

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ALL POINTS BULLETIN



VOLUME 18 • NUMBER 4 • FALL 2008

Rescued Pound Puppy Becomes Sheriff's Drug Detecting K-9

By Carrie Eleazer, PIO
Polk County Sheriff's Office

John "J.D." Maney has been a Deputy Sheriff with the Polk County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) for 26 years and has many stories to tell. His latest is making history by training a dog he rescued from Animal Control to be a fully certified narcotics detection canine. Using non-traditional methods and a "pound puppy," J.D. saved the agency time and money – and saved a dog's life.

In 2008, J.D. asked his supervisors for a new narcotics dog. He was told by Chief W.J. Martin that there weren't any funds to purchase one, but added rather tongue-in-cheek, "If you can find a dog and train it yourself, then you can have one."

J.D. took that challenge seriously. A fully certified canine can cost the agency over \$5,000. J.D. had the confidence that on his own time he could train the right dog with the right characteristics – applying what he's learned over 19 years as a canine handler in patrol and undercover narcotics investigations. All he needed was a dog.

With permission from his supervisors, in March 2008, J.D. visited the PCSO Animal Control facility in hopes of finding a trainable dog. He patiently walked up and



Rescued! Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd (pictured above at right) pals around with Deputy John "J.D." Maney and his narcotics detection canine, Rezadu. Deputy Maney saved Polk County Sheriff's Office thousands of dollars by adopting a pound puppy and training him for police work. Rezadu is now busting the bad guys and, as the photo indicates, is pretty happy about his new job.

down the long corridor between the caged animal runs, looking for alertness, lack of fear and eagerness to learn – traits he'd become accustomed to as an experienced canine handler. J.D. had been a handler for five canines in the past – in patrol and narcotics – and has an instinct for what a dog needs to possess in order to become a law-enforcement canine. He approached several dogs, but they didn't have "the right stuff." And then he saw an 11-month-old black lab mix, who looked at him with friendly eyes and confidence, and J.D. said he "just knew."



The canine, who J.D. named "Rezadu," went home with him that night and started training immediately. Since the Narcotics Unit already had a dog named Kilo, J.D. felt another drug-related moniker was appropriate (with a little twist on the actual spelling – "residue").

J.D. and Rezadu trained in any available place they could find – abandoned phosphate mine property, open fields, their backyard – for 12 weeks, detecting such illegal narcotics as methamphetamine, cocaine, cannabis

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Fire Rescue and Law-Enforcement Partnership in Palm Beach County

By Capt. Donald Delucia, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue and Teri Barbera, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office

When most people think of first responders, their first thought is police officers and



Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw, 4-year old Steven Shore and Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Chief Herman Brice.

firefighters who respond in the early stages of an incident. They are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence and the environment, as well as emergency management and public health. Ours is truly a working partnership.

This year, the Public Information Office from Palm Beach County Fire Rescue and the Media Relations Office from the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office came up with a plan to take that relationship one step further – to partner on various community projects.

The first successful project was the kick-off of a “Don't leave your child in the car” campaign. At a joint press conference, Fire Chief Herman Brice and Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw announced their partnership on this very important issue. All local media aired the story and all Palm Beach County fire and rescue vehicles were equipped with signs promoting the campaign.

More recently, it was brought to the attention of Fire Rescue personnel that a 4-year-old boy contributed to the rescue of a 4-year-old girl who nearly drowned in a pool. The boy had been taking swim lessons for two years and reacted quickly when he noticed his friend struggling to stay above water. He managed to keep her

head above water while holding on to the side of the pool.

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office was getting ready to start its drowning-prevention campaign, which included the distribution of small glass-cling decals that depicted instructions on how to rescue someone in distress in a pool and how to initiate CPR in case of drowning. The partnership between the two agencies was used to announce the distribution of the decals via firefighters and Sheriff's Deputies, but even better, it included the two department heads presenting the young hero with a plaque. This combined ef-

fort not only created tremendous local media attention but national network attention as well.

Partnerships between agencies can be very effective, cutting down on the duplication of efforts and utilizing resources more efficiently. The fact that two department heads held a press conference together and were shown side by side working toward a common goal made a huge impression on the public. In Palm Beach County, it works.

FLORIDA SHERIFFS ALL POINTS BULLETIN Volume 18, Number 4 Fall 2008

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All Points Bulletin is published quarterly by the Florida Sheriffs Association in spring, summer, fall and winter.

The content of APB is intended to reflect the opinions of various criminal justice professionals and those who serve law enforcement, which means articles do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Florida Sheriffs Association.

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By Julie S. Bettinger



Photo by Larry Cobble

Innovation and Change

By the time you read this article, you might have a new Sheriff. Going into November, we already had lost 12 Sheriffs to retirement and six in the primaries.

