

FLORIDA SHERIFFS All POINTS BULLETIN

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 4, 2004



Inmates Extending the Life of "Death Row Dogs"



Photos provided by LCSO Community Programs Unit.

By: Stan Nelson
Lee County Sheriff's Office

Six recent detainees at the Lee County Sheriff's Office "Stockade" are not likely to try to dig out anytime soon.

The new arrivals are part of the Lee County "Cell Dogs Program," which pairs homeless shelter canines with inmates who serve as their trainers and full-time companions in the minimum-security section of the LCSO detention facilities.

More than 55 inmates applied for the program. Six were selected as primary handlers; another six will serve as secondary handlers and an additional three were chosen as backups.

The project is a joint effort of the Lee County Sheriff's Office, Lee County Animal Services and the Companion Dog Training Center.

A win-win opportunity

The arrangement is mutually beneficial for both corrections and animal control, says Animal Services Capt.

Lance Raiche. "This is a good stress relief for the inmates and good for the dogs."

There are no expenses for the Sheriff's Office, since the partnership involves organizations that provide for canines and other animals.

"I can't find a downside to it," says Lee County Sheriff's Capt. Tom Weaver, who launched the program after seeing a television show on cell dogs. Animal services provides all their food, kennel crates and veterinary services.

If it continues to be successful, the program will likely be expanded.

"Some of these dogs are last chance dogs," Weaver says. "They need to be trained or otherwise they would be put down," by animal services.

During the 8- to 16-week program, inmates teach the dogs obedience, socialization and basic commands before the dogs are put up for adoption. Inmates or their families may be able to adopt one of the cell dogs if the home environment is right, but there are no guarantees, Raiche says.

Other programs growing

While there are documented cases of therapeutic effects that dogs have on humans, especially in places such as nursing homes, the idea of dogs in prisons is relatively new. Still, an Internet search showed that trial programs are cropping up across the country.

Sometimes referred to as "death row dogs," the animals typically become a 24-hour-a-day responsibility – they eat and sleep in the cells. They follow their inmate-trainers nearly everywhere during the training period.



While it's an added responsibility, most prisoners recognize it as a perk. And they know if they break prison rules, they risk being thrown out of the program.

Because inmates view the animals as "underdogs," they often identify with them and have a desire to help.

Prisons are also a place where affection is not allowed – but with dogs can be an exception. In addition, prisoners are able to learn a trade – and, perhaps more importantly, learn to care for the animals and be responsible.

Humane societies are big proponents because a trained dog is more adoptable.

The side effects are also promising. The warden of one facility said that since the dog training program had started, prison violence was down by 40 percent.

That statistic, alone, seems to make the programs worthy of consideration. Stan Nelson works in planning and research for the Lee County Sheriff's Office. Editor Julie S. Bettinger contributed to this report. ☼

Hurricane Postscripts

By: Sgt. Rick Hord
Public Information Officer
Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office

A few random thoughts and observations after the Hurricane season for those of us in the field of informing the public:

•**What, no beer?** This seems to catch a lot of people by surprise with every hurricane. Under state law, the Sheriff of a county or appropriate city official in a municipality may prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages during a state of emergency. In Okaloosa County, however, the County Commissioners removed all discretion. The alcohol prohibition is automatic by county ordinance. While you don't want to create a "run" on alcohol leading into a hurricane, it can help ward off some angry people by suggesting businesses inform their customers that a ban may be likely.

•**The gas lines.** The long lines may not have been entirely due to folks forgetting to gas up the car. Many people failed to anticipate fuel for the generator they already owned, or the one they ended up borrowing or purchasing. In public information efforts, we should remind residents to use lawn mower cans and boat fuel tanks to store extra gasoline.

•**Can my family find me?** Hurricane prep lists are all over the Internet, but many left off this tip. Here's a great suggestion: tell residents to designate an out of town relative or friend as the central contact point for your widely-scattered loved ones. That will save a lot of phone traffic into and out of the affected area. Tell them to make sure everybody knows about the plan in advance of the storm.

•**Can I find my way out... or back in?** Another one to add to the list: Suggest that evacuees pack their good, recent-vintage road maps. Those leaving the area with maps enjoyed a tremendous advantage, as



they were able to find lightly-traveled back roads while others endured hour after hour on jammed Interstates.

