

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ALL POINTS BULLETIN



Volume II, Number I, 2001

The 2000 FSA Correctional Officer of the Year

**Patrick Johnson named
correctional officer of the year**

Each year, our association seeks nominations from sheriffs across the state in an effort to determine who will be named as the Florida Sheriffs Association's Correctional Officer of the Year. Thereafter, at each FSA Mid-Winter Conference, we announce our winner.

Well, on the night of January 23, Correctional Officer Patrick Dale Johnson of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office was named the winner for calendar year 2000!

Officer Johnson has been employed in the corrections division at the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office for nearly eight years. Since his hiring in the summer of 1993, Johnson has worked in a variety of operational positions within their massive county jail system. But, he has found his niche working in the high stress and high liability posts, supervising the sections of the jail that house their juvenile offenders and other high security inmates, most often including the seriously mentally ill.

While other jail personnel across the state lean towards avoiding



Clearwater – Jacksonville Sheriff Nat Glover (right) shares the honors with FSA President Don Eslinger, the Sheriff of Seminole County (center), as he presents a plaque and a check for \$1,000 to Jacksonville S.O. Correctional Officer Patrick Dale Sullivan, FSA's Correctional Officer of the Year for the year 2000.

assignment to these particular housing areas, Officer Johnson has worked exclusively in these areas for the past several years and seems to thrive in the most difficult of environments.

Johnson's supervisors report that he always does more than is ever expected or required of him. He uses his interpersonal skills to manage the most difficult and challenging inmates

they house, and does it all in a most exceptional manner.

Since joining the jail staff in Jacksonville, Johnson has taken the initiative to learn as much as he can about special needs inmates, he attended specialized training in an effort to learn the best techniques for dealing with the mentally ill, and

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he was an active member of the weekly security committee that makes decisions on housing and restrictions for these inmates.

Johnson figured out early in his relatively short career that his actions can make a difference in the lives of those he touches. He is a role model to juvenile inmates through his consistent fairness, compassion and personal behavior.

In fact, one of his supervisors recently overheard a juvenile inmate tell a newly admitted juvenile offender, "That's Officer PJ over there. He is a straight-up guy. You can tell him anything and he will take care of the problem. If he says he gonna do it, he will...and if he says no, you might as well just give it up..."

As an example of Johnson's sense of doing what's right, an incident occurred recently that draws a clear picture of Johnson's dedication to his fellow man.

On that day this past December, one of Johnson's subordinates came to him and reported that one of the inmates in his charge feared that his (the inmate's) girlfriend might have taken an overdose of pills. Instead of blowing it off like many others might do, Johnson investigated further and obtained the woman's telephone number from the inmate. Johnson called the woman and spoke to her. She told him that she'd been drinking vodka all day, but had not taken any pills.

Most would have stopped there, but not Patrick Johnson.

Still feeling uncomfortable about the situation presented to him, Officer Johnson told Ms. Moore that he would call her back to check on her later in the day. About an hour later, Johnson tried to contact Ms. Moore again, but nobody answered the phone this time. Johnson immediately requested that a uniformed deputy sheriff be dispatched to her home.

A patrol sergeant later called

Johnson and told him that they forced entry into the woman's home after a knock on her door produced no response. Upon entry, deputies found that the woman had fallen unconscious in bed, with a cigarette smoldering and a space heater that was within minutes of setting her bed ablaze.

About him, a proud Nat Glover, the sheriff of Jacksonville, stated that Johnson follows his instincts, displays sound judgement, uses common sense, has the ability to deal with all people in all circumstances, and that he is willing to go over and above the call of duty every time the situation allows for it.

All of these traits describe a correctional officer that any sheriff would be proud to have on his staff. They all describe Correctional Officer Patrick Dale Johnson, and are the reasons why he has been named as our year 2000 FSA Correctional Officer of the Year!