Every election cycle brings some uncertainty in this business – and it gets accentuated when you lose so many good Sheriffs to retirement.

Uncertainty is truly a sign of the times. Florida already was in the throes of economic instability (i.e., insurance crisis and property taxes) before the national economic picture shifted. That means we've been hit even harder than other states. And as vital as law enforcement is, we now know it's not immune to serious budget cutbacks.

That's something we want to address here at the Florida Sheriffs Association, starting with this issue of APB. Three of our stories show how agencies are dealing with limited or no budget for certain operations. Our cover story shows how a determined Deputy Sheriff saved his agency thousands of dollars in purchasing and training a canine for patrol and narcotics. In Palm Beach County, the Sheriff's Public Information Office is combining resources with Fire & Rescue to make a bigger impact with prevention campaigns. And all over the state, Sheriffs' Offices are taking advantage of outsourced

video and photography that can be applied throughout their operations – on the Web, in crime prevention, media, training and more.

In these times of budget cuts, there are bound to be many stories out there – and we want to share them. But we need your help.

Take a fresh look at your agency – have your operations taken any new approaches to get the job done on a reduced budget? Please contact us with innovative ideas, so we can help tell your story. Use the contact information on the opposite page to reach us.

Hard times require innovation

Our country's history is filled with stories of innovation that came as a result of difficult economic times. It's human nature – sometimes we need a challenge to spur change; we need a motivator to really look at what we're doing and see how we can do it differently using alternative resources. The response might be a team effort or it could be a matter of one individual studying the problem and coming up with a solution. We are open to hearing them all.

In these challenging economic times, I'm convinced that, in many ways, we will improve the delivery of services, while saving taxpayers money. Let us know how you're doing it.

Unfortunately, business is good

The economic slowdown is already starting to translate in the crime stats. Richard Mangan, a criminology professor at Florida Atlantic University and former DEA special agent told the *Miami Herald*, "Times of financial stress can make criminals out of people who wouldn't otherwise be committing crimes." As we head into the holidays, crime is likely to spike as it

usually does – compounding the problem. We need to be ready.

Keep in mind the education part of your job – helping the public take responsibility for themselves and reducing the chances of becoming a victim. Consider multiplying your efforts by educating those around you, including communities where you belong – your neighborhood, church or social club. Don't miss an opportunity to raise awareness. A patrol car in the neighborhood used to be a reliable deterrent, but today's difficult times call for a more comprehensive effort.

Let's ask ourselves how we can be part of the solution – beyond our job description.

And may God bless you with safety during the upcoming holiday season.

Julie

Florida Sheriffs Association Calendar of Events



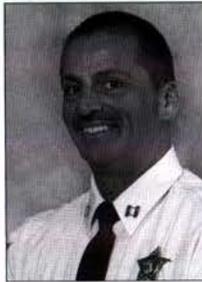
- FSA New Sheriffs Basic Institute, Double Tree Hotel, Tallahassee, December 7-12, 2008
- FSA 2009 Jail Conference, Hilton Dayton Beach Oceanfront Resort, Daytona Beach, January 5-8, 2009
- FSA Annual Mid-Winter Conference, Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort, Destin, February 15-18, 2009

Please check the FSA Web site for the latest dates and locations: www.flsheriffs.org.

Active Shooter Response

By Capt. Jim Polan
Broward Sheriff's Office

Imagine halfway through your shift that a call for service arrives referencing an armed individual shooting people inside a restaurant, minutes from your location. Upon arrival, real-time intelligence promptly identifies an Active Shooter (AS) in progress. You hear shots, you see people running from the location and you hear screaming from inside of the structure. What do you do? Have you prepared? Has your agency prepared?



Broward County Capt.
Jim Polan

When an Active Shooter incident is discussed, most law enforcement and civilians focus on Littleton, Colo., and Columbine High School –severe losses of life that will have an impact on families for a lifetime. However, Columbine was not the first AS incident in the United States.

Law enforcement response to an AS situation changed after April 20, 1999. America watched as law enforcement (LE) demonstrated their skills on what they were trained to do at Columbine: isolate, contain, communicate (if possible) and wait for a special response team.

The question remains: Why did it take LE so long to change the method of response to this



Law enforcement has learned a lot from the Active Shooter incidents in recent years. Preparation is critical – and that means training. Only a handful of agencies in Florida are actively preparing employees. It's time to ask: What is your agency doing?

violent situation? Even today, with all the AS incidents occurring worldwide, LE agencies are not preparing to respond immediately. Why?

Without question, a good plan today is much better than a perfect plan tomorrow.

