

FLORIDA SHERIFFS All POINTS BULLETIN



VOLUME 15, NUMBER 1, 2005

CORRECTIONS

Holmes County Sgt. Lynn Lee Wins Corrections Officer of the Year

This year's Corrections Officer of the Year awards committee agreed that the nominations for 2004 proved especially competitive. To give you an idea of what they faced, nominations included an off duty Corrections Officer who pulled a family from a burning vehicle following a serious accident and worked with each injured victim triage-style, including performing CPR on a six year old. Another nominee had chased after and tackled a jail escapee, as he was trying to carjack a getaway vehicle.

After much discussion, though, the awards committee focused on one incident that required a Corrections Officer to fight her natural instincts and remain at her post until backup could arrive, all the while listening to a drama played out over the Emergency Operations Center radio that involved her police officer husband.

Drama unfolds

The incident that led to Holmes County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Lynn Lee's nomination as Corrections Officer of the Year occurred in March of last year around 10 a.m. on a Saturday morning.

Sgt. Lee, who has also worked as a sworn deputy, was the Shift Sergeant on duty at the Holmes



Holmes County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Lynn Lee (right) fought her natural instincts and remained on the job while listening to a drama over the Emergency Operations Center radio that involved the shooting of her police officer husband, Steven Lee (above).

County Sheriff's Office Work Camp when the event unfolded. It just so happens that the Dispatch/9-1-1 operations center is located adjacent to the booking area of the jail, where Sgt. Lee was working.

Because Saturday mornings are fairly quiet in rural Holmes County, which is located in Northwest Florida and borders Alabama, it was a skeleton staff at the unit. A newly trained part-timer was handling emergency dispatch while Lee and another Corrections Officer managed about 100 inmates. Their backup was transporting another inmate for medical treatment.

When the dispatch operator received a call about a man with a gun who was shooting in a neighborhood, Sgt. Lee recognized the area and as one that Bonifay Police Department usually covered. She called her husband of 10 years, Steven Lee, who was also on duty as an officer with Bonifay PD and he recognized the address as one he'd handled often.

Baker Act rebound

Bonifay Police Department had Baker Acted the resident several times, most recently about six months prior to

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Corrections Officer of the Year continued . . .

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this incident...and because Officer Lee was familiar with the man's mental illness, he said he would handle the call.

Steven Lee arrived on the scene to find Dwight McWaters standing unarmed in his front yard. As Officer Lee approached him, he could see that McWaters was clearly delusional and might be dangerous. As he started to restrain McWaters, they got into a struggle. Officer Lee reached for his pepper spray, but McWaters broke away and ran for his high-powered rifle, which was located just inside his kitchen door.

Simultaneously, Officer Lee ran toward his vehicle for cover and started yelling into his radio for backup. Before Lee could be shielded, though, McWaters started shooting ...hitting him a total of nine times, including his leg, thigh and part of his upper torso, where the bulletproof vest didn't cover.

Back at the Dispatch/Operations Center, the radios and phones started going haywire. Sgt. Lynn Lee quickly moved in to help and heard not only "shots fired" and "officer down," but her own husband's voice over the radio as he screamed directions to backup and gave information about his injuries.

Sgt. Lynn Lee immediately dispatched an ambulance and resisted the urgings of her co-workers to go to the scene. "I can't leave," she told them. "There's no one to cover my post."

She called her father, Billy Forehand, also a Sergeant with Holmes County Sheriff's Office and told him, "Get over there." Her next call was to the Sheriff to plead for someone to relieve her and he responded quickly.

At the scene

Deputy Eddie Eaton was the first backup to arrive on the scene of the crime. He returned fire at McWaters

and threw himself on Steven Lee to shield him from more bullets. He shouted directions to a highway patrol officer to pull his vehicle between the shooter and Steven Lee, hoping to stop the bullets, and allow the ambulance to get to Lee.

As more backup arrived, McWaters retreated to the house, where officers knew he had more guns. They organized the SWAT Team and prepared to go in...but the shooting stopped. McWaters had been seriously injured and, though hospitalized, eventually died from his wounds.

Finally relieved at her post, Sgt. Lynn Lee raced to the scene, but her husband was already on his way to the hospital. One of the other deputies transported her to where her husband was waiting on the air ambulance to a Dothan hospital.

Sgt. Lynn Lee described it this way: "I'm looking at him and he's covered in blood from the neck down. I think I was just in a dazed state. Later, when we looked at the x-rays, you could see fragments all the way down the left side of his body. God was with him..."

She says when people hear the story, they always ask her, "How did you stay there and listen to it all and not leave?"