•**Some small things for the "Hurricane Kit."** By the end of September, those of us in Florida were able to recite from memory the essentials of hurricane preparation: stock up on drinking water, batteries and canned food. But there were some less obvious items that were an added convenience: a lighter-plug charging cord for the cellular telephone; aerosol flat tire fixer; paper plates and plastic forks; lots of plastic trash bags; plenty of paper towels; old fashioned (non-electric) can opener; oil lamp, plus oil; advance prescription refills; first aid supplies. And lest we forget the two important pre-storm chores: catch up on the laundry and give the dog a bath.

•**Yes, bad guys do take advantage of others' misfortune.** I don't know about you, but I counted more than 50 theft and burglary reports directly related to the storm, plus many others that were probably indirectly hurricane-related. The miscreants seem to have been spread more-or-less equally throughout our county, so it's not a matter of some areas being considered safer than others.

No, it's not easy trying to issue warnings of looting and other criminal activity when people fear for their lives in a natural disaster – but it's up to us to inform the public that hurricanes come packaged with a unique criminal element. In fact, the crime of opportunity seems to entice even the least likely suspect, it seems.

Case in point: One of our deputies

placed his personal laptop computer in what he hoped would be the safest available place: his patrol car. Before dawn on Thursday, when Hurricane Ivan was still raging, that patrol car, a large SUV, was pressed into service as an evacuation ferry. Ten children and their families were stranded by rising water already four feet deep. Deputies waded in and carried every one of them to safety.

The people were safe, but the laptop wasn't...it vanished sometime during the rescue operation.

Sgt. Rick Hord is a regular contributing writer to *The Sheriff's Star* magazine and *All Points Bulletin*. He can be reached by calling (850) 651-7420 or e-mailing: rhord@sheriff-okaloosa.org/.



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EDITOR'S INSIGHT

By: Julie S. Bettinger

My e-mail inbox was overflowing with unread messages, so I quickly scanned the subjects to make sure I wasn't missing anything "mission critical," before I moved on to another writing deadline.

Several messages were from Brevard County Sheriff's Office PIO Yvonne Martinez. For some reason the subject line, "Sheriff's Agent Killed in Car Crash" caught my eye.

Since I've been associated with law enforcement, now going on 10 years, any death among our ranks is enough to make me stop to learn more, and then say a prayer.

As I read the press release, searching out details, I saw the name, "Lucille Ross." It seemed familiar...and I kept reading. Next came a quote from Sheriff Phil Williams: "Luci was the best known, most liked and most loved individual in our Sheriff's Office."

Luci!

It was about Luci Ross, the woman I had "met" earlier this year, through an article we published in this newsletter (see "Death Becomes Her," Spring 2004, pg. 4). The article had described Luci as "one of the best" in the field of crime scene investigation nationally. She was one of an elite group of graduates of the new National Forensics Academy at the University of Tennessee.

Passionate about the field she'd made a 19-year career in, the article said she hoped that the National Forensics Academy would turn into something of the caliber of the FBI National Academy.

Woman of character

Truly, Luci seemed the type who could have inspired the CSI: Miami television series – as her work life consisted of patiently studying the details of crime scenes...sniffing out clues and piecing



together people's stories. And she didn't seem to mind getting way closer to decomposing cadavers than most of us could ever comfortably accomplish.

From the APB story, I recalled that Luci had gravitated toward CSI after making an unsolicited drawing of a crime scene and handing it in with her report.

The gifted art major was offered a job in crime scene investigations as a composite artist and quickly gained a reputation for her ability to put faces on unidentified dead people and match them up with real people with amazing results.

In fact, her drawings and reconstructions have been called almost "divinely inspired."

In reading the press release about her death, I learned more about this fascinating woman. She was the first female police officer in the city of Titusville (1978), worked as a road deputy in Orange County and also for the Osceola County Sheriff's Office (1989-1995). She became a crime scene agent for Brevard County in 1999.

Calling Luci, "one of the best crime scene agents in the country," BCSO Commander Mark Riley, said, "I think one of her best professional qualities was her ability to relate to victims of crime." It wasn't just about gathering evidence, Luci always made sure the families were OK.

In my reminiscing of this great woman, the "how" of her death seemed almost irrelevant. While responding to a crime scene on Merritt Island, involving a suicide, she rear-ended a tractor-trailer on I-95. At the time of this writing, the Florida Highway Patrol was still investigating the accident.

Luci will be sorely missed...by her family, including her husband, retired Titusville Police Chief Frank Ross, and her two teenaged sons, I'm sure. And, of course, her brothers and sisters in

law enforcement.

