

ALL POINTS BULLETIN



VOLUME 1, NO. 3, 1991

Polk Sgt. Susan S. Goreck Named 1991 FSA Deputy Sheriff of the Year

At a ceremony held July 9th at the 78th Annual Conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association, Polk County Sgt. Susan S. Goreck was named the 1991 FSA Deputy Sheriff of the Year. The award was presented in Orlando, and it included an attractive plaque and a check for \$1,000.

Sgt. Goreck was given the award for her role in the successful investigation, arrest and prosecution of a man who poisoned his next door neighbors.

In October, 1988, a then healthy 41-year old Polk County woman by the name of Peggy Carr was suddenly stricken with severe leg cramps and nausea. Her teen-age son and step-son were stricken with similar symptoms shortly thereafter.

While Mrs. Carr languished in a coma for at Winter Haven Hospital, an extensive medical investigation determined that all three had been poisoned with thallium nitrate, a toxic and difficult to obtain heavy metal that bonds readily with other chemicals to form a lethal substance.

Mrs. Carr died as a direct result of the poisoning some five months later, touching off what local news accounts would later describe as the largest crimi-



FSA President Earl S. "Sermon" Dyess (right) presents the 1991 FSA Deputy Sheriff of the Year Award to Sgt. Susan S. Goreck while her boss, Polk County Sheriff Lawrence Crow congratulates her for a job well done.

nal investigation in Polk County history.

In the ensuing investigation, it was found that the poisoning was accomplished by introducing the thallium nitrate into bottles of Coca-Cola found in the Carr family's refrigerator, re-capping the bottles, and placing them back in the refrigerator.

One of the fifty individuals from Polk County Sheriff's Office assigned to the case was Sgt. Susan Goreck. When the investigation began to focus on suspect George Trepal, Sgt. Goreck approached him in an undercover capacity.

Trepal is an extremely intelligent individual, evidenced by his membership in the Polk County Chapter of the Mensa Society, an exclusive group of individuals who possess unusually high I.Q.'s.

For the next fifteen months, Sgt. Goreck placed herself in extreme danger by establishing a strong friendship with

the suspect. Sgt. Goreck even went so far as to share meals with the suspect, and placed herself in a position of close trust with him.

Quoted in a Polk County newspaper, Polk County Sheriff Lawrence Crow stated, "Sgt. Goreck was doing a very dangerous job, and she suffered personal hardship and family conflict for the fifteen months of the investigation."

In fact, Sgt. Goreck could not go out at night by herself or be seen with her family during the entire investigation for fear of being discovered and chance becoming one of Trepal's victims herself.

As a direct result of information and evidence gained through Sgt. Goreck's efforts, George Trepal was indicted for First Degree Murder in April of 1990, later convicted, and sentenced to death in March of this year.

Within the past few weeks, the story

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rights of Sgt. Goreck and Detective Ernie Mincey and how they cracked the case have been sold for \$125,000 to a production company in Hollywood. According to the terms of the contract, most of the made-for-television movie that will result will be filmed on location in Polk County.

\$50,000 of the total will be given to Polk County's Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program, commonly called the "D.A.R.E." Program.

The family of Peggy Carr, the woman who was so cruelly murdered, will receive the balance of the proceeds.

"Sgt. Goreck has brought pride to herself, her family and the Polk County Sheriff's Office", noted J. M. "Buddy" Phillips, Executive Director of the Association. "We extend a hearty congratulations for a job well done"!

Two "Finalists" were also recognized for outstanding investigative skills

ORLANDO — Plaques honoring two other deputy sheriffs as "Finalists" were presented to the Sheriffs who employ them, so formal award ceremonies could be held in their home counties.

Escambia County Sheriff Charlie Johnson accepted a finalist award on behalf of Law Enforcement Specialist Albert H. Mezza, for the investigation of physical and mental abuse, as well as financial exploitation of an elderly female.

Mezza found that three members of a family had moved into the home of the victim under the guise of "looking after her welfare". In fact, they kept the woman "over-medicated" for over three years with drugs obtained through forged prescriptions while they methodically stole nearly \$1/2 million from her savings and checking accounts, and, through forgery, thousands of dollars from her U. S. Savings Bonds. Mezza's investigation has already resulted in 131 felony convictions against one of the three defendants. This suspect was sentenced to fifty (50) years in prison on July 3, 1991, and the

court proceedings have begun against the remaining two suspects.

