transnational

gangs) with connections to Central America and Mexico:

1. Department of Justice (DOJ): Criminal, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Drug Enforcement (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. National-Central Bureau of Interpol, Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys (EOUSA), and U.S. Attorney.
2. Department of Homeland Security (DHS): U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).
3. State Department: Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs and Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.
4. Department of Defense (DOD): U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM).
5. U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID): Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean and Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance.

These departments and agencies have committed to, “working together with Central American countries and nongovernmental organizations to, among other things, exchange information for use in investigating gang crime, removing gang members illegally residing in the United States and supporting programs to help prevent young people from becoming gang members or to intervene to provide at-risk youth with alternatives to being part of a gang” (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). This mission statement, unlike the Mano Dura philosophy, recognizes the utility of promoting a collaborative approach to the gang problem. The statement addresses specific security issues as one might expect but it also recognizes the importance of prevention in the success of fighting gangs. In this case, each entity in the whole of government approach provides critical pieces to the overall mission and each has assumed leadership roles to address the growing gang problem.

The Strategy

The strategy was naturally designed to address security threats from gangs with associations to Central America and Mexico through, “adopting an approach that integrates law enforcement with youth crime prevention and interventions that provide alternatives to gangs.

The Strategy is also designed to be regional in scope, with the United States working with the other countries affected by the gangs to avoid transferring the gang problem to neighboring countries” (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010).

The Strategy to combat gangs included, “diplomacy, repatriation, law enforcement, capacity enhancement, and prevention” (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). This approach contains progressive concepts that rely on the strength of preventative measures within existing security mechanisms. This was a departure from the heavy-handed tactics of the Mano Dura campaign.

The Department of Justice utilizes seven distinct components in their fight against transnational gangs and functions as the lead law enforcement agency (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). The Criminal Division and its 93 U.S. Attorneys work with the four law enforcement agencies (FBI, ATF, DEA, INTERPOL) to enforce and prosecute criminal matters related to transnational gangs (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). The Criminal Division provides anti-gang training to Central American officials through their International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010).

KERN COUNTY CHIEF’S CONFERENCE

By Lynn Watkins, Editor

On April 9-11, 2012, the Kern County Chief Law Enforcement Officers Association held its annual Conference at the Avila Village Inn located in Avila Beach, California. There are twenty-nine Municipal, County, State and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies engaged in Law Enforcement activities within the County of Kern. The men and women who lead those agencies gather once a year at this conference to receive training, exchange ideas and develop contacts instrumental to their missions of keeping the public safe.

The Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation (KCLEF) is proud to sponsor this event with financial support directed toward making sure that every person in a lead role of a Kern County Law Enforcement Agency has the opportunity to attend this conference. **This year’s conference provided a wide array of speakers with an assortment of noteworthy topics.**

The Department of Homeland Security’s primary anti-gang effort is provided by the ICE Office of Investigations (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). The DHS is responsible for repatriation and for assisting the DOJ in dismantling criminal infrastructure (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). ICE Investigations involve themselves in those gang cases with a nexus to the border or in the cases involving foreign-born subjects in the U.S. illegally (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) protect all borders against terrorism, smuggling and other threats (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010).

The State Bureaus are directly involved in addressing gang violence in Central America and in promoting U.S. interests in the region (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). The State Department is responsible for diplomacy. The USAID, “provides economic, development, and humanitarian assistance to other countries and , with respect to transnational gangs, is the primary agency responsible for managing gang intervention and prevention efforts in Central America” (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). USAID takes the lead in the area of prevention.

The Department of Defense through SOUTHCOM tracks the growth of Central American gangs and monitors information that may pose a threat to the sovereignty of governments (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). The DOD maintains no active role in the effort beyond monitoring the growth and status of gangs (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010).

Feeding the Beast

The Bush Administration provided funding in 2007 for a multinational effort to combat organized crime in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean countries (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010).

Through the “Merida Initiative,” the United States provides, “equipment, training, and other assistance to help these countries address drug and arms trafficking, bulk cash smuggling and other crime issues such as gangs and organized crime” (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010).

The Merida Initiative’s four strategic goals were to, “break the power and impunity of criminal organizations; to assist the governments of Mexico and Central America in strengthening border, air, and maritime controls; to improve the capacity of justice systems in the region; and to curtail gang activity in Mexico and Central America and diminish demand for drugs in the region” (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). A tall order to be sure.

The Supplemental Appropriations Act contributed 60 million dollars for the Merida Initiative in 2008 and the Omnibus Appropriations Act provide 105 million dollars in 2009 (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). The 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act provided 83 million dollars toward the effort (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010).

In addition to the Merida Initiative funding, the FBI committed 200,000 and 965,000 from their operating account in 2007 and 2008 respectively (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). The FBI used this funding to support their Transnational Anti-Gang (TAG) units in El Salvador and the MS-13 National Gang Task Force (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). ICE used 20.4 million dollars to fund 119 positions to combat transnational street gangs (United States Government

Accountability Office, 2010).

Hedging Our Bets

The United States has spent millions of dollars and committed serious resources to combat the strength of MS-13 and their transnational capabilities (domestically and internationally). The Strategy calls for a whole of government commitment that includes a requirement for U.S. agencies to collaborate with their Central American counterparts. The list of U.S. government participants is impressive and deserves credit for moving the fight in the right direction. Success in combating MS-13’s transnational capabilities will however depend on two additions to the U.S. arsenal.

First, the anti-gang effort needs a stronger framework to ensure proper oversight and coordination (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). Coordinating the vast resources of the U.S. effort will maximize efficiency and limit duplication of effort.

The United States Central America anti-gang effort should fall under one command structure. Additionally, the project needs effective mechanisms to measure operational success (United States Government Accountability Office, 2010). Without the ability to measure success, the anti-gang effort has no real strength to modify tactics appropriately.

Conclusion

The genesis of MS-13 can be found in the thousands of Salvadorian immigrants fleeing to the United States in the 1980s and 1990s to escape the ravages of civil war. The Salvadorian immigrants settling in Los Angeles were immediately victimized by the violent gangs of that era. The Salvadorians naturally formed their own protective group that was later known as MS-13. The MS-13 brand has expanded to 42 U.S. states, 20 Mexican states, and is currently rampant in several Central American countries. The United States responded to this growing threat by deporting thousands of MS-13 members back to El Salvador and Central America. Those violent gang members regrouped and created an epidemic of Mara strength. That strength has facilitated a growing transnational threat throughout Central America, Mexico and the United States.