She responds, "Honest to God, I don't know how I stayed there. Basically, I knew I couldn't leave. I still had my job to do until I could get somebody there to cover for me. It seemed like forever..."

You'll be happy to know there's a happy ending to her story. Though still on disability, Officer Steven Lee is recovering well and hopes to be back at work as soon as he is able.

When we asked our award winner, Sgt. Lynn Lee, how life has changed after the incident, she says, "We see things a lot differently than we did back then. Life's too short - you know that - but it doesn't seem to sink in until something like this happens."

On the award nomination form,

Holmes County Sheriff Dennis Lee - no relationship to the winner - wrote, "Pride, integrity, honor and respect are all qualities we strive for as law enforcement and corrections officers. Sgt. Lee demonstrated the highest level of those qualities in carrying out her duties that day...She had incredible composure and made sure that everything was done that could be done. In my opinion, there is no corrections officer in the state of Florida who is more deserving of recognition by the Florida Sheriffs Association than Sgt. Lynn Lee."

Sheriff, we agree. And for this reason, we named Sgt. Lynn Lee the 2004 Corrections Officer of the Year, which includes a handsome plaque and a check for \$1,000.

Congratulations Sgt. Lee. ☆

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Hey, Sheriff: Like Your Job? Invest in a Good PIO



Julie Bettinger

I had a very humbling experience late last year. I was asked to address the newly elected Sheriffs during their Basic Institute held at FSA's headquarters in December.

While I have interviewed many Sheriffs in my 10-year affiliation with FSA, I don't mind telling you that I'm more comfortable one-on-one than I am addressing them as a group. I mean, come on – these are the chief law enforcement officers of Florida! Who am I to be talking to such a distinguished group?

The topic was FSA's publications. I was supposed to introduce them to *The Sheriff's Star* magazine and *All Points Bulletin* and I needed to explain why they should care.

But the bigger issue I wanted to cover was to tell them why they should care about *any* publication...why they should care about the whole *topic* of public information in their agencies.

You see, I believe that the key to these Sheriffs getting re-elected is how good of a job they do in the public information department.

Really. It's *that* important.

Sure, some people might think I'm being extreme. But in my 21 years in journalism, marketing and public relations, I can tell you that how politicians and companies are "packaged" and how well they are portrayed in the media often dictates how long they survive.

I'd venture to say that in many instances, poor public information is to blame for Sheriffs who *don't* get re-elected...even in the case of an alleged scandal.

Many times, minor mistakes can

turn into huge issues before the Sheriff even has time to react. A talented and media-savvy Public Information Officer, who has privileged access to the Sheriff (this is critical), will not only be able to see the tragedy coming, but possibly help diffuse the situation before things get out of hand.

Affecting the ranks

Many government agencies don't look at public information as a vital service. The truth is: It can really be the heart and soul of your organization. In fact, if carried out effectively, it can positively impact such things as employee morale and agency productivity in addition to public perception.

Think of it this way: If you have the choice of working for Company A that you've seen represented positively in the media, and Company B that you can't seem to find any information on, anywhere, which would you choose?

We all want to be proud of the places where we work – it makes showing up and doing a good job worthwhile. If the place has a good reputation, that's even more reason to work hard to *keep* your job.

Also, a Sheriff may have the best-run agency in the country, but if the public doesn't know it, they aren't serving their constituents effectively. And for those agency heads who take the attitude, "I don't have to prove myself to the media," I just offer some words of caution: All it takes is one reporter with a hidden agenda to sink you...and your reputation.

Proactive vs. reactive

What a Sheriff doesn't want to do is to wait until it's too late – when the trouble has already started – to hire a good PIO. Because clean up work is expensive and often not very effective.

They should start by creating a budget for the PIO department – even if it's just a competitive salary for one staffer. Many agencies started this way and I've seen a number of "one man"

PR departments in my day. In fact, I've been that "one man" in previous positions.

Careful selection is also important. No. 1 is that the Sheriff needs to have someone with whom they share a good rapport. This prospect should also be loyal and honest, not overly eager or sales-ish. It's vital that they be a good writer and communicator – especially if this is not the Sheriff's strength – and they should be Internet friendly.

Oh, yeah, and it needs to be someone the Sheriff trusts.

Former journalists make good PIOs and so do former TV personalities. I haven't seen the statistics, but I don't get the sense that many PIOs come from the ranks of sworn personnel. It's probably the nature of the job.

While I'm tempted to give my list of Sheriffs' offices with the best PIOs, I'll refrain – and try to preserve my own job! But perhaps these hints will help. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'll step off of my soapbox...