Who doesn't have training

This past June, I was fortunate to give a presentation to members of Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation at their annual conference in Coral Springs. Twenty-three agencies from around Florida attended – many with several representatives. Unbelievably, only four agencies had an AS training program in place to prepare its employees.

Preparation is the key to success, but how many AS situations must occur before LE administration understands the consequences for their employees and community?

Two incidents changed law enforcement response and the type

of tools used.

The first was the bank robbery shoot-out in North Hollywood, Calif., on February 28, 1997. This violent encounter provided further proof that patrol officers must have rifles available to them; this valuable tool cannot be restricted to a specialty team. But again, various LE administrations are either dragging their feet on the approval decision – or worse, have no intention of approving. The patrol rifle will only improve operator accuracy, confidence and range, yet we still fail to provide the necessary tools.

The second incident was Columbine. It showed that we cannot wait for SWAT when there's an Active Shooter – we must form a small management team and go stop the problem. Yet so many LE agencies are failing to train their personnel, and whatever justification is being used is not acceptable.

You must prepare!

The questions I want to offer

are, "Are you prepared for this type of response?" and "Do you believe that it can happen in your jurisdiction?"

We must believe that it's not "if" it's going to happen but "when." That survival mindset is the most important aspect to your plan, which must be followed up with dynamic training held in a realistic environment.

Defining Active Shooter training

Active Shooter training uses fundamental law-enforcement tactics that have been packaged into a small team concept with specific goals and objectives. It includes building tactics, communication, contact/cover, movement, weapon retention and firearm skills. The skills established for this response will work in any structure – only the design of the building and suspects' actions will change your tactics.

Active Shooters are occurring worldwide in every venue – churches, restaurants, shopping malls, schools and any area where a large number of people gather. You are only limited by your imagination.

One of the first documented Active Shooter situations occurred in Austin, Texas, in August of 1966. The subject climbed 28 stories to the observation deck of the Texas tower on the campus of the University of Texas and for 96 minutes shot innocent passersby, murdering 16 and wounding many more. LE was not prepared or trained to handle this type of situation, and SWAT did not exist. Thankfully, brave Austin Police Officers climbed the 28 floors, forced their way through a barricaded doorway and stopped

Charles Whitman from continuing.

Since August of 1966, there have been too many AS situations across the United States and worldwide to discuss. Still, we must learn from the past to prepare for the future. Read, review and attempt to understand other AS situations – learn what worked and learn what didn't, and then have a plan.

On September 1, 2004, in Beslan, Russia, Chechen terrorists took possession of School Number One and held over 1,200 hostages. By the third day, over 300 were killed, including 172 children. Find the book titled "Terror at Beslan," read it and then read it again.

Al-Qaeda has told us that preparation for attacks on U.S. soil are now underway, and why would they lie to us? Every time you find yourself a non-believer, remember 9/11 and then maybe you will prepare.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement published a document in July 2008 titled "An Overview & Threat Assessment of Florida's School Bus System," and here are a few bullet points to help you believe.

- Illinois State Police received information that a company that provides services for elementary and high schools was burglarized. The suspects took the bus routes for over 100 buses.
- Several states have seen an increase in the theft of schools buses. Houston Regional Intelligence Service Center advised that 10 buses are missing in their area.
- FDLE has information on suspicious incidents around Florida regarding subjects taking

photographs of school buses and storage compounds.

- Two Saudi Arabian men were arrested in Tampa for boarding a high school bus and riding the route. Still today, there is no known reason why they rode the bus.

It is possible that this information provided by FDLE has no bearing on ASs or violence in our schools, however, after 9/11 occurring on U.S. soil we must believe and prepare for anything.

Having a plan and providing realistic training is the key to success. AS situations average five to seven minutes before the coward committing the acts commits suicide. A couple of exceptions were the Texas tower incident, which lasted 96 minutes, and Columbine, which lasted 58 minutes.

Two decades ago in Palm Bay, on April 23, 1987, William Bryan Cruse killed six and wounded 14 during a shooting rampage. Two of his victims were law-enforcement officers responding to the scene. Six hours later, after a barricaded situation, he was taken into custody and now sits as the oldest person on Florida's Death Row.

What agencies need

An average national response time for SWAT is 40 minutes, which immediately tells you that you cannot wait, and you must go. But before that response, you must have three things in place:

- A clear mission
- A plan
- Realistic training

Clear Mission. Ensure that your personnel know that this situ-

Continued on next page

Active Shooter Response

Continued from page 5

ation is not a rescue mission; it is a “hunt” to stop a coward from killing innocent people. Their goal should be one of three things:

- 1) Stop the threat
- 2) Force the situation into a barricade
- 3) Force a surrender

Have a Plan. No matter how you design your response teams, make sure that everyone has a job and understands their responsibility. Provide guidance with team concept skills and simple duties that will be remembered in the heat of battle. Make sure that each member stays aggressive and performs their job.