The fight against transnational gangs in the Americas has matured into a collaborative effort built upon the strength of agencies in the U.S., Mexico and Central America. The United States has attempted to present a whole of government approach that supports both security and prevention as foundational elements. The United States has responded to the MS-13 threat domestically through aggressive law enforcement strategies and by funding the international effort.

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level. Mr. Lovell suggested that Chiefs become engaged in the process by building relationships with Legislators, becoming a resource to them and also being available at public meetings and building relationships with the press.

The next lecture came from Craig Hill, Associate Director of Training and Outreach for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

“Craig Hill is a 35-year law enforcement veteran and retired Deputy Chief of Police from the Kansas City area. For more than 23 years, he has presented lectures on the crimes committed against children to communities, law enforcement, government agencies, colleges, and universities throughout the United States and parts of Canada. During his career, he has received numerous awards for his work on missing children cases.

Chief Conference Continued... *These include the recovery of 2 kidnapped children found 2 ½ years later in Arkansas, and the recovery of a 12-year-old girl, found in Florida 6 years after she was abducted, using an age-progressed photograph. Mr. Hill attended the first White House Conference on Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children and was invited to the Rose Garden for the signing of the PROTECT Act of 2003. Mr. Hill is a graduate from the 8th Session of the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Program, the 203rd Session of the FBI Academy, and the recipient of the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award (2007). In November 2005, he joined the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) as Director of the Kansas City Branch and is currently an Associate Director of Training and Outreach."*

Crimes against children are some of the most difficult crimes that Law Enforcement has to deal with because the victims are innocents taken advantage of by predators. These types of crimes also take a high emotional toll on the families and often the Law Enforcement Officers trying to recover the victims before they are physically harmed. In 1984, Congress established NEMEC to operate a national missing children's hotline and serve as the nation's central clearinghouse for information on missing and exploited children.

Mr. Hill shared a number of statistics that are quite alarming; there is an average of 2,000 children taken per day with about 200,000 per year taken by family abduction and about a 100 children per year falling victim to violent crime. It is known that 1 in 5 girls and 1 in 10 boys will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday. Also, 1 in 7 children who use the internet regularly will receive a solicitation on line and 1 in 3 of those will be exposed to unwanted sexual material. Even more concerning is that 1 in 25 will receive a request to meet someone in real life that they met online. Parents should refer to NETSMART that teaches internet safety. About 88% of the victims are abducted within a quarter mile from where they live. Unlike adults, children under 18 can be placed into NCIC with no waiting period.

There is a bright spot in this dark information in that in 1962, the recovery rate was 62% and today the recovery rate has increased to 97%. What's very disturbing is there are more than 728,000 registered sex offenders in the United States with 100,000 of those being non-compliant or missing. In other words, who knows where they are?

NEMEC has taken this problem head on and has been able to train approximately 286,000 police and prosecutors with regard to these types of investigations including Forensic interviewer training. Child porn is a billion dollar industry so with that kind of money at stake, many offenders simply

feel it's worth taking the risk. Law Enforcement needs to be ready to face the challenges involved in identifying offenders and locating these children.

Mr. Hill emphasized that there are many services and forms of assistance available from NEMEC, such as case analysis, ground support, and rapid response and training, but the most important key is prevention is communication with your children. This starts at home but must be reinforced by police programs designed to educate children about being approached by a stranger or being touched by strangers and how to respond to those situations.

The Chiefs then heard from Heather Steele, President and CEO of the Innocence Justice Foundation (IJF). IJF is a nonprofit that helps law enforcement obtain the tools needed to capture and convict online predators.

Ms. Steele cited a 2006 Study of Federal Prisoners that revealed that 85% of prison inmates admitted to having molested children, many victims go undetected. Ms. Steele added that child porn is a crime that cuts across all social and economic status. Ms. Steele discussed some of the facts and figures that emphasize the heinous nature of a crime that victimizes society's most innocent. Approximately 21% of our children are being molested, and most molesters are never reported. Perpetrators can be anyone with 96% of the abusers being family members or trusted people. About 91% of these abusers are White, 59% are married, 41% are college educated and 42% have children.

When arrests are made, many of them never go to trial due to unreliable witnesses and when convictions are obtained, many times the sentences are light. This is a source of frustration for investigators. Investigators who are investigating child porn often suffer from burn out and experience psyche concerns. When investigators suffer from poor mental health due to images that are embedded in their minds, it is important that they receive support from their agencies. Cops are human so when they are required to continuously view this toxic data it sometimes has a negative affect on them. Cops can tend to shut down and go numb with emotions.

Child porn is a homegrown industry where images are mostly produced in two countries. The United States produces 68% and Russia produces 28% of the child porn images in the world. Child pornography is one of the worst types of crime scene images that can exist. The crimes not only involve violent sexual abuse, they often depict torture and other depravity against children of all ages. Investigators who must view these images can

suffer a form of post-traumatic stress disorder even after they are assigned elsewhere. Not until recently, did they have the resources to get the help they needed. IJF's Shift Wellness program is designed to help investigators, their supervisors, and even their family members involved in helping them cope with what they see while investigating these crimes.

Since the advent of the Internet, child pornography crimes have exploded, causing irrevocable harm not only to the child victims, but also to the law enforcement officers, forensic analysts, prosecutors, judges, and other professionals who must view these images in order to rescue the children.

Exposure to child sexual abuse materials can have widespread and serious negative effects on professionals. Psyche-educational programs are crucial to helping exposed individuals learn how to recognize and cope with problems, before they become severe or permanent.

The Innocence Justice Foundation has partnered with the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), five Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force Commanders, and a leading global mental health experts in the child sexual abuse material field to develop one of the first comprehensive, foundational training programs in the United States to address this exploding problem. The program, including several basic and advanced level training segments, is called the "Supporting Heroes in Mental Health Foundational Training" (SHIFT).

Ms. Steele's presentation was very informative, not only addressing the serious problem of child molestation and child porn, but also how exposure to these crimes and the graphic images affects the people actively involved in the investigations.

Lastly, Martin Mayer, Attorney at Law, discussed a number of legal issues facing Law Enforcement Management. Mr. Mayer discussed a number of case decisions and explained the process involved with certain personnel issues. This lecture was very informative, intended to aide Law Enforcement Management teams in addressing personnel problems while working within the guidelines set forth in the Public Safety Officer's Procedural Bill of Rights Act.

Jon Busby, KCLEF President, attended this Chief's Conference and gained insight into the problems faced by our Law Enforcement Leaders. He said "the across-the-board dedication and professionalism exhibited by all those in attendance is unbelievable and this makes me just want to help them more."

3RD ANNUAL TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER NIGHT

By Lynn Watkins, Editor

On Saturday, March 31, 2012, the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation (KCLEF) held its 3rd annual Poker Tournament at the CHP "420 Club" located on Alfred Harrell Highway in Bakersfield.

