

Teamwork is a cornerstone of a professional organization. As the Sheriff of Sandoval County, I have worked tirelessly with the Town of Bernalillo, Village of Corrales, City of Rio Rancho and other neighboring agencies with the motto "Us all being one TEAM that serves the Community".

- In my first year in office, I created the Street Crimes Taskforce, which is an Informational Sharing and Multi-jurisdictional Task Force of local and federal law enforcement agencies. Task Force Members stay in consistent communication with each other on issues such as drug trafficking, burglaries and crimes that effect Sandoval County as a whole. A recent example, is a case in the Town Of Bernalillo, where several individuals were arrested on State and Federal charges regarding methamphetamine, 5 firearms and 13 stolen vehicles. Street Crimes Taskforce also received national recognition that has been sent up to U.S. Congress about the teamwork efforts in solving a local murder.
- Cops Grant Awarded; Sandoval County has had continued population growth, new businesses and significantly increased traffic volumes over the past few years. All this directly contributes to increased needs from the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office has focused on aggressive recruiting and hiring in order to keep staff levels at maximum. In 2020 the Sheriff worked feverishly with County Officials and the County was able to obtain a COPS grant for (5)-five new deputy positions.
- The Sheriff's Office Standard Operating Policy as a whole is outdated and over 15 years old. Past administrations took the temporary approach of issuing Special Orders when individual problems arose, instead of rewriting the SOP to current standards. A Deputy has been tasked with a complete rewrite that will be compliant with today's national and state standards. Areas such as Vehicle Pursuit, Use of Force and Animal Welfare are just a few of the areas that have been incorporated recently.
- The Sheriff's Office has significantly increased the training deputies receive, in order to stay abreast of new laws and procedures and best police practices. This initiative includes several online training platforms that allow a Deputy's to train at their own pace, and in their vehicle sitting stationary. This allows deputies a significant increase of professional training, while visibly in their assigned district and readily available for a call for service.
- In the first few weeks of taking office, the Sheriff entered into a joint initiative with Community Services to improve Animal Welfare in Sandoval County. The Sheriff's Office has significantly increased Animal Protection efforts, to include the completion of a temporary animal shelter. We follow the No-kill, as a philosophical principle, and this year we have been extremely successful with our adoption program in finding homes for animal that were taken into our custody.
- In 2021, the Sheriff's Office initiated an Informational Sharing and Multi-jurisdictional program with Navajo Nation, in an effort to better address the issues that affect the safety of women, children and their families. Specialized units within the Sheriffs have completed a Navajo Police Commission Course and have Navajo Police cross commissions that provide jurisdictional authority on the Navajo Nation. Joint operations are ongoing with Navajo Nation, to include assisting with welfare checks on families and children that are staying off the reservation and assisting Cuba School District regarding Native American children that attend public school off the reservation.
- In 2019, the Sheriff's Office established its first K-9 Unit. Currently a Sergeant and a Deputy are assigned as K-9 operators. The dogs assigned to the K-9 operators were donated by the Hometown Foundation Inc. who supports Law Enforcement agencies with Police K-9s as well as to support them with vital safety equipment and training. The department's K-9 unit has proved invaluable in supporting deputies in the accomplishment of mission objectives. The K-9 unit also trains and works as a team with the Rio Rancho Police K-9 unit.
- In 2021, the Sheriff's Office entered into an agreement with the Cuba School District to provide a School Resource Officer "SRO" for the Cuba School District. The position is paid in full by the Cuba School District. The SRO an integral role in ensuring the physical safety of a school building and all inside, and is an important resource to protect, counsel, and mentor students.