

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ALL POINTS BULLETIN



VOLUME 13, NUMBER 1, 2003

Jason Stambaugh named 2002 Deputy Sheriff of the Year

*By Tom Berlinger
Director of Law Enforcement
And Jail Management Services*

Imagine that you're an off-duty deputy sheriff, in street clothes, and that you're outside of your home county when you happen upon something bad.

Not just bad, but really bad!
What do you do?

After all, you're officially off duty. You're out of uniform and outside your legal jurisdiction. There are no other deputies around, and you don't have a radio handy to call for backup. You could easily get yourself killed, and for a fleeting moment you also wonder whether or not the liability insurance that you've got back home will still cover you if you have to do something drastic.

Indian River County Deputy Sheriff Jason Stambaugh faced all of those decisions and within a split second, he knew exactly what he was going to do. And, the manner in which he reacted to a horrible circumstance has earned him the honor of being named the



FORT MYERS – Indian River County Sheriff Roy Raymond (left) beams as Deputy Sheriff Jason Stambaugh is awarded the plaque naming him as the 2002 FSA Deputy Sheriff of the Year. Also pictured is his girlfriend, Kelly Plats, and Hillsborough County Sheriff Cal Henderson, the 2001-2002 president of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

Florida Sheriffs Association's Deputy Sheriff of the Year for 2002!

The incident that earned him the accolades occurred on the afternoon of June 1, 2001 in St. Lucie County.

At about 2:00 P.M. that day, Stambaugh and his girlfriend, Kelly Plats, were riding in his pickup truck and were en route to the Tiffany Club Place Apartments in Port St. Lucie. They were headed there to pick up his girlfriend's sister, Kimberly.

Upon driving into the parking lot of the apartment complex, Stambaugh observed Kimberly Plats (the sister) standing in the parking lot while talking on a cell phone. At the same time, Kimberly saw Stambaugh driving up, so she pointed across the lot towards a maroon colored Nissan car.

Perched on the hood of the car in front of the windshield stood a man that was later identified at Geng Shi, age 30, of New York City.

Mr. Shi was covered with blood from head to toe and was in a totally uncontrolled rage. Shi was trying to break out the front windshield of the car to get to the man inside. He was smashing the windshield with "The Club," a popular anti-theft device that locks on to the steering wheel of a car.

Deputy Stambaugh also noticed that there was another man inside the car, and that he, too, was covered in blood.

Without hesitation, Stambaugh drew his off-duty handgun, showed

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Deputy Sheriff of the Year

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the suspect his wallet badge, then verbally identified himself as a deputy sheriff.

Deputy Stambaugh ordered Shi to drop the weapon several times. Shi completely ignored Stambaugh's pleas, and continued trying to gain entry into the car by beating at the windshield.

It became evident that the suspect was not going to respond to verbal commands, so Stambaugh decided he was going to try to physically overpower the crazed man.

Before he made his attempt, however, Shi dropped the club and was now trying to gain entry into the car through the hole he had successfully made in the windshield. Fearing that Shi might try to take his gun away and use it against him, Deputy Stambaugh stuck the gun down inside his own waistband, and lunged at the suspect. Stambaugh grabbed hold of the back of the Shi's shirt and tried to pull him off the car. However, the suspect fell forward instead, falling through the windshield and pulling Deputy Stambaugh inside the car with him.

Once inside and laying across the dashboard, Shi grabbed the throat of the bloodied man inside the car with both hands, and began choking him with all his might. In his report, Deputy Stambaugh noted that, "Shi had such a death grip on the guy's throat that his knuckles were turning white and the man inside was going limp..." Stambaugh repeatedly ordered Shi to let go of the man's throat, but to no avail. So, Stambaugh balled up his right fist and repeatedly struck Shi in the head until he was able to pry Shi's fingers away from the lifeless man's throat.

Stambaugh then pulled Shi

back through the windshield onto the hood of the car, and then onto the ground. Shi tried to get up several times, but Stambaugh was successful at holding him at bay until some local law enforcement officers arrived at the scene.

Stambaugh's girlfriend then took a towel and tried to stem the bleeding from a head wound that the man inside the car had and tried to keep him conscious until EMS arrived.

What Deputy Stambaugh didn't know at the time, was that prior to his driving into the parking lot, Kimberly had watched the entire scene unfold. She saw Shi beating the victim with some kind of brass object, saw them both tumble down a flight of stairs together, then saw Shi stab the victim, later identified as Mr. Chen Zheng, several times with a kitchen knife before he sought refuge inside the car.

Initially, suspect Shi followed Zheng inside the car, but Zheng was able to kick Shi out of the car and lock the doors. Shi then grabbed "The Club" and began beating on the windshield. That's about the time that Deputy Stambaugh happened upon the scene.

Deputy Stambaugh himself was bloodied when it was all over. Some of it was his own, and much of it was blood that he got on himself while struggling with the suspect. Stambaugh also hyper-extended his knee on a leg that he had surgery on just a few weeks before the incident.

In the aftermath that followed this bizarre chain of events, Mr. Zheng recovered from his stab wounds. And, in the early morning hours of the day following his arrest, Mr. Shi took his own life by hanging himself in his cell at the St. Lucie County Jail. For bravery in the face of imminent danger to himself and others, and

for saving the life of Mr. Chen Zheng, Deputy Jason Stambaugh has truly earned the honor of being named the FSA Deputy Sheriff of the Year.

At a recent statewide conference of the Florida Sheriffs Association held in Fort Myers, Stambaugh was awarded a handsome plaque and a check for \$1,000.

Finalists are also named

Deputy Ian C. Floyd – Polk County

During calendar year of 2001, Deputy Ian Floyd made a total of 112 self-initiated narcotics arrests, filed forfeiture on over \$35,000 worth of seized property, and gathered a mountain of intelligence related to other narcotics violations for Polk County's Bureau of Special Investigations. One arrest in particular resulted in the seizure of 115 grams of methamphetamine, miscellaneous steroids and forfeiture of the suspect's Lexus automobile.

