

VOLUME 2 - CHAPTER 5

DETECTIVE DIVISION

2-05/000.00 DETECTIVE DIVISION

This chapter outlines the functions, responsibilities and jurisdiction of the Detective Division.

2-05/010.00 FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Detective Division mission is to support the overall mission of the Sheriff's Department by providing the highest quality criminal investigative services on a countywide basis for cases that:

- require highly specialized knowledge or skills for successful conclusions;
- require a significantly higher need for confidentiality than what would be reasonably expected at a Sheriff's Station or police department's detective bureau, or involve a conflict of interest;
- require significant amounts of coordinated investigative manpower or specialized equipment for successful resolution;
- require significant undercover or surveillance operations;
- Have historically been associated with potential law enforcement corruption;
- exceed the manpower or expertise capabilities of a Sheriff's Station or police agency; and
- require extensive investigative resources over long periods of time.

The Chief of Detective Division shall serve as the Sheriff's Department's liaison to the Office of the District Attorney related to investigative responsibilities. The Chief of Detective Division provides oversight and coordination for all of the Department's investigative services, including those assigned to other Divisions.

The Chief of Detective Division is responsible for:

- oversight and coordination of the Department's criminal investigation information sharing systems and programs in cooperation with the Chief of Technical Services Division;
- oversight and coordination of periodic strategic planning meetings of the Department's criminal investigations managers for the purposes of assessing current and future investigative capacities, needs, challenges, trends; networking; and sharing and discussing investigative best practices;
- creating and maintaining standardized, Department-wide statistical and case management terminology and protocols to facilitate comparisons, allocation of resources, and command inspections;

- working with Technical Services Division in the development, procurement and use of technology in criminal investigations; and
- working with Leadership and Training Division to development and provide training for the Department's criminal investigators, including developing training standards.

2-05/020.00 JURISDICTION

This Division operates in the unincorporated areas of the County and within the geographical limits of those incorporated cities having contract law enforcement services with the County. On request, and after review, wherein the expertise of the specialized services of this Division are deemed necessary, said services are available to any police agency in the County.

2-05/030.00 FRAUD & CYBER CRIMES BUREAU

This Bureau is comprised of specialized details responsible for investigating complex cases involving the criminal exploitation of commerce, finance and/or technology by means of false representation or intentional deception for unlawful monetary gain.

2-05/030.10 FRAUD DETAIL

This detail investigates complex cases that involve a deliberate deception or deceitful pretenses practiced to secure unlawful monetary gain. These cases generally involve the manipulation of records or documents, a high-dollar loss, and/or multiple victims. Cases investigated by this detail include the following:

- buncos;
- consumer frauds;
- grand theft embezzlements;
- theft of real property (real estate);
- theft by false pretense;
- theft by trick or device;
- planned insolvency (bust-out);
- elder financial abuse or fraud;
- theft of trade secrets; and
- pyramid or ponzi schemes.

Responsibilities of this detail include the following:

- conduct in-service training in all aspects of fraud;
- provide expertise on fraud related crimes to other Units, Bureaus or outside law enforcement agencies;

- respond to request from the community for information regarding the prevention of fraud and victim information;
- review, analyze and track new legislation pertaining to fraud, fraud-related offenses, financial elder abuse, real estate, and notaries, and recommend Department position to the Executive Planning Council staff;
- participate in Fraud Task Forces;
- participate in Real Estate Task Forces; and
- participate in various Elder Abuse Multi-Disciplinary Teams.

2-05/030.20 IDENTITY THEFT DETAIL

This detail investigates cases that require specialized identity theft investigators. The responsibilities of this detail include the following:

- investigating cases involving identity theft;
- participating in Identity Theft Task Forces;
- providing training in identity theft to Department investigators, as well as local law enforcement and other government organizations;
- providing identity theft prevention training to public, private, and nonprofit organizations;
- serving as subject matter experts; and
- reviewing, analyzing, and making recommendations regarding new identity theft legislation.