Julie

Florida Sheriffs Association Calendar of Events 2005



Training Conference for the Sheriff's Assistant, Ramada Inn North Conference Center, Tallahassee, May 16-19

FSA Administrative Management Training Seminar, Sanibel Harbor Resort & Spa, Ft. Myers, June 7-9

National Sheriffs Association Summer Conference, Louisville Marriott Hotel, Louisville, KY, June 25-29

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

FSA 14th Annual Car Evaluation and Fleet Managers Training Conference, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Tampa/Sabal Park, September 27-30

Nonverbal Communications: Is Your Body Deceiving You?



By: Kimberley Glover

I never drive over the speed limit. Am I lying? Of course, but there is no way that you could know by simply reading that sentence. However, what if we were standing face-to-face and having a conversation? Would you be suspicious if I looked away, started fidgeting, or stuttered? If you were looking for these nonverbal cues, you might suspect that I was lying. Does it matter if I looked up and to the right? What about if I looked down and to the left? Over the years, we have all heard myths about how to utilize nonverbal behaviors to detect deception. Unfortunately, that is all they are - myths.

Recently I attended a very enlightening three-day seminar titled, "Nonverbal Communications/Detecting Deception." During this seminar I learned that it is practically impossible to determine if someone is lying to us. What we *can* learn, however, is how to determine when someone is uncomfortable with what he or she is saying. Let's use the example of my violating the speed limit. When I am pulled over by the officer and asked if I knew how fast I was going, I may answer, "No, officer, I really don't know how fast I was going." I may be telling the truth; I may have told a lie. But regardless, I will likely exhibit some nonverbal behaviors that should alert the officer that I am nervous and not sure of what I've just said.

Those nonverbal behaviors could include pausing during speech, rigidity, speaking in a higher-pitched voice than usual, biting my lip or tapping my fingers on the steering wheel. Whether I'm lying or not, it would be helpful for



Writer Kimberley Glover (left) is pictured here with FBI retired Special Agent Joe Navarro, instructor of the three-day certification course titled, "Nonverbal Communications/Detecting Deception," which is taught at Saint Leo University's Institute for Excellence in Criminal Justice Administration.

the officer to be able to pick up on those cues and recognize *when* they happen, so he could ask additional questions to find out *why* I'm uncomfortable. Obviously, most of us will be a little uncomfortable after being pulled over for going 95 in a 45 zone. However, these skills can be put to much better use in interview and interrogation settings. When a suspect starts to exhibit these behaviors, and we are able to determine precisely when they do so, it allows us to keep asking questions about the topic.

Alert to your own behaviors

A few weeks after the seminar, I realized something amazing. Not only was I consciously watching the nonverbal behaviors of others more often, I also had unconsciously changed some of my own behaviors. During the seminar, the instructor held a videotaped conversation with each participant privately. After filming each participant and asking them some questions regarding their personal or professional life, the video clips were viewed in the classroom setting. Each of us realized something new about ourselves that we had never noticed. For example, when I get nervous or uncomfortable when

speaking, my hand instantly springs up to my neck and I fidget with the pendant on my necklace. Unconsciously, I am protecting one of my most vulnerable areas, my neck and throat. Since becoming aware of this behavior, I have almost completely stopped this protective behavior. I want to give the appearance of being calm and composed, and not send out nervous indicators to others when speaking publicly. In an effort to do so, I have changed some of my own nonverbal behaviors. Far more important than my giving a calm appearance when speaking publicly, however, are the nonverbal cues that police officers and investigators project to the public and to suspects in interrogation.

NV cues that influence encounters

What nonverbal cues might officers give to the public or to those being questioned? The list is endless, but there are a few that could lead to potential danger. Continuous touching of a gun holster could make a suspect feel that a situation is escalating. The constant tapping of a pen on a table during questioning could lead the suspect to believe that an investigator is

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A Primer on Consular Notification

By: Major George Aylesworth
General Counsel, Miami-Dade Police Department

"Remember, remember always that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists."

In today's law enforcement environment, these words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt can provide food for thought.

Imagine for a moment that you are traveling abroad and are arrested or detained by police authorities in another nation. In this type of situation there may possibly be a significant lack of familiarity with the language, and probably no real understanding of the laws of that country or the rights available to arrested persons.

To a foreign national who is under arrest, access to some point of contact with home becomes very important. For a United States citizen in such a situation, that contact is a representative of the U.S. Consular Service located in the nation in which the arrest occurs. That official will visit an incarcerated U.S. citizen, advise them generally about the situation, assist in making necessary contacts, and make sure that no mistreatment is occurring.