These statistics are particularly impressive when one takes into account that Deputy Floyd is not a narcotics detective – but is a uniformed deputy sheriff assigned to uniform patrol duties, and he is tasked with an array of duties that have nothing whatsoever to do with narcotics investigation.

In addition to making the narcotics arrests and seizures, Floyd answered 1,001 calls for service and made over 50 other arrests that were unrelated to narcotic violations.

In the nomination of Floyd, Polk County Sheriff Lawrence Crow writes, "Deputy Floyd has exhibited a level of dedication that far exceeds that of the vast majority of his colleagues..."

In addition to his duties with

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EDITOR'S CORNER

By Tom Berlinger



What a difference 30 years makes

Thirty years ago, I graduated from FSU and was immediately hired by Gulf County Sheriff's Office. As a native of New York City and now with a college degree under my arm, I enrolled in the basic police academy at Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City and began my career working for one or more of Florida's sheriffs.

For those of you that are unfamiliar, the county seat of Gulf County is Port St. Joe (then pop. 5,000). The population of the county at that time was about 10,000. The only other city in the county is Wewahitchka which had about 1,000 residents then.

"Wewa" as the locals call it, used to be the county seat, but with the population shift to the coast, the citizenry voted to move the county seat to Port St. Joe a few years before my arrival. Gulf County is

unique for something else. Geographically, half of the county is in the eastern time zone, while the other half is in the central time zone. I suspect that there is not another county in these United States that matches that distinction. Locals are used to 'qualifying' their time whenever they state a definite time by saying either "St. Joe time" or "Wewa time." While this struck me as odd, it was (and still is) perfectly normal to them.

Area wise. Gulf County is about 750 square miles. Back then, they had a total of five deputies and the sheriff. Period. Sure, there was a secretary, and a bookkeeper, but the radio dispatcher doubled as the "jailer" 24 hours a day. On the evening and night tour, the dispatcher would sign off the radio hourly (and leave the inbound emergency lines totally unattended) and do his 'rounds' throughout the jail.

You had to be there to really appreciate the flavor of the times.

The State of Florida had passed the 'police standards act' just a few years before all this in 1967. This not-so-well-received law had the audacity to make it mandatory for law enforcement officers to attend a basic police academy. Many in Florida thought it to be a totally outlandish idea, so some agencies were carried kicking and screaming into this new

era of policing.

The law "grand-fathered" all cops that were sworn prior to 1967. So, across the state, police agencies were loaded with individuals that had never attended a police academy. Unfortunately, many of them couldn't read and write very well either.

As I look back now, the fact that I *could* read and write well (thanks to the nuns in the Bronx that would beat you silly if you couldn't) was my saving grace. Here's why.

Prior to 1972, if you made an arrest, you just hauled somebody into the jail and dropped them off. The jail kept an index card file of who was being held, but there were no requirements to reduce an arrest affidavit to writing. None.

Although this problem was rampant statewide, when I arrived in Port St. Joe in early 1973, many local cops and deputies had two things in common: many of them were not very adept at putting much on paper, and *all* of them couldn't stand anybody from "New Yawk." In fact, one local officer with no writing skills would hand errant drivers his ticket book and tell them to "fill in the blanks" when he wanted to give them a traffic citation. I swear.

With my Catholic school writing skills finely tuned, I sorely wanted to believe that they *needed* me. So, the fact that I wrote a lot of their arrest affidavits for them bought me some time and eventually some friendships that have lasted ever since.

There was no such thing as a "walkie-talkie" as we know them today.

Sure, we had radios in our patrol cars, but our agency's *only* "portable radio" was made by Motorola and was the size of a

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Finalists are also named

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the sheriff's office, Deputy Floyd is working on a college degree. He's also a reserve member of the Florida Army National Guard.

Deputy Brian Shonk – Okaloosa County

During 2001, Deputy Brian Shonk was assigned as a plainclothes investigator in Okaloosa County. Despite being a newcomer to the unit, Brian distinguished himself during the course of several investigations last year.



Brian Shonk - Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office

He succeeded in breaking a case of a bank robbery that resulted in the arrest of the two suspects; he identified five suspects involved in a robbery on the same day of occurrence; he was instrumental in saving potential victims hundreds of thousands of dollars by breaking up a ring of five people that were involved in a counterfeit business check operation; he investigated a car burglary that resulted in the clearance of nine other cases, including an auto theft case; and he was able to develop leads in a string of residential burglaries that resulted in the clearance of thirteen separate burglaries with three arrests.

Deputy Shonk is also the training coordinator for Okaloosa County's Special Response Team, and in that position, he helps to train their own personnel as well as officers from surrounding police agencies.

Shonk also gets involved in many community projects during

the year. He is a certified Child Safety Seat inspector; he has participated in making a public service announcement video showing the dangers of drunk driving; and he regularly teaches child safety for the Birthing Class at Twin Cities Hospital in Niceville.

In the aftermath of September 11, Brian was among several law enforcement officers and firefighters that gave their time to collect donations for surviving family members in New York City. ♦

What a difference 30 years makes

Continued from page 3

small suitcase. It was over a foot square, and weighed in at nearly ten pounds. Try and haul that baby through the woods while searching for a missing kid or a lost hunter and they'd be carrying you out before the day was over.

One more thing...and you'll love this one....

In 1973, again because I could write pretty well, I began issuing what were probably the first-ever press releases that originated from the Gulf County Sheriff's Office. The owner of the local weekly paper approached me one day, and suggested that instead of writing press releases, that I compose them like a newspaper article instead.

So, it was a somewhat regular occurrence that I would investigate a crime, make an arrest, then sit down and write the newspaper story about the case, all in the third person, to make it appear that somebody else was writing the article about me. Thus, somewhere in my garage, I have a collection of newspaper clippings about my unbelievably great police work, and most all of them were written by me!

Hard to imagine that happening in 2002, huh? ♦

Early Success of GovAssets4sale.com

GovAssets4sale.com is a newly-created online service intended to assist local governments in their disposal of surplus property. When the Florida Sheriffs Association introduced GovAssets4sale.com to the Sheriffs of Florida, it was seen as an adjunct to their Vehicle Procurement Program. In a few short months, it has become much more. Here are some of the highlights:

- Two Florida agencies offered helicopters for sale and bidders located in 12 states, plus Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Australia, Ireland and the United Kingdom placed bids online.