2-05/030.30 COMPUTER CRIMES DETAIL

Responsibilities of this detail include cases that require specialized high-tech investigators who are trained to conduct investigations that involve the following:

- system intrusions;
- theft of data and/or software applications;
- theft of trade secrets;
- unauthorized use of data;
- counterfeiting of components and software;
- fraud by use of a computer; and
- satellite/cable TV fraud.

The Computer Crimes Detail can assist Department units and other agencies with the following:

- digital evidence preservation;
- digital data mining and retrieval;
- crimes wherein the Internet was accessed;

- identifying non-secure vulnerabilities in wireless access points;
- network/computer shutdown procedures; and
- search warrant language for digital devices and content.

2-05/030.40 TECHNICAL OPERATIONS DETAIL

This detail serves as a Departmental and regional resource for technical investigative equipment and services, which include the following:

- electronic surveillance (audio, video, telephone);
- GPS tracking;
- technical surveillance counter measures (TSCM);
- security and threat assessment;
- technical equipment testing and evaluation;
- forensic audio enhancement;
- forensic video clarification; and
- research and development of technical solutions for unique investigative challenges.

2-05/030.50 DETECTIVE INFORMATION RESEARCH CENTER (DIRC) DETAIL

The researchers in this detail assist investigators seeking to identify and locate suspects, victims, witnesses and persons of interest, and provide the following:

- criminal, civil and historical profiles;
- booking/DMV photographs and electronic "six-packs" suitable for court;
- property ownership, both current and historical;
- lists of property residents, both current and historical;
- immigration information;
- pending legislation and available legislative analysis;
- recent and historical case law; and
- data queries on any topic.

2-05/040.00 NARCOTICS BUREAU

Cases investigated by this Bureau are those involving the use, possession, sale, manufacture and transportation of controlled substances.

Responsibilities of this Bureau include:

- disposing of controlled substances;
- participating in "narcotics task forces;"

- providing specialized training in controlled substances to local law enforcement and other government organizations;
- making public appearances;
- acting as liaison with the Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission;
- directing all financial and asset seizures/forfeitures relative to narcotic activity;
- packaging, transporting, sampling and disposing of chemicals related to clandestine narcotic and explosive substance laboratories;
- reviewing, analyzing, and tracking new legislation pertaining to narcotics, and recommending Departmental positions to the Executive Planning Council;
- provide expert courtroom testimony regarding possession for sales cases, or as requested by District Attorney's Office;
- narcotics specific case filings with District Attorney's Office;
- responding to after hour requests by each of the three Field Operations Regions regarding large narcotics and currency seizures;
- investigate street, mid to high, level narcotics investigations;
- maintain liaison with local, State and Federal agencies;
- jail Investigations involving narcotics; and
- provide resources regarding special requests for investigations by Department and outside agencies.

2-05/060.00 SPECIAL VICTIMS BUREAU

This bureau is comprised of specialized detectives with duties and responsibilities as follows:

- Investigating cases involving the physical and sexual abuse of children and assists in those investigations where there is a death of a child 5-years and younger;
- Investigating cases of sexual assault and rape involving children and adults;
- Investigating cases of kidnapping for the purpose of sexual assault;
- Conducting in-service training in the areas of physically abused, sexually abused, and neglected children;
- Providing assistance to other units or bureaus in conducting interviews of young children that are victims or witnesses to other crimes;
- Providing expertise in the child abuse/sexual assault/rape fields on request by other units or bureaus, or by other law enforcement agencies;
- Responding to requests from the community and media for information regarding physically abused, sexually abused children, and sexual assault or rape of an adult;
- Providing training to schools and other community based institutions on mandated reporting laws pertaining to child abuse; and
- Reviewing, analyzing, and tracking new legislation pertaining to child abuse, internet crimes, and sexual assault and recommending Departmental positions to the Executive Planning Council staff.

