

## SHASTA INTERAGENCY NARCOTICS TASK FORCE

### **REASON FOR INQUIRY:**

California Penal Code sections 925 and 925a authorizes the Grand Jury to investigate and report on the operations and records of any joint powers agency within the County. The Grand Jury received one citizen complaint regarding Shasta Interagency Narcotics Task Force (SINTF).

Shasta Interagency  
Narcotics Task Force  
P.O. Box 991832  
Redding, CA 96099  
530-224-4892

### **BACKGROUND:**

SINTF was formed by way of a memorandum of understanding in 1986 by the Anderson Police Department (APD), California Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement (BNE), California Department of Corrections-Parole, California Highway Patrol (CHP), Redding Police Department (RPD), Shasta County District Attorney's Office (DA), Shasta County Probation Department (SCPD) and the Shasta County Sheriff's Department (SCSO). SINTF's purpose is to work in conjunction with law enforcement agencies to endeavor to effectively enforce the controlled substance laws of the State of California as expressed in the Health and Safety Code and applicable federal laws relating to the trafficking of controlled substances. SINTF targets their investigations toward the apprehension of street level distributors. The mission of SINTF is to significantly diminish the availability and use of illegal drugs in Shasta County and apprehend the responsible offenders, thereby increasing public safety.

An advisory counsel, called a "Steering Committee", governs SINTF. The committee is comprised of a representative from each of the following:

- Anderson Police Department
- California Department of Corrections – Parole Division
- California Department of Justice – Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement (BNE)
- California Highway Patrol
- Redding Police Department
- Shasta County District Attorney
- Shasta County Drug and Alcohol Program
- Shasta County Probation Department
- Shasta County Sheriffs Department
- The SINTF Commander

### **METHOD OF INQUIRY:**

The Grand Jury interviewed:

- The SINTF Commander
- Two SINTF Agents
- A former SINTF Agent
- Two Steering Committee Members

The Grand Jury reviewed the following documents:

- 2002 Annual Report
- 2002/2003 SINTF Budget
- Arrest Activity Report
- Citizen Complaint Forms
- OCJP Grant Application
- OCJP Progress Report
- OCJP Site Visit Report
- Policy and Procedures Manual
- SINTF Site Visit Response
- Steering Committee Minutes

### **Findings:**

1. SINTF receives funding from forfeited assets and the State of California Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP), which administers funds from the Byrne Memorial Grant (the grant). Assets seized by SINTF are liquidated and placed into an interest bearing account. The City of Anderson Finance Department manages the account. The SCSO is the implementing agency for the OCJP grant. The grant is applied for by the SCSO and then distributed to SINTF. As a requirement for accepting the grant, SINTF must comply with the California Department of Justice (DOJ) regulations. The DOJ sends a representative to SINTF annually to monitor how the grant funds are allocated. The DOJ representative performs an inspection of SINTF and fills out a Progress Report and a Site Visit Report. SINTF is required to respond to the DOJ reports.
2. Each of the participating agencies has agreed to provide the following staff positions:
  - APD: One Police Officer
  - BNE: A Special Agent Supervisor
  - CHP: A state Traffic Officer
  - RPD: Two Investigators
  - DA: An Assistant DA
  - SCPD: A Probation Officer
  - SCSO: Two Deputy Sheriffs' and a Secretary
3. Employees of the participating agencies volunteer for the assignment to SINTF. The SINTF Commander accepts or rejects the applicants. The individual's term averages three years; however the actual term is determined by the employing agency. It takes a year to eighteen months for an agent to be fully trained.
4. Proceeds from the assets seized by SINTF are distributed to the following agencies:
  - a. City of Anderson
  - b. District Attorneys Office
  - c. SINTF
  - d. State of California

5. SINTF's budget for the fiscal year 2003/2004 is \$405,000. Grants from the OCJP account for about \$295,000 of SINTF's annual budget, and the remainder is from SINTF's share of proceeds from seized assets.
6. An average of 30 arrests for narcotics violations are made by SINTF per month.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

None

**RESPONSES REQUIRED:**

None