Mezza recovered \$167,000 of the woman's money during the course of the investigation, and she is back safe in her home in Escambia County.

Pinellas County Sheriff Everett Rice accepted a finalist award for Detective Cpl. Patricia A. Juhl.

Juhl is an experienced homicide investigator, and the rapport she has gained with the prime suspect (who is on death row in a prison outside Florida), may

clear as many as twenty homicides committed in seven different states during the past eleven years.

Detective Juhl persuaded the inmate to cooperate with the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit. This group, recently portrayed in the hit movie, "Silence of the Lambs," gathers data on serial killers. Juhl gained the inmate's consent to participate in a 6-hour taped interview which will be used both as a training and investigative tool by homicide investigators across the country.

Sarasota Uses "Teen Court"

Sarasota County is currently experimenting with "Teen Court", and it's working quite well, according to Sheriff Geoffrey Monge.

Teen Court is based upon the philosophy that a youthful violator will not continue to be an offender when a peer jury decides punishment. Evidence from many cities seems to indicate that young people not only stay out of trouble following appearance in Teen Court, but that hundreds of thousands of dollars are saved by the community.

Officially sanctioned by the local judiciary, Teen Court is also a way for first offenders to keep their record clean. The jury, made up entirely of teens, does not decide innocence or guilt; it only sentences. The youth going before the teen jury must plead guilty (with parent's or guardian's consent). After the plea, the offender accepts the sentence and successfully completes it. Once that is accomplished, the charges are dismissed and the offenders pay no fine.

Cases coming before Teen Court include school offenses, traffic violations, misdemeanors such as shoplifting, vandalism and disorderly conduct.

The defendant must be between the ages of 11 and 17, and have a parent or guardian present, is sworn to tell the truth (perjury is recognized as a serious offense) and sits in the witness box. Circuit Judge Paul E. Logan introduces the defendant to the teenage jurors and informs them of the charges which have



been admitted to by the defendant. After hearing the evidence presented by the teenage prosecutor and defense attorney, the jury retires to the deliberation room where they decide an appropriate sentence. Upon returning to the courtroom, the Judge reviews the sentence, reconvenes the court, calls the defendant before the bench and passes sentence.

Sentences need not be unique, but they usually fit the offense. Sentences have included working as a volunteer in one of the many community service organizations, or working for the victim for a certain number of hours to repay damages. The defendant may reject the sentences assessed by the teen jury and elect to go before Juvenile Court. Usually, Judge Logan accepts the sentence of the teen jurors, but he has the option to alter it if he feels that undue humiliation or degradation might occur, or the sentence is too severe or too lenient.

In order to find prospective jurors, the Coordinator of Teen Court solicits for volunteers from the local high schools. And, as a condition of their sentence, all defendants must agree to serve on the teen jury at least once.

If you'd like to learn more about the program, call Fay Rice, Teen Court Coordinator at (813) 951-5700.

"Deliberate Indifference" New Standard for Jail Suits

By Maury Kolchakian,
General Counsel
Florida Sheriffs Association

The United States Circuit Court for the Sixth Circuit recently issued a significant decision regarding inmate lawsuits. On June 17, 1991 the Federal appeals court ruled in *Wilson v. Seiter, et al.*, (No. 89-7376), that:

"A prisoner claiming that the conditions of his confinement violate the Eighth Amendment must show a culpable state of mind on the part of prison officials. An intent requirement is implicit in that Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment. Wilson's suggested distinction between "short-term" or "one-time" prison conditions (in which a state-of-mind requirement would apply) and "continuing" or "systematic" conditions (where official state of mind would be irrelevant) is rejected."

The Court hereby imposed a new standard under which to evaluate inmate claims concerning jail conditions. The Court ruled that the "deliberate indifference" standard applied in *Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97, 106, to inmate claims involving medical care now applies to any prisoner challenges involving conditions of confinement. The Court found no merit to the inmate's contention that the deliberate indifference standard should be applied only in cases involving personal, physical injury. The decision disagreed with the inmate's argument that a malice standard is appropriate in cases challenging conditions. Accordingly, the Court held that the "wantonness" of officials' conduct depends not on its effect on the prisoner, but on the constraints facing the officials.

Perhaps a ruling of this nature is indicative of a new judicial atmosphere that will henceforth allow jailers to effectively and efficiently operate their facilities without being unreasonably impeded by frivolous inmate challenges.

