

FLORIDA SHERIFFS

# ALL POINTS BULLETIN



Volume 10, Number 1, 2000

## Shawn Boorman is 1999 FSA Deputy Sheriff of the Year

Each year, FSA canvasses all 67 sheriff's offices across the state — and seeks nominations for our annual deputy sheriff of the year award.

This year was again a banner year for nominations there were at least a half-dozen nominees who could have easily won the award, and no one would have questioned their being chosen.

But, as you know, the awards committee can pick only one, and have we got an interesting story to tell you about the person who is the winner this year.

Probably the easiest way to tell you about him is in the style of radio broadcaster Paul Harvey.

You all are familiar with how Harvey lays the groundwork for his final punchline by telling you the background first, and then he tells you what he calls, "the rest of the story."

Well, the first part of our story begins in 1994. A young man by the name of Shawn Boorman is living in Martin County. Counted among his fishing buddies and friends are the sons of his local sheriff, Bob Crowder.

Boorman approached Sheriff Crowder one day and basically says,



Deputy Sheriff Shawn Boorman (third from right) has never let the loss of his leg prevent him from being one of the most aggressive law enforcers in Martin County. He was recognized by Florida Governor Jeb Bush, Martin County Sheriff Bob Crowder and FSA president, St. Johns County Sheriff Neil Perry. His wife Heather joined him in his acceptance.



"You know me as a friend to your family, but what you may not know is that I have a strong desire to make law enforcement my chosen career — and then asks, "If I get accepted and make it through the police academy, would you consider hiring me?"

Sheriff Crowder told him that he had enough confidence in him, and that if he made it through the academy, he'd be proud to hire him as a deputy.

Shawn enrolled in the next academy class at Indian River Community College. By the end of the academy class, Shawn had done an exemplary job in academics, and he was just about

tops in the class in the physical agility requirements that are set forth for all candidates as well.

Overall, Shawn was widely recognized as the leader of the group by his fellow police academy classmates. Holding true to his promise, Sheriff Crowder hired Shawn Boorman and assigned him to uniform patrol.

Within the first few months in patrol, it became evident to his supervisors that Boorman was going to be one of those deputies that was destined for greatness.

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In fact, despite working in uniform division where working drugs on any regular basis is nearly impossible, Boorman rose to the challenge and thrived on combating drugs in his assigned patrol zone.

Boorman worked midnight shift in the most drug-riddled areas of Martin County, and took advantage of the quiet time between calls to surveil drug users and drug dealers.

Once he had enough to make the case, Boorman would bail out of his patrol car and chase down the suspects to make the arrest. His arrest record on drugs was so remarkable that there was a noticeable decrease in drug trafficking in the areas in which he worked.

In January 1998, Shawn Boorman applied for, and was selected to become a community policing deputy. Once in the unit, he requested an assignment to a neighborhood that, in prior years, was almost impossible to penetrate.

Shawn's consistent visual presence, coupled with his fair and honest enforcement of the law quickly won the hearts of the many residents in the neighborhood. Within a few short months, Boorman was awarded a commendation from community leaders for his success in cleaning up and changing the face of their neighborhood.

In May 1998, Boorman submitted a request to attend a police tactical bicycle school. At the close of this exhausting 40-hour class held in West Palm Beach, Boorman was given the award for being the best police cyclist in the entire class.

After spending many months on bicycle patrol in particularly tough neighborhoods, Shawn has won the hearts of the children who live in his patrol area. He has become a role model and a mentor for more youngsters than we can mention.

Though Shawn is an unpretentious person who never seeks the limelight, he serves as an inspiration to everyone he meets, and he has become a beacon of light in crime prevention efforts throughout Martin County.

In June of 1998, Deputy Boorman, Sheriff Crowder and many others went to Lake Tahoe, Nevada, to complete an all-day 100-mile bicycle ride through the mountains in the name of a charity – the American Lukemia Society.

