



Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office

News Release

Sheriff's Office Welcomes Newest Sheriff's Chaplain

March 2, 2017

On March 1, 2017, Sheriff Jon Lopey administered the Oath of Office to Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) Chaplain Jim Jacobsen, the Pastor of Yreka's Four-Square Church. He and his wife and fellow Pastor Wendy, preside over their local church and Jim will devote some of his free time to SCSO's highly-acclaimed Chaplaincy Program. Jim is the newest chaplain to wear the SCSO uniform and will serve as one of ten chaplains on the Department.

The SCSO Chaplaincy Program was established in 1996 with five volunteer chaplains under the tutelage of Sheriff Charlie Byrd. In 2001, the chaplaincy program was upgraded when the SCSO's senior and Chief Chaplain, Keith Bradley, was paid half-time to coordinate the many duties and responsibilities of the volunteer chaplains. All SCSO chaplains are recognized clergy from local congregations located in most areas of Siskiyou County. SCSO Chaplains and their partners from other agencies are available for call-out 24 hours a day whenever needed for the numerous emergencies and often tragic events that their co-workers on SCSO and other law enforcement or other public safety agencies may encounter. Chaplains serve all law enforcement and emergency first responder agencies, including fire and emergency medical response personnel. They provide non-denominational ministry for support and spiritual counseling when requested. Services performed are numerous but include critical incident responses, post-traumatic incident counseling, and other crisis-related events. Chaplains often provide prayer and support at special events throughout Siskiyou County, including charitable events, public gatherings, veterans' events, and they often preside over memorial services for fallen first responders, deceased departmental and public safety retiree's, and military veterans.

Chaplains also serve the community by counseling, assisting, and supporting victims and witnesses of violent crimes, traumatic events, and they assist with death notifications, and often interact with first responders, family members, and associates victimized by suicides, homicides, hostage situations, kidnap incidents, catastrophic accidents, natural disasters, and other traumatic events through follow-up counseling, group debriefings, and individual compassion, care, and intervention strategies. There are also chaplaincy services provided to inmates in the Siskiyou County Jail and SCSO's and Probations Day Reporting Center.

There are currently 10 SCSO chaplains serving as part of the Sheriff's Office. Some chaplains also serve other law enforcement agencies in the county. According to Sheriff Jon Lopey, "We are pleased to welcome Chaplain Jim Jacobsen to the Department and I am certain he will make many positive contributions to the SCSO Chaplaincy Program and he

will have the unique opportunity to serve the entire public safety community and the citizens we serve in the years to come. Chaplain Jacobsen will join his son, Aaron, a Deputy Sheriff with the Department. All of our chaplains are volunteers and all provide an invaluable service to the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office, virtually all other public safety agencies at the federal, state, and local level in our county, and most importantly, they are often asked to respond to high-profile, catastrophic events at odd hours of the day and night at inopportune times to serve the Department, our public safety counterparts, and the citizens we serve. They are selfless servants of the people and provide countless services to others in need willingly and relentlessly without monetary compensation but their efforts have been an inspiration to all fortunate enough to know them. We are truly blessed to have such outstanding, dedicated, and selfless volunteers serving us and our communities.”