For his efforts, Johnson was presented with a handsome plaque and a check for \$1,000.00

New Division Helps Voiceless Victims

*By Kirk Englehardt
PIO - Broward Sheriff's Office*

Breaking the cycle of violence is the mission of an innovative new investigative division at the Broward County Sheriff's Office in Ft. Lauderdale. The Special Victims and Family Crimes Section combines the expertise of detectives from BSO's Abuse and Neglect, Sex Crimes, Domestic Violence, Animal Abuse, Victim Advocate, and Missing Persons Units. Many law enforcement agencies offer victim services, however, few, if any, have combined the resources into one common division working full-time to investigate and prevent family related crime. By

sharing crucial investigative information, detectives will be able to recognize individuals who are at risk of being abused and refer those needing special assistance to appropriate social service agencies before it is too late.

Broward Sheriff Ken Jenne points out that several national studies have shown that only 16 percent of sexual assaults and 10 percent of domestic violence cases are reported to authorities. The Sheriff hopes the new division will encourage people to come forward and start reporting rape and abuse. "I don't care if our statistics go up. In the long run this will bring more serious domestic crime, especially homicide, down. In my book, this is the ultimate in community policing."

BSO also recognizes that house pets are very often the first members of the family to feel the pain of abuse. Animals make convenient targets because they cannot report the abuse as a spouse or a child might. They also cannot remove themselves from a violent household. Lt. Sherry Schlueter, who supervises the new section, says all BSO deputies have been instructed to look for all potential victims when responding to domestic violence calls, starting with those most at risk: children, the elderly and animals.

According to the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, 65 percent of all U.S. female homicide victims are killed by someone they know. In 1998, 85 percent of victimization by intimate partners was against women. In the same year, about 1 million violent crimes were committed against individuals by their current or former spouses, boyfriends or girlfriends. As of mid-October, the Broward Sheriff's Office had handled more than 1,200 domestic violence complaints and five domestic-related murders in 2000.

For further information on BSO's Special Victims and Family Crimes Section, contact Lt. Sherry Schlueter at (954) 321-4200.

EDITOR'S CORNER

By Tom Berlinger



Our sheriffs are acting responsibly and honorably on the racial profiling issue

By Tom Berlinger

As in other areas of our country, racial and ethnic profiling has become an important topic of conversation in certain circles within the Florida legislature. In response to the issues that have been raised, the Florida Sheriffs Association (FSA) and the Florida Police Chiefs Association (FPCA) entered into a joint resolution last year that emphatically takes a stand against racial profiling being used as a primary reason for car stops. In addition, FSA and FPCA issued a model policy to all sheriffs and police chiefs that expressly prohibits racial profiling too.

Our associations, out of a strong desire to act in a proper and professional manner, have also recommended that enhanced racial sensitivity issues be included in standardized training programs that are to be approved in the future by CJST. We also worked

with Russ Arend and the professional trainers at IPTM in Jacksonville and officials of the Florida DOT and asked them to produce a "roll-call" video training tape on the topic. The tape has been produced, and it is about to be distributed to all sheriffs for subsequent viewing by all deputies and police officers from Pensacola to Key West.

And, at the request of the sheriffs and police chiefs of the state, IPTM is hosting a series of training courses around the state on the topic of "Safe and Legal Traffic Stops," with particular emphasis on racial profiling (see course listings on page 8).

Fact is, all sheriffs and police chiefs in Florida are making a sincere, zealous, and good faith effort to do everything reasonable to insure that minorities are not unfairly targeted.

Notwithstanding that fact, members of the law enforcement community continue to remain the target of suspicion by some members of the Florida legislature. Sen. Kendrick Meek of Miami (himself a former FHP trooper) and former Rep. Tony Hill filed several bills last year on different angles of the racial profiling issue. Sen. Meek has already filed at least one more this session.

In a effort to show Sen. Meek, Rep. Hill and the ACLU (also our critics in this regard) how sincere we were about stopping even the suspicion that racial profiling was being used by local deputies and police officers, (and if it was, that we were doing something about it) we invited all of them and the

ACLU team to sit in on any of these training events.