And, in the 400<sup>th</sup> episode of the now famous "COPS" TV program, the camera captured Boorman winning a foot chase with a suspect, and doing what is tantamount to a flying tackle to bring him down.

After what you've heard so far, you've probably developed a mental image of the kind of guy that Shawn Boorman might be.

Well, no matter what you think you know – you haven't heard it all!

You see, this story actually begins in March of 1991, some four years before Shawn made his approach to Sheriff Crowder about becoming a deputy. Then, Boorman was merely a 17-year old senior in high school. He and some pals were on one of their famous hunting trips.

One of Shawn's friends accidentally dropped a shotgun. For a mile in every direction, the peace and quiet of the woods were pierced by the crack of the blast. The full load of the shotgun round caught Boorman in the right ankle, totally destroying everything in its path.

Faced with many complications and with no decent alternative, doctors were forced to remove Boorman's right leg.

During the period of therapy that followed, Shawn was fitted with a prosthesis. Today, after months and months of physical therapy, patience and hard work, there is virtually no demand in police work that Shawn can't accomplish. From all indications we get, he probably does it all a lot better than most of his counterparts.

At the tender age of 17, Shawn Boorman lost a leg – but he certainly didn't lose his spirit.

Today, at a youthful 25 years of age, Shawn Boorman serves his fellow man in ways that — to most of us are unimaginable.

## **Anti-Rave operation called a success**

If you were at the press conference held recently, you knew that Jim McDonough, Director of the Governor's Office of Drug Control, felt that that the statewide operation called "Heat-Rave" was a raving success!

The four-month operation in which the FSA Task Force played a major role, focused on all-night dance parties known as "raves" culminated in more than 1,200 arrests and the seizure of more than \$9.4 million in drugs. The operation involved more

than 91 state, local and federal law enforcement agencies in 21 different counties.

The stated purpose of the operation was not the "rave" clubs themselves, but the rampant drug use associated with them. Much of the drugs that were seized included GHB and Ecstasy, both widely tied to the rave club followers.

The largest seizure was 55,000 doses of Ketamine, described as a cat tranquilizer that had an estimated street value of \$4 million. Aside from that cache, 500 pounds of marijuana, 15 kilos of cocaine, 73 guns, \$737,854 in cash and 103 vehicles were confiscated.

McDonough said that the state's concern over rave clubs was piqued by four drug overdose deaths that occurred in the Tampa Bay area. Those deaths were followed by two more deaths this past summer as investigators laid the groundwork for the crackdown. As a result of the arrests and seizures, the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, the state agency that licenses clubs and premises which sell alcoholic beverages, three of the clubs were closed, and the agency is investigating 13 more for possible disciplinary action.

## EDITOR'S CORNER

By Tom Berlinger



### Could it be time to tweak the focus on DV?

Over the past several years, I have had the privilege of representing FSA at several statewide conferences and training programs on the topic of domestic violence (DV), including the several meetings at which the state's policy on the state's "Law Enforcement Response to Domestic Violence" was developed.

Overall, it appears that reasonable thinking law enforcement personnel CAN get along with reasonable thinking DV advocates, but critics on both sides would probably suggest that the other side only has few "reasonable" thinkers. The eye-rolls that I have seen on both sides of the table convince me that we've not quite arrived at the promised land just yet.

Kathleen Parker, a well-respected nationally syndicated columnist recently wrote a provocative column that appeared in papers across the country. It flies in the face of the conventional thinking on domestic violence. At the same time, it provides some food for thought that may be

worthy of further study and an appropriate response, if needed.

Here are some excerpts of what Ms. Parker wrote.

"Everybody is talking about recent news that women increasingly are being arrested for domestic violence. Men's groups are jubilant; feminists are incensed. One group sees justice; the other sees backlash. Everybody seems to be looking for the spin that advances his or her agenda, rather than enlisting new information to draw helpful conclusions that might someday reduce domestic violence."

