

**Harford  
County  
Sheriff's  
Office**

**2021  
Annual  
Report**

**Jeffrey R. Gahler  
Sheriff**



**Senior Deputy  
Patrick Dailey**

**Deputy  
First Class  
Mark Logsdon**

**Sgt.  
Ian Loughran**

**Cpl.  
Charles Licato**

**DFC  
Teresa Testerman**

**Deputy  
Frank Bateman**

**DFC  
William Beebe Jr.**

**The dedication of our Fallen Heroes,  
to the citizens of Harford County,  
will never be forgotten.**

*In Valor there is Hope.*



**Mission**

With courage, honor, and integrity we protect the rights and dignity of all citizens.  
In partnership with our communities, we strive to preserve the peace and provide for a safe environment for all.

**Courage**

With steadfastness and purpose of mind, we accept the responsibility of overcoming adversity  
to remain effective, efficient, and responsive to the needs of our communities.

**Honor**

With distinction and pride, we protect the rights of all citizens equally.

**Integrity**

We are responsible for our conduct, both professionally and personally.  
We are honest, fair, and strong of character.  
We hold ourselves accountable to the highest standards of ethical conduct and endeavor to be role models for others.



# A Message from Sheriff Gahler

To our Harford County Community,

As we embark on 2022, I want to take this opportunity to look back on a year that again turned out very different than any of us could have expected. While, like 2020, the past year was challenging in many ways, it proved how strong and dedicated each member of this Agency is even in the toughest of times for public safety.

Similar to past years, the exceptional work and dedication of the Harford County Sheriff's Office was not only seen in record low crime numbers; some received recognition again at the state and national levels. Notably, Retired Warden Michael Capasso was awarded the Corrections/Jail Innovation of the Year Award by the National Sheriffs' Association for the many programs and efforts he led during his tenure. In addition, Sergeant Brandon Underhill was awarded the National Sheriffs' Association's Medal of Merit for his dedication and efforts in law enforcement. With these awards, our Agency extends the national recognition of the work done by our members to an incredible four years straight! At the state level, two of our members were recognized from among all Maryland sheriff's deputies by the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA). The awardees were Senior Deputy Darwin King for the MSA's Community Service Award and Senior Deputy Wilbert Adams for the MSA's Traffic Safety Award for a large agency.

Other accomplishments for the year include the procurement and delivery of our new Tactical Rescue Vehicle (TRV), the full implementation of our Body Worn Camera Program, the start of our Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Program (Drones), and of course, the announcement of our future Central Precinct and Training Academy!

In my closing thoughts on the past year, I must also note the results of the recent survey conducted in partnership with our allied law enforcement agencies in the County and a number of community groups commissioned to measure the public's confidence in their law enforcement agencies. This survey, conducted by an independent professional surveying company, produced numbers and responses that can only be considered exceptional! So much so, the survey company itself remarked how they have never seen such notably high results. Like the support our Agency receives from our Harford County community, these survey results are attributable not only to those currently in service but also the result of the exceptional reputation of the Harford County Sheriff's Office based on the hard work and dedication of those who previously served. To all, I say thank you for your part in our Agency realizing such incredible results!

In just two years, we will celebrate 250 years of service. To be sure this milestone will be recognized in a memorable way, the planning has already begun. Until then, may the new year bring you all health and happiness.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Jeffrey R. Gahler



## AWARDS & COMMENDATIONS 2021

**Deputy First Class Robert Witt** is an outstanding and dedicated member of the Harford County Sheriff's Office who consistently possesses and displays a rigorous work ethic. DFC Witt has been a member of the Agency since January 29, 2018. Since beginning his career in law enforcement as a recruit with the Harford County Sheriff's Office, DFC Witt continuously strives to hone his skills as a Law Enforcement Officer. He shows consistent dedication to his duty and consistently familiarizes himself with his assigned sector, understanding his community and familiarizing himself with gang members and local problems. In 2020, DFC Witt's productivity was measured near the top in all categories when compared to other deputies assigned to his shift, Southern Precinct Shift 1, including the seizure of five handguns and being ranked among the top deputies in the Agency for DUI arrests. Additionally, DFC Witt successfully completed the Harford County Sheriff's Office SWAT school and also serves as a member of the Honor Guard. Despite his young career, DFC Witt operates as a seasoned veteran and is an invaluable member of this Agency.