But she clearly left a legacy for many other crime scene investigators to follow, and for that we are grateful. As her immediate supervisor, Agent Terry Laufenberg, said, "She will be looking over our (crime) scenes forever."

For all you did to further the science of crime scene investigations...for all of the families you've assisted by helping to provide closure...and for the other lives you've touched, including mine, I just wanted to say: Thank you, Luci.

Julie

P.S. – The Brevard Sheriff's Office asked that memorial contributions go to "Camp Chance," a Sheriff's office program for disadvantaged children that Agent Luci Ross supported. Mail to: Camp Chance, 700 S. Park Ave., Titusville, FL 32780, or call 321-264-5201 and ask for Deputy Don Eggert.

Florida Sheriffs Association Calendar of Events 2004-2005




Newly Elected Sheriffs Basic Institute, Ramada Inn & Conference Center, Tallahassee, December 5-10.

FSA Annual Mid-Winter Conference, Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort, Destin (hosted Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office), January 23-26, 2005.

FSA Jail Administrators' Workshop, Sandestin Hilton, Destin, February 14-16, 2005.

FSA Administrative Management Training Seminar, Sanibel Harbor Resort, Sanibel, June 7-9, 2005.

FSA Annual Summer Conference, Registry Resort, Naples, July 24-27, 2005.



Sometimes it takes a statewide emergency – or a series of them, like those brought on by hurricanes Frances, Charley, Ivan and Jeanne – for the public to understand the critical role that law enforcement and other emergency operations play in their community.

Still, though they may have witnessed heroic efforts on the part of emergency workers, the public probably didn't stop to think that these men and women were making a personal sacrifice, too. Like their fellow Floridians, many Sheriffs' Office employees lost their homes, vehicles and personal items that can never be replaced.

In recognition of their great sacrifice during the hurricanes, above and beyond the call, FSA has established an assistance program to help Sheriffs' office employees who have suffered major losses to get back on their feet. If you would like to contribute, please mail your donations to: The Florida Sheriffs Hurricane Relief Fund, c/o Florida Sheriffs Association, P.O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, FL 32317. Checks should be made payable to the Florida Sheriffs Association and note that it's for Hurricane Relief; 100% of your donations will go toward this cause.

These funds will be distributed directly to the Sheriffs' Offices in counties that were most affected. Employees interested in applying for Hurricane Relief funds, should contact their Sheriff, or e-mail us (info@flsheriffs.org) for more information on the program.

To the dedicated men and women in law enforcement who gave their all during these disasters, we want to say, "Thank You." ☼