However, before the consular officer can do this, he or she must know about the arrest. To insure that consular officials are made aware of the arrest of a U.S. citizen in another country, the United States is a party to international agreements that require law enforcement officials of all participant nations to notify the appropriate consular official whenever a foreign national is arrested.



Major George Aylesworth

Foreign National concerns here at home

Local and state law enforcement officers may not think their duties have much impact on international relations, but there are frequent instances in the day to day work

of these officers that may have a direct affect on international affairs.

Officers involved in making arrests or investigating deaths and certain other incidents have specific, important duties imposed on them by international treaties, when citizens of other nations are involved. Treaties between the United States and other nations are the supreme law of the land in the United States, and the requirements of

these treaties are binding on all local, state, and federal officers

When a citizen of another nation is arrested, certain duties are imposed on the arresting officer regarding notification of the appropriate consular official and information that must be provided to the arrested person. In some cases, the consular official must be notified regardless of the wishes of the arrestee. In others, notification must be made only when, after being advised of the right to have the consulate notified, the arrested person requests that notification be made.

Florida law explicitly provides that failure to comply with the notification requirement is not a basis for discharging an arrested person from custody. However, even though this provision may prevent the release of an arrested

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Steps to Follow When a Foreign National is Arrested or Detained

1. Determine the foreign national's country. In the absence of other information, assume this is the country on whose passport or other travel document the foreign national travels.
2. If the foreign national's country is not on the mandatory notification list (see the website below): a) Offer, without delay, to notify the foreign national's consular officials of the arrest/detention. The U.S. Department of State has developed a suggested statement for notification to the foreign national, and translations of the statement into selected foreign languages. b) If the foreign national asks that consular notification be given, notify the nearest consular officials of the foreign national's country without delay.
3. If the foreign national's country is on the list of mandatory notification countries: a) Notify that country's nearest consular officials, without delay, of the arrest/detention. You may use the suggested fax sheet for making the notification, b) Tell the foreign national that you are making this notification.
4. Keep a written record of the provision of notification and actions taken.

For more information, please consult the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs web page: http://travel.state.gov/law/consular/consular_753.html

Direct general questions to: Office of Public Affairs and Policy Coordination for Consular Affairs, phone: 202-647-4415, or Email: consnot@state.gov.

For urgent telephone inquiries after normal business hours, you may call the State Department Operations Center at 202-647-1512.

A Primer on Consular Notification

Continued from page 5

person by a state court, it does not change the fact that the treaty requirements are the law and that they impose a legal duty on an arresting officer and agency. Furthermore, this state law provision does not eliminate the possibility that a federal court may order the release of a defendant.

What you need to know

Given that notification of an arrested foreign national's consular officers is a legal requirement, and the right and proper thing to do, how should this notification be accomplished? The United States Department of State publishes documents which provide contact information for consular officers.

While none of the international agreements that require notification specify the manner in which notification must be made, there are practical considerations regarding the best way to give notice. Consular officials may be notified by telephone, which is probably the fastest and easiest method. However, notification by telephone does not give the arresting agency any lasting proof that notification was made. Facsimile notification may be a better option, as it is fast, and can provide documented confirmation that the

notice was given and received. In all cases, the circumstances relating to the notification should be noted in the reports relating to the arrest or other situation requiring notice. Careful documentation of compliance with the notification process is very important because, as many cases have shown, compliance may become an issue years after the fact.

What is the legal remedy when law enforcement officials fail to advise foreign nationals of their right to have a consular official notified? In several landmark cases, foreign nations have sought judicial intervention on behalf of their nationals in an attempt to have convictions overturned and the national released.

Awareness is key

As law enforcement officers, we must recognize that notification of the appropriate consular officials when foreign nationals are arrested is a legal obligation affecting arresting officers and the agencies that employ them. The manner in which this obligation is handled can affect international relations, the treatment of United States citizens traveling abroad, and, conceivably, the outcome of criminal cases. To ensure compliance with the notification requirements, it is important that every

law enforcement agency have a clear procedure for giving notice that facilitates the process for arresting officers as much as possible. Additionally, officers must be informed about the requirements of the law and agency procedures, and the important purposes served by complying with them. Training materials, including audio-visual aids, can be obtained from the United States Department of State.

Aside from these notification requirements, there are few other circumstances in which the actions of local officials have the potential to create such broad, far reaching effects. For this reason alone, the importance of making sure that the required notifications are made cannot be underestimated. Furthermore, beyond the legal obligations involved, and the potential effects of failing to meet them, making the required notifications is simply the right thing to do in any case.

