

# FLORIDA SHERIFFS ALL POINTS BULLETIN



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## Lieutenant's Off-Duty Actions Win Him FSA's Correctional Officer of the Year

By: Julie S. Bettinger

The Florida Sheriffs Association presents two major awards each year – the Deputy Sheriff of the Year and Correctional Officer of the Year. With more than 30,000 employees working for Sheriffs in this state, we have quite a pool of candidates to draw from.

In recent years, we've noted a trend in nominees. It seems that more and more, the heroic deeds our Sheriffs' Office employees are doing is spilling over into their personal time; the heroic acts spotlighted often take place in their off-duty hours.

This year's Correctional Officer of the Year award winner is a prime example. In fact, he not only allowed his work to spill over into his off time – he willingly stepped out of his comfort zone, transitioning from detention-related services to road patrol.

And he made that switch successfully.



Palm Beach County Sheriff's Lt. Scott Breton (holding plaque), was congratulated by (from left): FSA President Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary; his father, Robert Breton; his mother, Normal Elliott and her husband, Myron; and Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw.

Here's his story.

On Saturday, August 6, 2005, at approximately 10:17 in the evening, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Corrections Lt. Scott R. Breton was off duty and returning home after visiting his father.

As he traveled on the six-lane North Congress

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## Big Time Gun Range Comes to Lee County

By Stanley Nelson

Lee County Sheriff's Office

Southwest Florida gained one of the world's most sophisticated indoor gun ranges with the opening of the Lee County Gun Range.

The gun range uses only non-toxic ammunition, which greatly enhances tactical training opportunities and lowered both construction and operating costs. And while the range is primarily designed for law enforcement, the general public also will have access after completing a safety/education course.

"I do not know of a better facility designed as non-toxic," says Daniel Lee Cruz, Lee County's project

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The Fort Myers-based gun range has 14, 25-meter lanes designated for law enforcement and the public and 22, 50-meter lanes reserved for law enforcement and tactical training using weaponry up to high-powered rifles. Local, state and federal law enforcement agencies are expected to use the facility.

## Playing Cards: Tool for Tips From Inmates

By Michal Shanley

With the goal of coaxing tips from jail inmates to help solve crimes and track down wanted criminals, the Polk County Sheriff's Office has gotten a little creative. They're distributing decks of playing cards that feature most-wanted fugitives and unsolved cases, and the effort is paying big dividends.

Under Sheriff Grady Judd's direction, the PCSO implemented a Crime Stoppers emphasis program in all of the PCSO jail facilities. Recently, that partnership resulted in the idea to produce two decks of playing cards that are handed out to inmates in the jail system. One card deck features photos and information on the top 13 most-wanted Polk fugitives, and the second deck features information about unsolved homicide cases.

"The goal of this effort is to reach out to the inmate population, offer them a cash reward and hopefully increase the number of Crime Stoppers tips about crimes and wanted criminals," said Sheriff Judd. "Those of us in law enforcement know that criminals have a tendency to talk about their crimes and keep tabs on each other. We hope to tap into that pool of information to solve more crimes and track down more wanted fugitives."

The "Most Wanted" cards are headlined, "Do you know where this person is?" and feature a photo of the fugitive, a description and the directive to call the Crime

Stoppers phone number. In bright red lettering, the cards list what crime the fugitives are wanted for. The cards in the "Cold Case" deck provide a short summary of the crime and list the local law-enforcement agency that is investigating and their contact numbers.

The playing cards – funded through a Crime Stoppers grant – are provided free of charge to the Polk County Sheriff's Office, and are distributed to inmates by jail counselors.

### Cards credited for call increase

"Detectives have reported that tips increased at least 10 times once we highlighted their unsolved cases on the playing cards," said Wayne Cross, director for Heartland Crime Stoppers, which includes Polk, Highlands and Hardee counties. "The benefits are two-fold: the playing cards help solve specific cases and find wanted fugitives, and also serve as a great tool to get our general Crime Stoppers message (cash reward for anonymous tips) out there," Cross said.

Overall, the Crime Stoppers jail outreach program features posters and an informational brochure to inform inmates about the program and how it works.

Crime Stoppers grants up to a \$1,000 reward to inmates who give information leading to an arrest or indictment of a suspect in a crime. Inmates, who have daily access to telephones in all Sheriff's Office jail facilities, are asked to call a toll-free number from inside the jail to report any tips about crimes or wanted criminals. Inmates who call in with tips remain completely anonymous. A code number is given to the caller at the time of the call, and the inmate is given a toll-free phone number to call

back and check on the status of his or her tip and any possible reward if an arrest is made. If the tip does generate an arrest and the caller is eligible for a reward, the reward money is given to the inmate after release from jail (if in the near future), or given to a selected recipient (not in jail) designated by the inmate. The reward system protects the identity of the caller/tipster and/or the inmate's designated recipient.