Sheriffs Establish Hurricane Relief Fund



Hydroponics: Training Inmates, Saving Tax Dollars

By: Kevin Doll
Public Information Director
Pasco Sheriff's Office

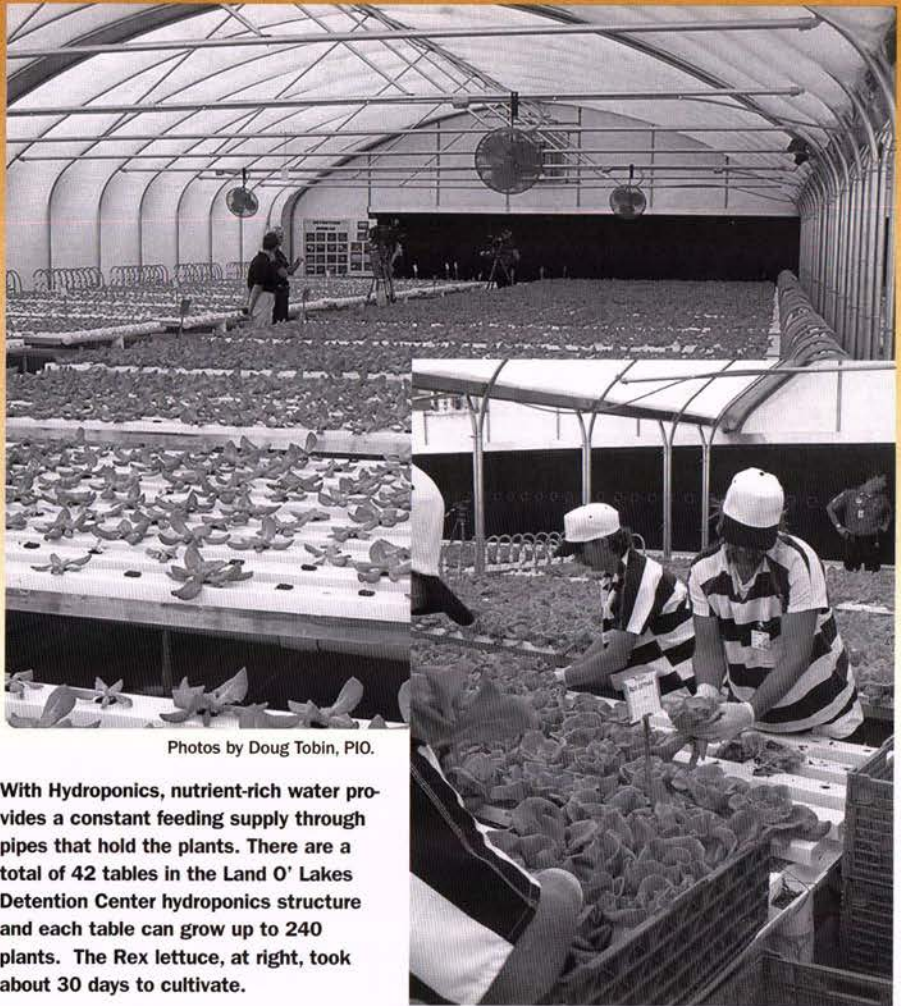


Armed with \$110,000 in grant monies, and assisted by a fellow Sheriff's Office, the Pasco County Sheriff's office launched its first inmate hydroponics program at the Land O' Lakes Detention Center, October 13. The program is the latest in a number of initiatives to save taxpayer dollars on inmate food costs while training inmates with marketable job skills.

Hydroponics is defined as "the cultivation of plants without soil." Soil-less gardening offers many advantages. Since a sterile medium is used, there are no weeds to remove, and soil-borne pests and diseases are minimized – if not eliminated. Hydroponics' plants are also healthier and more vigorous because the needed growth elements –water and nutrients–are readily available. Hydroponics gardens use less space since the roots do not have to spread out in search of food and water. The plants can mature faster, yielding an earlier harvest of vegetable crops.

The Pasco Sheriff's Office inmate hydroponics program began in June of this year with an \$86,000 federal grant designed to develop vocational programs for inmates. The Pasco County Sheriff's Office inmate welfare fund supplied an additional \$24,000, for a total of \$110,000, all at no cost to local taxpayers. The funds were used to construct concrete sidewalks, and the metal frame and fabric-covered building that houses the plants, and to purchase the exhaust fans, humidifying cooler, and the PVC material used for the hydroponics equipment. Inmate labor was used for most of the construction.

Members of the Manatee County



Photos by Doug Tobin, PIO.

With Hydroponics, nutrient-rich water provides a constant feeding supply through pipes that hold the plants. There are a total of 42 tables in the Land O' Lakes Detention Center hydroponics structure and each table can grow up to 240 plants. The Rex lettuce, at right, took about 30 days to cultivate.

Sheriff's Office were instrumental in providing important knowledge and experience gained from their hydroponics program that greatly assisted the implementation of the Pasco Sheriff's Office project.

A hydroponics "how to"

To begin the hydroponics process, seedlings are first placed into individual potting containers. The containers are then placed into holes that are drilled into the PVC tubing. A nutrient-rich solution is then circulated through the tubing, and the seeds can germinate in only one day. Some crops can be harvested in as little as 30 days. In early October, a trial run produced 334 heads of Rex lettuce, totaling 87 pounds. The retail market for this lettuce is presently almost \$3 a head.

Another advantage to hydroponics: immediately following a harvest, the

tubing can be cleaned and immediately utilized again for another crop.

The hydroponics program joins other inmate initiatives started by Sheriff Bob White, including the inmate garden, which grows crops the conventional way; the aquaculture program, where catfish are raised in underwater cages; and a limited livestock program that raises pigs. "Trusty" inmates tend all of these programs, and the produce and meat are utilized in the jail food system.

Increasing inmate skills, saving tax dollars on food purchases and making the jail more self-sufficient are just a few of the benefits of the hydroponics and other agricultural programs in Pasco County.

Writer Kevin Doll can be reached at: (727) 844-7759, or via e-mail: kdoll@pascosheriff.com/. ☺

Pinellas S.O. Is First in Florida to Use Mobile Facial Recognition

By: Mac McMullen
Public Information Specialist
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

This past September, mobile facial recognition technology allowed Pinellas County Sheriff's Office deputies to identify a 27-year old female using false names and birthdates as a fugitive.

Using this technology in the identification of a suspect and an arrest is believed to be the first in Florida and possibly in the U.S.