Miami-Dade Police Department Police Legal Advisor William Monahan and Legal Intern Phillip Holden contributed to this article. Major George Aylesworth can be reached via e-mail: gaylesworth@mdpd.com. ☛

Nonverbal Communications: Is Your Body Deceiving You?

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having a difficult time formulating the right questions. Rigidity in stance, and appearing as though you are physically preparing yourself for fight (or flight), could tip off a person being held for questioning. In situations such as these, it is imperative that officers be aware not only of the nonverbal behaviors of those they are interacting with, but also of what messages their own behavior is sending.

What image do you project? Are your nonverbal behaviors telling a dif-

ferent story than what you say? Becoming familiar with detecting deception through nonverbal behaviors will not only assist you in observing others, it will also affect the way they view you.

For more information regarding the three day instructor's certification course on "Non-Verbal Communications and Detecting Deception," visit <http://www.saintleo.edu/crimcert>.

Kimberley Glover is the Vice President of Criminal Justice Consulting Corporation and an Adjunct Professor at

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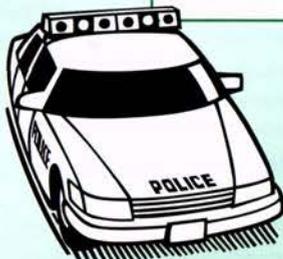


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How to Survive (and Thrive) in a Media Interview

By Gary Davidson
Public Information Officer
Volusia County Sheriff's Office



So your supervisor has just informed you that you'll be doing an interview with a news reporter.

There's no need to panic. Relax...and read this.

A little bit of preparation and planning can make the experience go smoothly. The following tips will help you prepare.

- Start by coordinating your interview in advance with your Public Information Officer. Yes, your PIO is your friend in this matter. He or she likely knows the reporter doing the interview and can guide you on their style – and forewarn you of any pitfalls from past experience. The PIO can provide you with advice and guidance, help you prepare for the interview, anticipate the questions you're likely to be asked and even rehearse your responses with you, if needed.

- Be prepared. Know your subject matter and the key message points that you want to make. Write them down for reference, just in case. Sometimes seeing the television camera, microphone or reporter taking notes can make your mind go blank. And don't hesitate to refer to the notes when not on camera.

- If there are pertinent documents, have them handy in case you need to refer to them during the off-camera interview.

- Prior to the interview, ask the reporter what questions they plan to ask and what topics will be covered in the interview. This can be simplified through e-mail and will help you craft your message points.

- Remember that you have the right to set certain ground rules. For instance, while doing your best to respect the reporter's deadline, you also have the



Gary Davidson

right to be interviewed at the time and location of your choosing. If necessary, set limits on the types of questions you will and will not answer. Get this out of the way

up-front with the reporter before the interview begins, so there are no surprises.

- Always tell the truth and be accurate. That doesn't mean you're obligated to tell the reporter everything that you know. Some things are better left unsaid. But make sure what you do say is the truth and avoid making statements that can't be supported with facts.

- Do your best to be in charge and maintain control over the interview. If the interview starts to go astray, look for opportunities to change the direction. Then revert to one of your key message points to get the interview back on course.

- Maintain a positive demeanor throughout the interview and keep things professional. Some media people can test your patience as they try to create an award-winning story. Being prepared for this will help you keep your cool.

- Wait until the question is finished before responding. Ask the reporter to clarify if the question is unclear.

- Stick to short, concise responses to questions. Resist the temptation to over-explain.

- Don't try to bluff your way through a question. It's best just to say: "I don't know the answer to that question, but I will find out and get back to you."

- Avoid answering hypothetical questions. If a reporter asks you a hypothetical, revert to one of your key message points.

- Never say "no comment" to a

reporter. It will sound as though you have something to hide. Instead, if you have confidential information that you can't share with the reporter, explain that to the reporter and give them a reason why you can't tell them. They are more likely to respect boundaries if given an explanation.

- Don't go off-the-record with a reporter. This is a tricky area that sometimes can get you in trouble. Assume everything you say is on-the-record and will be reported.

- Don't try to inject humor into your response. More times than not, it will come off as demeaning or unprofessional.

- When doing a television interview, don't look at the camera. Instead, look attentively at the interviewer when listening and answering. This will help you relax, and you'll be more effective in communicating your information.

As long as the interview isn't live, feel free to stop in the middle of a thought, if you don't think you're being clear, and ask the reporter if you can start again.

