

## RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY REPORT FORM

Report Title: Probation Officers: Arming for Safety

Report Date: June 9, 2008

Response by Marin County District Attorney, Edward Berberian

By: \_\_\_\_\_

### FINDINGS

- ♦ I agree with the findings numbered: 1 through 7
- ♦ I disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)**

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- ♦ Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have been implemented.  
**(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)**
- ♦ Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.  
**(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)**
- ♦ Recommendation Arming for Safety requires further analysis.  
**(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)**
- ♦ Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

**(Attach an explanation.)**

Date: 07/10/08

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Edward Berberian*

Number of pages attached 1

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4/12/09*

The arming of probation officers, even in a limited fashion, requires careful thought, planning and further analysis before implementation. The Marin County District Attorney believes increased field supervision of high risk probationers should be a high priority program goal for the Marin County Probation Department. In moving toward this program objective a thorough evaluation of the risks and program objectives needs to occur. To assure probation officer safety, all reasonable and appropriate safety equipment needs to be provided -- which may require the arming of the field supervision probation officers. These individuals are California peace officers and as such need to have the tools, skills and training to do their job safely and effectively.

Before moving to armed field supervision staff, the management team of the probation department needs to review and assess the current skill levels of the personnel who would be tasked with field supervision. Updated protocols and training need to be completed that address the field supervision of high risk probationers. Furthermore, coordination with the local law enforcement agencies needs to be addressed and a set of guidelines, mutually agreed upon, that addresses inter-agency assistance and expectations should be adopted. This process will likely take a number of months to accomplish and it is important to recognize that advance planning and preparation is essential to implementing any program that arms our county's probation officers.