There were five initial classes in different parts of the state, and IPTM extended an open invitation for them to come in and monitor any or all of the classes. Sadly, not a single one of them took IPTM up on the offer to see the great things that are being done in these classes.

Whether racial profiling is a real problem or no more than a perception problem in Florida, it is important that our police executives take the issue seriously and do what they can to stop even the hint of suspicion that it's happening.

Nobody can say with a straight face that our sheriffs haven't addressed the issue in a responsible and honorable way.

"America's Most Wanted" tapes in Hillsborough

On February 6, 2001, Fox TV's *America's Most Wanted* went to Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office to tape for the February 10th airing of their show. The show is seen in about 16 million households nationwide. The producers of the show contacted the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, desiring to feature HCSO's Sheriff's Emergency Response Team in action.

Taping started at the Florida State Fairgrounds on February 6th. Mr. John Walsh, the host, taped his opening comments with their team in the background and the sheriff's helicopter hovering behind him. The production crew then followed the team as it served two separate search warrants, both of which were considered "high hazard" and which required the team's expertise.

Thankfully, everything went well. Two persons were arrested and an assortment of drugs and weapons were confiscated. The extremely affable Mr. Walsh, was very impressed with the team and it's commitment to excellence. He also noted the camaraderie among the team members, as exceptional. (Contributed by Lieutenant Rod Reder, PIO at HCSO)

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Florida Emergency Missing Child Alert

FDLE, in conjunction with the Department of Community Affairs and the Florida Association of Broadcasters has established the Florida Emergency Missing Child Alert (FEMCA) system.

The alert will be activated when a child abduction has occurred and the following criteria has been met:

- Child must be under 18 years of age
- Child must be in danger of serious bodily harm or death
- There must be enough descriptive information to believe a broadcast will help
- The activation must be recommended by the local law enforcement agency of jurisdiction

After the criteria has been met, local law enforcement will contact the Missing Children Information Clearinghouse on the toll-free hotline number. The Tallahassee Duty Desk personnel will respond to all after hours requests. The requesting law enforcement agency and the FDLE will work together to determine if information is to be broadcast on a regional and/or statewide basis. Subsequently, the child and/or abductor's descriptors and contact information will be prepared for broadcast using an approved format.

The information will then be faxed to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Tallahassee. After verification, the EOC will activate the Emergency Alert System to the requested areas.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the FDLE Missing Children Information Clearinghouse at 1-888-356-4774.



Announcing the Advanced Community Policing Symposium: Florida Style

MIAMI – On April 17-19, 2001, 21st Century Solutions, Inc., Miami Police Department and the Fort Lauderdale Police Department will co-sponsor a symposium at the James W. McLamore Executive Education Center at University of Miami School of Business. Advanced Community Policing Symposium: Florida Style is designed for officers, supervisors and executives who seek knowledge and expertise in moving forward in community policing.

This intensive training opportunity will present new findings and new approaches about community policing. Faculty, consisting of national and Florida-based experts will address how to overcome implementation issues with problem solving, community interaction and organizational development. Using real world, often Florida-based, examples, they will demonstrate how community policing techniques can be used to address specific issues including domestic violence, homelessness, drugs, and school based problems.

To learn more about the Symposium and to register, call toll free 1-866-StudyCJ (1-866-877-3925).

22 New Sheriffs Take Office

In the past few months, the staff of the Florida Sheriffs Association has answered this question a thousand times apiece.

“How many new sheriffs were elected this year?”

Well, the answer is 22, but every time we say the number, we get something like, “Wow...I never dreamed that there would be THAT many.”

Fact is, a one-third turnover, or 22, is the average number of sheriffs turned over in Florida every election cycle for decades. And, across the nation, sheriffs turnover at a consistent one-third rate as well.