The bottom line: relax, know your facts, develop speaking points and use the tips above. This will help you to have a successful interview and effectively represent your agency in the news media. ✪

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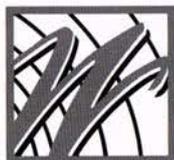
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Top 10 List: Dumb (or Unlucky) Crooks in Okaloosa County

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



Sgt. Rick Hord

Every law enforcement officer has a favorite "dumb crook" story. It's my turn to sound off with our own from 2004 in Okaloosa County. I boiled it down in the top 10 format.

As *Miami-Herald* columnist Dave Barry likes to say, "I'm not making these up."

10- The 23-year-old car burglar, caught after a 2:00 a.m. traffic stop. In plain view on the front seat of his 1998 Nissan was the one item reported stolen 10 minutes earlier: a pair of leopard print fur covered handcuffs.

9- The 26-year-old woman who "keyed" a car at Wal-Mart a few days before

Thanksgiving. The prime parking space she coveted, but didn't get, was directly in view of the security camera.

8- The mom in Destin who grounded her 13-year-old daughter for poor grades. The daughter told the cops her mom sometimes locks herself in her room... and the room smells funny. The mother now has her own trouble in the legal system for marijuana.

7- The 14-year-old Crestview girl who went to the kitchen, returned with a knife, and attacked her brother. She told deputies that he and two cousins were laughing too much.

6- The Fort Walton Beach man who took his old vacuum cleaner to a store and traded it in on a newer model. He forgot to remove the pound of marijuana hidden in the old Bissel.

5- The two employees of a pizza restaurant who kidnapped a giant inflatable "Spongebob Squarepants" from Burger King. The other pizzeria employees figured out in a hurry who put Spongebob on their roof.

4- The student from Tennessee who ran naked down a hotel hallway, then urinated on the wall and carpet. He told a Deputy he thought he was in the bathroom at his room... which turned out be at another hotel, four blocks down the road.

3- The 22-year-old Crestview man who knew he'd be in trouble if he got caught driving on a suspended license. When he saw blue lights ahead on Highway 90, he made a quick turn onto a side street. In his haste to avoid the Deputy he saw, he crashed into one he hadn't.

2- The robber who got worse with practice. A 36-year-old Fort Walton Beach man tried three holdups within seven hours. The first netted him \$50 and a carton of Marlboro Lights. He left the second store empty-handed after the clerk told him she had tripped a silent alarm. He changed his mind about robbing store number three because the clerk, tipped off by an alert citizen, was on the phone with the Sheriff's Office when he walked in the door. Deputies were waiting for him on his way out.

1- Not the biggest crime... but, perhaps Okaloosa County's dumbest crook of 2004 is the 17-year-old Niceville boy who selected 13 magazines from a store in Destin, then told several employees he would show them how easy it is to steal from their store. They showed him how easy it is to catch a dumb crook. ☛

New Training: Emergency Vehicle Technician

Last September, the Florida Sheriffs Association was given the honor of administering the nation's first Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) exam for Law Enforcement Technicians during FSA's Southeast Car Conference in Tampa.

Sixty-seven technicians from the surrounding southeastern states came to take the exam, which is adminis-

tered through the nonprofit EVT Certification Commission, Inc. of Dundee, Illinois.

Typically it takes about three years to develop objectives and test questions for an exam of this type. In the EVT's case, though, approval time was cut in half.

A committee of fleet and manufacturers representatives are to be commended for their work on developing the exam: Wyatt Earp, Fleet Management Director of Marion County Sheriff's Office (committee chair); Bob Thompson, Ford Motor Company; Al and A.J. Morganelli, Morganelli and

Associates; Steve Rowland, Federal Signal Corporation; Roger Walters, Marion County Fire Department; Whelen Engineering Company, Inc. representatives, and technicians and supervisors from various law enforcement agencies from around the country.

For more information on testing dates and sites, visit the Emergency Vehicle Technician Certification Commission website:

<http://www.evtcc.org/>. You may also contact them by phone: 847-426-4075 or e-mail: evtcert@evtcc.org.



HCSO Helping to STOP Traumatic Injury Crashes

By: John W. Chaffin, Sr. Criminal Intelligence Analyst and Lt. Alan Hill, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office

With three major interstates running through it, Hillsborough County experiences a high number of traffic crashes annually, many caused by impaired and aggressive drivers. And those with traumatic injuries are often due to drivers and passengers not wearing their seatbelts.

Of the approximate 30,000 traffic crashes in a typical year, 19,000 people will suffer injuries and 199 people will die.

In order to reduce these numbers, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office has made traffic enforcement a priority, including creating the "Sheriff's Traffic Operations Plan" (STOP) to better utilize existing resources in a more directed approach.