GovAssets4sale.com has confirmed that very expensive items can be sold online.

- A Florida agency offered a Cessna 172 airplane that had been in storage with the wings removed. The selling price obtained was equivalent to retail value, less the cost to get the airplane in flying condition again. Bidders were located in 9 states and two other countries.

- One large Florida agency listed a backup generator they had been unable to sell in their local auctions for the past several years. It sold for a premium price in just a few weeks to a buyer located in South Carolina that never inspected the generator.

- A Fleet Manager with a North-eastern City placed similar vehicles on GovAssets4sale.com and the other "well-known auction website" with worldwide exposure. In this head-to-head competition with the Big Guy, GovAssets4sale .com achieved an equivalent price with the seller receiving his money weeks sooner. Both vehicles sold at prices higher than the Kelley Blue Book wholesale value and neither vehicle was inspected prior to the buyer picking them up. Just as the State of Oregon has previously

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reported, online auctions can obtain prices in excess of the wholesale values obtained in local auctions and buyer inspection is only required for very expensive items.

• GovAssets4sale.com received top positioning on the popular Internet Search Engines: Google, Yahoo and Lycos based upon articles that were written by USA Today, FCW and Yahoo News. This has brought international exposure to both GovAssets4sale and FSA, since we are featured on their website.

This online auction tool was created to serve the unique needs and requirements of state & local government agencies when disposing of surplus and seized equipment. The legal requirements and the procedural rules of government agencies were all factored into the design. As a result, government agencies can offer items for sale risk free on GovAssets4sale:

No contract is required and no membership fee is assessed.

No listing charge is assessed to offer items for sale online.

A fee is charged only when GovAssets4sale.com collects the payments from buyers you select.

To start using this service, all you have to do is spend five minutes to register as a member and use the online form to offer items for sale. No special software or training is needed. If you want to restrict the bidding to just other government agencies (law enforcement) you can easily do so. Good photos and complete descriptions bring higher prices. You can monitor the bidding action or sit back and wait until GovAssets4sale.com prompts you to select the winning bidder. GovAssets4sale.com handles everything else, all the way through preparing the bill of sale and collecting payments from buyers.

As your online auction progresses, you can see who is bidding and how much they are bidding. GovAssets4sale provides you the name, address, telephone number and email address of every bidder. The history of the auction is maintained online for you, so that you can quickly access a record of who purchased a particular item, plus everyone that participated in the auction.

If you want to purchase an item offered by another government agency, all you do is register



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and place a bid online. You can even place a bid of \$0 to ask the selling agency to donate the item for free or sell it to you at a discount to the market price. Bidders who are government agencies can make multiple offers; \$0 bids, propose a swap, even bids that are for less than the current high bid, and be assured the seller will see their multiple offers. The website was designed to allow selling agencies to give priority to another government agency by selecting them as the winning bidder even at a lower price. For example, one of the helicopters was sold to another Florida government agency, although a higher bid was received from the general public.

In these tight budgetary times, we all must do what we can to improve our situation. In good times, perhaps we can forego the opportunity to obtain better prices for our surplus items and choose the easy road of giving them to an auctioneer and hoping for the best. For those unfamiliar with the Internet, this may seem mysterious and scary. However, because of the way GovAssets4sale.com designed its website and the personal manner in which it provides customer support, even a novice can take advantage of the power of the Internet to attract bidders from all over the World. FSA is thrilled to bring such a powerful service to the Sheriffs of Florida. ♦

GROUND ZERO... one year later

By: Ned Hafner, St. Johns County Sheriff's Office

During the first week of December 2001, I had the privilege of being a volunteer in New York City at the World Trade Center disaster. I was given this opportunity under the auspices of the Delta Airlines Disaster Team, and the Salvation Army of Greater New York.

The group of volunteers with which I was associated consisted of twelve people, comprised largely from the ranks of Delta Airlines employees. These groups were broken up into two squads. While the majority of the people were employees of Delta Airlines, others like me were invitees from other places.

On October 11 - 13, 2002, a reunion of our group took place in NYC. The group stayed at a hotel located on 63rd Street and Broadway, just a couple of blocks from the YMCA that was our housing site the year before. Most of the former participants attended the reunion. This time, however, some chose to bring their spouses and/or family members along to meet the others.

The first event began on Friday evening at the Empire Hotel in Manhattan where an 'appreciation' gathering took place. At this time, each of the two Delta Airline coordinators recalled our experiences of a year ago. Each person that served as a volunteer received a plaque commemorating his or her efforts, along with a few kind words about their involvement.

Afterwards, time was set aside for everyone to socialize and get to know one another in a more pleas-

ant environment. We had now become a "family" that was created under very adverse conditions.

The next morning, everyone walked the two blocks to the cafeteria located at the YMCA. This was a somber occasion recalling one year earlier when we ate our morning meals there each day. We sat at the tables and enjoyed being together once again. This was a group of people that, until a year ago, had never known one another.

As I ate my breakfast, I gazed around the room. All of the ladies were nicely dressed, had their hair appropriately styled, and they wore nail polish and make-up. The men were well-groomed and clean-shaven. This was surely very different from the year before when we were all dressed in sweatshirts, jeans, boots, hardhats and a variety of protective gear that stayed pretty dirty most all the time. Unlike the last visit, everyone looked well rested as well.

Later in the morning we returned to the area where the World Trade Center buildings once stood. Maj. George Polarek of the Salvation Army met us. Maj. Polarek was the Incident Commander during the rescue and recovery operation. We gathered at a large tent that was once utilized as a place of rest, relaxation, the serving of food and a variety of other services for all of the Ground Zero workers. It was now gone, and the area was transformed back to its original function as a parking lot. This scene brought everything back into focus. The group that was almost in a party-like atmosphere the night before had shifted into a far more somber mood.

We headed for a building adjacent to Ground Zero. As we entered, I recalled seeing this building severely damaged the year before. It was now renovated and again occupied by an army of office workers.