Board Member's Sofie Zimmermann and Stan Moe once again did a fantastic job putting this event together supported by other members of KCLEF. Once more, we had a sellout crowd, some anxious to enjoy an evening listening to music by "Two Timerz Rockin Country Band" and others anxious to test their poker skills against other poker enthusiasts. This year's event was catered the second time by Big Mike's BBQ who once again delivered an excellent steak dinner with all the fixings. There was a no-host bar, and this years raffle was a hit with a multitude of fantastic gifts donated by supporters of KCLEF. All you needed to win was the purchase of the right ticket!



The event was scheduled to start on time; people were arriving, the band was getting ready to play, and the tables were set up and beautifully decorated in anticipation of a great evening. You could feel and smell the excitement in the air but that wasn't all. Without little warning, it happened! The wind started blowing dust and debris and as it picked up speed the table cloths were blown off the tables and sent the flower arrangements crashing to the cement floor. If that wasn't enough, it started to rain. We were all hoping for Mother Nature's mercy to rescue the evening but that wasn't in the "cards."

The guests braved the storm through the serving line and then went inside to find a place to eat their food out of the reach of the bad weather, which was cast upon the party. The celebration took center stage inside the hall, and even though space was limited inside most took the situation in stride and made the best of a bad situation that was totally out of control of



the event planners.

After dinner and the raffle, many supporters departed to make room for those there to take part in the poker tournament. In spite of the bad hand that we were dealt, the event turned out to be a complete success in terms of raising money. We wish to congratulate Terry Roberts, this year's winner of the poker tournament. Once again, the Law Enforcement Agencies that serve Kern County are the benefactors of your generosity!

Special thanks to all the supporters donated to the success of this event and especially those that took unfortunate circumstances in stride. We hope to see you again at this great event in 2013.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW GORDON DAY

By Lynn Watkins, Editor

Editor's note: Have you ever wondered where your old partners are and what they're doing? This is a series of newsletter articles intended to inform readers about what the people they may have worked with in the past are presently doing. Many have relocated out of state after retirement, causing us to lose contact with them. The following is an update on **Gordon Day**.

I gave my old friend, Gordon Day, a call at his home in Sequim, Washington awhile back, and it was great to reminisce about days gone by. Gordon and Donna, his wife of 51 years, moved to Washington State after they retired in 1994. He told me that right after he retired he received a call from his valued friend, Art Knoy, (former Undersheriff of Kern County during Sheriff Al Loustalot's tenure) inviting him to come up to Washington and have a look around. Gordon said that Knoy lived in Joyce, Washington, which is a little over 30 miles from Sequim. He told me that he and Donna loved the area so they bought 10 acres, 80% of which is covered in Cedar trees.

Gordon is now 73 years young, having started with Kern Sheriff back in 1965 as a Reserve Deputy but was hired full time in 1968. After I was hired with the Sheriff's Department, I worked with Gordon for a short time in Metro Patrol and a few years later, we worked together in Training. We taught a 3-day driver course that everyone in the department was required to complete.

In addition to those assignments, Gordon worked in the Kern River Valley for 3 years, and after being promoted to Senior Deputy, he was assigned to Taft as a Bailiff where, after he was done for the day in court, he was assigned cases. Gordon and his brother, Earl Bray, worked in the Detective Division investigating burglaries together until Earl was transferred to Narcotics. Gordon also worked in Transportation and finished his career doing background investigations for new hires. Additionally, he served 19 years as one of the department's Bomb Technicians.

I was already aware that Gordon's hobby was wood carving but until we discussed it on the phone, I had no idea to what extent he was actually involved in the craft. Gordon shared that for several years, he painted

Indian portraits but the paint fumes bothered Donna so he thrust his artistic expression toward wood carving.

He explained that there are several different levels of expertise pertaining to the art of wood carving with the highest level being the Master Wood Carver. Gordon is a Master Wood Carver with both he and his work known throughout the United States and Canada. Gordon said he has expertise with both hand carving and power carving. He explained that it takes an average of 3 months to complete one carving including paint. He said he currently has between 80-100 projects in progress.

Gordon said that initially he studied under some world renown wood carvers, such as J.D. Sprinkle from Florida, Floyd Schultz from Vermont and Dennis Drechsler from Canada. Gordon was influenced by all three.

I asked him what kinds of carvings he's done and he shared that he will carve just about anything. Some examples are: eagles, hawks, hummingbirds, owls, fish, ducks and realistic duck decoys (actual size) as well as Indian warriors.

He said that right now he's doing commissions and has several pieces of his work on display in museums. His largest work of art is a Bald Eagle with a wingspan of 73 inches. Gordon said he had been working on the full-size Eagle project on and off for the past two years. I asked if he sold any of his art and he acknowledged he did but he often donates his work to nonprofit organizations to raffle off for fundraisers.

Gordon told me that he works several hours a day carving but shared that he is also a Certified Wood Carving Judge and travels to carving shows in five states and Canada to judge the carvings of the contestants. He judges all levels in the competition from Novice to Master Wood Carver. If that isn't enough, he is the President of the "Pacific Northwest Wood Artisans." Gordon laughingly said, "I'm so busy in retirement that I don't know how I could ever find time to work."

I asked Gordon how often he got to spend time with his brother Earl Bray and he then mentioned that he and Earl had just returned from a fishing trip



GORDON DAY

to Gustavus, Alaska where they both caught a variety of fish and brought back about 100 pounds each.

Gordon said that his intention was to attend the Sheriff BBQ/Qualification again this October and looks forward to seeing everyone. If anyone has any questions regarding wood carving, Gordon will be happy to answer them for you. Gordon can be reached by email at goday@olypen.com if anyone would like to drop a line.

In closing, I have to say how much it meant to me to spend some time chatting with one of our Law Enforcement brothers who is compassionate about a craft that he looks forward to doing every day, producing a piece of timeless art for all to appreciate. **Go Gordon!!!**



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KERN COUNTY'S FINEST

By Lynn Watkins, Editor

On Friday, June 8, 2012, Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation presented its annual **Officer of the Year Awards Dinner** held at the Stockdale Country Club. The sold-out affair attracted friends, family and supporters to honor and celebrate the accomplishments of our dedicated Law Enforcement Officers and citizens committed to making Kern County a better place to live.

As always the evening got started with the flag salute led by Tom Sheets, KCLEF board member and past president. The national anthem followed; it was performed by Milt Woken, Jeff Shepherd, Walt Berry and Dr. Jim Mahoney.

Bishop Brandon B. Holladay from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints provided both the invocation and benediction.