*For more information on this program, contact the Polk County Sheriff's Office, (863) 534-6200, or visit their Web site:*

<http://www.polksheriff.org/>. ☀

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### What's A Dog Worth in Police Work?

By Julie S. Bettinger



Photo by Larry Cothern

One quick glance at the photos in this issue, and you might come away thinking that APB has "gone to the dogs."

You would be right, in one respect. That is, we're committed to recognizing the contribution dogs make in the challenging profession of law enforcement.

Over the years, I've had the privilege of meeting officers who credit police K9s for saving their lives. And I've interviewed members of K9 units (city police as well as Sheriffs' deputies) who have tried to explain the unique relationship between human officers and their K9 partners. It's an unusual bond: The pup lives with them and depends on the human officer for food, water and shelter.

In a sense, he's not just a partner, but also a family member.

And, like his fellow officers in police work, the dog willingly puts himself in harm's way to save others.

#### Not just for shepherds anymore

I remember writing about the Jimmy Ryce Bloodhound Network when it was first started. Claudine Ryce, mother of 9-year-old Jimmy, who was murdered by a sexual predator, told me about the value bloodhounds have in law-enforcement agencies. She said these dogs have 60 times the scent power of German shepherds. That's an important tool, considering that scent is sometimes the

only evidence leading from the crime scene to the perpetrator or the victim. And because so many abducted children are killed within only a few hours (and often a few miles) of their abduction, having a bloodhound available increases the chances of saving the child's life.

Since starting the practice of donating bloodhounds to policing agencies, the Jimmy Ryce Foundation has recorded a number of success stories. Here in Florida, a Hardee County Sheriff's Office bloodhound tracked a 2-1/2-year-old boy who wandered away from his home in nearby Highlands County. After only 15 minutes on the trail, the child was discovered near a grove. Other Jimmy Ryce hounds have been used in missing person, escapee, violent crime and arson cases.

In recent years, it seems that I've seen more and more Labrador retrievers being added to the ranks of K9 units. Like bloodhounds, they have a bit kinder, gentler image than German shepherds, the traditional police dog. And, as the story about the Columbia County Sheriff's Office highlights in this issue, it appears that even Labrador mix breeds from the pound can be trained for police work.

#### Recognition due?

Yes, canines play a pivotal role in police work, and here at APB we're happy to give them recognition for their contributions. But the question was posed recently: Are we doing enough?

I've received correspondence from readers of our sister publication, *The Sheriff's Star*, who wanted to know if K9 officers are included in the

Florida Sheriffs Association's law-enforcement memorial. If you haven't seen the memorial, it's worth a visit. Just behind the FSA headquarters in Tallahassee, we have a collection of bronze statues facing a memorial wall. Similar to the Vietnam memorial wall in Washington, the inscriptions include names of fallen officers killed in the line of duty, while working for Sheriffs' offices in the state.

To date, though, a K9 officer is not depicted in the statues and the names of fallen canines are not included on the memorial wall.

Our question to APB readers: Should they be? And, if so, how?

We're open to hearing opinions from our law-enforcement family – pros and cons. Visit the FSA Web site ([www.flsheriffs.org](http://www.flsheriffs.org)) to see the memorial, or come visit. Then send your thoughts to me and I'll report perspectives in future issues of APB. My contact information appears opposite this page.

Have a glorious Florida springtime!

*Julie*

#### Florida Sheriffs Association Calendar 2006



- Florida Legislative Session, Sheriffs meet with Legislators, Tallahassee, March 7-May 7
- Training Conference for the Sheriff's Assistant, Doubletree Suites, Tampa May 1 - 4
- Administrative Management Training Seminar, Hutchinson Island Marriott Beach Resort & Marina, June 5 - 9, 2006
- National Sheriffs Association Summer Conference, Orlando, June 17-21
- FSA Annual Summer Conference, North Daytona Beach Hilton Resort, Daytona Beach, July 30-Aug. 2, 2006
- FSA's 15th Annual Car Evaluation and Fleet Management Training Conference, Tampa (location to be announced), October (date to be announced)
- FSA Jail Administrators' Workshop, (location to be announced), December 4 - 7

## FSA's Correctional Officer of the Year

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Avenue at the posted 45-mile-per-hour speed limit, he noticed headlights in his rearview mirror, speeding towards him.