Maj. Polarek conducted a short memorial ceremony. As a part of the program, he allowed those that desired to say a few words. Several individuals elected to speak, causing most of us to start choking back tears from the memories of what we saw. The experience we all shared a year earlier was again fresh on our mind.

Once the ceremonial portion of the program ended, we moved out of the building and walked the grounds surrounding Ground Zero. The constant drizzle of rain served only to fuel to dismal tone that permeated our group.

As we walked, we noticed landmarks and buildings that we had observed on the first visit. We pointed out buildings that still stood across the street from the pit. Some remained in disrepair. The shrouds were still in place on several buildings, and portions of some buildings were still missing.

I stood along the fence line and observed the open pit. Last year, it was a mountain of debris that towered over the streets and sidewalks. Now it was a large empty hole in lower Manhattan.

Last year, work was a constant thing on a twenty-four hour a day basis. Nothing ever stopped, not even for a minute. The only activity now apparent was the renovation of the subway line that previously passed under the site.

Someone once said that we don't remember days, we remember moments.

There was one brief moment at the reunion that will stick with me forever. As I stood there peering into the now empty pit and recalling the devastation of a year ago, I took a second look. A year ago, no matter which direction you looked, the scene was much the same. There was death, destruction, dust,

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the movement of heavy equipment, noise and people moving in every direction like ants in a child's ant farm. The storefronts and towering buildings were all closed and empty.

It was dark and gloomy.

Today was a very different today.

The roads now maintained a regular flow of traffic and pedestrians were everywhere. The streets and sidewalks were alive once again and free from dust and debris. The majority of the stores were open for business, and there were people moving about, arms loaded down with shopping bags.

It was an eerie sensation. There I stood looking at the site of the most vicious attack ever perpetrated on this continent, and by merely turning around, everything was perfectly normal.

We went in different buildings that either escaped damage or had since undergone renovation. As we moved about the area, there were many tourists walking the fenced perimeter taking their first opportunity to view the scene. A year ago, this was a forbidden zone for tourists.

On the return trip, we learned that this was also the weekend for the Firefighter's Memorial observance. There were firefighters from all over the United States and around the world here for a visit.

Around noon, we left the site and were able to do what we couldn't do one year ago. We became normal New York City tourists. Later that evening, as a group, we had a pleasant dinner at one of the finer Manhattan eating establishments. At the conclusion of dinner, it was time to say farewell to each other until the next time.

There can be no doubt that we will remain a family and maintain some form of communication in the years ahead. Hopefully, we will share

another weekend together sometime in the future.

As my plane departed the runway, I looked out the window as we flew away from the city. The scene was different now. There was no brightly-lit circle in the middle of lower Manhattan. The normal nighttime lights of any large city were present. This time I wasn't leaving an area of destruction wondering if my small contribution really made a difference.

More clearly now than ever, I understand the resolve and supportive attitudes of the American people. The resilience of the residents of New York City and those throughout our great country is remarkable. This city was well on its way to healing.

After observing and experiencing the massive destruction that occurred on 9/11, I had the privilege of playing a small part in the huge recovery effort that followed.

A year ago, I wondered if the clean-up would ever really be completed.

Believe me, it is.

The rescue and recovery efforts were achieved through the dedication of countless numbers of firefighters, law enforcement officers, construction workers, tradesman of all kinds, and thousands of volunteers from across the United States.

God Bless America. ♦

Cities plan to put ads on police cars

To cash-strapped cities across the nation, the offer seems too good to pass up. New police cars for \$1 each in exchange for allowing NASCAR (news - web sites)-style advertisements all over the cruisers.

Cities buffeted by the recession and a post-9/11 travel lull are jumping at the deal pushed by a Charlotte company. Since May, more than 20 cities have signed contracts for the cars, and

more than 200 others are interested.

Some observers fear that putting ads on police cars goes too far. Gary Kritz, an advertising professor at Seton Hall University, sees potential conflicts. Police might look the other way on matters involving local patrons, or advertisers might "do something to get the cop cars in motion."

"I think it's a little shortsighted," says Kelly Edmiston, ass't. economics professor at Georgia St. Univ. "The economy is going to turn around, but they're taking drastic measures."

Public entities and advertisers have cozied up for years. But now, the pitching extends everywhere. San Diego is considering letting General Motors put ads on lifeguard towers in exchange for 35 free cars. The city of St. Charles, Missouri., voted in September to rent ad space on its trash-collection trucks. And Biggs, CA (pop. 1793) is mulling an offer from the California Milk Processor Board to change its name to Got Milk?, California, for a "meaningful contribution."

Sam Slay, police chief of Springfield, Florida., wasn't crazy at first about the idea of ads on cruisers but signed up. "Sometimes you have to set your personal preferences aside for the principle, and we desperately need these cars," he says.

Springfield, a Panama City suburb of fewer than 10,000 people, is hoping for 15 Ford Crown Victorias worth \$24,000 each. Advertising fees would pay for the cars and three years of maintenance.

Ken Allison, a partner with Government Acquisitions LLC of Charlotte, says the first car delivery is three to six months away. He says the company will solicit ads from national and local companies - "even the local bail bondsman, or an attorney's office."