2-05/080.00 HOMICIDE BUREAU

Cases investigated by this Bureau involve:

- accidental deaths;
- homicides;
- natural deaths (Coroner cases);
- suicides;
- missing juveniles when there is suspicion of foul play; or missing over 30 days;
- missing and unidentified persons (adults);
- shootings involving Department personnel that result in injury or death;
- assaults against on-duty Department personnel that result in life-threatening or serious injury; and
- found human remains.

2-05/080.05 MISSING PERSONS UNIT

Responsibilities and duties performed by this Unit include:

- investigating missing persons who are 18 years and older;
- investigating found persons cases;
- assisting Homicide Bureau in the identification of John and Jane Does;
- assisting Stations in identifying found "Doe" children;
- assisting other agencies with missing/found persons;
- managing a publicity program where missing children's pictures are publicized nationwide in an attempt to locate; and
- checking the accuracy of computer entries on missing children.

2-05/090.00 MAJOR CRIMES BUREAU

Major Crimes Bureau is responsible for conducting investigations and providing investigative services to the Sheriff's Department, and to other agencies county-wide. This bureau specializes in investigations related to organized crime, prison gangs, outlaw motorcycle gangs, terrorist groups, cargo theft, gaming, morals, fugitives, mobile and static surveillance, health care related crimes that threaten the public's health and safety, witness security and/or relocation, kidnaping/extortions for ransom, kidnaps wherein the victim has not been located and there is credible information that the victim is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death, Amber Alerts, pattern and series robberies, solicitations to commit murder, threats to Department employees and government officials, assault weapon violations, pawns and business license inspections, and specified violent felony crimes against Department members.

2-05/090.05 PAWNS AND LICENSE DETAIL

This detail investigates license violation cases.

Responsibilities of this detail include:

- generating new ordinances and amending existing ones at the request of the Board of Supervisors;
- inspecting licensed premises;
- presenting the results of license investigations to the Business License Commission and License Appeals Board;
- receiving applications and investigating license applicants;
- reviewing licenses;
- enforcing license ordinances;
- inspecting/regulating of pawnshops and secondhand dealers to ensure compliance with County ordinances and the Business and Professions Code;
- recovering stolen property discovered at pawnshops, etc.;
- maintain automated files of pawn transactions;
- acting as liaison with Department of Justice Automated Property Unit;
- maintaining a suspicious pawner file;
- notifying concerned agencies on hits involving reported stolen property; and
- entering of selected pawned items into the State Automated Property System.

2-05/090.10 METRO DETAIL

Responsibilities of this detail include:

- fugitive warrants and detainers, and extraditions;
- kidnaping for the purpose of ransom or extortion when the victim is located and injured with evidence of ransom or extortion;
- kidnaps wherein the victim has not been located, and there is credible information that the victim is in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death;
- extortion where the victim is in danger of serious bodily injury or death;
- Amber Alerts;
- robberies identified as fitting a pattern and series;
- robberies of armored cars, banks, credit unions, savings and loan associations, finance companies, and thefts of ATM machines (whole machines);
- solicitation to commit murder;
- threats to Department employees and government officials;
- violent felony crimes committed against Department members (see Volume 4, Chapter 1);
- significant investigations involving public officials as victims or potential suspects, except for public integrity investigations which are investigated by the Office of the District Attorney;

- stalking cases involving celebrities, political figures (elected or not) or high profile cases that are capable of arousing widespread public interest or concern, or “stranger stalking” where the victim is in danger of serious bodily injury or death,
- foreign extraditions and prosecutions;
- human trafficking cases;
- escapes and erroneous releases, including court ordered electronic monitoring program (EMP) escapes; and
- special investigations as determined by the Department executives.

2-05/090.15 VICE DETAIL

Responsibilities of this detail include:

- carnivals;
- lewd conduct and indecent exhibitions;
- lotteries;
- pornography (except child pornography as defined in Manual Section 2-05/060.05);
- prostitution and related offenses;
- casino operations; and
- other illegal betting/gaming excluding: bookmaking, cockfights and dog fights, and sports betting.