Jon Busby, KCLEF President, welcomed those in attendance, which included many Law Enforcement Officials and other dignitaries. The President said, "We are here to recognize and honor the accomplishments of a few of our Law Enforcement Officers who have done outstanding work in the past year. We will also be acknowledging the unselfish contributions made by some of our outstanding citizens in Kern County." Busby spoke about some of the accomplishments of the Foundation during the past year and the positive strides being made in terms of membership. He acknowledged that the Foundation's work couldn't be accomplished without the help of our sponsors and supporters. He also recognized many of the people who worked hard to make "Officer of the Year Dinner" a first-class event. He thanked media sponsors, KGET 17 and KERO 23, and Jim Scott of KGET 17 for once again serving as the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Angela Barton, KCLEF Vice President, introduced the head table and special guests in attendance.

Frank Williams, foundation board member and past president announced the installation of new officers and board members. The Executive Board consists of Jon Busby, President; Angela Barton, Vice President; Pauly Wren, Secretary; and Dale St. Claire, Treasurer. The members elected to serve another term on the board are Dennis Brostrom, Jon Busby, Arnold Johansen, Stan Moe, Greg Sturges and Lynn Watkins.

After the new board members were announced, dinner was served and as always, Stockdale Country Club did a terrific job with the quality and presentation of our dinner. After dessert, the evening immediately focused on award presentations:

Businesswoman of the Year Award **Leslie Knox, Advanced Industrial Services**

KCLEF President Jon Busby began, saying that it was his pleasure to present this award to Leslie and began to tell us about Leslie and her many accomplishments.

Leslie was born, raised, educated in Kern County where she has owned and operated Advanced Industrial Services since 1992. They are an Oilfield cleaning service.

For the past 12-plus years, Leslie has been a driving force behind Relay for Life in Kern County making it the #1 event in money raised for that cause in the Nation.

Leslie personally donated \$500,000 to the Cancer Wing at San Joaquin Hospital. Leslie created the Fight for Life Event.org website where over \$300,000 has been raised for the fight against cancer. It's obvious that the same drive and determination that has made Leslie a successful businesswoman has been used in her effort to defeat cancer and find a cure.

Leslie supports our Law Enforcement heroes, the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation and other nonprofits in Kern County. Leslie had rather remain in the background not receive recognition for her efforts but it is very fitting that the people of Kern County know how much she gives of her time and money in the fight against cancer.

Busby expressed how honored he was to present this award to such a deserving recipient like Leslie.

Businessman of the Year Award **Ravi Patel, CBCC**

Angela Barton, KCLEF Vice-President, made this presentation talking about Dr. Patel's long road to Bakersfield.

Ravi Patel was born in Johannesburg, South Africa and grew up in a middle-class neighborhood. When he was in the 6th grade, he and his mother moved to India to take care of his elderly grandfather.

In 1977 Ravi received his Medical Degree from Government Medical College. Ravi completed his Residency in Chicago from 1980-83 and his fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at Loyola University from 1983-85. Dr. Patel is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine specializing in Hematology and Oncology. He recognized that cancer patients needed more care and attention, both medical and emotional, than most other patients.

Currently the CBCC facility, located in Bakersfield, occupies more than 85,000 sq. feet. Over 300 staff and physicians serve more than 150,000 patient visits annually and treat more than 5,000 new patients each year.

CBCC has been a leader in oncology in the areas of patient care, technology and clinical research. In the last decade, all major cancer drugs such as Herceptin, Rituxan, Avastin, and more approved by the FDA were part of clinical trials at CBCC. It was also the first clinical site in the U.S. to run FDA-approved Circulating Tumor Cell tests for Colorectal Cancer. CBCC is affiliated with UCLA to bring innovative clinical research to the patients of Kern County. One of his colleagues once stated "Dr. Patel has been an enormous asset to Bakersfield and Kern County. Not only is he an excellent, caring and compassionate physician, Dr. Patel is a true innovator.

Public Service/Volunteer Award **Mark Greer, Shafter Police Department (reserve)**

Shafter Police Chief Greg Richardson presented Reserve Police Officer Mark Greer with the KCLEF Public Service/Volunteer Award.

Chief Richardson told the audience that Officer Greer had been a Level I Reserve Police Officer since 1995 and during that time Officer, Greer had worked an array of assignments. He has been involved in just about every enforcement activity conducted by the Shafter Police Department.

The Chief said that Officer Greer is loyal and very reliable, often working on Christmas and New Years so full-time Police Officers can spend the holidays with their family. Chief Richardson communicated that it was not unusual for Officer Greer to just show up at the scene of a disaster or significant investigation on his own accord to help with whatever was needed.

Another noteworthy accomplishment by Officer Greer is that he has volunteered over 4400 hours of his time to the City of Shafter.

Chief Richardson said that a quick calculation revealed that if paid at the same rate as a Basic Police Officer, the City of Shafter would owe Officer Greer \$109,900.

Chief Richardson described Reserve Police Officer Mark Greer as a selfless individual who is a cherished asset to the Shafter Police Department. It was with great pleasure that the KCLEF recognized the outstanding contributions of Officer Greer as the recipient of their Public Service/Volunteer Award for 2012.

RAFFLE

KCLEF Board members Kristi Elholm-Spitzer, Sofie Zimmermann and Pauly Wren came together to present all those in attendance with an outstanding selection of raffle items donated by our generous supporters. The silent auction gifts generated lots of interest and resulted in thousands of dollars raised for Law Enforcement. The Foundation thanks this threesome for their hard work and Special Thanks goes out to our supporters and donors who made the raffle a complete success.

Exceptional Officer of the Year Award

Officer Terry Adriano **Kern County Probation**

Probation Division Director Susan Lerude started by commenting on Officer Adriano's work ethic and motivation enabling him to lead his team in overall evidence seizures this past year." She went on to say that Adriano personally seized 13 firearms and investigated 26 gang-related cases. Lerude then said that Officer Adriano not only makes extraordinary contributions daily to the Department and the community, he is also an asset to every officer he works with. Director Lerude cited a couple incidents where Officer Adriano distinguished himself.

The first example was when Officer Adriano and his partner were removing a gang member from a residence while another gang member was being taken into custody. As this was taking place Officer Adriano's partner started to fall backwards off the front porch, a 4-foot drop off. Officer Adriano saw his partner's dilemma, was able to save his partner from falling and controlled the suspect at the same time. Lerude said that Officer Adriano's quick thinking and awareness of his surroundings are demonstrated throughout his work.