Deputy First Class Robert Witt

**Senior Deputy Kevin Kegley** is an outstanding and dedicated member of the Harford County Sheriff's Office who has repeatedly been recognized for his outstanding efforts and contributions to the Agency and the citizens of Harford County. Senior Deputy Kegley has been a member of the Agency since September 8, 2009. In that time, he has defined himself as a hardworking deputy who consistently goes above and beyond his regularly assigned job duties and is recognized by his peers and superiors for his positive attitude. Senior Deputy Kegley is assigned to the Work Release Unit, but the program was suspended in March, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, Senior Deputy Kegley was tasked with assisting with preparing the Detention Center to deal with the pandemic. Senior Deputy Kegley was routinely tasked with various assignments outside his normal purview, yet remained steady, reliable and helpful without complaint. His supervisors and peers have been able to rely on him in times of need, and he routinely assists where needed with a positive attitude. Senior Deputy Kegley continuously promotes the Agency's goals and mission; displays exceptional work ethic, expertise, and integrity; and has taken on commitments above and beyond the call of duty.



Senior Deputy Kevin Kegley

**Corporal Brandon Underhill** is a distinguished and dedicated member of the Harford County Sheriff's Office who has repeatedly been recognized for his outstanding efforts and contributions to the Agency and the citizens of Harford County. Corporal Underhill has been a member of the Agency since February 20, 2001. Through his diligent efforts and tenacity of purpose, Corporal Underhill's professional competence has manifested itself in exemplary performance of duty in 2020. His sincere determination to complete any given task, and his passion for his job has earned him the respect of his supervisors, peers and subordinates. In 2020, under Corporal Underhill's leadership, division personnel authored more than 17 residential search and seizure warrants and 17 cell phone warrants. They recovered 15 firearms and more than \$11,500 in currency, 71.5 grams of cocaine, more than two pounds of marijuana, 17 grams of heroin and 18 grams of MDMA. Additionally, they arrested a combined 82 adult and juvenile offenders. Thanks to his leadership, Agency members under his supervision made Harford County a safer place to live.



Corporal Brandon Underhill

# Thank You for your Service

Years of Service  
and Retirements



to the Citizens of Harford County



HARFORD COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
SOUTHERN PRECINCT

## Office of the Sheriff



The history of our proud Agency dates back 247 years as the Office was first established as a result of the act of the Maryland General Assembly in 1773, which divided Baltimore County into two counties. A new county, Harford, was created from the northeastern quadrant of the former Baltimore County. The actual formation of government for Harford County occurred on March 22, 1774, when Henry Harford sent his commission to the new County Seat at Harford Town. The Right Honorable Henry Harford, Lord Proprietor of the Province, commissioned Thomas Miller the first sheriff.



The first election for sheriff was in 1777, when John Taylor won over his opponent, George Bradford. Although the first sheriff was appointed in 1774, subsequent sheriffs were elected. Sheriffs served two-year terms until 1914 when they began serving four-year terms.

The duties of sheriff throughout the United States vary both internally and externally, and from agency to agency. Depending on the region, some sheriff's offices provide only court and/or correctional services, while others provide law enforcement.

The citizens of Harford County benefit from having a multi-service agency that provides all three. Although patrol deputies and investigators are the most visible members of the Sheriff's Office, court services deputies and correctional deputies from the Detention Center are critical components of this full-service Agency.

Today, as the primary law enforcement agency in Harford County and the largest full-service sheriff's office in the State of Maryland, the Harford County Sheriff's Office is responsible for providing court services, law enforcement services, and correctional services to the County's ever-growing population.



Sheriff Jeffrey R. Gahler, the 80th Sheriff to serve in Harford County, oversees a workforce of more than 600 sworn and civilian personnel, and controls an overall budget of \$90,364,541.



Jeffrey R. Gahler  
Sheriff



Colonel William Davis  
Chief Deputy

The Office of the Sheriff directly supervises and oversees several units:

- Community and Legislative Affairs
- Budget Office
- Media and Public Relations

Authorized Employees  
**624**  
(LE, CO, Civilian, Temporary)

Authorized LE  
**297 permanent**  
**22 temporary**

Authorized CO  
**141 permanent**  
**3 temporary**





## Police Operations Bureau

As the primary law enforcement agency in Harford County, the Police Operations Bureau parallels that of other police agencies throughout the State. The Sheriff and his deputies are charged with enforcing Maryland laws, and arresting criminal offenders. Uniformed deputies provide

continuous delivery of around-the-clock police services to the community through proactive patrol, maintenance of public order, response to citizens needs for services, investigation of crimes, arresting offenders and traffic direction and control.