Realistic Training. If you satisfy Nos. 1 and 2 – that’s great. However, if you do not provide dynamic, realistic training, then the plan will fail. You must provide your personnel with an experience that challenges them and ensures that they understand that each situation will dictate the tactics that will be used. You must perform this training in a realistic area (i.e. courthouse, school etc.) Make positive contacts with those in the community and solicit their participation in using their facility.

What we do

At the Broward Sheriff’s Office, our current lesson plan is a blueprint designed to achieve success, but we make sure students understand that we cannot provide all the answers. In the heat of battle, many decisions

will have to be made by the team depending on the structure and situation.

At least one AS training course is provided per month and we rotate the venues to ensure a realistic environment. The first three and a half hours of the training is a classroom presentation covering several aspects of the Active Shooter and a review of situations that have already occurred. The students then are placed into small teams (four to six members) and practice all the skills that were discussed in the classroom. Once the team is confident in their ability and the instructors are satisfied that they understand the formation, we begin force-on-force scenarios.

Role-playing force-on-force is truly one of the best ways to challenge your students. During our training, we use multiple role players, ambient noise, firearm blanks and Simunition FX marking cartridges. Our scenarios are not designed for the teams to fail like many in-service programs. We encourage a learning environment and want to make sure the information is accepted and understood. After each scenario there is an immediate review/debriefing to cover all of the positives and areas of concern.

So the question remains: Is your agency preparing? For those agencies that have failed to implement training to address this concern, I ask, “What are you waiting for?”

Broward Sheriff’s Office Capt. Jim Polan is a 27-year veteran of law enforcement with the Broward Sheriff’s Office in Fort Lauderdale. He also is an adjunct instructor for the University of North Florida, Institute of Public Safety and Miami-Dade Community College.

Contact him via e-mail: James_Polan@sheriff.org/.

Rescued Pound Puppy Becomes Sheriff’s Drug Detecting K-9

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and heroin. Rezadu did so well and learned so fast that J.D. took him on August 5, 2008, to be nationally certified through the North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) with Corporal Terry Dixon of the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office. Rezadu passed and is now NAPWDA certified.

“J.D. and Rezadu’s story is heart-warming,” says Sheriff Grady Judd. “I’m so proud of both of them and what they have accomplished together. But there is also a practical side to this story. Animal Control made a successful adoption, the taxpayers benefit from having a low-cost, top-notch narcotics detection canine team and Polk County citizens see the value in adopting a pet from Animal Control.”

There are likely very few, if any, pound dogs certified nationally to detect illegal narcotics as a law-enforcement canine, much less one trained so non-traditionally. And if you ask J.D., he’ll tell you that when he and Rezadu solve a case, or put someone behind bars, his canine partner is living proof that every life – even a dog’s life – has meaning.

It is obvious that J.D. and Rezadu have built a special bond together. Their innovation and hard work have the makings of a true American success story. “People tell me that Rezadu is a lucky dog, because I rescued him and made him my partner,” says J.D., “but I tell them that I’m the lucky one. Rezadu is one-of-a-kind.”



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Teen Driver Program FAQs

In our last issue of the *All Points Bulletin*, we provided a brief update on the Florida Sheriffs Association Teen Driver Challenge, a program developed to combat the high crash and fatality rate of teen drivers on Florida highways.