Courtesy of Yahoo News/USA TODAY ♦

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ASSOCIATION LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL *Dedication*



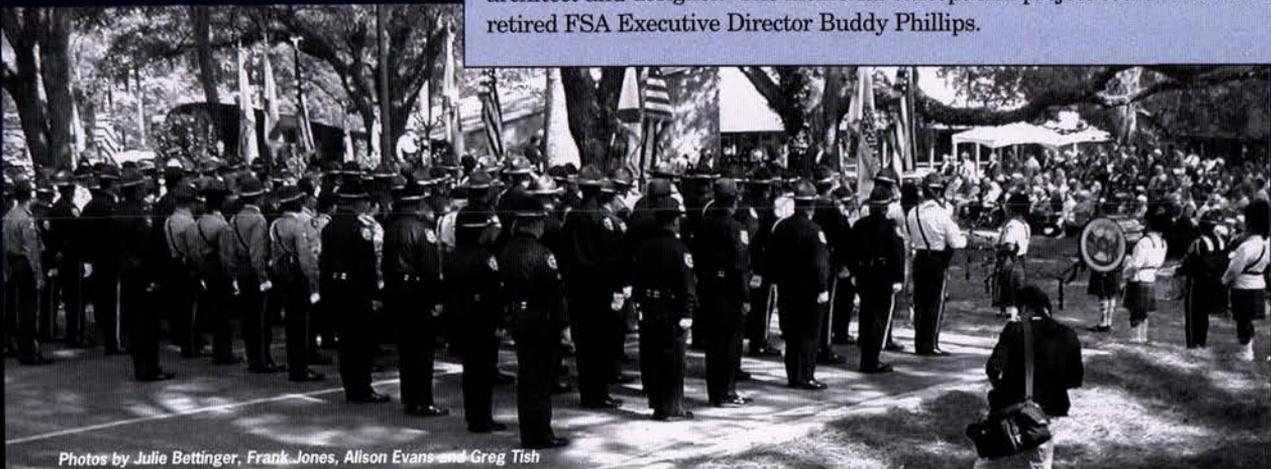
The day was hot and humid, and the mood was somber.



Hundreds of family members of Sheriffs' Office employees killed in the line of duty gathered under the stately oak trees behind the Florida Sheriffs Association headquarters in Tallahassee on September 18. They came for the dedication ceremony of FSA's Law Enforcement Memorial and to pay their respects to those officers who made the "ultimate" sacrifice – laying one's life down for the safety of others.

As of the dedication, 263 names had been etched, representing all killed since 1844.

W. Stanley "Sandy" Proctor was the sculptor, and Mark Lillie was the architect and designer. The memorial concept and project coordinator was retired FSA Executive Director Buddy Phillips.



Photos by Julie Bettinger, Frank Jones, Alison Evans and Greg Tish

The concealed weapon/firearm law: Florida's permits okay in other states... and vice-versa (BUT law enforcement officers are not included)

A Brief History

In 1987 the Florida Legislature authorized the implementation of the Concealed Weapon/Firearm Licensing Program and assigned responsibility for the program to the Division of Licensing in the Department of State. Designed to license qualified, law-abiding citizens to carry concealed weapons or firearms for lawful self-defense, the program was the first of its kind. No other state had implemented a statewide, concealed carry licensing program. The legislation was hailed by gun rights advocates and harshly criticized by gun control proponents. Nonetheless, the program proved to be very successful. Today there are approximately 300,000 active licensees. In addition over 30 states have similar programs, and some of these programs were modeled after Florida's.

How to Apply for a License

All licensing standards and disqualifying criteria pertaining to the Program are contained in Section 790.06, Florida Statutes.

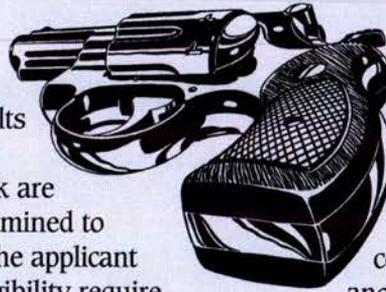
To apply for a Concealed Weapon/Firearm License an applicant must submit an application form, a set of fingerprints taken at a law enforcement agency, a passport-style photograph, and specific documentation of proficiency with a weapon. Applicants must be legal U.S. citizens and at least 21 years of age to qualify. Upon receipt of the completed application and supporting documentation, the Division subjects each applicant to a criminal history background check via the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the FBI. The application

and the results of the background check are carefully examined to insure that the applicant meets all eligibility requirements and that there is nothing that would disqualify him from being licensed. Some of the causes of disqualification include the following:

- a felony conviction in which the felon's civil and firearm rights have not been restored;
- a conviction for a violent crime, either a misdemeanor or felony;
- a conviction for violation of controlled substance laws or multiple arrests for such offenses;
- a record of drug or alcohol abuse; two or more DUI connections within the previous three years;
- having been committed to a mental institution or adjudged incompetent or mentally defective;
- having been issued a domestic violence injunction or an injunction against repeat violence that is currently in force;
- a dishonorable discharge from the armed forces.

In addition to the application and supporting documentation, the applicant must also submit a fee of \$117.00 to cover costs related to license processing and background checks. (The Division's operating budget is derived solely from the fees it collects. It receives no money from the general revenue of the state.)

The license is valid for five years. The renewal fee is \$65.00.



Reciprocity with Other States
Since the Program's inception 15 years ago the Legislature has made few changes to the law, and those changes have been minor for the

most part. The most important revision occurred in 1999 when the Legislature added a reciprocity provision to the law. Under the terms of this provision, Florida will extend the privilege of concealed carry to licensees of another state so long as that other state agrees to extend that same privilege to Florida licensees. Florida currently has reciprocity agreements with 20 states, and these states are: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont and Wyoming.

Licensed residents of any of these states can travel to Florida and carry a concealed firearm for the duration of their visit. These visitors must comply with the restrictions in the law that prohibit the carrying of a concealed firearm in certain places (bars, schools, courthouses, etc.). These restrictions are specified in Section 790.06(12), Florida Statutes. Similarly, Florida licensees must abide by the gun laws of whatever state they happen to be in while traveling.

How the Law Effects Law Enforcement Officers

Section 790.06(5)(b), Florida Statutes, exempts any individual holding active certification from the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission as a "law enforcement officer," "correctional officer," or "correctional probation officer," as defined in Section

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ESCAPE PLANS FOILED

*Captain William C. Lawhorn
Broward Sheriff's Office Department of Detention
Central Intake Bureau*

The use and exchange of intelligence information among law enforcement and corrections professionals is an essential component in the profession. In the field of corrections, intelligence gleaned from informants or from jailhouse rumors does not always prove fruitful, but it only has to prove accurate once to make a difference. Not sharing information as it is learned is a detriment to the law enforcement community. Recently, the Broward Sheriff's Office experienced the perfect opportunity in which the sharing of information proved invaluable.