The article goes on to point out that women were arrested in 35% of the domestic violence cases reported in Concord, NH; 25% in Boulder, CO; and in the state of Vermont, women accounted for at least 23% of the arrests that were made on DV.

Then Parker writes, "More than 20 years ago, researchers Murray Straus and Richard Gelles found that women initiate violence as often as men in intimate relationships. A study this year by University of Wisconsin psychology Professor Terrie Moffit confirmed those findings and raised the bar a notch."

"Contrary to feminist explanations that women were violent only in self-defense, Professor Moffit found that women often initiate the violence that leads to their injury or death," writes Ms. Parker.

"Common sense," Parker writes, "tells us that women have become more aggressive; that (with more

woman law enforcement officers than ever before) women cops are likely to be tougher on other women; and that men are tired of all the feminist insinuation that all men are violent, and that domestic violence is but a manifestation of male oppression."

Then, Ms. Parker closes her article on a more conciliatory note by writing, "You can't fix a problem unless you correctly define it."

The federal program that distributes money throughout the country to end DV is called "VAWA" money, an acronym for the "Violence Against Women Act." The title alone inherently suggests that only women are victims of DV, although I'm confident that nobody at VAWA's central headquarters holds that belief themselves.

If we consider, though, that men may actually be the primary victims (and/or secondary aggressors) in as much as a third or more of DV cases, then might it be time to tweak our focus and the funding that we will necessarily need to go with it?

One factor that will certainly work to inhibit any realigning of the focus may be the belief that at least some of today's public funding to programs that focus primarily on women as victims would probably lessen. In the eyes of DV advocates that earn their living from publicly funded sources, that could be a real – more than an imagined threat. After all, who among us doesn't want job security?

Another possible inhibiting factor is that those who clamor exclusively for women's rights may be willing turn a blind eye because these revelations don't meet their traditional political agenda.

These are complex issues that deserve further inquiry, but one thing is certain: There can only be one goal.

We must strive to end all domestic violence, regardless of the gender of the victims or perpetrators.

To accomplish that goal, we've got to all be on the same sheet of music.

Happy New Year!

### FLORIDA SHERIFFS ALL POINTS BULLETIN

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## Tramel, Kolchakian and Diemer move to Florida DEP

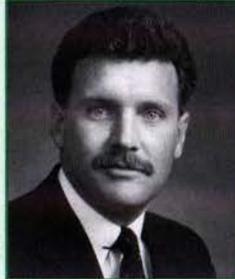
Tom Tramel, longtime former sheriff of Columbia County and more recently, the director of the Florida Sheriffs Statewide Task Force has resigned from his position with the Task Force. He was sworn in on November 15 as the new statewide Director of the Division of Law Enforcement for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Dir. Tramel was named to replace Mickey Watson, the person who held the post for the past several years.

To his fellow sheriffs, Tramel's tenure as sheriff may be best remembered for his "fire and brimstone" style talks from the heart about the history of the Office of Sheriff; what it meant to him to serve as sheriff; and what it should mean to anyone who is elected to the office.

As director of the Task Force, Tramel headed up a number of statewide efforts that included things like rounding up deadbeat parents, establishing a statewide hotline for students to call when they learn of weapons on their campus, and most recently, and raiding of the "Rave Clubs" located in several counties.

Maury Kolchakian, FSA's General Counsel and chief of governmental affairs for the Florida Sheriffs Association for the past decade has been appointed by Tramel to serve as his Assistant Director of DEP's Division of Law Enforcement.

Kolchakian, a lawyer for the past



Tom Tramel III



Maury Kolchakian



Bob Diemer

21 years, grew up in Manatee County and graduated from Florida State University's College of Law.

Prior to joining the FSA as general counsel, Kolchakian worked for FDLE in their legal division, and he served in policy-making posts under Governors Bob Graham and Bob Martinez.

In his role as chief of governmental affairs for the sheriff's association, Maury earned accolades for overseeing FSA's efforts to pass several "get tough" legislative issues, particularly the elimination of sentencing guidelines, the 10/20/Life Bill, and the 85% of sentence rule for violent offenders.