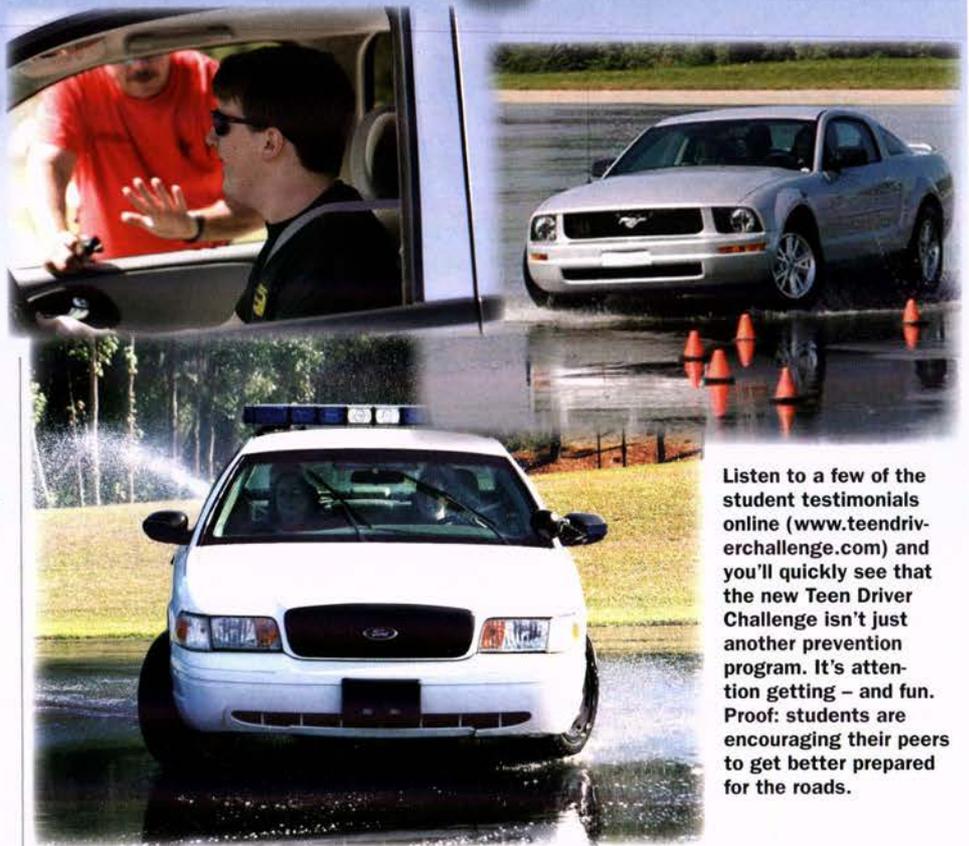
We recognized a need to provide more answers to agencies that want to know more about bringing the program to their counties. So here are answers to the most frequently asked questions on the Teen Driver Challenge.

Who developed the program for FSA?

TDC was developed by a team of law-enforcement driving experts who also are certified as emergency vehicle operation instructors through the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The original team of instructors are from Citrus, Hernando, Leon, Osceola and Volusia County Sheriffs' Offices. The team worked together beginning in 2006 and the program launched in January 2007. As of fall 2008, 17 counties have the program.

What do students need to know?

The program is offered free of charge for students age 15 to 19. It is a 12-hour course, taking place over two days, with four hours of



Listen to a few of the student testimonials online (www.teendriverschallenge.com) and you'll quickly see that the new Teen Driver Challenge isn't just another prevention program. It's attention getting – and fun. Proof: students are encouraging their peers to get better prepared for the roads.

classroom (including pre and post testing) and eight hours of hands-on instruction on a driving course. All students must be licensed and use their personal vehicle for the course. If they have a learner's permit, they must be accompanied to the range with an operator-licensed driver. They must provide proof of insurance and sign release of liability forms.

All student vehicles will be inspected for safety and instructional purposes with the students. Any unsafe vehicles (bad tires, etc.) are not allowed on the course. This inspection is a maintenance learning process for many students. Students must follow strict range rules and no "horse play" is tolerated. Only appropriate clothing and shoes are

allowed.

The classroom portion of the program is covered in a workbook and deals with crash-related issues such as vehicle dynamics, braking, steering and traffic laws. Specific chapters deal with aggressive driving, distracted driving, DUI and seatbelt use. Student participation and discussion is highly encouraged. The hands-on driving portion of the program is usually held at a law-enforcement academy or training facility where exercises such as Figure "8," threshold braking, forward serpentine cornering, backing, evasive maneuvering, off-road recovery and optional skid pad are taught.

Students completing

Continued on page 15

[ETHICAL. PROFESSIONAL. CARING.]

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Telling Your Story:

Nothing Beats a Visual

By Julie S. Bettinger

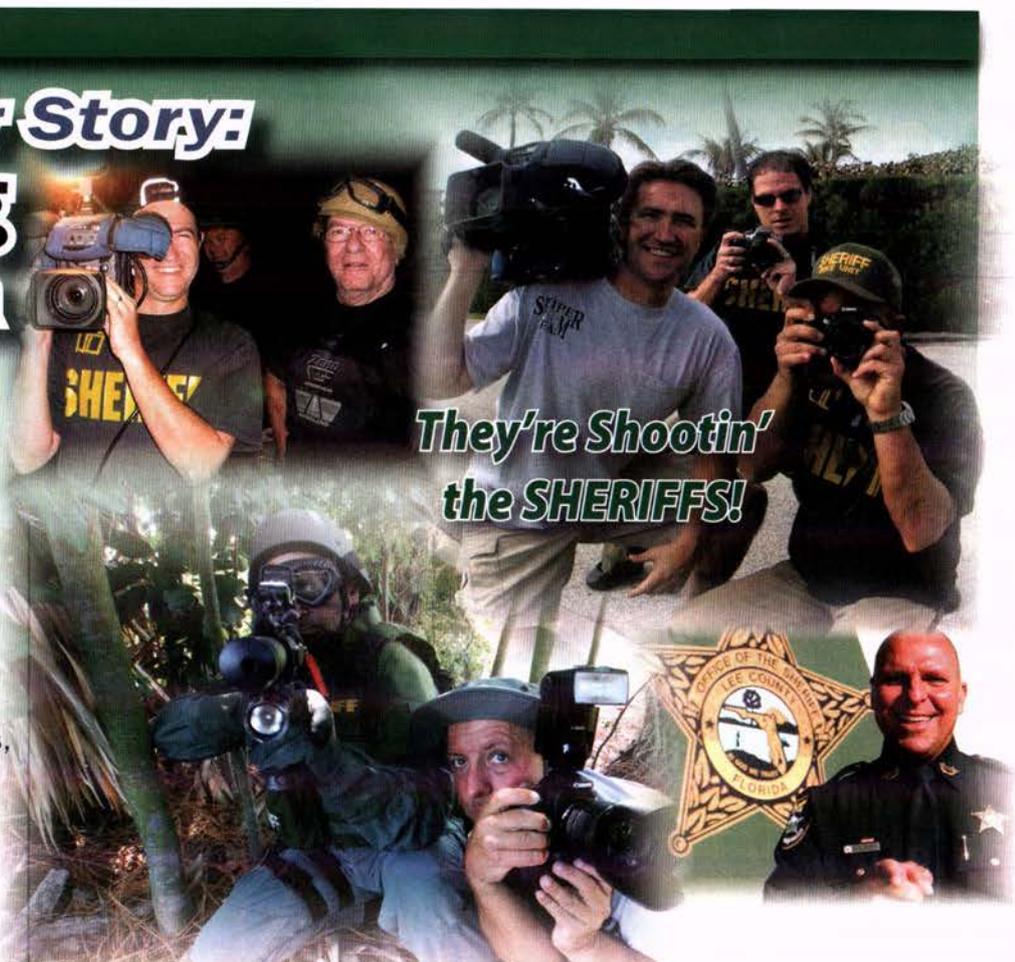
Sheriffs' Offices are not generally known for being on the cutting edge of marketing. Resource-starved Public Information Offices struggle with feeding content to Web sites, answering media requests, writing speeches and staying on top of internal communications. Besides, they often are one- or two-person departments.

The explosion of visual media – streaming video on the Internet, Web casts and video PSAs – has created even more opportunities to get your story told, recruit top-notch talent and boost crime prevention in the community. But, again, the PIO cannot do it all.

One opportunity agencies are looking at is outsourcing to video production companies that know law enforcement. There are numerous benefits – including capitalizing on what the vendor has done for other agencies and learning from previous applications.

Two Web sites that were recently launched by Thurgaland Marketing & Consulting are prime examples. One focuses on videos (www.sheriffvideo.com) and the other on still photography (www.sheriffphoto.com).

Ocala Magazine recently trumpeted Thurgaland's frontline,



They're Shootin'
the SHERIFFS!

in-the-face-of-danger photography that helps spotlight the real world of Florida Sheriffs. Through the company's partnership with law enforcement, they are helping take our story to the masses.

Not gun shy

"What's it like to be on the receiving end of a SWAT team assault? Make an amphibious landing? Track down a criminal with just a dusty fingerprint?"

These are some of the situations that father-and-son team Bob and Todd Thurgaland are bringing to real life through their professional, high-end photos and videography. It's been used to tell the story of more than 15 different Sheriffs' Offices around the state, assisting them in everything from personnel recruiting to crime prevention.

Because of the nature of law enforcement, education and train-

ing are central. There's no better way to do this than video in this made-for-TV world, which has led to a little niche for the Thurgalands.

It all started about 10 years ago when Bob and Todd shot a freebie video for the Lake County Sheriff's Office. The intention was to profile the agency to help residents of a retirement village better understand what the agency did. They were encouraged by then-Lake County Sheriff George Knupp to attend a Florida Sheriffs Association conference and meet other Sheriffs. More freebies followed, as Thurgaland produced a vendor recruiting video for FSA, which helped grow the exhibitors. Word spread rapidly among Sheriffs' Offices about their work, and the calls have been coming in ever since.

Besides FSA and the Sheriffs' Offices, the Thurgalands adopted

the cause of the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches. It was a natural fit, and they have since produced six different videos for the non-profit, including handling the Youth Ranches' 50th anniversary video project.

Getting the picture

Seeing their work, it's obvious that the Thurgalands take a high-adventure approach to spotlighting Sheriffs' Offices.