In September 2002, the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO), Department of Detention personnel received a telephone call from the Florida Department of Corrections. The telephone call alluded to information intercepted by the prison that two of the state's life sentenced prisoners (Jay Sigler and Christopher Michelson) were devising a plan to escape custody when they returned to Broward County for a court hearing. At the time of the telephone call, no court appearances were scheduled and the information was not taken too seriously.

Two weeks later, written correspondence from the same state prison arrived at BSO, emphasizing the information relayed in the telephone call. A quick search of court records revealed an early November 2002 court hearing for each prisoner. The information provided by the Department of Corrections alleged that the two prisoners had access to two "homemade" handcuff keys, which Michelson planned to conceal in his nose. The alleged escape plan was "once in the transport van, he [Michelson] would give one of the keys to Sigler, they would loosen the restraints, and jump the bailiffs upon arrival at the courthouse." At the time the letter was written, the Department of Corrections was unsuccessful in locating the handcuff keys and the Department strongly urged caution with these two prisoners.

As with some of the information circulated through the penal system, the validity was



questioned, however, not dismissed considering the dramatic April 1998 successful escape of these two prisoners from the Everglades Correctional Institute in south Florida. After reviewing the information received, commanders from several different divisions in BSO's

Department of Detention met to develop operational action plans, taking all necessary precautions to avert any escape attempt.

The operational plans enacted in this scenario took into consideration the enormity and extent of the 1998 escape, which involved a semi-truck breaching the perimeter of the prison gates and open firing upon one correctional officer. The physical move, commanded by Lieutenant James Cerone and Sergeant James Stockdale, of the

prisoners from the state facility to Broward County ensured adequate personnel, separation of the two defendants, food provisions, and hospital type urinal preparations in order for a non-stop transfer (approximately 5 hours). Upon entering the Broward County Jail, each prisoner remained separated (no sight, nor sound

Continued on page 13

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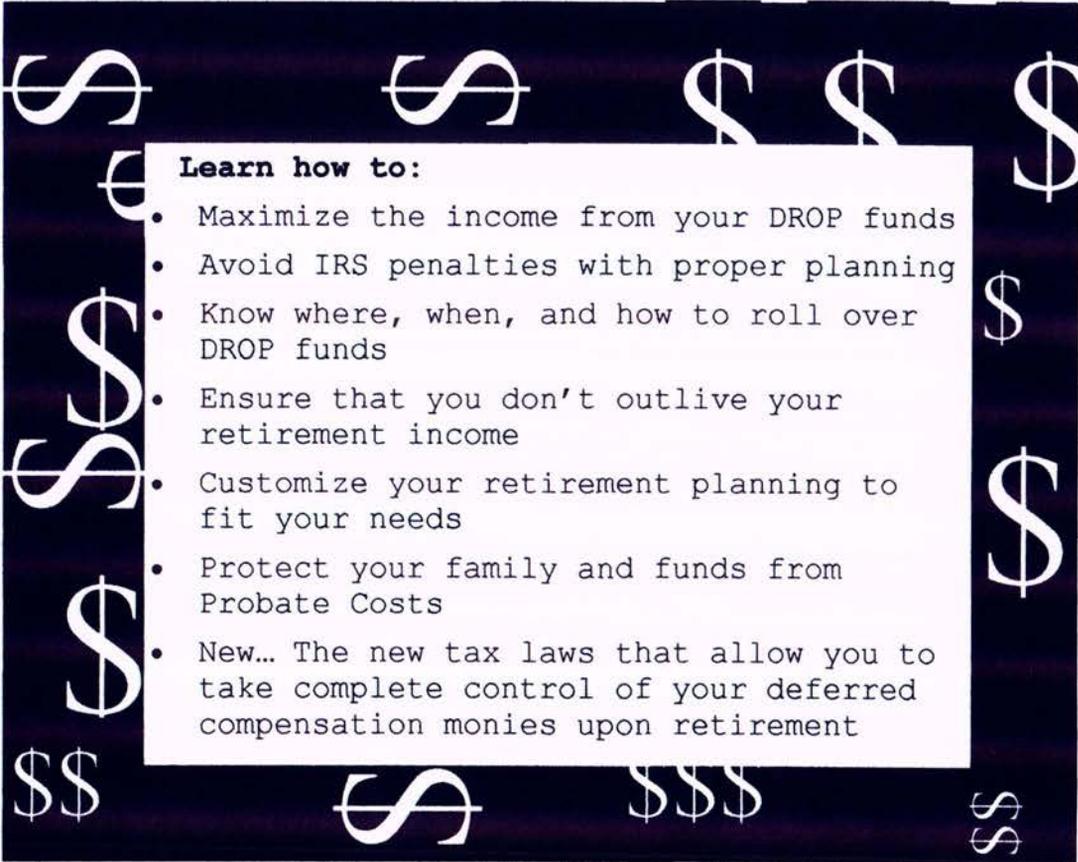
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The concealed weapon . . .

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943.10(1), (2), (3), (6), (7), (8), or (9), from the concealed carry licensing requirements of Section 790, Florida Statutes.

Unfortunately, the reciprocity provision applies only to licensed citizens and not to law enforcement personnel. A Florida police officer planning to travel out of state should call the authorities in the states to which, or through which he will be traveling to find out precisely what restrictions apply. Some states, like Florida, do not allow non-resident police officers to carry a concealed firearm unless they are on official police business. Other states allow non-resident officers to carry their pistols concealed regardless of their state of residence and regardless of whether their visit is for business or pleasure.

Florida law enforcement officers can apply for a Concealed Weapon/Firearm License if they wish. Their status as law enforcement officers do not prohibit them from being licensed as citizens as well. Active personnel are exempt from the background check and all background investigation fees (Section 790.06(5)(b), Florida

Statutes). A Florida law enforcement officer would pay only a license fee of \$75.00 to obtain a concealed carry license. The renewal fee is \$65.00.

If a Florida law enforcement officer applies for a concealed carry license within one calendar year of retirement, all fees are waived. If the retiree does not apply within that first year of retirement, he or she can still obtain a concealed carry license at a reduced fee of \$72.00 (a \$42.00 fingerprint fee and a \$30.00 license fee). The renewal fee for all law enforcement retirees is \$30.00.