While each has their own unique story, it is interesting to note that of this group of newly-elected sheriffs, that O.L Raulerson, Harrell Wood Revell and Sammy Woodall all previously served one or more terms as the elected sheriff in their home county prior this most recent election. Sheriff Revell himself had retired eight years ago, but decided to make a comeback. Sheriffs Raulerson and Woodall won election after the retirement of the incumbent that was in office. (See photo, page 5)

Man arrested for breaking IN to jail

DAYTONA BEACH - A man was arrested after trying to sneak into a prison to get letters from his detained girlfriend he said he never received, police said.

Wayne Starkey, 35, was charged with burglary after trying to scale the west guard tower of the Volusia County Correctional Facility, sheriff's spokesman Gary Davidson said Wednesday. Starkey was released from the Daytona Beach Branch Jail on \$2,500 bond.

Starkey, of Daytona Beach, told prison officials he decided to climb the tower Friday and look for the mail after not getting her letters, authorities said. The arrest came 10 minutes after Starkey was seen lurking behind the facility by a corrections officer and told to leave, prison officials said. (As originally reported by the Associated Press)



22 New Sheriffs Take Office

TALLAHASSEE— In the December after each election cycle, the Florida Sheriffs Association hosts a week long school for the individuals that were won the sheriff's race in November. This year, a total of 22 new sheriffs were elected to replace the 8 sheriffs that retired and 14 that were defeated at the polls. This photo was taken while the sheriffs-elect were in Tallahassee for the course.

Back row (left to right) is Ralph Johnson of Walton County; Johnny Smith of Levy County; Bill Clement of Charlotte County; Bob White of Pasco County; O.L. Raulerson of Okeechobee County; Jim

Manfre of Flagler County; Roy Raymond of Indian River County; Sammy Woodall of Dixie County; Rod Shoap of Lee County; David Tatum of Calhoun County, Wendell Hall of Santa Rosa County; Ed Bieluch of Palm Beach County and Ken Mascara of St. Lucie County.

Front row (left to right) is Pete Bucher of Madison County; John Fugate of DeSoto County; Richard Nugent of Hernando County; Charlie Aycock of Osceola County; Bill Balkwill of Sarasota County; Ron McNesby of Escambia County; Steve Worley of Hendry County; Ben Johnson of Volusia County and Harrell Wood Revell of Liberty County.

Innovative Partnership Brings South Florida's Brightest Minds to the Broward Sheriff's Office

By Kirk Englehardt, BSO Public Information Officer

America's largest fully accredited sheriff's office has teamed up with the nation's fastest growing university for an innovative partnership that will give graduate students the unprecedented opportunity to see their research put into action. Believed to be the first of its kind in the U.S., the new agreement allows the Broward Sheriff's Office to marry its law enforcement know-how with the brightest minds at Florida Atlantic University.

Under a new 5-year contract, FAU will annually provide BSO with four doctoral students and an advisor

who will conduct applied research to help enhance the administrative, support, and law enforcement operations of the Sheriff's Office. The students will be lending their experience and expertise in the areas of information technology, juvenile justice, crime mapping, corrections, and law enforcement.

The new in-house "think tank" will help BSO develop new crime fighting tools and techniques while creating groundbreaking programs that will help BSO better serve the community. The \$100,000 a year contract will save the Sheriff's Office millions of dollars that would have ordinarily been spent to hire independent contractors to do the same work. Broward Sheriff Ken Jenne said, "I'd rather partner with FAU than with some high-priced consultant who will be gone the next day. The sky's the limit in what we can achieve together."

In addition to the doctoral students, FAU will be offering BSO a bright group of public service oriented interns who will work throughout the agency. Intended to be a recruiting and education tool, Sheriff Jenne hopes to develop a program where students who are interested in becoming deputies can earn their law enforcement certification along with their undergraduate degree. They would then be guaranteed a job with BSO after graduation. It is another opportunity to recruit smart, disciplined, and motivated young men and women, many of whom will be selected from the university's athletic programs.

