SHERIFF

PROGRAM:
Special Operations

PROGRAM ELEMENT:
Domestic Violence

PROGRAM MISSION:
To provide law enforcement services to domestic violence victims by effecting swift service of Interim and Temporary Protective (or Exparte[a]) Orders, Protective Orders, and Temporary Peace Orders, and by performing "welfare checks" of victims[b]

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES SUPPORTED:
- Safe individuals and families
- Assistance to domestic violence victims
- Respect for the law

PROGRAM MEASURES	FY02 ACTUAL	FY03 ACTUAL	FY04 ACTUAL	FY05 BUDGET	FY05 ACTUAL	FY06 APPROVED
Outcomes/Results:						
Number of "welfare check" violations resulting in arrest[b]	8	2	9	5	1	5
Number of weapons seized as a result of Protective Orders	100	40	140	80	56	80
Service Quality:						
Percentage of Interim and Temporary Protective Orders within Montgomery County attempted within six hours of being brought to the Sheriff's Office	80	80	80	80	80	80
Percentage of Interim and Temporary Protective Orders within Montgomery County attempted within 12 hours of being brought to the Sheriff's Office	100	100	100	100	100	100
Percentage of Interim and Temporary Protective Orders served[c,d]	81	82	79	78	77	78
Percentage of Interim and Temporary Peace Orders served	83	82	78	77	84	77
Percentage of domestic violence victims issued cell phones when requested	100	100	100	100	100	100
Percentage of Interim and Temporary Protective Orders and Protective Orders entered into MILES and NCIC within 12 hours[e]	100	100	100	100	100	100
Efficiency:						
Interim and Temporary Protective Orders and Peace Orders served per workyear	119.6	106.2	115.9	106.4	120.3	109.8
Cost per Interim and Temporary Protective Order or Interim and Temporary Peace Order served ($)	531	662	632	668	618	735
Workload/Outputs:						
Number of Interim and Temporary Protective Orders and Protective Orders received and closed	2,131	2,006	2,497	2,380	2,637	2,486
Number of Interim and Temporary Protective Orders served[d]	1,728	1,653	1,980	1,850	2,020	1,910
Number of "welfare checks" completed[b]	4,998	4,803	5,340	4,440	4,848	4,831
Number of Interim and Temporary Peace Orders received and closed	1,085	1,076	1,382	1,470	1,613	1,762
Number of Interim and Temporary Peace Orders served	903	884	1,079	1,130	1,349	1,385
Number of ADT pendants issued[f]	16	3	6	12	21	12
Number of cell phones available for issue	500	500	500	500	500	500
Inputs:						
Expenditures ($000)	1,397	1,679	1,932	1,991	2,082	2,423
Workyears	22.0	23.9	26.4	28.0	28.0	30.0

Notes:

[a]Temporary Protective Orders were called Exparte Orders before December, 2002.

[b]Welfare checks involve efforts by Sheriff's deputies to ensure that victims are safe and court orders are being obeyed after the issuance of an Interim or Temporary Protective Order.

[c]The percentage of orders served includes orders served by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and orders served by neighboring law enforcement agencies at the request of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office (for persons who reside within the jurisdiction of those agencies). The measure is, therefore, only partly controllable by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

[d]Reasons for the Sheriff's inability to serve an Interim or Temporary Protective Order after it is received include an invalid address for the respondent, a respondent who is avoiding service, or a respondent who is not inside the County.

[e]MILES and NCIC are national law enforcement databases.

[f]ADT pendants are "panic buttons" that are worn around the neck of the victim. They can be used to summon help anywhere within a certain area of the victim's premises.

EXPLANATION:
The Sheriff's Office has recognized the importance of law enforcement's role in domestic violence. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is responsible for service of Protective Orders that are issued when victims of domestic violence seek relief from abusive situations. In FY00, the Maryland Legislature passed a law enabling victims who are unable to utilize the Protective Order process to file for Peace Orders. The Sheriff's Office serves these orders as well and treats them in the same manner as Protective Orders. On December 1, 2002, a new "interim" order was established. Interim Protective Orders (and Interim Peace Orders) are issued by a commissioner and are designed to provide quick but temporary protection lasting for a few days. The interim order is usually followed by issuance of a Temporary Protective Order (the old Exparte Order) or a Temporary Peace Order, both of which are issued by a judge and are good for seven days. After that period, the court can choose to approve an extended Protective (or Peace) Order.

The number of orders filed relating to domestic violence increased by 5.6% in FY05. Most victims are issued cell phones for calling 911, to give them an added line of defense. In addition, a partnership has been formed with ADT Security in order to provide ADT pendants ("panic buttons") to victims at especially high risk.

In FY99, at the request of District Court Judge Vaughey, the Sheriff's Office began "welfare checks" of petitioners. During the seven days that the Temporary Protective or Temporary Peace Order is valid, the petitioner is potentially in the most danger. Recognizing this fact, the Sheriff's Office performs four "welfare checks" of the petitioner - two by phone and two at the premises to ensure that the victim is safe and that the respondent is not violating the order. Many such orders require the respondent to vacate the premises, and violating that order can result in an arrest. In FY05, one respondent was arrested during a welfare check for violating a Temporary Protective Order by being on the premises when the deputies were there conducting a welfare check.

PROGRAM PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF OUTCOMES: District Court; Circuit Court; Abused Persons Programs; Maryland State Police; Montgomery County Police; ADT Security; Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

MAJOR RELATED PLANS AND GUIDELINES: Maryland Annotated Code 4-501 - 4-516, Article 27 Section 742, NCIC Code Manual, CJIS Reference Manual.