

I would like to begin by offering my deepest respect on behalf of the Fresno Deputy Sheriff's Association to the families of the 13 U.S. Service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan. The attack marked the deadliest day for US Forces since 2011. Our hearts are so saddened for the young lives abruptly cut short by a suicide bomber and the grief-stricken families now left behind. It's heartbreaking to read about the stories being shared about these troops who knew the risk, but signed up despite it and died while serving our great country.

There's a lot of mixed opinions and ultimately division in America right now. Not only related to President Biden pulling forces out of Afghanistan- but also the latest debate surrounding the Delta Variant and COVID vaccinations.

In California, we are also facing the recall of Governor Newsom.

As far as locally- there's no shortage of problems and issues at the Sheriff's Office as well. Currently our dispatch center is struggling with staffing shortages. The magnitude of this may prompt the Sheriff to look into how we continue to answer calls from the public. In patrol, mandatory overtime shifts are on the rise (for various reasons). Deputies are responding to the call for mutual aid, which is taking them to the fire ravaged areas of Northern California to assist.

Vaccines are now mandated in jails and medical facilities, which includes in the custody setting, which includes deputies guarding inmates in the hospitals- along with ID techs in the mug and print room.

Calls for service are up, caseloads are getting heavier, and our specialty units have no shortage of work.

Although many of us have taken an oath to serve our community-no matter the cost or sacrifice, the true people who are making the sacrifice are our families. The spouses, partners, children and loved ones who experience many meaningful moments, and everyday occasions without their loved one at home to share them. The risk and sacrifice of community service is compounded by the current short staffing. It means longer hours for deputies, dispatchers, detectives, etc. and less time with loved ones.

SB2 Concerns

Another battle currently facing California law enforcement officers is SB2. This bill is evolving and still constantly changing. Once we have a little more definitive language- I will brief you and put it into layman's terms so you all are aware of what the end result will mean for your POST certificate.

For those needing a refresher on SB2 (Bradford, Los Angeles) – it's the POST licensing bill that is going to take your POST certificate and make it a license. The last part of August has been filled with talks, emails, phone calls, and zoom meetings all related to SB2. When the final language is in place, I will send it out to you. This is not necessarily a bad thing, the details are what matter.

PORAC NEW HEADQUARTERS UNVEILED

On August 9, 2021, PORAC unveiled our new headquarters located in Natomas, a suburb of Sacramento. This building is a state of the art, two story, modern building with many functioning rooms for training, media, receptions and office space. This space will accommodate the various purposes PORAC serves and also is a place to invite lawmakers to learn more about PORAC, its goals, and how we can work together to make sure law enforcement is heard.

QUESTIONS ABOUT MANDATORY VACCINATIONS

I have been answering many calls from you with questions, comments, and concerns, about what the stance is going to be related to mandatory vaccinations. At this time, there is no mandatory vaccination requirement in Fresno County.

I have attached a great letter written by our FDSA Counsel - Messing, Adam and Jasmine, LLP. I encourage you all to read it- along with the letter authored by PORAC and supported by all of their panel attorney's (including MAJ).

Please feel free at any time to reach out to me regarding any of the above or other questions, concerns or conversation you want. I make myself available to all of you.

Fraternally,

Eric