Another example was when Officer Adriano was observed de-escalating a verbal confrontation with a gang member's family. While they were yelling profanities directed toward Officer Adriano he was able to explain the legal issues and ramifications as other officers searched the residence. His ability to deescalate the situation possibly avoided a tense situation from getting worse.

Lerude congratulated Officer Adriano for his dedication to public safety and to our community. His drive, commitment and professionalism are a model for others. For these reasons, Director Lerude presented Officer Terry S. Adriano the KCLEF Exceptional Officer of the Year Award.

Officer Jarrod Place

McFarland Police Department

McFarland Police Chief Greg Herrington shared that Officer Jarrod Place went to work for the McFarland Police Department in 2009 after working for two other Law Enforcement agencies.

Chief Herrington told us that during that time, Officer Place had been assigned to patrol for one year, detective for 9 months, and most recently was assigned as a K-9 Officer after being trained by Adlerhost International Inc. with his dog "Ringo."

Chief Herrington told the crowd that Officer Place received a commendation for his investigation skills during an in-depth investigation into the stabbing of a 17-year-old juvenile by gang members. He said that Officer Place's interviewing techniques produced the identity of the "Myfas" gang members responsible for the crime.

Chief Herrington said that Officer Place had also been recognized for noticing an unreported house fire while on patrol. Herrington said, "After reporting the fire, Officer Place led all five occupants outside to safety." His heroic actions in this situation will be remembered. Chief Herrington commended Officer Place for his tireless efforts in law enforcement and his service to the City of McFarland. Chief Herrington presented Officer Jarrod Place the KCLEF Exceptional Officer of the Year Award.

Officer Jeffrey Burdick **California Highway Patrol – Fort Tejon**

Lieutenant C.H. Whitty presented CHP Officer Jeffrey Burdick to the audience sharing that Officer Burdick was being recognized for his outstanding investigation into a fatal vehicle accident involving three teenage girls.

The 17 year old driver was fatally injured while one passenger sustained moderate injuries and another had only minor injuries. At first glance it appeared to be a case of three teenage girls drinking all night and then making a poor decision to drive a car. Officer Burdick sensed there was more to the story and dove into the investigation to gather facts to support his suspicions.

Officer Burdick soon discovered that the three teenage girls were runaways staying with a local laborer. Upon questioning the laborer, Officer Burdick learned that the laborer had furnished alcoholic beverages and a place to party to the girls; however, he claimed that the girls had stolen his car and he was not aware of the accident. Lt. Whitty said that at the conclusion of the investigation Officer Burdick was able to prove that the laborer had in fact provided alcohol and a place to party to the minors, and when he awoke he observed them driving away in his car. He learned that the laborer chased them down in his truck and then ran them off the road causing the accident. Officer Burdick's investigation resulted in the arrest of the man for Felony Hit and Run, Manslaughter and other charges.

Lt. Whitty said that Officer Burdick continually goes above and beyond in the performance of his duties. Lt. Whitty said that he was proud to present the KCLEF Exceptional Officer Award to Officer Jeffrey Burdick.

Officer Mark McGary **California Highway Patrol – Bakersfield**

Captain Bill Nation, CHP Commander in Bakersfield, told the crowd that Officer Mark McGary was chosen by his superiors and peers for his outstanding performance and his dedication to service to the citizens of Kern County. Captain Nation told us that "Officer McGary's dedication can best be described by his commitment to his fellow Officers."

He said that McGary not only performs the challenging duties of a

motorcycle officer in the diverse weather conditions of Kern County, he is also a Motorcycle Training Officer for other motor officers.

Captain Nation shared that McGary has been a Range Master for years, with the responsibility for ensuring that all officers under his umbrella are proficient in the use of their duty weapon and other means of self defense.

Nation went on to say that Officer McGary's commitment to public service has been praised through letters of commendation by all ranks in the Department, from his immediate supervisors to the Commissioner of the Highway Patrol. Officer McGary has received numerous letters from citizens thanking him for performing his duties "above and beyond." Something, Nation said, Officer McGary modestly accepts as, "just doing his job." He said Officer McGary's activities mirrors the goals of the California Highway Patrol by reducing traffic fatalities and injury collisions while maximizing service to the public and assisting other agencies.

Captain Nation said Officer McGary was a valuable member his Department and community. Nation said it was a privilege to present Officer Mark McGary with the KCLEF Exceptional Officer of the Year Award.

Sergeant Chris Johnson **Bakersfield Police Department**

Lieutenant Joe Mullins presented Sergeant Chris Johnson who was nominated because he has significantly added to the quality of law enforcement through personal initiative that positively impacted agencies throughout Kern County. Mullins said that Sergeant Johnson's contribution to the COPLINK Project has given law enforcement another indispensable tool with which to fight crime.

Mullins said that COPLINK is a multiagency-multistate information sharing medium for law enforcement. It solves the problem of inaccessible or irretrievable information because of disparate information systems that lack a common platform and the difficulty in sharing data across jurisdictional boundaries. This system links all of the member agencies within a geographical area together.

COPLINK allows the user to search member agencies records management systems, including courts, probation and jail systems. The information is then tied together through an automated link analysis application to be used for tactical planning, criminal investigations, statistical information and crime analysis. The nearly instantaneous access is unprecedented.

In 2008, Bakersfield PD took a lead role among the 11 agencies involved but later in the year the project fell victim to a financial crisis that was consuming most of the state. Lt. Mullins went on to say that in early 2011, Sergeant Johnson, as a member of the Technology Unit, saw the value to the Police Department and took on the project. He said that Sergeant Johnson worked tirelessly on the project dedicating much of his personal time and effort to assist other interested agencies. Because of his effort, the Kern County Sheriff's Department and all Police agencies in Kern County are either online or coming on line.

Through his perseverance, dedication, vision and personal initiative coupled with an exemplary work ethic, Sergeant Johnson was able to coordinate a multiagency effort that has given our local law enforcement community access to 10 million searchable documents including photographs. Lt. Mullins presented Sergeant Chris Johnson with the KCLEF Exceptional Officer of the Year Award.

Officer Patrick Mara **Bakersfield Police Department**

Bakersfield Police Captain Hajir Nuriddin told the audience that while Officer Pat Mara was assigned to the Southern Tri-County HIDTA Narcotics Enforcement Team, he made some major seizures of illegal drugs and weapons. Captain Nuriddin related that in one case Officer Mara was investigating a major narcotics vender who lived in the Wasco area. She said that Officer Mara obtained a search warrant and during the service of that warrant Officer Mara seized 852 pounds of marijuana with an estimated street value of \$1.7 million. Also seized were 4 handguns. Nuriddin said that Officer Mara coordinated this multi-agency investigation and multi-county search warrant service flawlessly with little or no guidance or direction. Detectives in Los Angeles also seized several more pounds of marijuana and several ounces of cocaine. This was the largest seizure of processed marijuana in recent history.