### The Police Operations Bureau is comprised of:

#### Patrol Operations

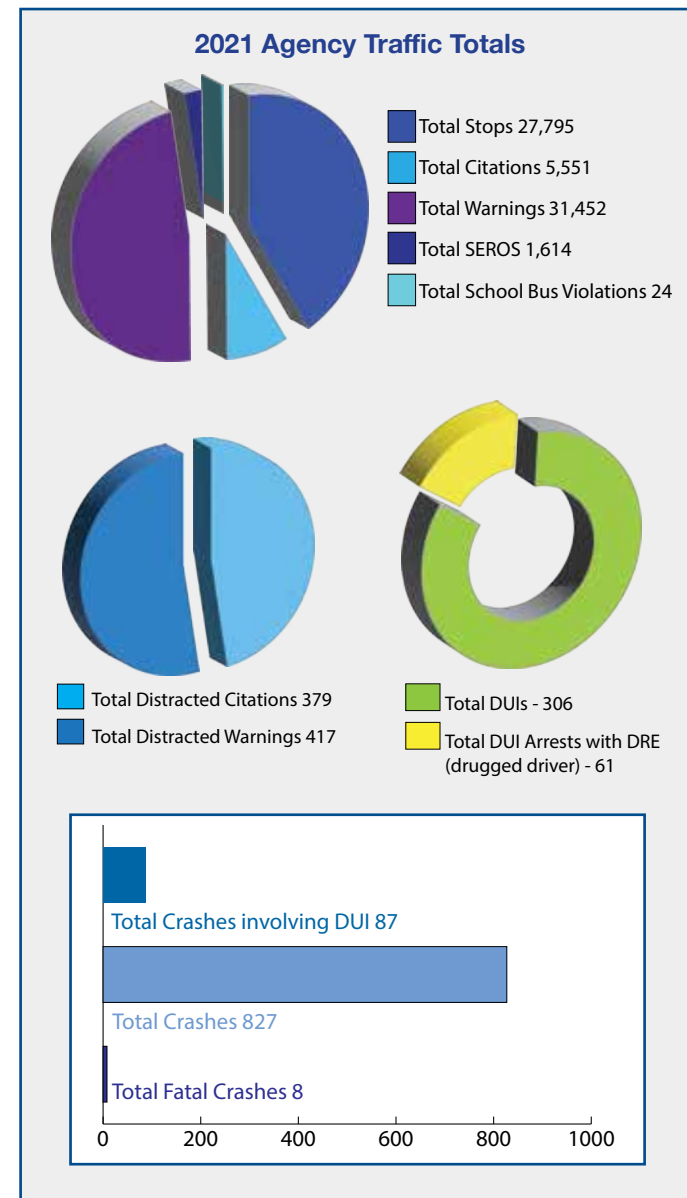
- Southern Precinct
- Northern Precinct
- Central Precinct

#### Community Services Division

- Community Policing
- School Policing
- School Crossing Guards
- Animal Control

#### Special Operations Division

- Crime Suppression Unit
- K-9 Unit
- Traffic Unit
- Special Response Team



Major Donald Gividen  
Bureau Chief



Captain Walter  
Southern Precinct



Captain Royster  
Northern Precinct



Captain Schleper  
Special Operations



Captain Bowman  
Community Services

### Crisis Negotiation Team: Total Operations 41

- 4 barricades
- 1 assisted patrol with a suicidal subject
- 35 high risk search warrants/arrest warrants
- 1 CNT met with organizers and helped mitigate any potential issues

The small UNMANNED AIRCRAFT UNIT TEAM finished up the 2021 year with and 244 HOURS of activation since April. **{101} missions**

### Special Response Team {64 operations}

- 1 Searching for critical missing subject in the woods
- 8 Barricades
- 2 Security Details
- 53 High risk search warrants/arrest warrants

**7 OUT OF COUNTY DEPLOYMENTS**  
**11 IN OTHER JURISDICTIONS (BPD, APD, HDG)**  
**1 OUT OF STATE**

**20 SRT** | **23 SID** | **19 CID**

**Community Policing Presentations: 204**

**HOPE House Volunteer Hours 159**  
(1743.5 total since 2017)

**people who have toured the HOPE House 236** (4300 total since 2017)

**Events 13**



## Services and Support Bureau

### Court Services

The Court Services Division is comprised of sworn deputies, temporary employees and civilian personnel. The employees in the division are assigned to several units tasked with many different duties. An overview of these varied missions are:

### Civil Unit

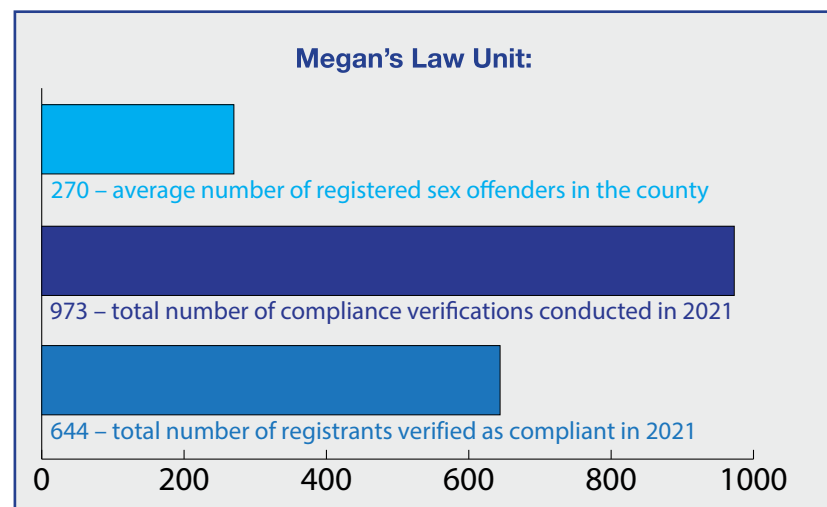
The mission of the Civil Unit is to serve all processes for District Court and Circuit Court. This includes the receiving, processing, entering, service and return of all court paperwork from inside and outside of Harford County.

### Warrant Unit

The Harford County Sheriff's Office Warrant Apprehension / Fugitive Unit investigates leads to locate and apprehend wanted subjects throughout Harford County and surrounding jurisdictions.

### Megan's Law

Megan's Law Unit handles the sex offender registry for Harford County, MD. Members ensure sex offenders maintain compliance with routine registration and verification.



### The Services and Support Bureau is comprised of:

#### Planning and Research Division

- Training Academy
- Electronic Services
- Inventory Control

#### Court Services Division

- Law Enforcement Records
- Court Security
- Civil Process and Warrants
- Megan's Law Unit
- Office of Child Support Enforcement

- Human Resources
- Computer Support
- Quartermaster/Fleet Management

### Court Security Unit

It is the duty of the Sheriff under Common Law and the Maryland Constitution to provide security of the Circuit Court Courthouse. Their mission is to maintain physical security of the courthouse as well as provide protection for the judges and juries. They must also provide a safe environment for visitors and staff.

### County Security Unit

Their mission is to provide security for the Harford County government building as well as the county council chambers building. These deputies provide a safe and secure environment for all staff as well as citizens visiting the building for various functions of the county government.

### Records Unit

Records serves as the central point for data entry, compiling and coordinating court documents, police reports, arrest case files, expungements and criminal history information.

### Child Support Administration Unit

We received 598 summonses from the courts and served 452 of them for a service percentage of 75%.

### Planning and Research

Planning and Research is responsible for researching operational alternatives, providing strategic planning, and developing new programs and special projects. They also coordinate the development and revision of the Harford County Sheriff's Office's policies and procedures in accordance with legislative direction and best practices.



### Civil Unit:

Yearly Summons Received **20,393**  
 Yearly Summons Served **18,640**  
 Total Percentage Rate **91%**

### Warrant Unit:

Warrants Received **2347**  
 Warrants Served **1239**  
 Total Percentage Served **53%**



### Policy Management

- Policies
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)
- Special Orders

### Grant Management

- Grant Project Managers

### Training Academy

- Entrance Level Academies
- In-service
- Citizens' Police Academy
- Other Training opportunities

### Training Academy

In 2021, the Training Academy conducted one Entrance Level Academy, for Law Enforcement. In 2021, the Training Academy was responsible for 869 onsite training courses and trained members from 19 total agencies in these courses.



Major Lee Dunbar  
Bureau Chief



Captain Gonzalez  
Special Projects



Captain Crabbs  
Planning & Research



Captain Virden  
Court Services



## Investigative Services Bureau

### Criminal Investigations Division

Provides investigative services, both overt and covert, to support the Agency's mission of achieving public safety by conducting continuing investigations into matters of criminal activity and is responsible for identifying, apprehending and assisting in the prosecution of those individuals responsible for such criminal activity. Includes special investigative groups that focus on: issues related to child advocacy, vehicle theft and insurance fraud, forensic video analysis, victims' services, computer crimes, domestic violence, property crimes and major crimes.

### Forensic Services Unit

FSU is responsible for all forensic requests for both digital evidence, as well as physical evidence to include latent prints, photo arrays, tool marks, and crime scenes.

FORENSIC SERVICES UNIT (FSU)			
Crime Scene Response	242	Fingerprint Exams	61
Evidence Processing Requests	65	Firearms Operability Tests	103
Photo Array Construction	31	Digital Forensic Exams	267
Nibin Entries	94	Video Analysis Requests	175



### Office of Professional Standards 2021 Investigations {69 total}



### Property Management Unit (PMU)

In 2021, PMU took in over 5,861 pieces of unique evidence, conducted audits throughout the year to reduce excess inventory and improve accountability, and helped to implement new property submission protocol.