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Tom Berlinger



Our lead story this month is about the 1991 FSA Deputy Sheriff of the Year — Sgt. Susan Goreck of Polk County. After hearing the details of the unusual undercover role she assumed to solve the murder by poison case which won her the award, I created a mental image of the type of person she must be.

Then, I had the privilege of meeting Susan at the FSA conference in Orlando the night she was honored. Given the extremely dangerous task she was facing, I was expecting a rambunctious, hardened "cop type" who, simply put — was a bigger con than the guy she was investigating. Boy, was I wrong!

Instead, I found a rather quiet, unassuming wife and mother of two boys who could easily be mistaken for the "lady next door." As I think about it now, that's exactly why she was such an integral part of sending George Trepal, a "genius" by any yardstick, and a person who committed the "perfect crime" — to Florida's death row.



On another note, FSA has sought and received the okay from the sixty-seven Sheriffs of Florida to establish a new membership classification in our Association — the "Law Enforcement" affiliated membership. The details regarding eligibility for membership, the dues structure, and member benefits are being assembled at this time. We will announce them in a future edition of APB. Watch for the details!



We're still looking for articles to publish in future editions of APB. Please call me if you're unsure about what to send, whether or not there is statewide interest in what you'd like to submit, etc. Clear contrast black and white photos with descriptive captions are considered as well, even without a full-length story. The FSA telephone number is (904) 877-2165.

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Sheriff
Tom
Tramel III
with Zero
Tolerance
T-shirts and
WARNING
posters.

Columbia Counties' "Zero Tolerance" Adopted Statewide

In a recent meeting of the FSA, the Sheriffs voted to adopt Columbia County's "Zero Tolerance" Anti-Drug Program for statewide use by any sheriff's office in Florida. The article which appears below originally appeared in the Sheriff's Star magazine. It provides a great overview of what "Zero Tolerance" is all about.

LAKE CITY — If a drug dealer gets "busted" in Columbia County, he won't be able to say he wasn't warned.

There are signs at the county line that say "Zero Drug Tolerance."

Hundreds of people, young and old, are wearing T-shirts that display Zero Tolerance in big, bold letters.

Lake City's daily newspaper and three radio stations have been giving Zero Tolerance warnings day by day and night by night.

WARNING posters feature "mug shots" of convicted cocaine dealers,

and urge citizens to report drug dealers on a Zero Tolerance hot line (752-Dope).

Is this merely sound and fury, or is there some real substance behind all the hullabaloo? Sheriff Tom Tramel III answers:

"Zero Tolerance means illicit drug activity is no longer tolerated at any level, in any amount, or in any area of our county. A drug-free county is our goal. Zero Tolerance is the means we will use to accomplish this goal."

How will it be accomplished?

"It will be accomplished through an absolute commitment by everyone — law enforcement, citizens, businesses, local government, civic clubs and organizations to take whatever action is reasonable and necessary to eradicate the use and sale of illicit drugs.

"Anti-drugs education and strict enforcement of laws pertaining to illicit drugs will also be important factors.

"Alternatives to the criminal justice

system will be provided for those who genuinely seek timely help with their drug problems.

How will individuals be involved?

"By participating in drug education and prevention programs, and by making a commitment to support Zero Tolerance in their families and businesses. They will also have opportunities to support aggressive law enforcement efforts by reporting any suspicious activity to law enforcement officials. A special 'drug hotline' has been established for that purpose.

Explain your strategy

"Anyone caught in possession of any amount of a contraband/illicit drug will be arrested and the highest reasonable bond will be set.

"Vehicles, homes and property used in illegal drug activity will be seized subject to provisions of the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act.

"All individuals convicted of felony drug violations will have their photos, names, addresses and descriptive information printed in the newspaper and on posters distributed throughout the county. Similar information will be announced on three local radio stations.

"Intensified law enforcement efforts spearheaded by the Sheriff's Office TAC [Tactical] unit will be maintained in all areas of the county.

What role will businesses play?

"The County Commission has passed a resolution creating a nine-member 'Zero Tolerance Commission' to establish criteria for businesses that want to qualify for Zero Tolerance certification. Bill Miller, District Secretary for the Florida Department of Transportation, is the chairman.

Once this commission establishes the criteria, businesses that qualify will be awarded appropriate credentials identifying them as Zero Tolerance certified.

How has the public reacted?