According to Facial Recognition Technology Project Coordinator Lieutenant Jim Main, Mobile Facial Recognition is a tool patrol deputies can use to identify individuals who were involved in criminal activity.

The September 11 call brought deputies to a disturbance, where they were confronted with a suspect who gave them a false name and date of birth. Deputies were unable to confirm the suspect's name through traditional methods. A deputy with the mobile recognition technology installed in his cruiser arrived at the scene. Using the digital camera and in-car computer, the deputy positively matched the suspect's facial image with the known photographs of the suspect.

After establishing the suspect's identity, deputies determined she was wanted on two felony warrants for violating probation on cocaine and prostitution charges. When deputies showed the suspect the positive photo match, she admitted her true name and was booked into the Pinellas County Jail with no bond.

How it works

Deputies from the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program were the first to receive the equipment and training for the mobile facial recognition system. Deputies received a four-hour block of



First, deputies take a photo of the suspect, as Pinellas Deputy Edmond Randall demonstrates. The camera containing the image is then docked on a mounted location between the car seat (bottom photo) and downloaded onto a laptop. Special software is used to compare the new image against existing images in other databases.



Miami-Dade Jail and compares the suspect's image with the imported booking photos. A gallery of photos is displayed on the laptop with a list of potential matches.



training in June. As more systems arrive, more deputies will receive the training. The Sheriff's Office hopes to have 50 units in patrol cars in the next few months.

Mobile Facial Recognition uses a digital camera, a docking station for the camera and a laptop computer. Deputies take the subject's picture, place the camera in the docking station and download the image to the laptop. Software developed by a company called Viisage imports booking photos from the Pinellas County Jail, Florida Department of Corrections and the

Deputies then evaluate the suspect's image with photos in the gallery to get the match.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office employs similar facial recognition systems in the Pinellas County Jail's Booking and Release area, Inmate Visitation site, Criminal Courts Complex and the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport. Federal grant money funded all the systems.

Pinellas County Sheriff Everett Rice is a staunch supporter of the technology. "Law enforcement needs tools like facial recognition to better understand who we are dealing with on the street," he says. Facial recognition makes not only for a safer community but for a safer environment for the deputies to go about their business.

Writer Mac McMullen can be reached at (727) 582-6292 or via e-mail: mmcmullen@pcsonet.com. ☼



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The Use and Control of Confidential Informants:

A Patrol Officer's Primer

By: David G. Brand
Professional Compliance Manager
Florida Department of
Law Enforcement



David G. Brand

When I was a rookie police officer, in what now seems like another lifetime, I often marveled at how veteran detectives worked informants.

When responding to a shooting call, and struggling to capture the basic information, I would often hear other officers whisper deferentially "Cecil's on it," referring to an investigator who had just arrived on scene. The old detective would then disappear to check with his confidential sources only to resurface at the station hours later with the suspect in tow. I would always wonder where these "confidential informants" came from – Was there someplace you could go to find them or did they just appear? Were they simply passed on by someone else when you were promoted to detective or did you have to develop your own?

Most of all, I wondered: Could a patrol officer have confidential informants as well?

With 28 years in the trenches, I thought I would pass along what I've learned since then. Every law enforcement officer can benefit from knowing what a confidential informant is, how they can be developed, how they should be managed and, most of all, what the pitfalls can be.

What are confidential informants and what motivates them?

It is generally accepted, within the



law enforcement community, that there is a difference between a confidential informant and a source of information. A confidential informant can be defined as a non-law enforcement individual who, by reason of his or her familiarity or close association with criminals, supplies information about criminal activities. A source of information, however, can be defined as someone who provides information solely as a result of legitimate routine access to information or records.

An informant's motives are as old as human nature itself. One typology was developed over 40 years ago and appears to never change:

Fear. This includes people who feel threatened by law enforcement officers or by other criminals.

Revenge. People who want to get even, such as ex-spouses or former associates.

Perversity. Involves persons who are cop "wannabes" or who see themselves as secret agents.

Ego. Commonly displayed by persons who need to feel that they are outwitting those whom they see as inferior.

Money. Some people will do anything if enough money is offered.

Repentance. People who want to leave their criminal past behind.

Developing Informants

Informants and sources typically include people doing business around an area that criminal types frequent. They can be taxi drivers, hotel workers, bartenders, delivery employees, apartment dwellers and occasionally even private investigators and bail bondsmen.