2-05/090.20 CAREER OFFENDERS DETAIL

CARGO CATS

Responsibilities of this detail include:

- reducing cargo theft by apprehending and prosecuting cargo thieves and their receivers;
- returning stolen cargo to the rightful owner;
- assisting station detectives with cargo related thefts, or assuming investigative control of an investigation upon mutual agreement;
- developing and maintaining informants;
- maintaining liaison with private industry; and
- providing cargo theft prevention/investigation training to Department personnel, local law enforcement organizations and private industry.

PRISON GANG UNIT

Responsibilities of this detail include:

- investigations relating to criminal activities of prison gangs, associate organized criminal groups and enterprises;
- extortions when the victim is in danger and suspects are believed involved in prison gangs, associate organized criminal groups and enterprises;
- solicitation to commit murder generated from any custody facility and/or wherein the suspects are believed involved with prison gangs, associate organized criminal groups and enterprises;
- investigations relating to threats and crimes against government officials and Sheriff's Department members wherein the suspects are believed involved with prison gangs and/or associate organized criminal groups;
- witness protection and security for informants and witnesses, transportation/protection of high profile inmates from state and federal institutions;
- liaison with various prison gang units (Special Services Unit, California Department of Corrections) and California Gang Task Force (California Department of Corrections); and
- providing specialized training in organized criminal groups and enterprises to local law enforcement and other government organizations.

OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANG UNIT

Responsibilities of this unit include:

- investigating outlaw motorcycle gangs;
- maintaining liaisons with various prison gang units; and
- providing specialized training in outlaw motorcycle gangs to outside law enforcement agencies and other government organizations.

2-05/090.35 METAL THEFT DETAIL

Responsibilities of this detail include:

- investigating stolen or misappropriated metals and scrap;
- inspecting scrap metal dealers to assure conformance with existing laws and regulations;
- joint assignment with Station detectives in identifying, locating and prosecuting suspects dealing in stolen property in scrap metal yards, and swap meets; and
- maintaining liaison with major industrial metal supply sources.

2-05/090.40 HEALTH AUTHORITY LAW ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE (HALT)

Responsibilities of this detail include:

- investigating illicit pharmaceutical distribution;

- identifying and destroying seized illicit pharmaceuticals;
- investigating underground, unlicensed medical and dental practices; and
- investigating large scale health care (Medi-Cal, Medicare) provider fraud and criminal enterprises that pose a risk to public health and safety.

2-05/090.45 SURVEILLANCE AND APPREHENSION TEAMS

Responsibilities of this detail include:

- mobile, fixed post, and electronic surveillance;
- apprehension/detention and/or identification of suspects/witnesses;
- search and arrest warrant service (Tactical Team Entries);
- preparation of affidavits for search and arrest warrants, court orders and operations plans;
- parole and probation searches;
- Divisional, Departmental, and Statewide P.O.S.T. training; and
- protection and security for dignitaries, informants, and witnesses.

2-05/090.50 FUGITIVE TASK FORCE

Responsibilities of task force members include:

- task force members liaison with the United States Marshal's service and are cross credentialed as federal agents;
- locate and apprehend fugitives statewide, and facilitate the apprehension and extradition of fugitives from foreign countries;
- mobile, fixed post, and electronic surveillance;
- search and arrest warrant service (tactical team entry);
- parole and probation searches; and
- preparation of affidavits for search and arrest warrants, court orders, and operations plans.

2-05/100.00 TASKFORCE FOR REGIONAL AUTOTHEFT PREVENTION

Responsibilities of this unit include:

- target, investigate, and prosecute individuals involved in vehicle theft, particularly those professional thieves who organize, direct, finance, or otherwise engage in commercial vehicle theft for profit;
- identify locations used in connection with vehicle theft offenses, including legitimate "front" business locations (i.e., body shops and auto dismantlers) which operate as commercial "chop shops", and take appropriate action;

- provide training and expertise for participating agencies throughout Los Angeles County; and
- seek input and solicit cooperation from the private sector to coordinate a public deterrence program.