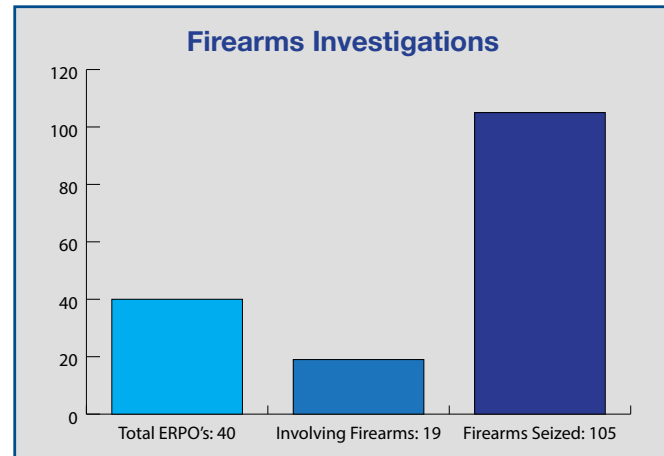
### Special Investigations Division

Provides investigative services, both overt and covert, to support the Agency's mission of achieving public safety by improving the quality of life for the citizens of Harford County. Enforces controlled dangerous substance laws through the investigation, identification, infiltration and dismantling of drug trafficking organizations operating within Harford County and surrounding jurisdictions. The division includes special investigative groups that focus on drug task force investigations.

In 2021, SID investigated 171 continued felony drug investigations with an additional 126 new investigations added, for a total of 297 felony drug investigations.



Firearms Seized	22
Total Value of Drug Seizures	\$827,094
Total Value of All Asset Seizures	\$234,277

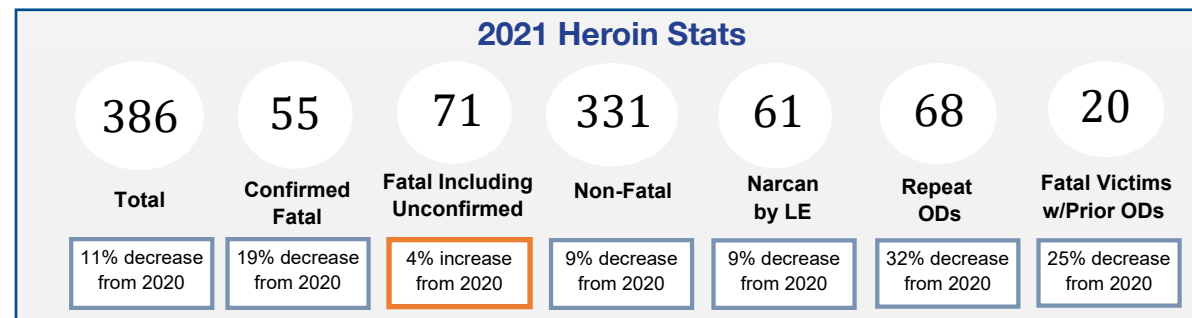
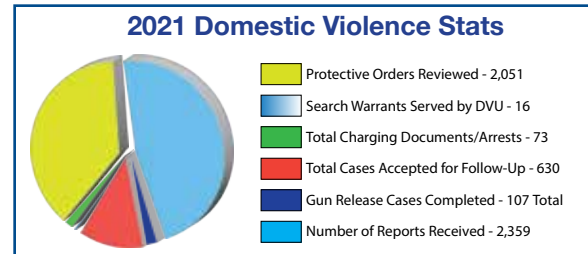
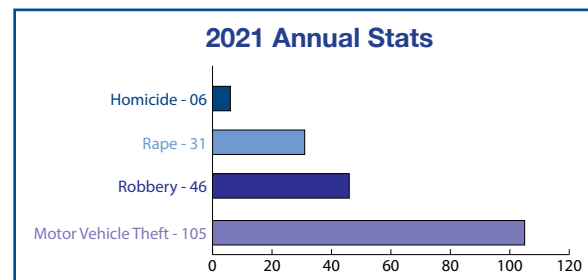


### Major Case Crimes Investigated

Crime	Total	Cleared-Arrest	Cleared-Other	Unfounded	Clearance Rate
Rape	22	3	6	5	63%
Robbery-Person	19	7	1	2	52%
Robbery-Business	4	0	0	0	0%
Homicides	6	4	0	0	66%
Assault 1 <sup>st</sup> Degree	20	11	1	2	70%
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	N/A
Non-fatal shootings	4	2	0	0	50%

### Property Crimes Investigated

Crime	Total	Cleared-Arrest	Cleared-Other	Unfounded	Clearance Rate
Burglary	54	12	0	2	26%
Auto Theft	72	10	1	3	19%
White Collar	37	3	0	7	27%
Theft over 25K	3	1	0	1	66%