Thinking that the driver would hit the brakes after seeing his marked Sheriff's Office green and white, he was surprised when the silver Mitsubishi Diamante continued by him at approximately 70 miles per hour.

Recognizing the danger this driver's actions posed to other vehicles and citizens in the area, Lt. Breton decided to get the vehicle's tag number and radio it in for on-duty law enforcement units to handle.

As he was closing in on the vehicle to read the tag, he saw it veer off to the right, cross the bike lane, run up on the curb and quickly jerk back onto the road. As the vehicle swerved, Lt. Breton saw a large dark-colored object fly into the air and land approximately 30 feet away from the road.

Not knowing what the object was, Lt. Breton continued his pursuit. The speeding vehicle slowed and turned into a grocery store parking lot, where the officer thought the driver would stop. Instead, the Mitsubishi kept going.

While trying to keep up with the vehicle, Lt. Breton's mind replayed the image of the object the driver had hit – could it have been a garbage can? Or an animal, maybe?

But he had seen people nearby and heard a woman scream.

Lt. Breton said at that point, he was convinced the driver he was pursuing had hit a person. And, considering the speed at impact, loss



The suspect that Palm Beach County Corrections Lt. Scott Breton apprehended while off duty was a repeat offender, with four previous arrests, including DUI, aggravated assault and battery and failure to appear. Lt. Breton is pictured above (at center) with FSA President Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary (left) and Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw.

of life was almost certain.

### Pursuing – with caution

The driver continued to make a series of fast turns. Lt. Breton activated his lights and called dispatch with the plate number. The vehicle continued driving erratically, but Lt. Breton was hopeful that the driver might be trying to return to the scene.

Instead, the driver turned in the opposite direction. He traveled a little farther, then turned onto a residential street. He stopped in the middle of the road.

As Lt. Breton notified dispatch before exiting his vehicle, he saw another person running by his passenger side door – toward the suspect – who had just stepped out of his car.

The man was shouting angrily and waving his arms at the suspect.

Lt. Breton quickly calmed the citizen, who had been following the suspect for some time – even before the Lieutenant had engaged

in the chase. He directed the citizen to return to the crash scene and help emergency vehicles locate the victim. The man complied.

Lt. Breton proceeded to detain the 22-year-old white male. He checked the suspect for weapons, handcuffed him and secured him in the back seat of his vehicle until city police could arrive.

Later, Lt. Breton described the suspect's initial attitude as one of innocence. He held out his hands to the side and asked, "What did I do?" After the angry citizen told him that he'd hit a pedestrian, the suspect became defensive, blaming the victim, saying, "He shouldn't have been in the middle of the road."

The suspect gave other conflicting accounts to investigators, saying at one point he hit a pedestrian who stepped into his path and at another point, that he hit a man on a bicycle who rode directly in front of him.

Lt. Breton learned the true story when he was finally able to return to the scene: Three individuals were crossing the road – including the victim and his girlfriend, who were holding hands. Two reached the other side safely, but the victim had just stepped onto the sidewalk, with one foot still in the bike lane, when the suspect's vehicle left the road and struck him.

The 23-year-old black male was literally ripped out of his girlfriend's hands.

Although investigators first thought the act appeared intentional, eyewitnesses reported that the driver had been drifting into the right lane and striking the curb for a number of miles before the tragedy occurred.

#### *Surprise: He's a repeat offender*

Charges against the suspect included DUI manslaughter, leaving the scene of an accident involving injuries or death, and vehicular homicide.

Despite the suspect's insistence that he had only consumed one shot of Jagermeister, it was later determined that he had a blood alcohol level of .22, nearly three times the legal limit.

A day after the incident, the suspect's parents called 9-1-1 reporting that their son was threatening suicide. He was detained under Florida's Baker Act for evaluation. Police later learned of the suspect's intention to flee the country to avoid prosecution and detained him. He is now awaiting trial.

Records show that since 2003, the suspect has been arrested four times and charged with a variety of crimes, including DUI, aggravated

assault and battery and failure to appear. He was on probation for the assault and battery at the time of the hit and run.

#### *Not his average day*

A 22-year veteran of the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Department of Corrections, the dual-certified Lt. Breton credits the crossover training he's received over the years for preparing him to handle this incident. He managed to remain calm and make critical decisions under stress that is very different from his day-to-day work, supervising 90 employees in Intake & Release at the Main Detention Center.