"In my wildest imagination I never dreamed that this program would take off like it has. I think the indication is that people are fed up with the drug situation. They're sick and tired of it.

"We are selling Zero Tolerance T-

continued on next page

shirts as fast as we can order them. The first order was for 1,800. The second order was for 500 and almost all of those were committed as soon as the order went in.

"Businesses are buying them for their employees to wear on Fridays. Every Friday has been designated as Zero Tolerance Day by the County Commission.

"We have been flooded with phone calls supporting the program, and our 'Drug Hotline' has been inundated with calls from citizens who want to give us anonymous tips and information about the drug situation.

Is Zero Tolerance working?

"If you look at the areas where there was once a high concentration of drug activity and you see that the streets are now clear of it; when you find people in neighboring counties complaining because our former drug dealers are there now; that tells me that at the very least, we have run many of them out of our county.

"Although we have maintained our usual level of intensity in pursuing drug violators, we are actually seeing a decrease in the number of drug arrests. That would indicate one thing. Many of our usual suspects are no longer here, and there are fewer people using drugs. We have obviously dried up sources and, it's working."

\$moking Employees Pose Cost Risks

Most smokers are aware of the physical damage their habit inflicts — chronic cough, cancer and heart disease — but more and more employers are recognizing the economic consequences of hiring smokers.

In the Worksite Wellness Media Report published by the Washington Business Group on Health, researchers say that businesses lose \$25 billion annually in productivity due to smoking. Another \$16 billion is spent each year on smoking-related medical costs, nearly half of which is paid by businesses.

Other frightening statistics from the report include:

- Smokers are 50 percent more likely

Jailing Cars: A Judicial Response to Jail Crowding

Most municipal and county court judges will tell you that the two types of cases that cause the most problems are domestic violence and driving under suspension. Both types of cases often involve defendants who are repeat offenders. It seems that no matter what we do, people will continue to be abusive and people will continue to drive without licenses.

Both types of cases often involve defendants who share a common characteristic — they are young males. In our court, we have developed a program aimed at young male offenders who drive under suspension and/or without a license. This program is called "CAR JAIL." The program works like this. If a repeat offender has a car titled in his/her name, we order the car put in storage for a period of four months to a year as a condition of probation. Usually, the suspended jail sentence is 45 to 90 days. The car must be placed in storage within ten days of the sentencing and the registration and license plates delivered to the court. The defendant keeps the keys so that he can start the car while it is in storage to prevent possible damage to the car's engine. The car is stored at a facility that is located in the jurisdiction. Periodically, the probation officer contacts the facility to make sure that the defendant's car is there and the defendant has paid for storage. If a defendant obtains a license while the car is in storage, the car is released back to the defendant. In the words of a local newspaper, "We give it shock probation."

The program is not for every defendant charged with a license violation. We

to be hospitalized than are non-smoking employees.

- Smokers lose 80 million work-days a year due to their habit and their absenteeism rates are 50 percent higher.

- Employers pay an average of \$300 more in insurance claims for smokers than for non-smokers.

do not use it in cases where another person needs the car for his employment, nor in cases where there is a second vehicle titled in the defendant's name. In cases where we do use it, a condition of probation is that the defendant not title another car in his/her name while the car is in storage.

At a time when jail crowding is an ongoing problem for municipal and county court judges, this program may offer an effective option for dealing with certain defendants. It should be kept in mind that this program has not yet been reviewed by an appellate court. Some judges take the position that they cannot impose car storage as a condition of probation because it has not been authorized by the Ohio General Assembly. To my knowledge, car storage has only been used by my court, Hamilton County Municipal Court, and may be in use by a county court in Morrow County. Our court was the first one to use this program starting in 1990. Therefore, there have not been many opportunities for appellate review. I believe that an appellate court would uphold car probation if it were used in traffic cases where operation of the vehicle is an element of the crime. I believe that it passes the test for a valid condition of probation set forth in *State v. Livingston* (1976), 53 Oh App. 2d 195.

The challenges to the justice system caused by jail and prison crowding require innovative responses. I believe that the appellate courts in Ohio will not handcuff trial judges who experiment with conditions of probation that are alternatives to incarceration.

— Judge James L. Kimbler,
Wadsworth Municipal Court

Reprinted from *American Jails*,
July/August, 1991.

- Smokers have twice as many job-related accidents as non-smokers. These have been attributed, in part, to loss of attention, hand occupation, eye irritation and coughing.