## The Investigative Services Bureau is comprised of:

### Criminal Investigations Division

- Major Crimes Unit
- Forensic Services Unit
- Property Crimes Unit
- Criminal Analysis and Intelligence Unit
- Family Justice Center
- Child Advocacy Center
- Domestic Violence Unit
- Victim Services Unit

### Special Investigations Division

- Narcotics Task Force

### Office of Professional Standards



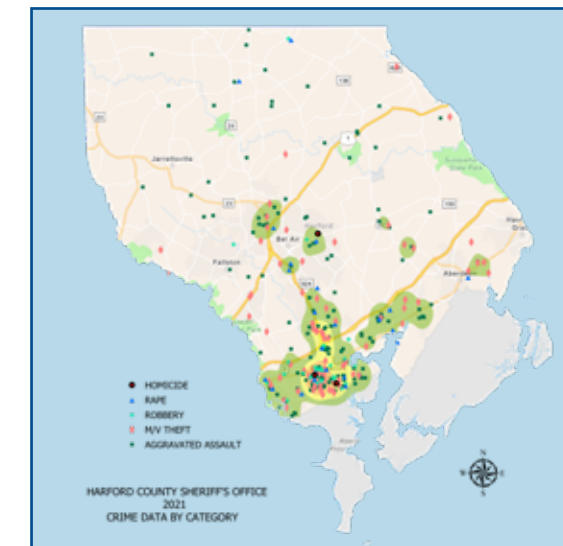
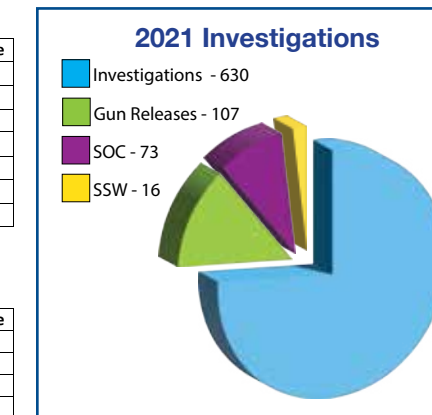
Major John Simpson  
Bureau Chief



Captain Penman  
Criminal Investigations



Captain Georgiades  
Special Investigations







## Correctional Services Bureau

In January 2021, Sheriff Jeffrey Gahler appointed the Harford County Detention Center its tenth Warden. Warden Daniel Galbraith retired from the Harford County Sheriff's Office as a Major in Law Enforcement with thirty-one years of service. Prior to that he worked for Havre de Grace Police Department and served in the United States Army.

The expansion and improvements at the Detention Center over the last twenty-five years allow for a holding capacity of approximately 820 inmates. The housing units also include Classification Intake, Medical and Restrictive Housing cells based on the needs of the inmate.

### Programs

The Harford County Detention Center provides all inmates to include administrative segregation and protective custody, access to programs and services which include, but are not limited to education, social services, counseling, religious guidance, library, and recreation. Programs provide meaningful activities that keep inmates constructively occupied and help contribute to the safe and secure operation of the Detention Center. In addition, programs provide skills that help to increase the inmate's probability of successfully reentering the community and reduce the likelihood that they will return to jail. Effective programming equals fewer victims and safer communities.

### Pretrial

Pretrial Services is a two-person unit who provide the Judge, the States Attorney, and the Public Defender with information on defendants when they have a bail review in District Court. Interviews with the defendants are conducted by the Pretrial unit

to obtain pertinent information regarding their residency, employment, education, substance abuse (if any), mental and physical health. Criminal histories, pending cases, failure to appear for court dates, violation of probation, number of arrests and convictions is also data forwarded to the court prior



to bail review. At bail review using all the documentation provided, decisions are made to determine if the defendant is held without bail, released on their own recognizance, or given a reasonable bond. The judge also has the option to release a defendant to Pretrial Services while in the community awaiting trial. All decisions are made with the safety of the community at the forefront and the likelihood of the defendant to appear in court for the trial date.

### Library

The Harford County Detention Center maintains a library within the security area for inmate use. Library services and access to legal resources are made available to all inmates, including inmates on segregation, medical and restricted housing. Inmates are also given the opportunity to have family or friends from outside the detention center mail in reading material (soft back & new) from one of our two approved book vendors, Books-A-Million, and Barnes and Noble.

