



COUNTY OF MONTEREY CAO Weekly Report

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SPECIALREPORT



Sheriff Steve Bernal stands before the department's two dozen new staff members

County Notes

- > With rain still in the forecast, be sure to keep the link to the [Office of Emergency Services Winter Storm information webpage](#) handy.

Sheriff Welcomes New Officers

It's nearly a full house at the Sheriff's Office as 2016 begins thanks to many months of recruitment efforts.

Last month, 11 Deputies (5 Laterals, 6 Recruits) and 14 Custody Control Specialists (CCS) stood before a large crowd of new colleagues and county staff in the Board of Supervisors Chambers and took their oath of office. Before administering the oath, Sheriff Steve Bernal told the recruits, "You are the best and the brightest and will be expected to be the hardest-working recruits in Monterey County."

Bernal says with this large number of new hires, his office filled every Deputy Sheriff and CCS position allocated.

“Historically the Sheriff’s Office has not filled all positions and used the salary savings to pay overtime,” Bernal told those gathered for the swearing-in ceremony. “I have vowed to fill all of our allocated positions because I believe we need more deputies on the streets and in our jail, not paying fewer deputies and burning them out.”

Deputy recruits will attend law enforcement academy which begins January 11th; but once fully trained, the Sheriff’s Office will be able to rotate more deputy sheriffs back out to the streets. Bernal told the new deputies there is much work ahead.

“I will fight for the resources we need to achieve excellence, but also know that no one will hold you to a higher standard.”

During the event, other officers were recognized for their achievements including Commander Jim Bass who was promoted to the rank of Captain; Deputies of the Year honorees Sergeant Brian Pickens and Deputy Blaine Councilman, Employee of the Year Hubert Manalo and retiring Commander Fred Garcia.



Sheriff Bernal congratulates some of the new deputies after the swearing-in ceremony.

Sheriff Bernal also gave ‘State of the Sheriff’s Office’ information to the gathered crowd.

“We have made great progress over the past year,” Bernal said. “I pledge to keep that momentum going, moving forward, making sure that the needs of the Sheriff’s Office are met so that we can provide the protection that the public expects from us.”

Elections Staff Earn New Credentials

Congratulations to three Monterey County Elections employees who are among the graduates of a highly regarded training program for election administrators.

California has one of the most diverse voter populations and some of the most complex election laws, creating unique challenges in election administration. To help prepare California’s election

administrators to meet these challenges, the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials in conjunction with the Election Center, established the California Professional Election Administrator Credential Program (CalPEAC).



Jim Rempert (l), Mark Silvia (center) and Gina Martinez (right) proudly display their new credentials.

On December 8, 2015, Elections staff members Jim Rempert, Mark Silvia, and Gina Martinez were among 24 other California Elections Officials to complete the program's 10 courses.

Each course addresses a different component of election administration and is led by a professional with experience in that subject area. Coursework included such topics as emergency planning, how to develop and implement new legislation, requirements for precincts and polling places in serving voters with specific needs, poll worker training, history of elections and voting systems, summary of federal election law, registration processes and alternative voting.

By completing the series, these three have earned a credential and the title of Registered Election Official.

"This is a distinct honor as the program has fewer than 200 graduates across the entire state," says Claudio Valenzuela, Registrar of Voters.

Health Department, OES Join Statewide Medical Exercise

How would the Monterey County Health Department and Emergency Services respond to an unusual outbreak of influenza? That was the scenario last year for the California Statewide Medical Health Exercise.

Last November, the Health Department, OES and hospital partners participated in the annual exercise which is designed to build medical and public health community-based capability and

capacity for disaster-related healthcare response. Organized by the California State Department of Public Health, the 2015 Statewide Medical and Health Exercise was focused on testing objectives specifically designed to improve understanding of response procedures, build collaborative relationships and identify areas for improvement. Each year, the exercise is based on a different scenario and this year's scenario was an outbreak of a novel strain of influenza.

Participants from the Health Department and Office of Emergency Services activated the Health Department's Department Operations Center (DOC) as if it were a real emergency. Using the incident command system, participants used information coming from healthcare partners to set priorities and plan how to respond to the event.

All four hospitals in Monterey County participated in varying degrees based on their preparedness needs. The hospitals submitted situation reports and resource requests to the DOC which were immediately sent to the State following the state's Emergency Operation Plan.

Other key elements tested during the exercise were staff alerting, communication, information sharing, medical surge and public information dissemination.

The purpose of the exercise is to identify strengths, weaknesses, gaps and areas which need improvement. Once that has been done, there will be additional exercises to ensure that changes made were effective and that identified gaps were addressed.



Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System was one of the hospitals participating in the statewide exercise with county departments.