In his new post at DEP, Kolchakian will oversee the day-to-day administrative affairs of DEP's law enforcement division.

In a related move, Pinellas County Sergeant Bob Diemer, the coordinator of the task force for many years and a former deputy in Pinellas and Pasco counties has been appointed by Tramel to head up the investigative section of DEP's law enforcement functions.

Diemer was initially appointed by Sheriff Rice to coordinate the Task Force about 5 years ago. Prior to that assignment, Diemer spent many years working vice/narcotics for Pinellas SO.

Diemer's unyielding and infectious enthusiasm (powered by pots and pots of coffee) for Task Force operations played a key role in the growing number of statewide operations that the Task Force has been involved in since Sheriff Rice took over

as its' chairman.

FSA and the sheriffs will miss each of them, each for their own qualities and qualification.

We wish each of them good health, prosperity and success in their new challenge.

DEP's gain will certainly be FSA's loss.

## Polk commissioners to buy private jail

The Polk County Commission has approved purchase of a private jail to alleviate its' severe overcrowding problem, reports the Associated Press. Critics report that Polk County's jail system may be one of the most overcrowded in the country.

Commissioners voted to purchase the 1,008 bed facility for \$40.8 million and will enter into mediation that the buildings owner, Corrections Corporation of America wants to cover on its interest to be paid on construction loans.

The interest has built up because the jail, which was approved for occupancy in May, has remained unoccupied, and the 16-year old company could not collect money for operating it.

The commission voted in August to begin negotiations to buy the jail after being told that the sheriff's office can operate the facility for less money than paying the private company \$45 per day for each county inmate.



## Sheriff Lancaster passes random drug screen

Sheriff Scott Lancaster come on down! Lancaster won no prizes, except for a plastic cup.

Every month, the names of five employees of the Clay County SO are randomly drawn. The "winners" are required to submit a specimen for drug screening, and Lancaster's name was one recently drawn.

"The first value of this organization is integrity. I think it is extremely important...that the public knows we do random testing. It's just the right thing to do," said the sheriff.

## Wanna brag about having a famous relative?

Did you know that David Letterman's sister has been on staff of the St. Petersburg Times for over a decade? Or that the late Elizabeth Montgomery's (Bewitched) brother has been a professor at FSU for many years?

Well, with over 32,000 folks working in the sheriff's offices across the state, there are probably more than a few of you who are blood relatives of some famous celebrity whose name we'd all know. In fact, we've got reason to believe that some of you were "famous" or nearly famous in a previous life, yourself.

For example, I remember hearing of at least one former NFL player who works as a correctional officer in one of our county jails, and another as a deputy sheriff here in Florida. So, if you qualify, here's your chance to legitimately brag about it to your counterparts, and to the world....

We've got to have some qualifiers here, though, so that we don't get people

bragging about being the wife of a cousin, of a friend, of the next door neighbor to Yogi Berra. (I'll give you a personal example. Milton Berle's real family name is Berlinger - the same as mine. He is, I am told, a cousin of my grandfather that has been deceased since 1963. Bzzztt. I'm Disqualified! Too far removed.)

And, we don't want 12th cousins of Alexander the Great, either. I assume that if you go back far enough, we've probably all got ties to Adam and Eve, a rather famous couple in their own rite.

So, we're looking to hear from any full-time sheriff's office employee, working in any capacity, who is an immediate blood relative (not a connection by marriage) to somebody famous.

By immediate relative, I mean that you are the famous person yourself (from your prior career), OR you are the mother, father, son, daughter, sister, brother, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandparent or grandchild (by blood, not by marriage) of a celebrity that most everybody would know if we heard the name.

The celebrity could be a widely-recog-

nized politician, actor, sports figure, etc.