SOURCE: Tallahassee Community Hospital Communications Newsletter, Sept./Oct. 1990

By Reason of Insanity

By Major Ralph Page, Director,
Dept. of Special Services, Broward S.O.

Clad in jeans and a T-shirt, Deputy Edward Jensen sucks in his breath as he and his partner James Stephens walk up the drive of a small, unassuming Lauderhill, Florida home. Dressed in combat gear, a man answers the knock and stands peering suspiciously through a small crack in the door.

"What do you want," he asks.

"I'm with the phone company. We're checking all the houses on the street. We think we've got a problem," Jensen answers.

"All right, but hurry it up," he says, swinging the door open to allow Jensen and Stephens into his home.

Exchanging a look of relief, the two deputies slip through the opening and quickly respond to their one window of opportunity. The two wrestle the large man to the floor and cuff his hands firmly behind his back. A loaded semi-automatic rifle is visible in the room, propped against the wall nearest the door.

Earlier that day, BSO's Baker Act Team had received a tip. The man, a mental patient, knew they were coming and had planned to take one or both of the deputies out.

"It was a close call," said Jensen, who is one of four deputies assigned to the team. In 1990, the unit responded to over 1,700 calls involving crimes or incidents perpetrated by Broward County's growing number of mentally ill. Each member of the team has undergone special training to equip him for the highly volatile patrol.

"We get called in whenever a citizen is dysfunctional and is believed to be a danger to himself or others. Ninety per-

cent of the time, we can convince the person to surrender and turn over any weapons. We're trained to deal with these situations. It's a much more humane approach than automatically placing the person under arrest," said Jensen.

"Typically, we take them into custody and transport them to an appropriate mental health treatment facility for evaluation," he said.

Jensen indicated that approximately



Left to right: Dep. James Stephens and Dep. Edward Jensen staff BSO's Baker Act Unit, which responded to over 1,700 calls in 1990.

40 percent of the calls received by the team involve persons so heavily under the influence of drugs or alcohol they have lost control of themselves and are acting out.

The unit was formulated nearly seven years ago, in response to a sharp increase in the number of crimes involving the mentally ill. Police departments and agencies throughout the County regularly rely upon the unit.

"Most law enforcement officers are uncomfortable responding to these calls. They can be very dangerous and are almost always difficult. We have a lot of experience dealing with people in the throes of active psychosis and are thus able to minimize the risks," Jensen said.

"A few months ago, I was called out on a case involving a teenage boy who had failed to make good marks in school," said Jensen.

"In order to avoid telling his parents, he intended to commit suicide. I was able to talk him into coming with us and consequently was able to get him some professional help.

"I know we deal with some tough issues, but if I can save just one life in the course of doing my job, the difficulties are far outweighed by the benefits," he said.

It's estimated that more than one-third of the people ordered into confinement and picked-up by the unit are recidivists, those who have been incarcerated by the team on one or more occasions in the past. As a prevention measure, deputies conduct routine follow up visits with many of the people previously taken into custody.

"I feel we really do help people. If we can get to them before things get out of control then we've done our jobs," Jensen said.

L. A. Sheriff Bills Radio Station for Hoax

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has billed KROQ-FM \$12,171 for time spent investigating an on-air murder confession that was later exposed as a hoax.

The bill included charges for 149 hours two officers spent on the case after an anonymous caller to a morning radio show confessed killing his girl friend.

According to the station's manager, "We've offered from the outset to pay the costs."

Courtesy of *National Information Officers Association Newsletter* - July, 1991

Animal Cruelty Taking a Toll on Florida Residents

By Major Ralph Page, Director,
Dept. of Special Services, Broward S.O.

Detective Christina Snyder answers a ringing phone and begins foraging through the mound of paperwork on her desk.

"Here it is," she says, holding up the report on today's special, an animal cruelty case involving the torture and butchering of a dog. Later that same day, a 22-year-old suspect, described by neighbors as a trouble making-loner and a bully, was charged with the crime. BSO's Agricultural Crimes and Animal Abuse Unit, in operation since 1982, investigates 400 such cases every year.

"Criminals who commit heinous, premeditated acts on animals may escalate their activities to include people. There is an indisputable link between this behavior and violence against human beings," said Sgt. Sherry Schlueter, head of the Unit.

"The evidence strongly suggests that animal cruelty is but a prelude, a dress rehearsal, for intensified savagery later on.