Where to Get More Information?

The Division of Licensing's web page includes helpful information relating to standards and eligibility requirements, reciprocity, and licensing statistics. The reciprocity page includes the latest news from other states, travel advisory information, and links to the laws of the states with which Florida has a reciprocity agreement. This web page can be found at <http://licgweb.dos.state.fl.us/weapons/index.html>.

For additional information about the Concealed Weapon/Firearm Licensing Program, called Ken Wilkinson at the Division of Licensing in Tallahassee at 850-488-6982. ♦

ESCAPE PLANS FOILED

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of each other). The prisoners were made to sit on the Body Orifice Scanning System (B.O.S.S. Chair), which indicates contraband in or on their body. They were then x-rayed as part of the initial medical screening.

As alleged in the information from the Department of Corrections, each defendant's x-ray displayed an object resembling a handcuff key within their digestive tracks. Each defendant was given stool softeners and monitored constantly until the contraband was eliminated from their systems. Aside from the handcuff keys observed in the x-rays, each defendant produced a rolled bag of tobacco and rolling papers (wrapped in latex gloves) from their stool.

The validated contraband led to increased security within the housing confines and throughout the court appearances. Each defendant safely attended the court hearing and securely returned to the Department of Corrections without further incident and without attempting to escape custody.

An enormous appreciation is extended to the Florida Department of Corrections in their diligence in ensuring the alleged information was forwarded to the Broward Sheriff's Office. This scenario also leads credence to the importance of information exchange between correctional institutions and law enforcement personnel. Regardless of the insignificance perceived at the time the information is learned, the threat of contraband or a conspiracy is always important within the correctional profession. ♦

FSA Annual Jail Administrator's Conference a success!

In early December, FSA held our annual "Jail Administrator's Training Workshop" at the Hilton Hotel in Altamonte Springs.

Hosting the event were Seminole County Sheriff Don Eslinger, Maj. David Diggs of the Seminole County Jail, and Chief Tim Ryan of Orange County Corrections Division, all of whom assisted in putting together a 20-hour training event that surpassed all of the previous jail administrator's conferences.

"We had guest presenters from as far away as Colorado," noted Tom Berlinger, the FSA staff person that oversees the event each year.

"And, we had 155 in the class, including 25 sheriffs, as well as 34 vendors, all of whom were there to view the latest in correctional technology, goods and services," he said.

The next jail workshop will be held at the Ocala Hilton in December, 2003. Host Sheriff Ed Dean and Maj. Fred LaTorre of Marion County Corrections have promised strong support to make it a success as well! ♦

Taking a professional agency to the next level

*Lt. Linda M. Johnson,
Accreditation Manager
Polk County Sheriff's Office*

If there was just one piece of advice I could pass on to sheriffs across the state of Florida, it would be to consider seeking professional accredited status for their agency if they haven't done so already. Accreditation requires an agency to take a hard look at its internal functions, policies and resources and then adjust them to meet the highest recognized standards. Accreditation is not an easy process; it takes commitment from the top. The decision of the CEO to commit to accreditation demonstrates a willingness to subject their agency voluntarily to an intensive review. The purpose is simple: to demonstrate to the public that the agency meets or exceeds recognized professional standards established for law enforcement excellence.

Accreditation is a check and balance process for professionally progressive law enforcement agencies. Accreditation standards have not been plucked out of the air. They are the result of numerous progressive agencies developing rules, procedures and guidelines over time that have met community and legal expectations. A well-established benefit of accreditation is that it reduces the likelihood of vicarious liability lawsuits against the agency and can reduce the cost of liability insurance for the agency. The process allows an agency an opportunity to correct deficiencies *before* they become public problems. Accreditation standards provide validation for resource and budget deci-

sions - especially for personnel and their allocation. Accreditation also provides norms whereby agency performance can be measured and monitored over time.

There are several agencies offering professional accreditation: The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) and the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. (CFA) both offer standards of compliance regarding an agency's law enforcement functions. The American Correctional Association (ACA) and the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission, Inc. (FCAC) apply to jails. The National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) is an accrediting body for jail health care services. Accreditation is also available for communication (911) centers under the auspices of CALEA, which is the Public Safety Communications Accreditation (PSCA) process. The newest accreditation process for government agencies involved in public procurement is through the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP).

The Polk County Sheriff's Office is currently a *six star* accredited agency maintaining an accredited status through CALEA, CFA, FCAC, NCCHC, PSCA, and NIGP. We are one of a small group of law enforcement agencies to have accomplished this remarkable level of accomplishment and professionalism. The men and women of the Polk County Sheriff's Office are proud to be committed to maintaining professional accreditation. As an agency, we are dedicated to providing the resources necessary to maintain these processes as evidenced by the creation of our full time Professional Standards Unit. ♦

Palm Beach S.O. promotes Florida KidCare in a big way

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office has partnered with the Health Care District of Palm Beach County to help increase community awareness about Florida KidCare—an affordable statewide health insurance program for uninsured children. This is the first time a safety agency has initiated a campaign of this magnitude to promote the KidCare program. Our unique partnership includes the following outreach efforts:

- Training of all Community Policing Deputies about the Florida KidCare program and supplying them with applications in English, Spanish and Creole to distribute to needy families throughout the county.
- Distribution of KidCare applications at community events such as: National Night Out Against Crime, South Florida Fair, Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches Summer Camp Program and to the homeless or at risk families in the parks.

Florida KidCare applications will be distributed to children without insurance enrolled in the Eagle Academy or Explorers programs. The Civil Division will distribute applications to residents who are being evicted from their homes. Florida KidCare applications will soon be available at 7 sheriff's substations and 13 satellite offices. Families who access the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office website will be able to obtain information on insurance via a link to the Florida KidCare website.

"Our deputies are the perfect outlet to promote the Florida KidCare program," says Palm Beach

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County Sheriff Ed Bieluch. "In addition to their daily contact with the community in the neighborhoods they patrol, when our deputies are on calls of a domestic nature, they often run into situations where children may not have health insurance. Now they will have the tools to really help those children."