FAU President Anthony James Catanese said, "This partnership brings the resources of the university into the community in a perfect way. We consider it a pioneering effort. It could be a model for the country." *Continued on page 8*

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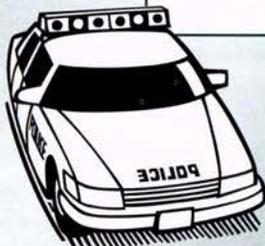


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BSO and FAU previously teamed up to create the Center for Advanced Criminal Justice Studies. In its 25-week Criminal Justice Executive Leadership Program, FAU professors and law enforcement experts teach accountability, ethics, team building, goal setting, and budgeting. The students, ordinarily mid and upper-level managers in law enforcement and detention, also learn how to develop community-based partnerships and work effectively within a political environment.

For more information please contact BSO Major John Carroll at 954-831-8956.

Safe and Legal Traffic Stops: A Free Training Course!

The Florida Sheriffs Association, the Florida Police Chiefs Association, the Florida Department of Transportation and the Institute of Police Technology and Management have joined efforts in a proactive way to help address the concern of possible racial profiling issues.

This one-day training program has been developed for Florida law enforcement officers to provide specific additional methods for conducting professional vehicle stops. The training will offer an awareness of the ethnic, racial and cultural issues that officers are required to deal with during a vehicle stop. Officers will review and discuss guidelines to follow *to ensure the stops are made in a consistent and professional manner.*

The 8-hour course will be offered at numerous locations throughout the state. The course is grant funded and there is no charge for Florida officers.



The dates and locations for these courses are as follows:

April 16 - Tampa
 April 17 - Clearwater
 April 18 - Crystal River
 April 19 - Bradenton
 April 20 - Clewiston
 April 30 - Pensacola
 May 01 - Crestview
 May 02 - Panama City
 May 03 - Marianna
 May 05 - Tallahassee (*Tentative)
 May 09 - Orlando
 June 12 - Miami
 June 13 - N. Miami Beach
 June 14 - Miami Shores
 (*Tentative)
 June 15 - Coral Springs
 June 18 - Del Ray Beach
 June 19 - Ft. Pierce (*Tentative)
 June 20 - Palm Bay
 June 21 - Ocala
 June 22 - Daytona Beach

Contact Russ Arend, IPTM at (904) 620-4786 for additional information.

This will tick you off....

In 1993-94, law enforcement families nationwide were aghast over the Ice T album entitled, "*Cop Killer.*" Words in the song call for the murder of law enforcement officers, use extremely derogatory language, and was actually the favorite

album a teenager who murdered a law enforcement officer. After the album was released, the Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS) representatives participated in a protest at Time Warner's shareholders meeting in Beverly Hills to voice concerns over the distribution of this album. During the protest, Ice T himself drove by displaying a universal hand gesture at the protesters.

"*Law and Order: Special Victims Unit,*" which appears on Friday nights on NBC has cast Ice T in the role of a New York City police detective! A copy of the letter from National COPS to the people listed below is on the COPS website. Below are the addresses where you can write to express your thoughts on the matter. Remember... like Ice T, we also have free speech rights. (*This info reprinted from COPS, Inc. Newsletter*)

Dick Wolf, Executive Producer
 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit
 C/o Wolf Films
 Pier 62

Hudson River at West 23rd Street
 New York, NY 10011

Julie Tucker, Casting Director
 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit
 Lynn Kressell Casting
 Pier 62, Room 304

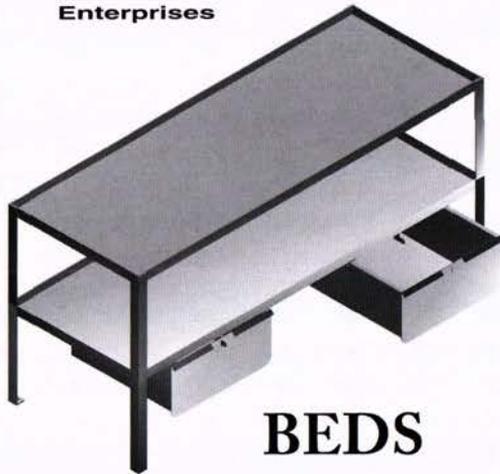
Hudson River at West 23rd Street
 New York, NY 10011

