

Sheriff's departments have highest-paid local government workers

By Brad Branan, Sacramento Bee

David Keyes didn't wear a suit or work in an executive office, but he was the capital region's highest-paid local government employee in 2013.

As a captain in the Placer County Sheriff's Office, Keyes received a base salary of \$122,000, according to recently released data from the State Controller's Office. When he retired in November 2013, Keyes also received \$150,000 for unused sick time, \$19,000 for unused vacation and \$64,000 for other incentives, boosting his final-year pay to \$355,000.

Keyes, 53, did not return messages from the *Sacramento Bee*. Since retiring, he has been able to enjoy his longtime hobby of photography, according to a website showcasing his work.

Keyes' law enforcement sector has more people than any other category on the region's list of 1,000 highest-paid local government employees, The Bee found in an analysis of the State Controller's Office 2013 data. In Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer and Yolo counties, 237 sworn employees from sheriff's departments and 57 sworn officers from police departments were on the list.

Sworn personnel from sheriff's departments received an average of \$106,000, compared to \$73,000 for all local government employees in the region, the analysis found.

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