Florida KidCare is a statewide, comprehensive health insurance program available to uninsured children, birth through age 18. Eligibility is based on family size and income and many non-citizen children may be eligible. Most families pay \$15 per month; others pay nothing at all. Benefits include doctor's visits, immunizations, prescriptions, emergencies, surgery, dental and more! The application is a simple, one-page application and no interview is required.

The Health Care District of Palm Beach County is the local sponsor for this statewide program and is responsible for funding the local match and administering the local outreach and education program. "Partnering with an organization that has such a presence in the community, such as the sheriff's office, ensures families will become more aware of the resources available to help them meet the health care needs of their children," says Jacqueline Muniz, KidCare Specialist. "Statistics show that uninsured children are 25% more likely to miss school than children with health insurance. When children are in school, they learn to be productive citizens and stay out of trouble. With sheriff deputies working in the community seven days a week, 24 hours a day, they are an excellent resource in helping us promote the KidCare program."

Deputy Gail Arbour, Project Coordinator for Florida KidCare at the Palm Beach County Sheriff's

Office encourages every law enforcement agency to get involved with Florida KidCare outreach. "Outreach is not time consuming," says Deputy Arbour, "and application distribution by deputies can easily be incorporated into the community activities your agencies are already performing." For further information about duplicating this outreach project in your agency, contact Deputy Arbour at 561-688-4186 or via email at suttong@pbso.org. You may also contact Jacqueline Muniz, KidCare Specialist for the Health Care District of Palm Beach County at 561-659-1270 Ext. 5867 or via email at jmuniz@hcdpbc.org. ♦

Mozart recruited to deter criminals

It looks like the corner of any other brick school building. But it sounds a lot different. Speakers blasting Mozart are tucked along the building's edge.

After weeks of planning, police installed speakers at the former Means Court Elementary last month so classical music could flow through the air as far as three blocks north of the building at Thirteenth Street and Avenue E. in Fort Pierce. It's an area in the city's northwest section known as a hot spot for drug dealers.

"We are trying to use any legal means to eradicate that element," Police Chief Eugene Savage said, moments before he pressed a button on a CD player that would blare the classics through the area. "This generation thrives on a certain type of music: rap and hip-hop. And, there's a certain type of music that goes against that grain."

A nearby police substation and signs that say "No Trespassing, Police Take Notice" and "No Park-

ing, No Loitering, No Drugs" haven't deterred criminals, but Savage is hopeful.

St. Lucie School Superintendent Bill Vogel offered the use of the building where the speakers are mounted. The former elementary school holds the district's television station and some offices.

The district has invested about \$43 million in renovations and new schools in northwest Fort Pierce over the past few years, Vogel said.

Police Lt. Greg Kirk suggested the idea several months ago, after he learned the West Palm Beach Police Department mounted speakers at the corner of Tamarind Avenue and Seventh Street and met with some success. The so-called musical bug spray was used there for about six months.

"It is not a panacea," Savage said of the music. "It's not going to answer all our problems."

The hardware for the project cost a few hundred dollars and the music was donated by the local public radio station.

Savage will watch what happens during a trial period. Sonatas and symphonies will waft through the neighborhood from noon to midnight Saturdays and 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays.

"If we're having activity in that time frame, we'll see results," he said.

If problems crop up on other nights or in other places, the system is adjustable and mobile. Savage said police would prevent the problem from simply moving a few blocks away through arrests.

Officers canvassed to see whether residents would mind.

"It'll do something positive for the neighborhood," said Melvin Stamps, 17, who lives along Means Court. "With all the posi-

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Mozart recruited

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tive stuff, they (drug dealers) will move.”

Neighbor David Jones was more skeptical and doesn't like the idea of being bombarded by music he doesn't like.

“That's crazy,” said Jones, 30. “There's a lot that goes on, true enough. You've (also) got people that live in the neighborhood that don't want to hear that all the time.”

Courtesy of The Palm Beach Post. ♦

SEMINOLE S.O. WEB LINK GIVES INFO TO FIGHT I.D. THEFT

The Seminole County Sheriff's Office has created a web page to educate and assist those who have concerns about, or who have been the victims of identity theft and Internet-related crime.

The page was created in response to the growing trend, both locally and nationally, of these types of fraudulent activities. The web page offers links to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Internet Fraud Complaint Center, and links to the major credit reporting agencies.

To access the web page, log into the Seminole County Sheriff's Office web site at www.seminolesheriff.org. Go to the section on the left side of the page that says “About.” Then, click on the selection “Investigative Resources.” Then, click on the selection “Internet and Computer Crimes.” You can bookmark the following address: http://www.seminolesheriff.org/about/internet_crime/internet_crime.php

The project was a collaborative effort between Sgt. Dan Purcell, Economic and Computer Crimes, and Pete Robinson, Special Projects Coordinator/Webmaster. For more information you may contact either Sgt. Purcell or Pete Robinson at (407) 665-6600. ♦

Did you know?

That Florida law requires that all jail administrators report their inmate population data to the Florida Department of Corrections. Here is a thumbnail sketch of the figures that were compiled during the month of September, 2002:

- On the average, there was a total of 55,536* inmates being held in Florida's county detention facilities 73.8% of the total inmate popula-

tion was incarcerated for felony offenses, while 20.1% were being held for misdemeanors. The rest were being held for things like violation of probation, failure to pay child support, Baker Act, Myers Act, etc.

- Juveniles accounted for only 720, or 1.3% of the overall population, with 693 of them being male. 94.4% of the juveniles held were charged with felonies
- The majority (87.4% or 48,549) of those being held were male Offenders being held for trial represented 57.3% of the inmate population

The largest jail populations were in the following counties:

Miami-Dade - 7,001
Broward - 4,917
Orange - 3,988
Hillsborough - 3,571
Duval - 3,193
Pinellas - 3,029

Those with the smallest inmate population included: Lafayette (18), Liberty (19), Calhoun (24), Glades (25), Union (25), Gilchrist (39).

*Totals do not include Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes and Okeechobee County jails, as they did not report their data. ♦

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