In yet another case, Captain Nuriddin shared that Officer Mara conducted a month long investigation involving transporting large sums of money and

narcotics. Officer Mara coordinated the efforts of other agencies including the Federal level. They were able to intercept a suspect vehicle resulting in the seizure of \$215,000 in cash and 1 Kilogram of cocaine. The arrested suspects face Federal charges. Captain Nuriddin presented a very deserving Officer Pat Mara the KCLEF Exceptional Officer of the Year Award.

Medal of Valor

Officer Steven Schmick **Arvin Police Department**

It immediately became obvious to all present that Arvin Chief of Police Tommy Tunson was filled with pride as he introduced Officer Steven Schmick to the crowd of on lookers. He would later tell us that Officer Schmick is the first Arvin Policeman to be honored in such a way.

Chief Tunson told us that just after midnight on February 16, 2011, Officer Schmick was working alone in a marked patrol unit when he heard vehicle break traction and then observed the Chevrolet pick-up accelerate at a high rate of speed. When Officer Schmick attempted to initiate a traffic stop on the vehicle it failed to yield reaching speeds of 100 mph with Officer Schmick in pursuit. During the pursuit, which covered over 12 miles, the pick-up was being operated in a reckless manner until the driver lost control and rolled the truck, with it coming to rest on its top in a freshly irrigated field.

As Chief Tunson continued with describing the scenario, he emphasized that throughout this incident, Officer Schmick had been alone and now found himself in a dark field with a suspect who fled and failed to yield for unknown reasons. He said that as Officer Schmick approached the suspect vehicle he was sinking in the mud making it difficult to move. Tunson said that Officer Schmick ordered the suspect to not move to give responding units a chance to arrive but unfortunately, that was not to be the case.

Chief Tunson said that the suspect crawled from the vehicle and immediately began to attack Office Schmick who found himself in a battle with a suspect larger than himself. He said that Officer Schmick activated his taser to no avail as the suspect attempted to pull Officer Schmick's duty weapon from its holster telling Officer Schmick, "I'm going to kill you." At one point, during the altercation, Officer Schmick ended up on the ground but was able to get to his feet. He was exhausted and losing the fight against a determined suspect. The suspect was then able to strike Officer Schmick on the back of the head while shouting, "I'm going to kill you." It was at that time that Officer Schmick began to fear that the suspect had a weapon or could take his and use it against him. Fearing for his life, Officer Schmick pulled his duty weapon and fired twice striking the suspect both times. The suspect immediately went down ending the ordeal.

It was a very proud moment for Chief Tommy Tunson as he hung the KCLEF "Medal of Valor" around the neck of Officer Schmick. Officer Schmick displayed genuine courage and resolve making him deserving of this recognition.

Officer David "Ryan" Bunting **California Highway Patrol – Bakersfield**

Bakersfield CHP Commander, Captain William Nation, was beaming with pride as he called Officer Bunting to the podium to present him with the KCLEF Medal of Valor and to share Officer Bunting's actions that led to the prestigious award.

Captain Nation told the crowd that at approximately 11:12 PM on May 6, 2012, Officer Bunting was sitting in a marked CHP Unit on the side of the highway conducting radar enforcement on SR-178 east of Borel Road in the Lake Isabella area. It should be noted that this is a very dark and isolated area.

Officer Bunting saw a Blue SUV type vehicle pass his location headed Westbound. Immediately after the vehicle passed his location, for unknown reasons at the time the driver of the vehicle made a U-turn and preceded Eastbound and then veered toward Officer Bunting's location where his patrol unit was parked. It was at that time that Officer Bunting activated his headlights and spotlight to alert the driver of the SUV of his presence. however, the vehicle continued toward his marked CHP vehicle. Just as the SUV neared his location Officer Bunting observed the left rear passenger lean out of the open window of the SUV with an automatic weapon and that's when the passenger opened fire on Officer Bunting striking the patrol vehicle numerous times.

Captain Nation related that when he was fired upon, Officer Bunting leaned over toward the passenger side of the vehicle seeking what little cover that was available, drawing his duty weapon at the same time. Officer Bunting immediately returned fire and was struck in the left hand and a

second round struck him in the chest. It is unknown if Officer Bunting hit any of the occupants in the exchange of gunfire but he did strike the SUV several times.

The SUV then fled the scene Eastbound on SR-178 toward Lake Isabella. Even though Officer Bunting had been shot twice, his first thought was to pursue the SUV until he discovered that his Patrol unit had a flat left front tire as a result of the gunfire.

Officer Bunting was viciously attacked by multiple assailants for no apparent reason other than they wanted to kill a CHP Officer.

In an instant, Officer Bunting chose to fight back to stop his assailants and by doing so saved his own life and possibly the lives of other officers or defenseless citizens.

Captain Nation said, "Officer Bunting's actions, courage and personal valor reflect great credit upon him, the California Highway Patrol and instill pride in all those that have ever worn the uniform of a Law Enforcement Officer. Officer Bunting is clearly deserving of the Medal of Valor."

Good Samaritan Award **Brian Smith**

Lynn Watkins, KCLEF Board Member walked to the podium without announcing the recipient, and began to share the following:

"Good Samaritan's come to us in a moment of need and they make a difference at a time when we are in a helpless situation," Watkins said.

In 2009 Roberto "Bob" Favero fell in his home causing a traumatic brain injury that required surgery and left him with symptoms similar to a stroke requiring him to wear a helmet to protect his head. Bob had to be helped into his wheelchair and lost his ability to speak in a manner that was understood.

The next 2.5 years were frustrating for Bob as he went through endless months of therapy with no improvement. His wife and family continued to care for Bob who was well into his 80's, with the help of caregivers.

Additional troubles developed into more frustration and infections. In the late afternoon of April 2nd of this year, Bob's daughter, Dayna Nichols, arrived to take him on his weekly trip by car to get his favorite treat, a Root Beer Float. While driving home, Bob had trouble swallowing and due to his inability to communicate, no one knew he had aspirated earlier. Then the nightmare began and Dayna stopped her car.

In the past Dayna had been able to assist her father when he struggled but this time was different. Dayna recognized the gravity of the situation, called 911 and then continued to help her father but realized that her efforts were not working so began waving and calling for help from any passerby, praying that help would arrive.