The whole philosophy of Community Policing creates good citizen, volunteer sources because the patrol officer is in direct, daily contact with the neighborhood that he or she serves. Whether the officer proactively recruits or the potential informant approaches the officer, the officer should attempt to assess the person's motives and obtain enough information so that an analysis can be conducted. The informant should never be mistreated or insulted; instead, attempt to encourage their continued dialogue by reinforcing any positive motivators that have been identified. When dealing with informants – whether a newly recruited person or one who has been used extensively in the past – never accept the information provided on face value without verifying it on each and every occasion.

When establishing the credibility of information provided by an informant, especially for the first time, consider it in the same way that you would any other information that you would develop probable cause from. In this circumstance, however, you will not be revealing your witness. For example, a source may provide information that Joe Smith lives at a certain address, drives a red Ford, works at a particular job, frequents a particular area, and furthermore that he stole two televisions from a particular store, sold one of the televisions to a certain individual for \$100, and has the other television in his home. Then, in the course of his investigation, the officer determines that Joe Smith does exist and lives at the address that was provided. He owns a red Ford, works at the job that the informant described, and does, in fact, frequent a particular area. It is fur-

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Broward Establishes Detention Academy, the First S.O. to Receive Certification

By: Hugh Graf
Public Information Officer
Broward Sheriff's Office



There's always room to raise the bar. That thought came to Broward County Sheriff Ken Jenne in 2002, as construction on the county's newest jail grew closer to completion and the need for nearly 250 additional detention deputies grew more apparent. If the Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) could recruit detention deputies, Jenne thought, why couldn't it train them as well? Find the best people out there, offer them a great career with a great agency, train them to exacting agency standards, and do it all in less time than it took before.

"It's a matter of supply and demand," said Sheriff Jenne. With five county jails housing an average of 4,600 inmates daily, BSO operates the 10th largest local jail system in the United States.

"We expect the number of inmates in our jails to rise significantly over the next decade," Jenne says. "We've just opened a new jail, a 1,020-bed facility staffed by more than 200 deputies. By acting now to streamline the process of getting recruits from the classroom to the jails, we're better prepared for the future."

Great idea – now, can you deliver?

Sheriff Jenne and his staff rolled up their sleeves and got to work. By May 8, 2003, their efforts paid off when the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission awarded BSO certification to run its own training center. The BSO Institute for Criminal Justice Studies (ICJS), also known as BSO's Detention Academy, was open for busi-



Top photo: As part of Broward Sheriff's Office's new Detention Academy, cadets learn defensive tactics and other skills valuable to the corrections field, including how to conduct a cell search.



ness. But becoming the first Sheriff's Office in the nation to earn this type of certification didn't happen overnight.

Months were spent developing a recruit handbook with all of the academy rules, regulations, policies, procedures and performance standards. A recruit orientation packet with the necessary forms, agreements and logs was put together along with the ICJS staff-designed training materials, evaluation reports, grading system, course schedules and special event programs.

The ICJS also took care of everything from advising and mentoring the new recruits to creating the academy's new logo. When they were finished, they

had a winning training program, one that would help the Broward Sheriff's Office quickly fill open positions in its jails and save time and money too.

Implementation saves tax dollars

The BSO detention program requires recruits to go through hundreds of hours of training – both in the classroom and "on-the-job." By incorporating some training hours into time spent in the jails, recruits can finish the academy in 17 weeks instead of 21. As a result, recruits can go from the classroom to full-time employment in the jails sooner, and tax dollars are saved because

Continued from page 10

the recruits – who are paid – spend fewer weeks in the academy.

As a bonus, with more new detention deputies being placed in the jails sooner, there has been a general decline in over-time hours put in by veteran detention deputies.

The BSO Detention Academy course structure consists of 530 hours (370 hours in the classroom and 160 hours of hands-on training in BSO jail facilities). Classes generally run from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and courses cover interpersonal skills, communications, physical conditioning, correctional operations, defensive tactics, legal issues and much more.

Along the way, recruits are tested in each category to ensure their proficiency and those who seem to have trouble in one area or another are given additional mentoring and a chance to take the test again. Once they complete the academy program, each recruit gets an ICJS-designed study course to help them prepare for the state certification exam.

Early results point to success

Based on the early results, the BSO Detention Academy program is a huge success. In its first seven months, BSO's Detention Academy trained, graduated, and placed 71 detention deputies. Perhaps more impressive than the swift turnaround is the fact that every cadet who met the BSO academy standards passed the state certification exam and 94.4% of them passed on the first attempt. Statewide, during the same time frame, just 82.4% of those taking the test passed on the first attempt.

