

# **Riverside County Sheriff's Department - Evidence Management**

## **Background**

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department has the responsibility to keep the peace, maintain county detention facilities, serve civil process and provide the courts with related policing services.

An important element of basic law enforcement is the management of evidence and property collected during criminal investigations and arrests. Items collected include currency, drugs, firearms, intellectual property and a broad range of other goods. The proper collection, identification, storage, accountability and disposal of these items are essential to the judicial process. This requires facilities with adequate space, appropriate security and climate controls.

## **Findings**

- 1.Procedures covering the management of evidence and property have been developed within the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. However, these procedures have not been consistently adopted or fully implemented at all facilities.
- 2.There are procedural discrepancies involving storage, record keeping, security and an absence of periodic management audits.
- 3.Accumulation of evidence and property exceeds the disposal levels.

## **Recommendations**

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department:

- 1.Establish centralized management responsibility to ensure uniform implementation and compliance with adopted procedures.
- 2.Provide for audits on a random basis in addition to the regular audit.
- 3.Enforce the existing procedures for the collection, identification, storage and disposition of all evidence and property items.