"We know that many serial killers brutalized animals before they brutalized people. We shouldn't dismiss these crimes, but should monitor the offenders very, very closely," she said.

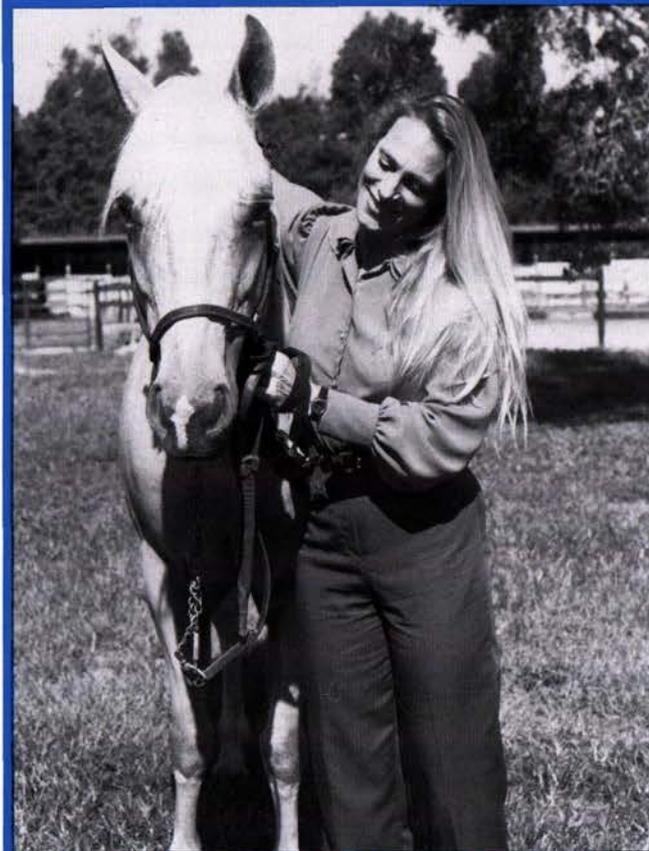
In addition to investigating acts of deliberate cruelty against animals, the Unit responds to hundreds of neglect cases each year. Recently, members of the unit were called to an isolated Broward County area, where they discovered four caged boars left for dead. The owners had apparently abandoned the animals weeks earlier.

"Originally, there had been five pigs, but the animals were so starved they literally ate one of the boars in the cage.

They had been cannibalizing each other in order to survive. It was a real mess," said Detective Donald Banas, who is assigned to the Unit.

The Unit has also been proactive in slowing the trade of diseased and neglected puppies to unsuspecting consumers.

"Conservatively speaking, fifty-percent of all puppies sold through Florida pet stores are carrying one infectious dis-



Sgt. Sherry Schlueter heads BSO's Agricultural Crime and Animal Abuse Unit, as well as supervising the Mounted Unit which began operating on July 1.

ease or another. You're not dealing with a defective washer and dryer. Families quickly get attached to the dog and don't usually feel comfortable just bringing it back for a refund," said Richard Collord, Executive Director of the Humane Society of Broward County.

"Invariably, these good-faith buyers wind up paying huge veterinarian bills. It's against the State's animal cruelty laws to knowingly purchase and resell a sick or neglected dog, yet the practice costs Floridians hundreds of thousands of dollars each year," Collord said.

"The public is tired of being taken to the cleaners in these scams. In Broward County, it simply won't be tolerated," Sgt. Schlueter said.

In addition to overseeing BSO's Agricultural Crime and Animal Abuse Unit, Sgt. Schlueter supervises the agency's newly-formed Mounted Unit. Four thoroughbred horses, donated by Ralph and Betty Sessa of Circle S Farms, were pressed into action on July 1st and

will provide the first County-wide mounted patrol.

"The Mounted Unit will be immeasurably beneficial to the community. Horses are extremely flexible and increase the mobility and visibility of deputies. Using a mounted patrol in riots and crowd control encourages people to disburse more quickly, thereby minimizing the risk of injury to the public and law enforcement personnel," Schlueter said.

"Also, mounted patrols are very effective in search and rescue missions. Horses are naturally adept at negotiating rough terrain. They can quickly reach areas that would otherwise be inaccessible to deputies and they provide greater overall visibility of the immediate surroundings," she said.