Beyond those numbers, BSO-trained cadets scored the highest out of all testing academies, averaging 91.2% on the state certification exam.

"Getting the academy from the drawing board to reality was no easy feat, but it was well worth it," says Sheriff Jenne. "In about seven months, we were able to fill more than a quarter of the detention deputy openings we had in our jails, and,

we know they're all well trained and highly qualified. We're ready for the future."

The American Correctional Association (ACA), the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare (NCCHC), and the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC) have accredited BSO's Department of Detention and Community Control.

BSO detention cadets must be at least 19-years-old, a U.S. citizen, have a high school diploma or equivalent, no criminal convictions, and a valid driver's license. They receive a competitive

salary and benefits while enrolled in the academy and excellent advancement opportunities upon graduation and state certification. To learn more about the Broward Sheriff's Office, visit www.Sheriff.org. For more information about BSO's Detention Academy, please contact Captain Timothy Gillette at (954) 831-8185 or

Tim_Gillette@Sheriff.org.

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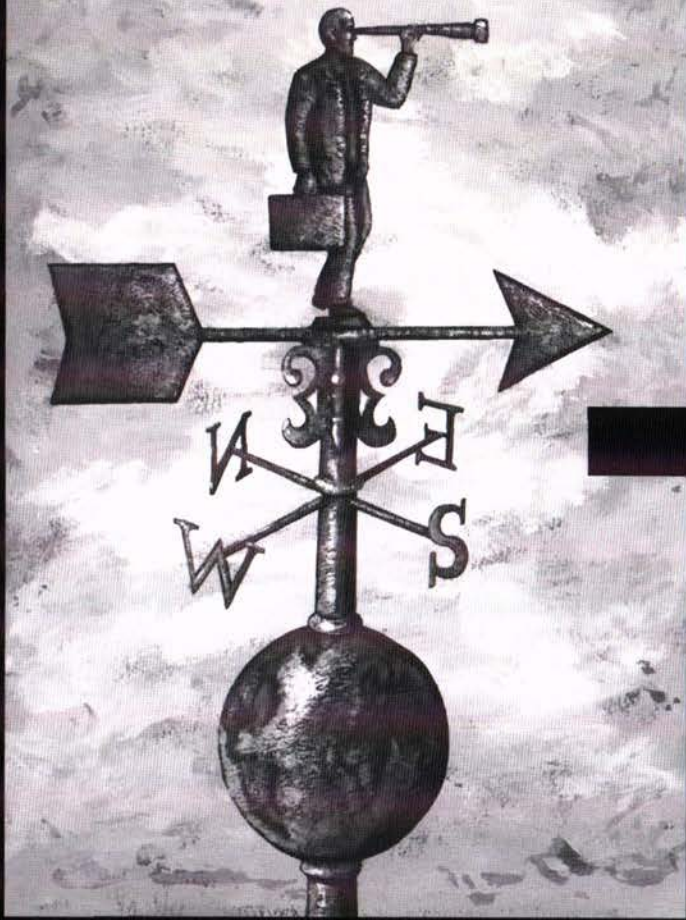


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ther determined that the described retail store did have two televisions stolen on the date provided by the informant. The individual who reportedly bought one of the television sets is contacted. He turns over the stolen television and confirms that he gave Joe Smith \$100 for it. By independently confirming all of the information that was provided, it becomes reasonable to assume that the last element, the other television being located in Joe Smith's home, is also correct. Probable cause has just been developed to obtain a search warrant to search for the stolen property.

When the confidential informant has provided truthful and accurate information on several occasions, which has resulted in the successful conclusion of criminal investigations, the officer can then articulate in affidavits that he or she has personal knowledge about the informant's past activity on behalf of law enforcement. It is at this point that a "reliable confidential informant" is born.

The informant works for you, you don't work for him

The first step in controlling an informant is to document a Confidential Informant Profile. This file should contain, at a minimum, the informant's name, alias, race, sex, date of birth, social security number, a description of any scars, tattoos or piercings, a copy of the NCIC check, active warrant check, administrative fingerprint cards, multiple angle photographs, and a video tape of the informant walking and talking.

It is further suggested that periodic warrant checks be conducted. One of the most serious pitfalls of working an informant involves the informant having an arrest warrant in another jurisdiction that the officer has no knowledge of.