In making the nomination, Sheriff's Office Captain Mark Chamberlain wrote that Lt. Breton's actions were just another example of his contributions to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

Lt. Breton has received many accolades for his contributions to the agency over the years, which include overseeing successful re-accreditation of the Main Detention facility; and more recently, helping develop the automated interface between the Jail Management system and AFIS. He also was instrumental in getting all arresting agencies in Palm Beach County converted to using the FDLE charge tables.

For Lt. Scott Breton's quick thinking, which means a repeat offender with a total disregard for human life will be held accountable for his actions, the Florida Sheriffs have named him their 2005 Correctional Officer of the Year. At FSA's Winter conference, he received a handsome plaque and check for \$1,000.

Contact APB editor Julie S. Bettinger at: [jbettinger@flsheriffs.org](mailto:jbettinger@flsheriffs.org). Lt. Scott Breton can be contacted via e-mail: [BretonS@pbso.org](mailto:BretonS@pbso.org).

## **Brevard County Deputy Earns Honorable Mention**

Like his fellow nominee, Brevard County Sheriff's Office Corrections Deputy Glenn Stout is being recognized for superb off-duty service.

On the evening of October 19, 2005, uniformed Corrections Deputy Stout was returning home from work at the Jail Annex Complex. He noticed a white female standing at an intersection with a revolver in her hand. The woman saw him and tried to hide the firearm as he passed her. Though unarmed, Deputy Stout turned his vehicle around and heard the firearm discharge twice.

Deputy Stout made radio contact to the jail, which relayed information to the Sheriff's Communication Center to have deputies respond. Deputy Stout ordered the female to get on the ground, but she did not respond. She instead, pointed the muzzle of the firearm to her chin and then the back of her head.

She ignored further orders and sat on the ground, again trying to discharge the weapon again. The woman then got up to walk away, and Deputy Stout followed at a safe distance. She turned around and began walking toward his vehicle with her hands in the air, pleading, "Please shoot me; help me; please kill me."

Not responding to his further orders, Deputy Stout noted the woman no longer had the weapon in her hands. He convinced her to

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## FSA's Correctional Officer of the Year continued from page 5

get on the ground and was able to place her in handcuffs until deputies arrived.

It was later determined that the suspect had been reported missing earlier in the morning. A

nearby homeowner had earlier witnessed the woman fire the gun in the air.

FSA's Correctional Officer of the Year awards committee chose to recognize Corrections Deputy Glenn Stout for his performance in this incident. Though he has been with the Brevard County Sheriff's Office only

two years, he conducted himself like a veteran officer. He relied on his excellent communications and negotiations skills to disarm this unpredictable person and prevent harm to the suspect, himself and the community.

Congratulations, Deputy Stout.



## Big Time Gun Range Comes to Lee County

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manager responsible for the range.

There are 14, 25-meter lanes designated for law enforcement and public usage. Each shooting lane is equipped with a 4-foot wide ballistically safe shooting booth. Each lane has an individually controlled retrievable target system.

The larger, 50-meter gun range has 22 lanes and is reserved for law enforcement tactical training using weaponry up to high-powered rifles. However, deputies will primarily train using their semiautomatic pistols. A range master oversees a computer-controlled lighting and target system, including running targets capable of crossing paths or moving at different speeds, turning targets suspended from the ceiling and portable targets. All use compressed air and control wires.

The state-of-the-art technology will greatly enhance training opportunities. "We can recreate all kinds of scenarios. The only limitation is distance," says Capt. Gene Sims, who oversees the gun range as well as training for the Lee County Sheriff's Office. The 50-meter range is large enough to set up hostage scenarios in residential settings and other Special Operations scenarios. Capt. Sims expects local,



Lee County Sheriff Mike Scott was among those who participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of "the world's most sophisticated indoor gun range." Exterior photo above.



state and national law-enforcement agencies throughout Southwest Florida to use the facility, with specialized competitions also a possi-

bility. He encourages agencies to contact him for details and fee structure.

### Safe and secure

Non-toxic ammunition eliminates many harmful chemicals and heavy metals such as lead, mercury, barium and antimony that can compromise tactical training, Cruz says. Lead is a persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic chemical known to cause neurological, urological and reproductive damage. On a range where leaded ammunition is used, a thorough decontamination would be required prior to any tactical training. It also would require

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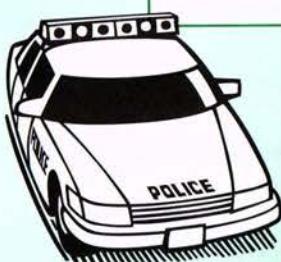


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# Big Time Gun Range Comes to Lee County

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extensive monitoring and costly safeguards.

