

PRESS RELEASE
YOLO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Date:	June 17, 2008
Re:	Yolo County Deputy Murdered

On Sunday, June 15th, at approximately seven in the evening the Davis Police Department put out a 'be on the lookout' for Marco Topete who was reported to be driving under the influence with a child in the vehicle. At approximately nine-thirty that night Deputy Jose Antonio Diaz located the vehicle and attempted to stop it, but it failed to yield. Deputy Diaz pursued the vehicle into the town of Dunnigan, where it stopped on County Road 5 near County Road 99W in Dunnigan. After the stop was made Deputy Diaz called for emergency backup reporting he had been shot. The suspect, Marco Antonio Topete, age 35 of Arbuckle, fled on foot. A short time later backup deputies, fire units, and AMR arrived on scene.

Deputy Diaz was transported to Woodland Memorial Hospital where aggressive cardiopulmonary resuscitative efforts were made. He was pronounced dead at ten fifty-five Sunday night. Next of kin has been notified. Cause of death was a single gunshot wound of the left chest as determined by a forensic autopsy.

A massive search was conducted by the Sheriff's Department with the assistance of ground, K-9, SWAT, and air units from the FBI, California Highway Patrol, Sacramento, Colusa, and Sutter Counties, and from the West Sacramento, Davis, Woodland, Winters, and UC Davis Police Departments. Numerous law enforcement agencies offered their assistance and support for the Yolo County Sheriff's Department personnel.

At approximately eight Monday morning the suspect, Marco Topete was found by the Yolo County SWAT team near County Road 88 and County Road 4. He was arrested without incident and charged with first degree murder at the Monroe Detention Center. Topete was then transported to the Sacramento County jail where he will be held until his arraignment on Wednesday, June 18th, at 1:30pm in Department 9, at the Yolo County Courthouse.

Deputy Jose Antonio Diaz, age 37, was sworn in as a Yolo County Deputy Sheriff on August 23, 2004, and had worked for the Yolo County Information Technology Department for several years prior to his appointment. Deputy Diaz was a Woodland resident and the father of three girls, ages two, four, and sixteen.

"This is a dark day for Yolo County," stated Sheriff Ed Prieto Monday morning. "Deputy Diaz was a very kind man; his life taken away at such a young age. He will be missed and our hearts go out to his family."

Many citizens and agencies have offered their assistance, support, and financial aid for the department and the slain deputy's family. The Deputy Sheriff's Association is in the process of setting up a trust fund. Information will be available regarding funeral arrangements later this week.

The department wishes to thank the public, the media, law enforcement agencies throughout the nation, and all others who have taken the time to contact us with their condolences and support.