There should also be a Confidential Informant Acknowledgement form, signed by the informant, using the signature that will appear on receipts where he/she is paid cash for infor-

mation. The rules that are established by the officer's agency, some of which may be confidential to protect the informant, should be included in this acknowledgement. The informant should be thoroughly briefed on these rules and his/her acknowledgement witnessed by the appropriate authority within the officer's agency. Remember, an informant may very well sue you if they are injured. Having documented proof that you explained the terms and conditions of the services that are being provided will help you defend your agency if you are sued.

An appropriate authority should centrally control informant files and information concerning informants should only be disseminated on a need-to-know basis. Centrally controlling intelligence information on informants will ensure that an informant will not be giving the same information to more than one officer which could place both officers, if nothing else, in an embarrassing situation.

The possibility of a court ordered disclosure of an informant's identity should be considered during each investigation. If this occurs, it may be necessary to request that the prosecutor dismiss the criminal case in order to protect the identity of the informant. Careful case management will usually preclude this from occurring.

Other tips for informant development

The second critical step involves the actual field craft of working the informant.

Prior to any planned contact with an informant, conduct an up-to-date check for outstanding arrest warrants and any current confidential informant entries that have been made in the informant's profile log. If there are active arrest warrants, consultations must be made with a supervisor and the prosecutor to determine if the warrant should be served at the time of the encounter or later. Remember, an arrest warrant is an order of the court and should be treated as such.

A male officer should never meet with a female informant alone. Likewise, a female officer should exercise extreme caution in meeting with a male informant. If it's not feasible to have another officer present, have one monitor the meeting from a distance. If appropriate or necessary, have the handling officer wired and the meeting monitored by the second officer. Carefully document the meeting including notes on, not just the information provided, but the appearance and demeanor of the informant.

Keep your guard up

Remember that informants are usually criminals, too, and cannot be trusted not to go back to the suspect and tell what just occurred. Also, informants, by their very nature, are unpredictable under stress and could react in an unexpected way when they are wearing a wire.

An informant, who has always provided reliable information, can sometimes cause the officer to relax and not thoroughly investigate the information that is being provided. Informants will generally, if given enough time, try to manipulate the officer in order to fulfill their own agenda. Also, consistent arrests of major criminals, in concert with positive news media coverage, can result in an officer's upward mobility within the agency. Both of these circumstances can cloud the officer's judgment in handling an informant.

While this article is not all-inclusive on the use and control of criminal informants, it can serve as a basic guide for the patrol officer who aspires to take his or her investigations to a higher level.

David G. Brand served 28 years with the Tallahassee Police Department. In addition to his position with FDLE, he is also an Adjunct Instructor at Florida State University. He has a B.S. in Criminology and a Master of Public Administration from FSU. ☛

Award-Winning K-9 Laid to Rest

Leon County Sheriff's Office K-9 Mika had to be put down October 8th due to complications related to a tumor on his heart. The partner of LCSO Deputy Todd Hays, Mika's police K-9 career began February 1998. A great "show dog," placing 13th in the nation at the U.S. Police Canine Association's national field trial, Mika's true passion was most apparent when catching bad guys. In addition to the national award, partners Todd and Mika were awarded "Case of the Quarter" for three incidents and "Case of the Year" for the tracking of a violent sexual battery suspect. Mika will be sorely missed not only by Todd, but the entire Leon County Sheriff's Office and the community he served.



Todd Hays and partner K-9 Mika

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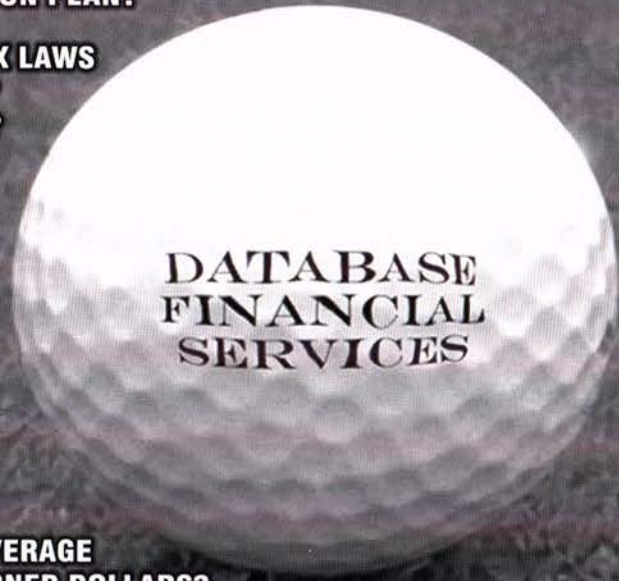
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