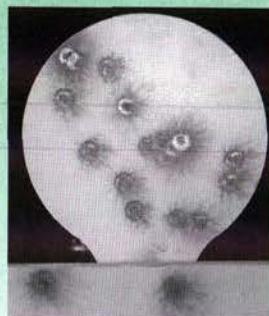
Cruz estimates using only non-toxic ammunition lowered the range's construction costs by \$400,000 and annual recurring costs by more than \$200,000 – which includes additional costs associated with non-toxic ammunition. Ranges using non-toxic ammunition do not require costly lead-dust collection systems and have little or no hazardous waste disposal costs. For instance, a comparably sized range using traditional ammunition would generate more than 10,000 pounds of lead a year and discharge particulates into the environment.

Energy expenses are reduced because the air-conditioning system requires only 10 percent of outside air to mix with recycled, dehumidified air. That compares to as much as 40 percent for traditional ranges. Considering 80,000 square feet of air a minute moves through the 50-meter range using one-way laminar airflow to push smoke away from the shooters, cost savings are significant.

As an additional safeguard, designers incorporated a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filtration system for both ranges to treat airborne particulates associated with non-toxic ammunition and frangible projectiles, which are designed to disintegrate upon impact with metal targets or granulated rubber in the catch traps. A Heating, Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) control system to monitor carbon monoxide levels is fully integrated with target control



The 51,000 sq. ft. non-toxic gun range also houses Internet-enabled classrooms and the Sheriff's Office training staff.



computers, enabling staff to close the range if air quality becomes unsafe.

A sealed gun-cleaning room equipped with its own air-conditioning system is available for law-enforcement personnel. It includes both non-toxic cleaning systems, such as ultrasonic tanks and steam-cleaning wands, as well as stations with exhaust hoods to service weapons with toxic solvents.

Deputies can view operations in a classroom setting behind the 50-meter range protected by five-layer ballistic glass more than 2 inches thick. In that way, personnel can receive direct training and immediately put what they learn into practice, Capt. Sims says. The 51,000 sq. ft. building also houses additional Internet-enabled classrooms and the Sheriff's Office training staff.

During open shooting, the public is invited to safely observe from a lounge protected by ballistic glass that overlooks the 25-meter lanes. Before shooting at the range, citi-

zens must pass a safety/education class and provide picture ID. The front desk sells a wide range of non-toxic ammunition required for the range. Citizens are encouraged to call ahead for the range schedule because the public will not be allowed to shoot when law enforcement is training.

## Ten years in the making

The facility culminates 10 years of planning between Lee County government and the Sheriff's Office with assistance from Lee County Mosquito Control District, which allowed the county to build the facility on district property at Buckingham Air Field in east Fort Myers. Cruz says the spirit of cooperation among the three agencies was critical to the project's success. The Lee County Sheriff's Office and Mosquito Control will use the facility to protect aircraft when hurricanes threaten. It was designed to withstand a Category 4 storm. The facility also can be used as a post-hurricane command center to the

benefit of the entire county.

Designers visited numerous shooting ranges, including facilities at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and FBI Academy, to formulate their ideas over a two-year period. The effort paid off handsomely: Air quality inside the facility is cleaner than outside air, Cruz says.

Lee County Sheriff's Office correspondent Stan Nelson can be reached by phone: 239.477.1066. For additional information visit the Sheriff's Office Web site:

<http://www.sheriffleefl.org/> ☀

## Vitals on Lee County Gun Range

**LAW ENFORCEMENT:** Contact Capt. Sims to make reservations and discuss fees – phone: (239) 690-3901.

**MAIN PHONE:** (239) 690-3999

**ADDRESS:** 6750 East Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33905

**GUN SAFETY:** Citizens must first take a gun safety/education course. There is a \$25 non-refundable application fee, which includes the gun safety/education course.

### HOURS OF RANGE OPERATION:

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Thursdays, 2 to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Hours may be altered for training, so please call ahead). The sales counter is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and on Thursdays, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. The range is closed on Sundays.

**COST:** \$7.95 per visit for the general public. Special pricing for law enforcement. ☀



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## AWARDS

### PCSO School Crossing Guard Supervisor Wins Statewide Award

By Mac McMullen  
Pinellas County Sheriff's Office

Rain or shine, School Crossing Guards are at their posts on every school day. Like many positions in law enforcement, they are among the unsung heroes of today. And, yet, they bear the serious and occasionally dangerous responsibility of keeping children safe on their way to school.