STOP concentrates on four areas: 1) Traffic Analysis, 2) Traffic Strategies and Enforcement, 3) Public Awareness and Education and 4) Evaluation.

Traffic Analysis

Traffic analysis is one of the most important elements of the plan. In order to have a more direct impact on our county's crash problems, we recognized that traffic enforcement and traffic engineering must have a direct working relationship. To insure the prompt and efficient flow of crash and enforcement data between local agencies, the Sheriff's Office and Hillsborough County Public Works Department applied for and received a \$155,423 traffic safety grant from the Florida Department of Transportation to fund the Hillsborough County Traffic Crash Management System.

We now have a full-time Traffic Analyst who works daily with traffic engineers and traffic personnel. This program utilizes an advanced Geographical Information Systems database and improves our ability to provide relevant and timely data to identify



As part of the public awareness and education portion of STOP, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office promotes D.U.I. enforcement and awareness through a billboard-size message painted on the side of a public transit bus that travels every route within the county in two months.

when, where and why crashes are occurring.

Traffic Strategies and Enforcement

To have an effective traffic program, we focused on several specific areas of concern and developed plans to address them.

Speeding and Aggressive Driving.

This includes addressing violations related to driver impatience, such as speeding, improper lane change, following too closely and running red lights. In order to impact these areas, enforcement activities are

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HCSO Helping to STOP Traumatic Injury Crashes

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conducted where these violations (and resulting crashes) occur most often.

Selective Enforcement is conducted two days each month along selected corridors and locations as found during monthly traffic strategy sessions. During 2004, deputies conducted 24 multi-district traffic operations and issued 808 citations for Aggressive Driving and 17,599 for Excessive Speed.

Occupant Restraints. More than 59% of all traffic fatalities that occur within Hillsborough County involve unrestrained motorists. For that reason violations of seat belt and child restraint laws are strictly enforced. During 2004, the Sheriff's Office conducted three Seatbelt and Child Restraint Enforcement Waves in conjunction with "Click it or Ticket Florida." During 2004, deputies issued 208 Child Restraint and 1,936 Seatbelt Citations.

Surveys indicate that our strategy is working as seatbelt usage reached an all time high of 76.3%.

Vehicle Crash Abatement. Traffic enforcement along high crash corridors is a priority, and is conducted two days each month along those areas identified through monthly strategy sessions. Locations where crashes occur are identified by day and time and causation factors. Deputies target these locations writing citations for the violations that are contributing to the identified crash problems.

Use of Sheriff's Office Aircraft for Traffic Enforcement. STOP utilizes Sheriff's Office aircraft in limited traffic operations as an aerial platform for surveillance of traffic law violators. The Sheriff's Office has trained deputies in each district to serve as aerial surveillance spotters for traffic violators. Aircraft are used routinely during multi-district operations.

DUI Enforcement. The HCSO operates a selective D.U.I. enforcement effort known as "Operation 3D." This program utilizes law enforcement deputies to

conduct proactive D.U.I. patrols at identified problem areas and crash locations. Coordinated multi-agency checkpoints and saturations are also conducted several times a month.

Because of our efforts, the HCSO led the State of Florida in 2003 for all county and municipal agencies with 3,119 arrests. Nearing the end of 2004, the Sheriff's Office made 3,181 D.U.I. arrests and conducted 21 D.U.I. Sobriety Checkpoints.

As part of our D.U.I. enforcement efforts, the Sheriff's Office also employs three Drug Recognition Experts. These deputies respond when needed anywhere in the county to conduct evaluations of suspected drugged drivers.

Public Awareness and Education

The Sheriff's Office conducts a wide range of educational and awareness activities including media releases, safety programs and the Responsible Vendor Program. As we plan traffic operations, media releases are written and disseminated by the Public Information Section indicating the type of enforcement to be conducted as well as the locations. We also created a Traffic Enforcement Page as part of the Sheriff's Office Web Site (www.hcso.tampa.fl.us). This page provides information on upcoming traffic enforcement activities to include locations and, when completed, results.

Deputies assigned to our Community Relations Section provide presentations for businesses, retirement centers, worship centers, many community groups, and high school students on subjects ranging from D.U.I., Aggressive Driving, Occupant Restraint Use and an overall common sense traffic safety course entitled "Traffic Safety 101."

The Sheriff's Office also continued its partnership with Hart Line, Hillsborough County's Transit Agency to promote D.U.I. Awareness with the Operation 3D Bus. This vehicle was equipped with large graphic promoting strict D.U.I. enforcement and aware-

ness, and was placed on a different route every two days so that it traveled every route within the county in two months.