NBC
 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit
 30 Rockefeller Plaza
 New York, NY 10112



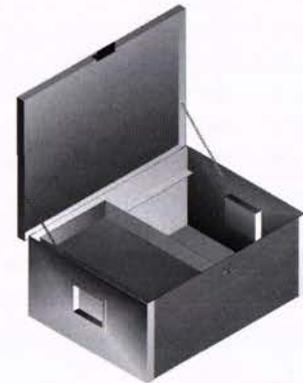
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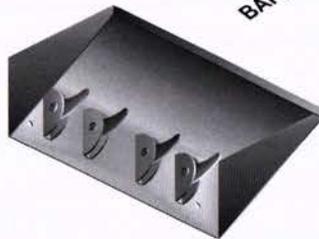
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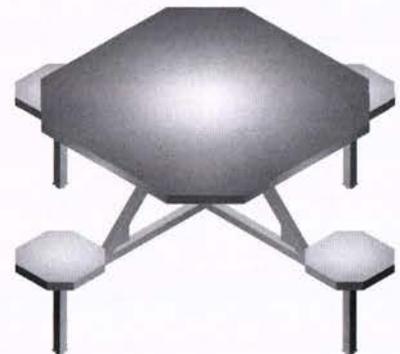


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New website on homicide-suicide: A resource for prevention and intervention

A homicide-suicide occurs at least once a week in Florida, and they may be increasing in certain parts of the state, especially in the older population, according to Dr. Donna Cohen, a professor of aging and mental health at the University of South Florida.

Homicide-suicides are tragic lethal events, where a perpetrator, usually a man, kills a victim(s), usually a wife or family member, before committing suicide within minutes or hours. We do not know exactly how many occur each year in the United States because there is no single nationally recognized data collection system for homicide-suicides. Experts estimate that they account for about 1,500 deaths a year, a mortality similar to meningitis and tuberculosis.

A recent newspaper study of 660 homicide-suicides in the United States over a three-year period from 1997-99 showed that almost 25% of all of these events occurred in Florida. The study was conducted by Dr. Cohen, whose research has also shown that the rate for homicide-suicide in Florida's older population is two times higher than the rate for the younger population. The number of homicide-suicides in the young is higher than in the old, however, because there are more younger persons in the population. Of the 160 homicide-suicides in Florida from 1997-98, one-third were perpetrated by persons 55 years or older, most of whom were men, and they involved 64 victims. Two-thirds

were perpetrated by persons under age 55, also mostly men, and they involved 121 victims.

Almost all homicide-suicides occur within the context of the family. And, while they may involve children, most involve only one victim. The most common form is spousal/consortial homicide-suicide. In the Florida newspaper sampling, 75% of the old homicide-suicide cases and 60% of the young homicide-suicide cases involved spouses or intimates. Although 80% of the older victims were 55 and older, 10% were 18 or younger. Almost one-third of the victims of perpetrators under 55 were 18 or younger, and 3% were 55 or older.

Homicide-suicides are human tragedies for family members and others who witness them. However, there are very few resources for intervention. Dr. Cohen and her team have developed a website at <http://www.fmhi.usf.edu/amh/homicide-suicide/index.html> with resources for law enforcement officers during the investigation as well as victim advocates supporting family survivors.

The website describes a Violence and Injury Prevention Program at the University of South Florida headed by Dr. Cohen. It contains several articles in both English and Spanish that can be printed and given to family members. One practical article describes what to do when a relative commits a homicide-suicide: talking with law enforcement officers, identifying the bodies, dealing with the media, visiting the crime scene, having the crime scene cleaned, preparing for the funeral, dealing with family and friends who want to help, and where to get help to deal with the emotional aftermath.