"What sets us apart is that most of our pictures are not staged," Todd says. "We get that officer on their motorcycle; we get the SWAT team while they're doing water assault training; we get them during their regular day."

The catch-them-in-action approach seems to increase the effectiveness of recruiting videos, too, which is important considering the competitive labor market between local, state and federal agencies.

"The really neat thing about our approach is we allow the deputies to tell the story and sell the agency," Todd says. This requires hours and hours of field interviews in the deputies' natural environment. For example, Todd says, "I'll have a deputy on a horse and I'll be in the back of a flatbed truck with the camera, interviewing him while he's riding."

While much of their work is action-packed, the

Thurgalands and crew sometimes have to provide "talent" for certain shots. Todd often uses Shayne Mills, his production assistant, as his bad guy.

"He's been attacked by a K-9 while sitting in the front seat of a car and he's always my dead guy," Todd says. "We were shooting a crime-scene unit and we threw him in a ditch. I shot while they swabbed his hands."

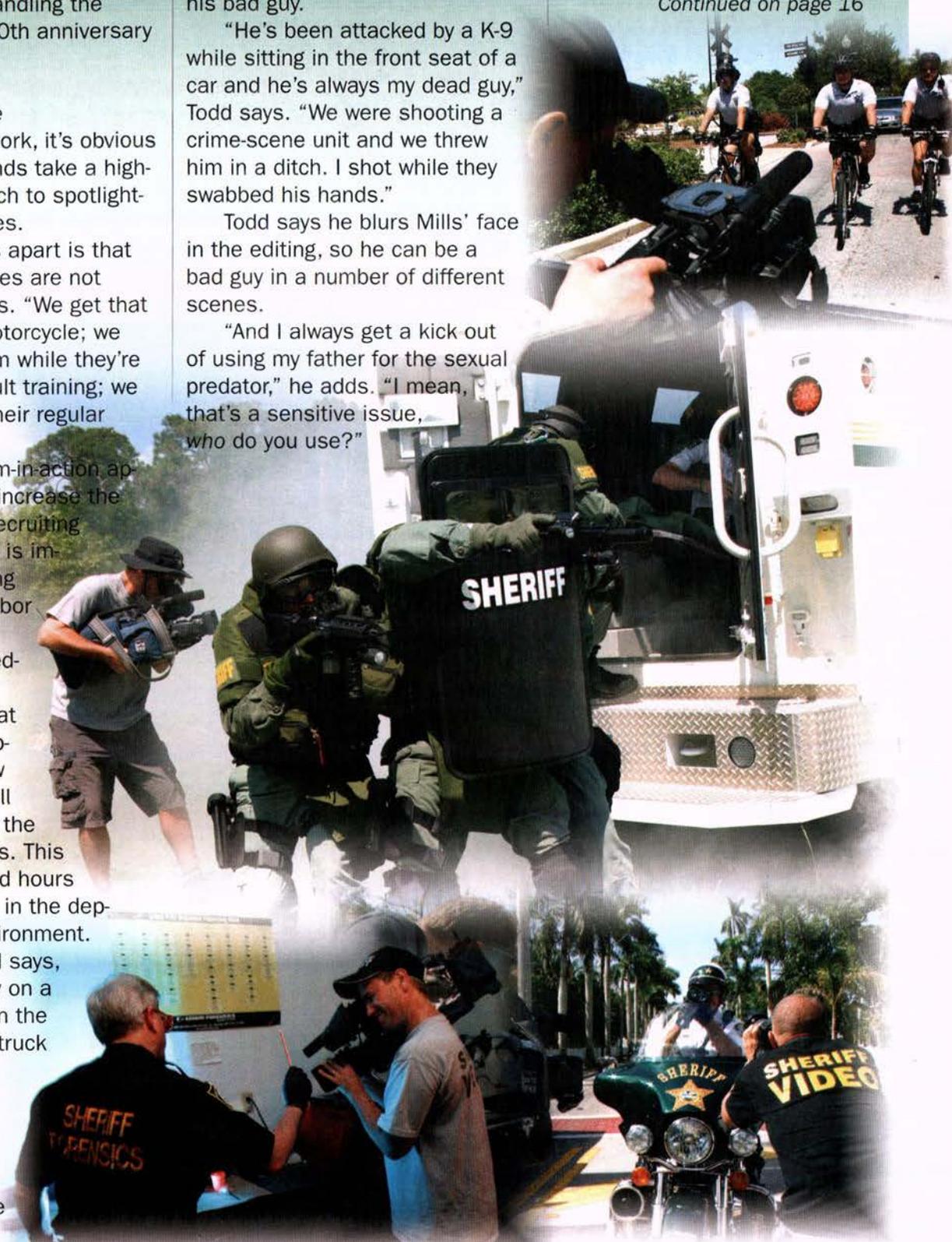
Todd says he blurs Mills' face in the editing, so he can be a bad guy in a number of different scenes.

