

# Innovation Award

## San Diego Sheriff's Department

San Diego, California

Accepting Award:

Deputy Timothy Eversoll and  
Detective Nicholas Sisto



The Sheriff's Department is the chief law enforcement agency in the county of San Diego, and covers more than 4,200 square miles and a population of over 3.3 million. The Sheriff, elected by the residents of San Diego County, is the chief executive of the department, which operates 7 detention facilities, 18 patrol stations, a crime laboratory, and an array of support operations necessary to provide full law enforcement services for the county. The department's 4,400-plus employees provide general law enforcement, detention, and court security services, as well as regional investigative support and tactical emergency response. Primary police services are provided to 944,000 county residents, including those in 9 contract cities. The department is responsible for booking arrestees and releasing inmates, ensuring court appearances, and providing necessary daily care for 5,400 inmates. The Sheriff's detention facilities process approximately 80,000 unduplicated inmate bookings annually. Services provided to the San Diego Superior Court include weapons screening and courtroom security.

In January 2019, the San Diego Sheriff's Detention Investigations Unit (DIU) undertook an intensive and expansive approach to stop drug smuggling into the jail system. This new multi-faceted drug interdiction approach sparked a successful anti-narcotics campaign throughout the San Diego Jail system. As a result of these new procedures, DIU narcotics seizures in 2019 increased 488% from 2018 and 427% from 2017.

The department also has a successful Mail Processing Center (MPC) program. The MPC is progressive by utilizing new technologies to accomplish a safer method of processing inmate mail. Since its inception, MPC Deputies are responsible for intercepting more than 160 items of incoming inmate mail that contained narcotics. These interceptions led to more than 50 arrests both in the jails and in the community. These numbers resulted in a 45% drop in narcotics being mailed into the detention facilities.

The DIU and the MPC program aim to be an example for other detention facilities and jails nationwide.