Although homicide-suicides are rare relative to individual events of homicide or suicide, they usually cause traumatic stress in surviving

family and intimates, and they have profound effects on the communities where they occur.

The information on the website gives family members and others who witness the scene a resource for support after the investigation is completed and they resume their lives. There are stories from family members who have survived a homicide-suicide, links to sites that may help families find information, support groups, mental health resources, as well as other information. Family members are usually unprepared for the traumatic stress of the horrible event, and their lives are changed in many ways for a long time because they become co-victims of a sudden violent event. The website is intended to help them understand what has happened, to deal with their grief, and find help to rebuild their lives.

The website also contains information, again in English and Spanish, about the prevention of homicide-suicides in older persons. Although these circumstances appear to be a surprise when they occur, Dr. Cohen's analysis of over 1000 cases suggests that most perpetrators have thought about the act and planned it. That means that there is a window of opportunity to try to prevent them.

Information on the website describes the different types of homicide-suicides, clues to look for, and what to do. Domestic violence is a common factor in younger persons who commit homicide-suicide, and it occurs in about one-third of homicide-suicides in the old. The information currently on the website can be distributed to community groups working with law enforcement agencies. In the future, information for law enforcement officers, clinicians, and other professionals will be added.

Ed. Note: Thanks to Dr. Donna Cohen for supplying this story.

The 3% Retirement Saga Continues

There is another in a long line of interesting legislative battles in the works this year, the results of which will surely not be known until the final gavel of the 2001 Florida Legislative Session is over on May 4.

For those of you that don't know the issue, here it is in a nutshell.

Members of Special Risk Class of the Florida Retirement System (FRS) accrue "credit" towards their retirement at the rate of 3% of average final compensation for each year they worked while as a member of Special Risk. In plain language, that means that, for example, a deputy sheriff, state trooper, or correctional officer with 25 years of service in Special Risk class would be paid 25 years X 3% per year, or 75% of average their final compensation in their retirement years.

However, back in 1978, the FRS fell upon hard financial times. When that happened, they tried to figure a way out. So, in the middle of many a law enforcement and correctional officer's career, the legislature unilaterally changed the accrual rate to 2% per year. It didn't matter at the time, that thousands of people had decades of service under their belt at 3%...that was over at the stroke of a pen.

Then, in the early 1990's, FRS again became solvent, and in graduated fashion, the legislature slowly crept the rate back to 3% over the stretch of a few years. But the nearly 13 years of reduced benefit would result in an almost 13% reduction in benefits for all Special Risk members, depending upon how many of those years they were a part of the system.

During the 2000 legislative session, with the support of Governor

Jeb Bush, Comptroller Bob Milligan and Treasurer Bill Nelson, the legislature made things right and reinstated that lost 1% for all those years, PROVIDED you had not yet joined DROP or filed for retirement.

So, lots of folks wound up real happy. But, many were rightfully feeling slighted. After all, they were still alive, and they, too, worked some or all of those years in Special Risk. Why, they argued, shouldn't they also receive the reinstated benefit?

In recent meetings of the Florida Sheriffs Association, the sheriffs of Florida unanimously voted to make reinstatement of those benefits for the DROP members and retirees as their #1 legislative priority for 2001.

Notwithstanding that fact, it will be an uphill battle the whole way, because there are those on Florida's capitol hill that want to take the current surplus in FRS, and chip away at that surplus by decreasing the contribution rates

that are being paid in for those of you that are currently working in an FRS covered slot.

Cutting contribution rates will make county commissioners and county school systems happy, for they can reduce the amount that they budget for such expenses. At the same time, though, the STATE also feathers its' own nest by cutting the amount that THEY would need to contribute to FRS for current state employees.

Battle lines are being drawn. As I write, the lobbyists for the Florida Sheriffs Association have teamed up with the Florida Police Chiefs Association; the PBA, FOP and Professional Firefighters of Florida, all of whom have constituencies that will benefit, should this reinstatement happen for the remainder of the people that deserve it.