Training and supervision in these positions are critical, and that's one of the reasons the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) created its awards program – to spotlight the people and agencies with superior performance.

This past February, DOT named Sharon Lough, a supervisor with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, the "2005 State of Florida School Crossing Guard Trainer of the Year."

"Sharon has done a great job with the school crossing guard program and deserves the honor," says Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Dennis Fowler. He was among the 50 Sheriff's Office employees, administrators and community leaders who attended a ceremony in her honor.

Leigh Matusick, DOT's administrator for the Florida School Crossing Guard Program, presented the award to Lough, who told the audience she was accepting the award on behalf of everyone involved in the program.



From left, Leigh Matusick, Florida Crossing Guard Program Administrator; Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Lt. Bryan Gavin; Robert Davis, Pinellas County Public Works/Transportation-Safety & Special Projects; School Crossing Guard Supervisor Sharon Lough; and Kevin Fannon, Pinellas County Schools, Real Property Facilities Specialist.

"This award recognizes all the work that crossing guards from the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office put into their job each day," she said. "I am proud to be part of this agency and the commitment it has for keeping the residents of Pinellas County safe."

Pinellas County Sheriff's Office school crossing guards cover 197 school crossings in the unincorporated areas of Pinellas County and the five contractual cities of Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, Seminole, Madeira Beach and Dunedin. The program provides crossing guards for one high school, nine middle schools and 32 elementary schools.

The School Crossing Guard Program began in 1972 as a volunteer program. Through the years the program has grown to become a DOT-compliant entity with 170 school crossing guards, 16 regional coordinators and one program supervisor. In 2004 the program was named the best School Crossing Guard program in the state. \*



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## Deputy Develops Guide for Deployment of Cadaver K9s for Missing/Abducted Children

After serving on the K9 Forensics Recovery Team that worked on two of Florida's most recent missing children cases, Pasco County Sheriff's Deputy Sam Peperella saw room for improvement. The cases helped him to see that K9 Cadaver Teams are not well known and are often underutilized.

Instead of just sitting back, waiting on the next case to come up and hoping for a better outcome, Deputy Peperella decided to author a com-

prehensive training guide that offers a model for Deployment of Cadaver K9s. It covers everything from what the K9s scent (different from "live find" K9s) to how to check for proper credentials/certification of the K9 team members.

It also discusses legal issues related to developing reasonable suspicion and provides some caution. For instance, Deputy Peperella writes, "The use of a Cadaver K9 is a search and it is critical (that) a waiver of search or search warrant is established prior to... (initiating) any search."

Deputy Peperella spent many hours gathering information for the guide that he says is backed by



experience from veteran law enforcement officers, statistical data (NISMART) and K9 instructors. Still, he admits, his guide is not an answer to all types of searches. "It's merely an attempt to set a standard in a field where little to no procedures are set," often resulting in lost or corrupted evidence, he says.

*Continued on page 13*



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# Pasco County Kicks Off Year With Training and Exercises

By Kevin Doll, Pasco County Sheriff's Office

The Pasco Sheriff's Office hosted a five-day "Bullet Trajectory Reconstruction" (BTR) Course this past January at Pasco Hernando Community College's Dade City campus. Detectives and forensics investigators from every major law-enforcement agency in the Tampa Bay area attended, including the Florida Department of Law Enforcement; Tampa and St. Petersburg Police Departments; and the Pinellas, Polk, Hernando, Citrus and Hillsborough Sheriff's Offices.

Instructing the BTR course were agents from the FBI Laboratory Firearms and Toolmarks Unit, Quantico, Va. who taught students to examine practical problems related to BTR. Topics included:

- \* Physics of bullet flight/bullet behavior through barriers
- \* General crime scene approach/team concept
- \* Recovery of evidence, and
- \* Bullet trajectory measurement techniques.

The FBI instructors and PSO Training Unit personnel used a variety of weapons to shoot various items, including four impounded cars, a refrigerator and sections of drywall. The students did not see the items being shot but had to later examine the incident scene and then analyze



Pasco Sheriff's Office bailiffs move into a courtroom to disable a simulated active shooter during training. Pictured front to back are Dps. Roy Barry, Tom Frey, Ken Dongvort and Scott Jones (Instructor). Photo by Kevin Doll, PCSO.



Pasco Bailiffs use the diamond formation to move down the stairs of the courthouse searching for an active shooter. Pictured in front from left to right are Dps. Brian Shipley, Marc Bastarache, and Christin Cookey. Covering the rear is Dp. Larry Sajko. Photo by Kevin Doll, PCSO.

police dramas."