Then Dayna's prayers were answered by Brian Smith who stopped to help. Watkins then asked Brian Smith to come to the podium (Brian was unaware he was receiving an award.) Watkins then continued with the story; Brian was assisted by a neighbor and a UPS driver who stopped to give aide to Bob. Dayna was having difficulty hearing the 911 Operator so Brian took the phone and continued to reassure Dayna that they were taking care of her father. Brian assisted with CPR and his calm and reassuring presence seemed to help everyone involved.

Watkins said that when the Ambulance arrived and took over, Brian went right back to Dayna to make sure she was okay. Dayna said she felt like she knew him and asked his name. It turns out she knew who Brian was but he didn't know her. Brian was in civilian clothes and in his personal car.

Dayna told Brian that he was the answer to her prayers and let him know how thankful she was that he was willing to stop and help.

Of course it didn't stop there because within a half hour, Brian appeared at the Hospital ER to check on Bob and Dayna. Dayna told me that she was so thankful for his concern. When Brian arrived at the ER it was at that time that Brian found out that Dayna's husband, Steve Nichols, is a friend of his but didn't make the connection until he saw Steve. Dayna told me that her father passed away a few days later but it is really nice to know that there are people out there like Brian Smith who care and show concern for others.

Watkins shared that he first met Brian Smith about 8-9 years ago when he reported to the Antelope Valley after promoting to Captain with the CHP.

Brian is now an Assistant Chief with the CHP in Fresno.

Watkins continued: during the time I've known Brian, I've become aware of his compassion for his fellow man on numerous occasions so his actions on that day are no surprise to me. I am honored to call Brian friend and the Foundation is very proud to present him with the KCLEF Good Samaritan Award.

This was the first time Dayna and Brian had seen each other since the incident and she was able to thank him once more. Brian is retiring from the

Lifetime Achievement Award Rayburn "Ray" Dezember

Sheriff Donny Youngblood brought Ray Dezember to the front and began to share Mr Dezember's background relating the following:

Ray Dezember was born 80+ years ago in Southern Indiana and raised in Arizona. He and his wife Joan have lived in Bakersfield for 57 years and his many friends affectionately refer to him as "Mr. Bakersfield", Youngblood said.

Ray met his wife Joan, the love of his life, at Whittier College. Both Ray and Joan graduated from Whittier College where Ray served as student body president and captain of the football team. Youngblood shared that Mr. Dezember has served on the Board of Trustees at the Whittier College since 1970. He chaired a \$70 million capital campaign and was awarded a distinguished service medal from the school faculty. The Alumni House is named after him and Joan. Youngblood said that "it is no secret that Whittier College is near and dear to Ray's heart."

Youngblood added that in 1964 Ray oversaw the start up of American National Bank. After about 25 years, American National Bank was bought out by Wells Fargo Bank. Ray went on to serve on the Board of Directors at Wells Fargo. Ray became one of Kern County's most prominent business leader's and is well known by bankers across the country.

Youngblood reported that Ray has also worked for the Federal Reserve and VISA. He told the crowd Ray served on the Board of Director's for; Lightspeed Systems Inc., the Bakersfield Californian Foundation, Bolthouse Farms, Federal Reserve, Whittier College and others. Ray's input has helped Bakersfield grow and develop into the city it is today.

Sheriff Youngblood offered that in addition to the many successes and contributions that Mr. Dezember has made in guiding the Bakersfield business community, his largest footprint may have been made while helping those in need.

The longtime philanthropist has made a long lasting impact on the community of Bakersfield with just about every civic or non-profit effort in Bakersfield benefitting from his and Joan's generosity.

Ray and Joan were major benefactors of the Walter Stern Library at Cal-State Bakersfield where there is a reading room named after the Dezember family.

Youngblood said, "Anyone who knows Ray Dezember would tell you that he isn't looking for recognition or publicity, yet he has been honored by numerous organizations because he makes such a difference in the lives of people in our community."

Ray was the first recipient of the Bill Thomas Citizen's Award sponsored by Kern County Young Republicans. The award seeks to honor people who have spent their lives trying to improve their community.

Youngblood closed with saying, "The Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation is very proud to honor and recognize the accomplishments of Ray Dezember with our Lifetime Achievement Award." The Sheriff said, "Ray Dezember is a strong supporter of our men/women in Law Enforcement but most importantly he is a kind, caring man and a great American."

Officer of the Year Award Deputy Joe Garcia – Kern County Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Donny Youngblood worked way to the podium to present the top

award of the evening, "Officer of the Year." Sheriff Youngblood told the crowd that Deputy Joe Garcia was being recognized for his many accomplishments and contributions to the community of Kern River Valley and the County of Kern. Youngblood said the Deputy Garcia's dedication to the youth of the Kern River Valley that have experienced difficulties coping with life issues, is admirable.

Sheriff Youngblood mentioned that Deputy Garcia's intervention and willingness to counsel hundreds of Kern Valley High School youth may have saved lives following a cluster of teen suicide and an attempted suicide. He said his compassion and guidance has made a difference, causing many students to effectively change course with their lives.

Sheriff Youngblood stated that Deputy Garcia's involvement in numerous civic activities such as SAL, has not only benefited the Kern County Sheriff's Department, it has made a positive impact on the community he serves. Youngblood told us his ability to effectively communicate with these teens and have them focus on helping others in their community has given them purpose. Deputy Garcia often volunteers his time when a teen calls out for help. Youngblood said, "You lead these troubled youth out of darkness."

On behalf of the citizens of Kern River Valley, the County of Kern, and the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation, Sheriff Donny Youngblood presented Deputy Joe Garcia the "Officer of the Year" award to acknowledge his tenacity in keeping our citizens safe. We are fortunate and very grateful to have Law Enforcement Officers such as Deputy Garcia serving our community.

KCLEF President Jon Busby closed by thanking all that attended and those that support our effort to help the 29 Law Enforcement Agencies in Kern County.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARDS DINNER





ATTENTION

Have you noticed the ads in the Newsletter? If you are interested in advertising in this Newsletter call Pauly Wren @ (661) 861-7911. A Business card size ad is \$250.00 for members or \$300.00 for non-members and the price covers both the Spring and Fall Newsletter...

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Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation



1ST ANNUAL KERN COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT FOUNDATION GOLF CHALLENGE

Friday, November 2nd, 2012 at the Stockdale Country Club
10:30 a.m. check in, 11:00 a.m. start

Awards Dinner by Cafe Med immediately after tournament

Awards for Closest to the Pin, Men & Women - Longest Drive, Men & Women
Callaway "1-Low Net" & Three (3) Hole-in-One Prizes valued at \$10,000 each!