We'll keep you posted.

IN BRIEF

Panama City – Lt. Bob Smith of the Marion County Sheriff's Office was named the "Professional Emergency Manager of the Year" by the Florida Emergency Preparedness Association at their statewide conference in January. Also honored were Lt. Phil Rivers and Robby Powers of the Leon County Sheriff's Office. Both were certified by FEPA as "Professional Emergency Managers."

Tampa – Hillsborough Sheriff Cal Henderson and Col. David Parrish, the commander of HCSO's jail has done something that will surely make working at their jail much more appealing to many. They are planning to build a child care center near the jail, to be run by a private company, that will house the depen-

dent children of correctional employees while they work at the jail facility, probably on a 24-hour basis. High turnover and costly training of new employees forced jail officials to rethink and employ strategies that will encourage employees to stay on board. The money to build the center will come from the federal reimbursement that the county is paid to house illegal aliens.

Tallahassee – A bill that would have required all law enforcement officers in Florida hired after 2005 to hold at least a 2-year degree has been withdrawn from further consideration. While voicing support for increased training and education, many sheriffs felt that the smaller agencies would suffer extreme hardship trying to attract and retain only college graduates.

Rodney L. Vizzo named Traffic Officer of the Year

Jacksonville – Martin County Deputy Rodney L. Vizzo has been named Florida's Traffic Officer of the Year by IPTM. A member of Martin County S.O.'s Traffic/DUI Unit since 1995, he is a 3-time recipient of the MADD 100+ DUI award, and he has developed a 90-minute safety program for the local schools in Martin County. He's also a member of the BPOE, and is involved in their programs like the Florida Elks Children's Hospital and Youth Camp.

Second place went to Deputy Brian Brady of Broward Sheriff's Office. Brian is assigned to patrol, but he dedicates much of his time to traffic-related functions in the City of Tamarac, where he lives and works. He's a volunteer coach in many of Tamarac's sports leagues, and he's a role model for every single youngster he meets.

Third place went to Deputy Robert Wagner of Brevard County. A member of Brevard's force for 14 years, he has been assigned to the Special DUI Unit since January 1999. As of September 2000, Wagner made over 100 DUI arrests and issued some 766 uniform traffic citations. He has been recognized for the past 5 years as a member of the

MADD 100+ DUI club. He's also an active member of the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

Jimmy Ryce Law Enforcement Training Center

The Jimmy Ryce Law Enforcement Training Center (JRLETC) is a training and technical assistance facility in Washington, D.C. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation conduct a two-day seminar at the JRLETC that deals with missing children issues. More specifically, the seminar concentrates on coordination and policy concerns, comprehensive response protocol, liability issues, Federal resources that are available to assist law enforcement, and the new NCIC flagging system.

This seminar is restricted to policy level law enforcement executives. The cost of the seminar, lodging, airfare, and most meals will be reimbursed to those who attend. The seminar begins on a Sunday and concludes on a Monday. The dates of the upcoming seminars are as follows: **April 22-23, May 6-7, and June 10-11, 2001.**

The State of Florida takes issues

relating to children very seriously. Attendance at this seminar is encouraged to better protect our children. If you work investigating missing persons, please take a moment to speak with a policy-maker within your agency about the importance of these cases, and ask him or her to consider attending this course.

If you have any questions or are interested in attending the course, please contact Catherine Eremita of the NCMEC at (703) 837-6348, or e-mail her at: ceremita@ncmec.org

A cruel rite of initiation?

In 1971, I was working at Lee County S.O. in Fort Myers as a dispatcher. Gil Kerlikowske worked there as a civilian crime scene tech.

Gil was just appointed police chief of Seattle, WA. And over a recent 3-day stretch, Seattle had 2 days of Mardi Gras riots, followed by an earthquake on the third day.

Gil sent me an e-mail following the quake that said, "This has been the most interesting week of my entire police career..." I'll bet it has.

Tom Berlinger, Editor

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