New 800 Number for FLETC

In order to provide greater service to state and local police departments, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, Georgia, has established a toll-free telephone line to the National Center for State and Local Law Enforcement Training. The new toll-free number is 800/74FLETC. Federal callers should continue to use the FTS number 230-2345. For more information about FLETC activities, contact Hobart M. Henson, Director, Office of State and Local Training, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Glynco, GA 31524.

Reprinted from *The Police Chief* - July, 1991.

Marion County Explores New Youth Program

OCALA — Marion County Sheriff Don Moreland wants to reach troubled juveniles before they become immersed in the court system and before they start down the path of hardened criminals.

The current system is totally inept in responding to juvenile crime, Moreland said.

"We have looked at programs designed to divert children on the verge of criminality," he told Marion commissioners recently. "One concept that we feel is worthy for this purpose is a wilderness experience where officers/therapist work with the endangered youth in an intense structured program."

Such programs, administered by law enforcement, are few, he said.

Moreland feels the answer is a seven day wilderness program. His goal is to use elements of nature to bring about change in troubled youths.

Marion County Commissioners think Moreland's idea has merit. On July 2nd, they gave him the green light to proceed with the program, which will take young offenders to Douglasville, Ga., for a week of intensive wilderness therapy.

Why Douglasville?

Partly because that's where Inner Harbour Hospital, a wilderness psychiatric hospital, is located, but also because Moreland feels a change of scenery to mountains and cooler temperatures far away from Ocala will be beneficial.

Inner Harbour will provide the site, train deputies as counselors and provide back-up for the program.

The Marion County youth will not come in contact with patients at the hospital. The hospital is located on 1,200 acres and those deputies who have already gone through the program say participants won't even know a hospital is nearby.

Moreland sent three of his officers to try out the program which includes three days of confidence building and endurance testing. Groups will then move on

to a three day hiking/camping wilderness experience.

Students will be rewarded, if they finish in good standing, with a white-water raft trip on the final day. Those not finishing in good standing will be returned to face criminal charges.

Candidates for the program will include first-time offenders whose crimes were non-violent. Advanced delinquents will not be considered for the program. Youths will range from 11-15 years of age. Those involved in drug use will be excluded. Examples of offenses include breaking into homes and theft. Parents of the offending youth and victims of the criminal act must both agree to sending the juvenile through the program, Moreland said.

Sheriff's deputies will be assigned to groups at a ratio of 1 to 6 with a deputy serving as overall group coordinator.

Moreland said one of the program's goals is to build a bond between law enforcement officers and juvenile offenders.

"We're trying to change attitudes," he said. "Many of these kids come from low income families and one-parent homes. Some have been abused. They have a distrust of law enforcement and authority. We want to try to break down those barriers."

He said once juveniles become part of the court system, they often become tainted.

"We've got to do something to put an end to the cycle," he said. "I expect this program is going to be copied. I think it's going to work. I'm excited about it. Otherwise I wouldn't be here."

A test to evaluate the project is being developed. It will be administered before the wilderness week, at the conclusion and 90 days following. The test is being developed in cooperation with Clemson University School of Recreational Therapy to determine behavior changes.

Moreland hopes to send 50 youths through the wilderness program this summer and another 200 next year. The first year will cost about \$35,000 and be paid for out of the sheriff department's trust fund.

About \$500,000 is now in the trust fund, which is derived from items and money confiscated in drug busts.

Greene voiced total support for the

program.

"I think it's great," he said. "We may not see immediate effects, but future generations will."

For additional information, please contact Major Dan Henry or Capt. Larry Jerald at the Marion County Sheriff's Office, 904/732-8181.

Courtesy of *Star Banner* - July 3, 1991

Radio Station Fined for "Nuclear Attack"

KSHE-FM's morning drive D.J. John Ulett was suspended and his station fined \$25,000 by the Federal Communications Commission after he interrupted normal programming on January 29 with an emergency tone (Ed. Note: the Persian Gulf war began on January 16), followed by the claim that the U.S. was under nuclear attack. The station said it had been a bad joke.

Courtesy of *National Information Officers Association Newsletter* - July, 1991



RED RIBBON WEEK 1991 OCTOBER 19-27

Theme:

*Neighbors Drug Free
& Proud*

October 19, 20	Red Ribbon Religious Weekend
October 21	Red Ribbon Decoration Day
October 22	Reach Out Day
October 23	Wear Red Day
October 24	Pledge Day
October 25	Red Ribbon Recognition Day
October 26, 27	Red Ribbon Sports Weekend