Please make checks payable to:

Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation
P.O. Box 1249 - Bakersfield, CA 93302-1249

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Must have contact information in case of changes or updates

Questions/submit entry form attn: Angela Barton - AngelaBarton@kget.com - 345-8091



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Bakersfield District Office
4800 Stockdale Hwy., Suite 213
Bakersfield, CA 93309
- ARVIN POLICE DEPARTMENT**
Acting Chief Louis Cobarruvias
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Arvin, CA 93203
- BAKERSFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT**
Chief Greg Williamson
P. O. Box 59
1601 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93302
- BEAR VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT**
Chief Joe Pilkington
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Tehachapi, CA 93561
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**
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300 S. Richmond Rd.
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
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Lt. Craig Whitty
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Lebec, CA 93243
- CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**
Acting Commander Sgt. Ron Seldon
1365 Highway 58
Mojave, CA 93501
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Bakersfield, CA 93313

KCLEF "BILL DOLAN" SCHOLARSHIP AWARD SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

By **Lynn Watkins, Editor**

On June 8, 2012, members and supporters of the Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation gathered at the annual "Officer of the Year Awards Dinner" to recognize the actions of Kern County Law Enforcement Officers and citizens alike who have gone above and beyond during the past year.

Another endeavor of KCLEF is sponsoring scholarships for deserving students who aspire to a career in the field of Law Enforcement or Criminology. Our scholarship is named in honor of former Undersheriff, educator and longtime board member and co-founder, Bill Dolan, who passed away in 2009.



Bakersfield Mayor and longtime board member, Harvey Hall, was pleased to present the 2012 "Bill Dolan" Scholarship Award to Arshdeep Gill.

Mayor Hall started by saying how privileged he was to present this award on behalf of KCLEF. Mayor Hall explained the extensive scholarship process that includes two letters of recommendation.

Mayor Hall mentioned that this year, the Foundation received applications from students at the following schools: Centennial High School, Golden Valley High School, Highland High School, Independence High School, North High School, Mira Monte High School and finally, Shafter High School. Mayor Hall said, "Every candidate had very strong qualifications, making our 2012 recipient the best of the best." He went on to say that Arshdeep Gill had distinguished himself with a 4.0 GPA. He said that Arshdeep grew up in a tough neighborhood and has always wanted to help troubled youth in his community by helping them realize their true potential. The Mayor went on to say, "By pursuing a career in Law Enforcement, Arshdeep plans on doing just that while at the same time making a positive impact on the world we live in." The Mayor also shared that Arshdeep volunteers many hours at the local Sikh Temple and has been elected to many leadership positions both in and outside of school.

Mayor Hall said that Arshdeep will be attending the University of California at Irvine and will double major in Criminology and Law, in addition to Physiology and Social Behaviors and a minor in Business Administration.

Mayor Hall told the audience that in the opinion of the Selection Committee, Arshdeep was the "whole package," the kind of young person that gives you hope and confidence in your local youth and in the future of our community.

Lastly, Mayor Hall expressed how proud he was to announce Arshdeep Gill as the recipient of the 2012 4-year KCLEF "Bill Dolan" Scholarship Award. Unfortunately, Arshdeep Gill had another commitment that took him out of Bakersfield for the evening so his mother, Manjit Gill, accepted the Scholarship Award on his behalf.

This award is exceptionally rewarding to our Board of Directors because investing in our future Law Enforcement leaders is a primary goal of the Foundation. We wish Arshdeep continued successes in the future.

For information about the KCLEF Scholarship Program, contact Sharon Scroggins of Hall Ambulance Service Inc. at (661) 322-1626 or Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda at the Kern County Sheriff's Department.

In order to meet the criteria and qualify, a student must be enrolled as a full-time student and maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA or higher. They must have lived in Kern County for the past five years and plan on working for a local Law Enforcement organization.

The recipient is awarded a scholarship worth \$4000 with a portion paid each semester or quarter based on proof of eligibility. Past recipients have been both high school students entering college and students already attending college.

This year, the committee, comprised of Mayor Harvey Hall, Chief Deputy Shelly Castaneda and Retired Commander Frank Williams from the Sheriff's Department, who reviewed all applications, conducted interviews and made the selection.



JON BUSBY
BROKER ASSOCIATE
Bakersfield, California
(661) 410-7355
jonbusby@teambusby.com
LIC #00974087



The Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation is proud to announce that on November 2, 2012 they will host their 1st Annual Golf Tournament. It will be held at the Stockdale Country Club. If you are a golf enthusiast, form your team and get prepared to hit the greens. We are planning an outstanding event featuring an exciting day of golf, refreshments, and prizes.

For more information, see flyer inside news letter.

WANT TO JOIN



**Kern County
Law Enforcement
Foundation**

Our Membership Committee members; Jon Busby, Angela Barton, Tom Sheets, Greg Sturges, Sofie Zimmermann, Wayne Ketcherside, Arnold Johansen, and Frank Williams are working to keep our mailing lists for the newsletter and membership information current.

If you were previously a member and did not renew, you can simply go to our website, www.kernlaw.org, and download an application and mail it to us with all necessary information. We will update your background check and get you reinstated as soon as possible. If you are interested in becoming a new member, our history and bylaws are on our website which is easy to navigate. Once you've made the decision to join us, any board member or Law Enforcement Officer can be your sponsor. If you don't know any of us, simply write the word "open" in the recommendation and it will be referred to our background committee. The website contains all the information on membership and backgrounds.

The website, which is always a work in progress, contains previous editions of the newsletter, where you can read about events and projects we've done in the past. Individual memberships are only \$100 per year and are tax deductible under 501C (3) rules. Our business sponsorships are \$500 and \$1000 per year and the money is used for awards, grants and scholarships given by Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation. In fact, all monies received from

TO JOIN TODAY CONTACT:

GREG STURGES gsturges@aol.com | **JON BUSBY** jonbusby@bakersfieldmagic.com
SOFIE ZIMMERMANN sofiezimm@aol.com

our various efforts goes to the support of Law Enforcement efforts throughout Kern County. An example is the seven (7) PAL (Police Activity League) programs we support financially in addition to the SAL (Sheriff's Activity League) that we also support.

Since our beginning in 1988, we have raised and given out over \$600,000. As a member, you can be as involved as you want to be and are always welcome to attend the events we hold throughout the year. We start the year in March with our Poker Tournament, and then have our largest and most important event in June, our "Officer of the Year" Awards Dinner. In early Fall we'll boast our Golf Tournament and then in early November we have our "Fall Forum/Luncheon" honoring our "Administrator of the Year". Our Guest Speakers are second to none.

Again, reading this and previous editions of our newsletter will keep you to stay informed about our many activities. We hope you'll join us!



www.kernlaw.org



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Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation

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The Kern County Law Enforcement Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) organization. Your dues and donations may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor.

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