We need your name, where you work, what you do, and the actual link between you and the named celebrity. If you want to add an anecdotal personal story, that would even be better. (Remember that some members of the media read this publication. Given that fact, somebody might check up on you, so beware that if you make a false claim, your could be exposed as a fraud and be subject to flogging and public ridicule forever!)

I hasten to add that we're not going to be looking for autographed photos from your relative (unless you want to send one signed "To Tom." But, when I've compiled a suitable listing, we'll write a feature story in a future edition of APB, and include details from a cross-section of the submissions.

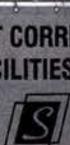
Submit your entries to Tom Berlinger here at FSA. You can either drop me a note c/o Florida Sheriffs Association, Post Office Box 12519, Tallahassee, FL 32317, or e-mail me at: [Tom@FLsheriffs.org](mailto:Tom@FLsheriffs.org)

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## FSA Jail Administrator's Conference a success!

FSA held our annual Jail Administrator's Training Conference on December 7-9, at the Sandestin Beach HILTON in Destin. By all accounts, it was a great success!

Sheriff Quinn McMillian was there on opening day to welcome the attendees to Walton County and the nearby communities of Destin, Fort Walton Beach and Seaside, the colorful beachside community that provided the backdrop for the movie, "The Truman Story" starring Jim Carrey

About 105 sheriffs, jail administrators and their command level staff were in attendance. And, a total of 27 corporate sponsors were also there to showcase the newest and best in goods and services that are frequently sought after by those who manage jail facilities across the state.

Among the sponsors were inmate



telephone service, medical service and food service providers, as well as inmate canteen suppliers. There was also a cross section of hardware and software companies, uniform companies and furniture manufacturers.

"The exhibit hall provides jail administrators with a great opportunity to learn about the latest and best new products on the jail market," said Captain Joe Fontana, the head of the Sarasota County Jail, "there seems to be new advances every couple of months, so this exposure is invaluable."

Guest speakers addressed everything from inmate mental health issues to the proper procedures that

must be followed when a foreign national is taken into custody and shows up at the back door of the jail.

"We probably gain as much information from our counterparts during the breaks and social functions as we do from the actual classroom presentations," said Maj. Tommy Taylor, the head of Monroe County's jail system that is based in Key West.

"There is also the intangible value of meeting the other jail administrators and getting to know them as people rather than as just a voice in the phone," said Capt. Paul Hinman of Highlands County (Sebring), "then when I have to call one of them, I'm calling a friend..."

Anyone that attended the course can use this 20-hour training program towards satisfying their mandatory training requirements. And the 14 sheriffs that attended were able to use this course to satisfy their training requirements for the Sheriff's Salary Supplement program that is provided for in state statute.

## Minority officers in a can't win situation?

Many urban police departments have, in recent years, made a special effort to recruit minority officers, both as a matter of fairness and to improve their relationships with the communities they serve. However, the *Chicago Tribune* has reported that, if there were expectations that increasing diversity in the ranks of police departments would break down barriers between police and their communities, those expectations have not been met.

According to the *Tribune*, some members of the African-American community have indicated that while white officers can be abusive or insensitive at times, that black officers are sometimes seen as worse. Meanwhile, black officers say they have been put in a difficult position straddling the line between personal and professional allegiance when



dealing with persons of their own race.

"The statement I hear all the time is 'I would expect that from a white officer, but not from a brother,'" said Chicago Police Officer Isaac Lee. "Like what, I'm supposed to overlook your crime because we're both black?"

For black officers, trying to balance personal and professional loyalties can be a perplexing proposition. Though sworn to protect public safety, black officers are also working in a system that often promotes the perception that minorities are criminals and are working in a profession that is alleged to unfairly target minorities for harassment and brutality. One

black officer told the *Tribune* that "Supervisors, who are very often white, are watching you to make sure that you are not just going easy on your own people, while your own people are looking at you to see if you are a sellout."