### Interagency Processing Center/Booking

The Harford County Detention Center operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The Interagency Processing Center (IPC) is the location all individuals arrested in Harford County are brought to for their initial appearance before a District Court Commissioner. Once at the IPC, the arrestee is fingerprinted and photographed. Warrant checks are conducted on all subjects brought into the IPC, through local, state, and national databases. In January of 2021 the Harford County Detention Center purchased a body scanner which aids in the detection of contraband and weapons. The body scanner is thorough and less intrusive when searching arrestees whilst still providing an added safeguard for staff and other arrestees.

### Substance Abuse Behavioral Health Unit

The Substance Abuse Behavioral Health Unit (SBU) is a Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facility (CARF) accredited substance abuse treatment program for both males and females. The overarching goal of the program is to offer quality incarceration and rehabilitation, so the cycle of chronic substance use and criminality can be broken and to reduce overall recidivism rates. This is a program that is focused on addressing all areas of wellness (physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual), and includes supplemental community programs that are focused on meeting those needs. These programs are voluntary, and include Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and a spiritual mentorship program. Therapy modalities and curriculums used in the program are evidenced based. We place a considerable amount of energy and time focusing on self-esteem, identity, and purpose; we believe that helping an individual become aware of and live according to their full potential and purpose, allows them to build a life that is more conducive to recovery.

## The Correctional Services Bureau is comprised of:

### Operations Division

- Security
- Gang Unit
- Transport Unit

### Support Operations

- Records
- Classification
- Work Release
- Maintenance
- Inmate Programs
- Interagency Processing Center
- Community Services

### Community Services

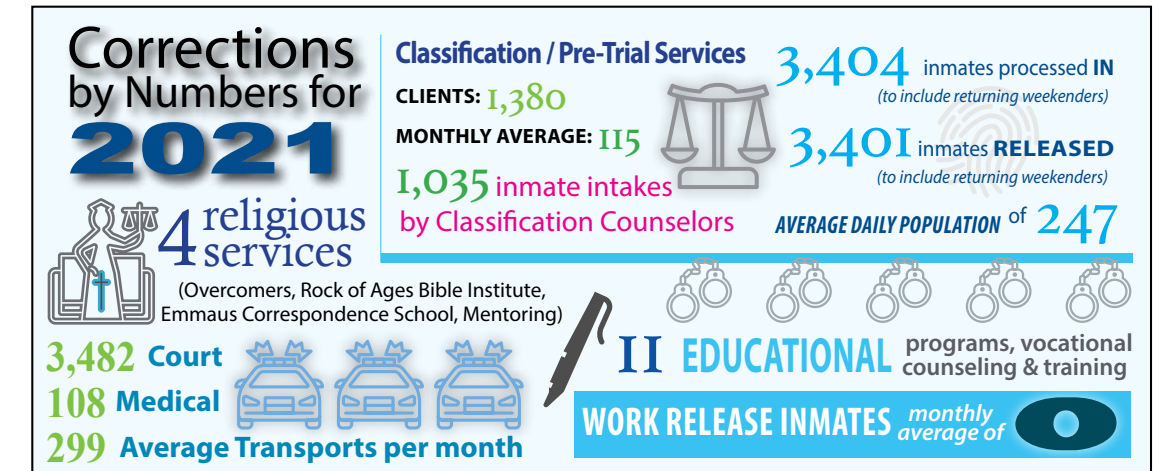
The Community Services Coordinator acts as the re-entry specialist for the Harford County Detention Center's inmate population. Working with numerous outside community agencies, the Community Services Coordinator aids in the re-integration of inmates back into the community they will reside upon their release. The Community Services Coordinator functions as a case manager for the inmate population and can be the navigator for those inmates dealing with the Courts, Parole and Probation and other judicial entities. Additionally, the Community Services Coordinator assists inmates with obtaining basic human needs such as food, shelter and health services and helps with transportation needs, mental and substance use treatment as well as employment opportunities and additional community referrals.

### Chaplain

The focus of the Chaplain's Office is to provide resources and spiritual support for inmates during their time at the Harford County Detention Center. They help inmates make a spiritual connection in the faith of their choice and help them with resources to develop a structured plan for re-entry into the community. Currently, there are 7 volunteer Chaplains that are also available to the inmates. Bibles, spiritual meetings, counseling, religious special diets, and worship services are all afforded to interested inmates.

### Classification

The Classification Unit utilizes an objective classification system to determine custody level and appropriate housing for inmates. Classification Counselors are the liaison between security staff and the inmate population. Classification is responsible for completing intakes, managing special confinement inmates, program recommendations and assignments



for details. Counselors work one on one with the inmate population to provide them with a quality incarceration by ensuring they are housed safely, afforded programs, and given opportunity to participate in details as permissible by their security level.