## Preparing the frontline

Also in January, PSO held an Active Shooter exercise at the West Pasco Judicial Center in New Port Richey. The PSO's SWAT and Tactical Action Control Teams trained 20 bailiffs and 10 transport deputies. The training was prompted by the recognition

that these men and women are best positioned to respond to a courthouse shooting. And despite precautions, such as metal detectors, incidents still occur at courthouses throughout the nation, as the March 2005 shooting in Atlanta demonstrated.

One of the most important lessons learned during the day, according to an article by the *St. Pete Times*, was to guard against the "CSI Effect." FBI scientist Brett Mills defines the term as, "unreal expectations forced on forensic science by modern-day

For more information on these and other PSO training events, contact Kevin Doll via e-mail: [kdoll@PascoSheriff.org](mailto:kdoll@PascoSheriff.org). \*

**continued from page 12**



Participants in the FBI's Bullet Trajectory Reconstruction Course examine a car with multiple bullet holes that were fired from multiple guns. They include from left to right, Citrus Sheriff's Office Det. Brian Spiddle, Pasco Sheriff's Office Training Instructor Cpl. Rick Benn, Pinellas Sheriff's Office Forensics Specialist Robert Detwiler, Pasco Sheriff's Office Forensics Investigator Dave Tepedino, and FDLE Crime Laboratory Analyst Chad Smith. Photo by Kevin Doll, PCSO.



Participants in the FBI's Bullet Trajectory Reconstruction Course examine bullet holes in the side of a vehicle. Pictured front to back are FDLE Crime Laboratory Analyst Chad Smith, Hillsborough Sheriff's Office Det. Troy Morgan, and Citrus Sheriff's Office Det. Brian Spiddle. Photo by Kevin Doll, PCSO.



Participants in the FBI's Bullet Trajectory Reconstruction Course measure the angle of the bullet's path before it struck the vehicle. Pictured left to right are Pasco Sheriff's Office Forensics Investigator Dave Tepedino, Pasco Sheriff's Office Training Instructor Cpl. Rick Benn, Pinellas Sheriff's Office Forensics Specialist Robert Detwiler, and Hillsborough Sheriff's Office Det. Troy Morgan. Photo by Kevin Doll, PCSO.

## Deputy Develops Guide for Deployment of Cadaver K9s

**Continued from page 11**

### *Integration is key*

One of the valuable points Deputy Pepenella makes is how the Cadaver K9s fit in with other resources in the department, including air, marine and mounted units. He even includes suggested structure and organization (in easy-to-follow org chart design), plus a helpful "Call Out Checklist," which can easily be customized when initiating an investigation.

Readers will find that Deputy Pepenella's models integrate all units typically deployed in a search. That's because he says, generally, missing/abducted child searches involve mutual aid from many agencies and all should come together for one cause.

"The use of Cadaver K9s is not an end all answer to any search by any means," he writes. "It is another 'tool' in the law enforcement toolbox to be used. Used correctly it can be very valuable. Used improperly, it could hinder or destroy the investigation."

To help illustrate the point of how

Cadaver K9s can work with aviation units, Deputy Pepenella provides FLIR photos from a search conducted by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Aviation Unit in Beaumont, Texas. The images indicate how bodies that have been buried can still give off enough heat to be picked up by FLIR, even after three days.

### *Tips and background*

When utilizing Cadaver K9s, Deputy Pepenella suggests that it's a good idea to let the team know exactly what the command staff expects of them and what and how their objectives will be accomplished. It is equally important that the command staff knows the limits of what Cadaver K9s can and should do during the search.

Agencies also need to recognize that what the Cadaver K9 team needs is different from Tracking/Trailing teams. As he writes, "Knowing exactly who is the suspect or exactly what was collected as evidence may not be relevant to any K9 team. What is important is the location, time of

the alleged abduction and child's description (height, weight, clothing etc.).

Another important issue to consider when using Cadaver K9s are certifications. "With most large scale searches, the use of volunteer civilian (Search and Rescue) teams are very likely," he writes. "It is suggested the certifications be from a major K9 organization (NNDDA, USPCA, etc.) in order to be qualified to be involved in the search." If a team claims they are certified, he suggests you ask them to provide proof. He writes, "This is important because if the victim has been murdered and buried, the improperly trained or unqualified team may miss the victim, claim the area cleared and the victim may never be recovered or the recovery could be delayed."