According to a national poll on race relations conducted by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a group that looks predominantly at black issues, 81 percent of blacks and 83 percent of Latinos agreed that police, no matter what their race, are more likely to harass and discriminate against blacks than whites. Even 56 percent of whites agreed.

According to both police officers and community leaders, the problems that minority police officers encounter need to be addressed by police leadership and in the training that officers receive at the academy and thereafter. *Courtesy of Crime Control Digest*

## Gainesville considers anti-rave law

Concerned about drug overdoses and deaths, as well as law enforcement problems and trashed streets associated with "rave" clubs, officials in Gainesville are considering an ordinance that will bring the city under the state's anti-rave law which bans clubs with liquor licenses from staying open after they stop serving alcoholic beverages. According to the Independent Florida Alligator U-Wire, police officials are becoming increasingly concerned about the number of young teenagers who are exposed to the drugs at these clubs.

Gainesville police Lt. Ed Book, who heads GPD's narcotics division, said "we've had problems for years in Gainesville with designer drugs in the downtown area as a result of rave parties. The police department has done everything it can do to deal with the problem, but it's just not enough."

In 1997, the Florida legislature tried to get a handle on the rave problem by passing the law requiring clubs to close after last call. However, the law allowed any city to opt out if it chose to do so.

Gainesville opted out, but apparently is reconsidering that decision. Book said that opting back in would be a good decision for the city. He noted that "it would do one of two things: it would force clubs that are open all night either to give up their alcohol license or to close at times that are already set under city ordinance at 2:00 a.m."

*Courtesy of Crime Control Digest*

## Our kind of judge . . .

Aside from straight sentencing to prison for felons, Florida's circuit judges can file an official "Judicial Objection" with the Florida Parole Commission.



The "JO" as it is often referred to, basically puts the Parole Commission on official notice that they cannot consider parole of a particular sentenced inmate until they (the court) is notified, consulted, and approves of the parole.

On November 23, the Hon. Ted Coleman, chief judge of the Ninth Judicial Circuit that is based in and around Orlando, wrote the following judicial objection regarding inmate Phillip Grant, a person he had sent to prison. This is the entire letter:

Dear (Parole Commission staff):

I have been asked for my comments about a potential parole date for the above named individual. I suggest that the members of the Commission take the following steps:

1. Watch the Weather Channel every day.

2. When there is an indication that the abode of Satan is going to suffer frigid temperatures, they should give some consideration to parole for Mr. Grant.

Thank you for your interest in this case.

Sincerely,

Ted Coleman, Circuit Judge

## Strange but true!

Tapachula, Mexico – Prison warden Raul Zarate Diaz apparently liked to peek at inmates sharing intimacies with their wives. He was discovered when he crashed through a skylight over the conjugal visitation section of his prison, falling 23 feet and landing next to a prisoner and his wife in bed. Diaz, who was found with a porn magazine a pair of binoculars for a closer look – was killed by the fall.

DeBary, FL – So many motorists were concerned that a cow walking in knee-deep water in a flooded field was actually stuck that it caused a traffic jam recently. To get traffic moving again – and to stop the 911 calls to FHP about a "drowning cow," highway workers set up an electronic sign that flashed the message, "The Cow is OK" to passing cars. But, two days later, the sign was still there, causing a traffic jam as motorists looked for the cow, which had long since walked away. Moving right along...

Hermiston, OR – Police in this city checking the area around a bank robbery shortly after it was robbed heard a man pleading for help from inside a car trunk. An officer opened the trunk and freed Lucas Winters, but not for long. Winters was arrested and charged with the bank robbery after police figured out that in his zeal to make a quick getaway, Winters planned to do a quick change-of-clothes out of sight of passers-by, by getting into a car trunk..... your trigger-quick police minds have figured out the rest...

Plymouth, WI – Two 17 year-old cousins wondered what is would be like to be shot. The two decided to shoot themselves to find out, until a 34 year-old relative stepped in and put a stop to it – by offering to do it for them. Each of the teens sought medical help, and the older man was arrested.

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