### K-9

The Harford County Detention Center is equipped with a K-9 that is utilized to maintain care, custody, and control at the facility. K-9 Wick is 4 years old and has been working for the Harford County Detention Center for approximately two and a half years alongside his handler Senior Deputy Forton. Senior Deputy Forton has been a K-9 handler for eleven years. K-9 Wick does random tours inside and outside of the Detention Center and is skilled in tracking, handler/deputy protection and CDS detection/recovery. Senior Deputy Forton and his partner K-9 Wick routinely, without notice scan detention center grounds, including vehicles in the parking lot. Preventing access to contraband inside the detention center is paramount.

### Transport Unit

The Transport Unit provides for a safe and secured transport of inmates to and from the Courts, Harford County Detention Center, and other correctional and medical facilities throughout the state. The Transport Unit is also utilizing the CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) for court appearances and medical interviews to accommodate the restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Gang Intelligence Team (GIT)

The Gang Intelligence Team (GIT) has been in operation at the Detention Center for over 10 years. During this time, the team has progressed and been tasked with overseeing and gathering intelligence within the Detention Center to address issues of assaults and contraband. In January of 2021, the efforts of the GIT began to expand. During this time, the team started to develop a close rapport with the Harford County Sheriff's Office Crime Suppression Unit (CSU), Criminal Investigations Division (CID), Special Investigations Division (SID) as well as the Domestic Violence Unit (DVU). The GIT has fostered relationships with the State's Attorney's Office as well as local municipalities. These new contacts and networking have led to an influx of information sharing, and an increase in collaboration to help combat crimes both within the Detention Center, as well as in our community.

The information being reviewed and shared through GIT has had a real impact in criminal cases being made to include the identification of gang members, crimes being committed, weapons being passed or sold, controlled dangerous substance (CDS) possession and/or distribution, violation of protective orders, and much more. The GIT has also largely focused its efforts on the prevention of CDS introduction into the Detention Center.



Daniel Galbraith  
Warden



Major Michael Siler  
Bureau Chief



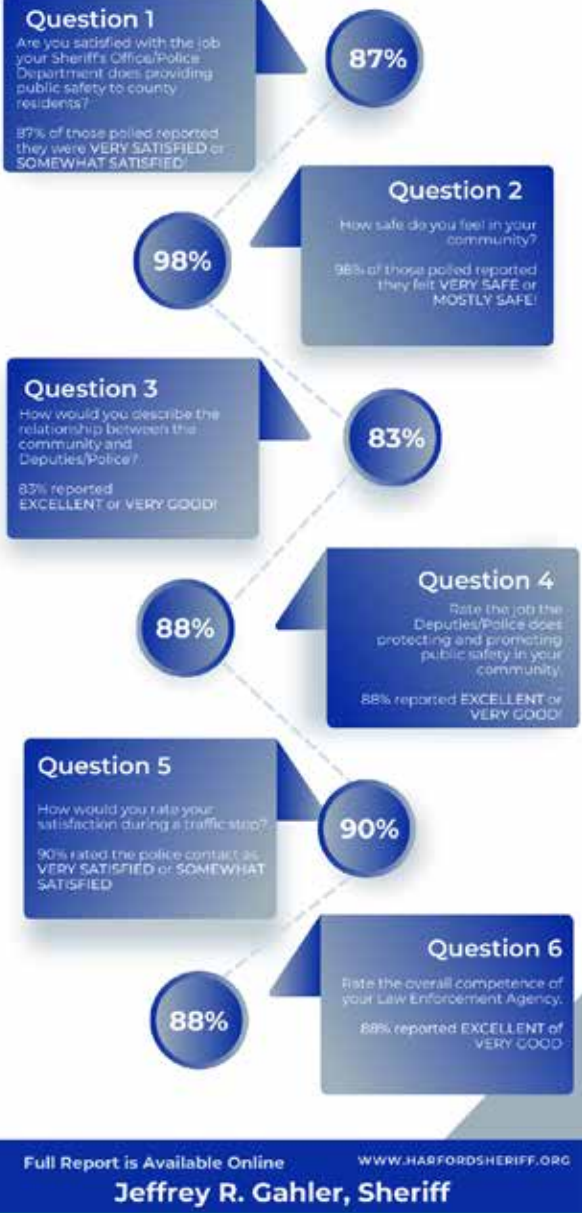
Captain Jenkins  
Operations



Captain Rumsey  
Support Operations

# Public Safety Survey RESULTS!

TOGETHER WITH OUR LOCAL TOWNS, AND THE COALITION FOR EQUAL JUSTICE, THE HCSO IS PLEASED TO RELEASE THE RESULTS OF A COMMUNITY SURVEY CONDUCTED BY EPIC MRI.



Central Precinct & Training Academy





follow us



[www.harfordsheriff.org](http://www.harfordsheriff.org)

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