



VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

- BOB BROOKS
SHERIFF
- CRAIG HUSBAND
UNDERSHERIFF

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February 26, 2002

Honorable Bruce A. Clark
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93009

Re: Response to the 2001-2002 Ventura County Grand Jury Report entitled
*Review of Less Than Lethal Force by Law Enforcement Agencies When
Dealing With the Mentally Ill*

Dear Judge Clark:

As required by California Penal Code section 933.05, this letter is a response to the findings and recommendations of the 2001-2002 Ventura County Grand Jury's Report entitled *Review of Less Than Lethal Force by Law Enforcement Agencies When Dealing With the Mentally Ill*. The following are my responses:

Findings

Items C-2 and C-4: Although it is true that deputy sheriffs are not trained to the extent of mental health practitioners, they currently receive more than the state mandated training in regard to the mentally ill as Deputy Sheriff Trainees at the Ventura County Criminal Justice Training Center. Additionally, the Academy curriculum regarding the mentally ill is integrated with other training, such as officer safety, associated mental health issues, search and seizure, and other criminal and constitutional law issues and application. Finally, deputies receive from four to six months field training with an experienced officer prior to working on their own, and also receive ongoing advanced officer training during their careers.

Item C-9: Although it is possible that a CIT program will reduce the number of police shootings in relation to the mentally ill, it cannot be said with any certainty as to what extent it will reduce said shootings. Such shootings often occur very quickly during the prevention of an attack by an armed assailant, making the timely response by a more highly trained CIT officer not always possible.

SPECIAL SERVICES

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Ventura, CA 93003
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PATROL SERVICES

2101 East Olsen Road
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
(805) 494-8261 FAX (805) 494-8295

DETENTION SERVICES

800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 654-2305 FAX (805) 654-3500

SUPPORT SERVICES

800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009
(805) 654-3926 FAX (805) 654-2109

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Recommendations

Item R-1: The Sheriff's Department has already begun measures to train 10% of its patrol force (approximately 40 deputies) in the CIT curriculum.

Item R-2: Currently, five deputies have been trained at the CIT Academy, with an additional 14 scheduled for training in April 2002. Fourteen more deputies each will receive the CIT training in August and December 2002, exceeding our initial goal of 10%. At least one additional CIT Academy will be scheduled prior to July 2003.

Item R-3: Quarterly meetings of CIT trained staff are anticipated, with an annual refresher course also planned for CIT staff. Additionally, each station will have a CIT coordinator to deal with daily issues and to provide ongoing training through briefings with patrol officers.

Item R-4: At least one dispatch supervisor will receive training in the CIT Academy, with a goal of training additional dispatchers, budget and schedules permitting. The trained supervisor will provide training for subordinate dispatchers and call takers.

Based on the listed responses, I believe the Sheriff's Department is actively working toward establishing sufficient CIT trained personnel for active and meaningful responses to issues relative to the mentally ill within departmental jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Brooks", written in a cursive style.

BOB BROOKS
Ventura County Sheriff