Williams funds sheriff's deputies

By Kathy Parrish staff writer

Commerce Township will get two more sheriff's deputies because of nu-clear arms protests at Williams Inter-national there.

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Protests typically last two hours on Monday afternoons.

SINCE JANUARY 1983 Williams In-ternational has been the target of sev-eral Michigan peace groups. At least once a week nuclear arms protesters gather outside the 60-arms research, de-velopment and manufacturing facility at 2260 W. Maple.

'The shariff's department ranks are a little thin out here . . . if something did happen we'd like somebody close by." -spokesman for William International,

Walled Lake defense contractor Williams' 1,450 employees also man-diracture turbles engines for cars and trucks, industrial gas turblnes and low-pollution turbles for generating elec-tric power from natural gas and cosi. A version of the cruise missile engine is used in WASP II, a small, one-person stying device. The Aug. 9, members of Covenant for Peace jumped the defense suppliers destruction at Nagasati. From Nov. 28 to Dec. 3 peace groups fried to block the firm's driveway each morning: as employees arrived for work. Filly-one people were arrested down of the service of the service of the to block the firm's driveway each morning as employee arrived for work. Filly-one people were arrested down to block the firm's driveway each morning the service of the service of the block the firm's driveway each morning the service of the service of the block the firm's driveway each morning the service of the service of the block the firm's driveway each morning the service of the servic

responding quickly in case of a prob-iern. "The sheriff's department ranks are a tille thin out here. And they cover such a wide area," he carphaned. "Just on general principle, if some-thing did happen we'd like somebody close by." He said the defense supplier offered to pay for the catra deputies, who will help direct plant traffic onto Maple. There is no light on the mile road at Williams because there is one pearby at Welch.

COMMERCE TOWNSHIP Supervi-sor Robert H. Long agrees the area has "minimum" law enforcement. With two added deputies, the town-ship will be patrolled by 11. Its aheriff patrol is second to Avon Township, which has 19 contracted deputies. Other townships the sheriffs depart-ment contracts with are Addison, 3; Brandon, 6; Highland, 6; Independence, 6; Lyon, 5; Oakland, 3; Orion, 6; and Springfield, 2.

"This will really help us out," added ong, who would like to see more com-anics pick up the tab for police pro-

"I think it's a very good way. Where there is a business, it might be consid-ered more in other areas," he suggest-

ed, "Companies could even band togeth-er to pay for law enforcement." Long said the sheriff's deputies will respond to residenti' calls but they will slay in the township's south end near the defense supplier's property. "Williams is a very important do-fense project and they do want some-one available if needed," he explained.

WHILE UNUSUAL, the patrol ar-rangement is not unique. Capt. James Curtis said the sherif's department also provides deputies to Pine Knob and once made them available at the Silverdome. Deputies work summers at Pine Knob on overtime. "Williams has its own security force. We'll just be patrolling the roads adja-cent to their property," explained Curtis.

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Curtis. Explained Curtis. Curtis capatrol chief said the two new Commerce officers will be deputies transferred to corrections last year when there were department cutacks. Of 17 men cut or transferred, nine patrolinen are still working in corrections the curtic transferred curt

He atreased the two new shifts will give the township better coverage.

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