Our Responsible Vendor program also supports enforcement. When a deputy makes a D.U.I. arrest they attempt to identify where the arrested became impaired. If the location can be determined, the traffic safety awareness deputies respond to the establishment to investigate the incident. The establishment is informed of the Responsible Vendor Program and participation is encouraged or additionally training recommended if necessary. The Traffic Analyst tracks these locations to identify trends and patterns at drinking establishments.

Evaluation

The Sheriff's Traffic Operations Plan seeks to reduce the number of traffic fatalities and crashes occurring within Hillsborough County. As a result of our efforts, traffic fatalities decreased by 11.2 percent in 2003 within the county while levels of traffic enforcement increased. At the end of 2004, Hillsborough County had reduced the number of fatalities by 6.1 percent.

In recognition of the agency's accomplishments, the Sheriff's Office received First Place among sheriff's offices (with 1,001-2,000 sworn officers) for the 2003 International Association of Chiefs of Police National Law Enforcement Challenge.

By all accounts, the HCSO's "Sheriff's Traffic Operations Plan" is creating better lines of communication between traffic personnel, traffic engineers and the community. Through a team approach, law enforcement and the community seek to reduce the number of traffic crashes and increase the level of compliance for traffic laws by motorists. It is making a difference and, in turn, the streets are becoming safer for the traveling public within Hillsborough County.

For more information, contact: John W. Chaffin, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, 813-247-8124 or via e-mail: jchaffin@hcso.tampa.fl.us ☎

Florida: A Leader in Accreditation

By: Deputy Bill Fitten
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

Law enforcement accreditation has been gaining momentum in recent years and Florida seems to set the standard.

In fact, the Mount Dora Police Department became the first agency to achieve national accreditation status in 1984 through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). Approximately 700 law enforcement agencies are now accredited, recognized or certified by CALEA nationally, with approximately 100 of these agencies in Florida.

In addition, Florida established its own accrediting body in 1995 through the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA). It has since accredited 120 of Florida's 395 law enforcement agencies and has 160 agencies under review.

Accreditation offers many benefits to the taxpayer, including: ensuring the agency has updated and current policies and embraces the community-oriented

policing concept. Accreditation also promotes fair hiring and promotion, requires internal affairs investigations to be conducted properly, provides a solid basis for responsible budgetary practices and assists the agency in reducing liability costs.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office was first accredited by CALEA in 1988, and received its fifth re-accreditation in March 2004. Additionally, this agency is one of 22 Sheriffs' Offices in the United States (and six in Florida) that have achieved the "Triple Crown" status – an agency accredited by

FEEDBACK

APB invites you to "talk back." If you have a comment about a topic in this publication, or anything else of interest to law enforcement readers, please let us know. Write to: Editor, *All Points Bulletin*, P.O. Box 12519, Tallahassee, FL 32317-2519, e-mail: jbettinger@flsheriffs.org. While we are not able to publish every letter, or answer them personally, we will do our best to get your comments represented in these pages. We reserve the right to edit for space and other considerations. For privacy reasons, we will only publish the initials and city or county of the writer, unless authorization is given.

CALEA, the American Correctional Association (ACA) and the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare (NCCHC). Reaching these milestones wasn't easy, but we find it's worth the effort.

For information about accreditation, visit these websites: CALEA, <http://www.calea.org/>, or CFA, <http://www.flaccreditation.org/>, or Florida Police Accreditation Coalition, Inc. <http://www.fl-pac.org/>. ★

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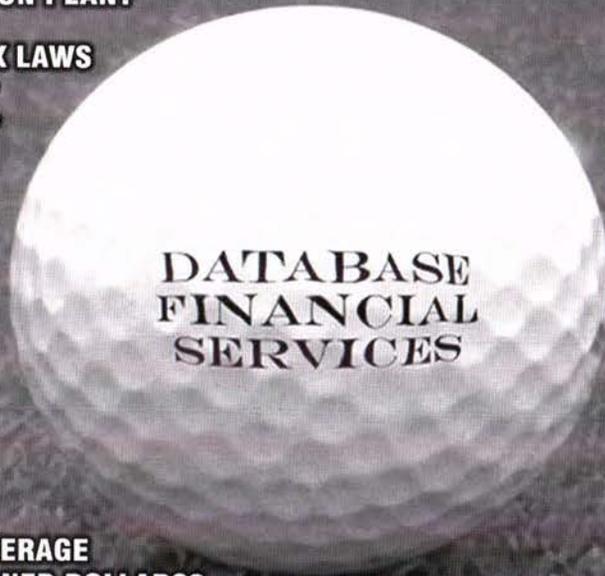
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