For a copy of Deputy Pepenella's "Guide for Deployment of Cadaver K9s for Missing/Abducted Children, write to: spepenella@pascosheriff.org, or contact him by phone: (office) 727-919-0899, (cell) 352-650-0901. You may also visit his Web site: [www.k9forensicsteam.com](http://www.k9forensicsteam.com).

## K9 UNITS

### Adopted “Pound Puppies” Trained to Fight Crime

By  
Laurie Windham  
Columbia County  
Sheriff's Office

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office has added two new officers with unusual credentials to their crime-fighting team: abandoned Labrador retrievers facing a death sentence at the local shelter.

Through hard work, lots of love, expert training and guidance, Roxy and Brutus went from pound puppies to working drug dogs.

“These two dogs came from our local animal shelter and both were doomed to certain death if not adopted,” said Columbia County Sheriff Bill Gootee. “Now, after several months of training, we have two of the finest drug dogs in the area.”

He said the training expertise provided by Pepe Peruyero of J & K Canine Academy will take his agency far in its continued fight against drugs.

#### Money saved, too

Both dogs underwent extensive training in basic obedience before any formal law-enforcement training could begin. In fact, the very characteristics that make Labradors

good drug dogs are the same ones that make them difficult to contain as youngsters.

“You need a dog with a disposition of excitement, enthusiasm and high energy,” says trainer Peruyero, “but then you have to mold and shape that bundle of raw energy into quality skills.”

After basic obedience was mastered, the training went to the next level of drug detection. Each dog went through 200 hours of class time.

“To acquire dogs of this caliber and have them master this level of training would normally have cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000,” Sheriff Gootee says. But, Peruyero donated his time and adoption



fees were minimal, so the Sheriff's Office was able to save the taxpayers a tremendous amount of money.

“All told, we have only spent about \$1,500 on these dogs,” he says.



## K9 UNITS



Columbia County Sheriff Bill Gootee presents K9 Officer Roxy with her badge. Roxy and her fellow animal shelter adoptee went through more than 200 hours of class training to prepare for her new job. Deputy Brian Blevins, also pictured, is her handler.

### Personalities a plus

Brutus, a strapping, yellow lab mix with bright eyes, is quick to jump to work and not eager to quiet – even when the job is done. Just under 2 years old, he will continue to settle down but not lose his enthusiasm. Deputy Randy Harrison is his partner and handler.

Roxy, a polite Southern lady with a glossy black coat and thoughtful eyes, loses any inhibition when it comes to sniffing out drugs. In cabinets, in trash cans, hidden in cars and trucks – there is no stopping her once she has her command. Her partner is Deputy Brian Blevins.

Roxy and Brutus were officially certified earlier in the year by undergoing a series of tests with their handlers. Each deputy-dog team had to find drugs hidden in rooms and vehicles within a set amount of time.

"Pepe and his staff are on the cutting edge of law enforcement K-9 training, and his own law-enforce-

ment experience is priceless," says Sheriff Gootee, noting that they're following a new concept and unique philosophy in training Sheriffs' K9 teams. The Sheriff says his agency is launching its own in-house training, under the direction of Peruyero.

"We now have the capability to train any additional handlers and new dogs within the agency," the Sheriff says. This will save additional time and money, plus allow the bond between handler and dog to begin even earlier.

### Breed brings unique benefits

The Columbia County Sheriff's Office has two other dogs, used primarily to locate narcotics and to apprehend suspects. Deputy Keith Jackson, who is a member of the

Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force, handles Sargus, and Cpl. Stacy Croft's partner is Bravo. Bravo is the oldest dog on the team at 9 years of age.

Adding the two Labradors will give the agency more flexibility. "Our shepherds are incredible dogs, but they were not originally trained to work around people," the Sheriff says. Under the new training approach, both have been re-certified for drug detection and have learned to be a bit less aggressive in their job.

Columbia SO's K9 team also includes a bloodhound named Midnight, who is used for trailing and tracking. Sgt. Tim Ball, who oversees the unit, is training a third shepherd in explosives detection.

"Our entire K9 team is outstanding any way you look at it," says Sheriff Gootee. "The dedication they display 24 hours a day and the sacrifices they have all made for their dogs and our agency is tremendous. I am also extremely grateful for professionals like Pepe who saw a need and have helped us meet that need. Columbia County has much to be proud of in the Sheriff's Office K9 Unit."

Reach Laurie Windham, Columbia County Sheriff's Office, via e-mail at:

[lwindham@columbiasheriff.com](mailto:lwindham@columbiasheriff.com)



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