



## **The California Parole Apprehension Team (CPAT) *Fugitive Apprehension Specialists for CDCR***

The California Parole Apprehension Team (CPAT) - created as part of the Governor's parole reforms - has arrested or located a record number of fleeing offenders in state parole history, since its formation in January 2010 by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

The new apprehension team was created in part through a reallocation of resources made possible by recent parole reforms. CPAT team members have received extensive training in fugitive apprehension, database searches, social networking, field tactics and firearms training at CDCR's Office of Correctional Safety Academy. CDCR has equipped CPAT with computer technology to help seek and find high-risk PALs, including locating deceased PALs or those taken into custody in other states. CPAT teams consist of a Regional Intelligence (Intel) Unit located in each of four regional offices and multiple field apprehension teams spread throughout the regions.

The establishment of CPAT is part of the recent parole reforms by the CDCR that directs more intense focus on those individuals that pose the most risk to public safety.

### ***Background:***



Attention to the issue of parolees-at-large in California heightened in 1995 when Deputy Frank Vasquez Trejo was shot and killed by a parolee with an extensive criminal history and member of an infamous prison gang. The uproar surrounding the death of the 35-year veteran officer, who was a father and grandfather, led to the passage of Senate Bill 856, which established 35 'non-ratio' parole agent positions specifically to target the apprehension of parolees-at-large.

At that time, 17,688 parolees were at large in California, which was 18.96% of the total parolee population or almost double the U.S. Department of Justice's national average of 10% for parolees who abandon parole. The efforts were considerably reinforced with the passage of SB3x18, which allowed the department to shift resources to apprehension efforts.

### ***Progress:***

**The current number of parolees-at-large, (13,387) is now (12.5%) of the total parolee population and a reduction of the parolees-at-large population of 15,929 in January 2010.**

**The current number of high control parolees-at-large is now 4,245 – a decrease from the 4,653 high control parolees-at-large in January 2010 when the CPAT team first started.**