"And I always get a kick out of using my father for the sexual predator," he adds. "I mean, that's a sensitive issue, who do you use?"

Going still

While video was how the Thurgalands were introduced to Sheriffs, a few years ago they decided

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Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. Update

By Peg Gant, Executive Director

The Florida Accreditation fall conference was held October 6 - 10 at the Plantation Inn in Crystal River. The Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. (CFA) reviewed and accredited one new agency and reaccredited 20 agencies. The Sunrise Police Department received initial accreditation. Agencies receiving re-accreditation were: (nine Sheriffs' Offices) Clay County Sheriff's Office, Hardee County Sheriff's Office, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Manatee County Sheriff's Office, Osceola County Sheriff's Office, Pasco County Sheriff's Office, Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, Seminole County Sheriff's Office, Wakulla County Sheriff's Office; (11 Police Departments) Daytona Beach Police Department, Florida State University Police Department, Lake Mary Police Department, Lantana Police Department, Longwood Police Department, Ponce Inlet Police Department, Sarasota Police Department, Sebastian Police Department, Stuart Police Department, University of North Florida Police Department and Wauchula Police Department. Congratulations to all of these outstanding agencies for their success and commitment to a philosophy of excellence.

The Process Review Task Force met to review recommendations to streamline the



accreditation processes with an eye toward saving clients money. Four of the five recommendations brought to the commissioners were approved. They are:

1. The static display is now optional for initial and re-accreditation on-site assessments.
2. The phone-in session is no longer a component of assessments.
3. The Florida Accreditation staff will initiate contact with all insurance agencies in Florida that provide coverage for public safety agencies to explore possible ways in which to reduce premium rates for the accredited agencies.
4. The photograph of the agency receiving their accreditation award will move from the general meeting immediately following the panel review. When an agency is through with their panel review, they will be escorted to the area where their photograph will be taken with their certificate. This will speed up the process during the meetings.

The fifth suggestion brought to the full commission was to change the schedule of CFA conferences from three meetings per year to two. The commission voted to keep the current schedule.

Thanks to the CFA Standards Review and Interpretation Committee, a Change Notice for standard

changes approved at October's meeting is available on the Web site. The programmers are working on updating the Accreditation Manager software program, which should be ready soon.

There has been a delay in completing the standards for the new Inspectors General (IG) Investigations function accreditation program. Members of staff are planning an Accreditation Manager training class for the IGs in December. CFA's goal is to have a finished product to present to the commissioners at the February 2009 meeting for their approval. A roll out is anticipated for March 2009.

In other news

FDLE's Steve Hurm takes over as legal advisor for both CFA and FCAC. Putnam County Sheriff Dean Kelly and South Daytona Police Chief William "Bill" Hall are rotating off the commission.

Santa Rosa County Sheriff Wendell Hall is replacing Commissioner Kelly and Altamonte Springs Police Chief Robert Merchant is replacing Commissioner Hall. The new Chair for 2009 is St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken Mascara and new Vice Chair is Judge Keith Cary.

SRIC Chair is Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Col. Julie Jones and Vice Chair is Hernando County Sheriff Richard Nugent; Awards Committee Chair is Dr. Jack Schluckebier, City of Melbourne.

The next conference will be at the Crowne Plaza East in Tampa, February 23 - 27, 2009.

Visit the commission's Web site at www.flaccreditation.org for more information and training opportunities.

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Teen Driver Program FAQs

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the program can present a certificate of completion to their insurance company for possible discounts.

Students wanting to learn more can watch a video produced for the Citrus County Sheriff's Office on the TDC's Web site (<http://www.teendriverchallenge.com/>). The site also provides a link to a video produced by the Florida Department of Transportation (or direct at <http://www.takethewheel.net/>).

What resources are provided to the agency?

FSA makes available (at no cost) student workbooks, training DVDs, CDs, banners and bright red shirts for instructors on the range (required for Academy). On a limited basis, T-shirts also are provided to the students. The CDs and DVDs contain lesson plans, helpful information, video footage, PowerPoint presentations, workbook downloads, forms, certificates, the program's theme song – recorded by country music group Diamond Rio – and associated material.

To offset costs, up to \$1,000 of funding is available through a contract between the Sheriff and the Florida Sheriffs Association. (The Florida Department of Transportation Traffic Safety Office is the source of the grant.) The cost for an "average" Sheriff's Office is about \$2,000. The grant decreases 25 percent a year.

The Florida Sheriffs are self-insured through Hunt Insurance Group for liability and coverage



for three vehicles owned by the program. This includes two skid pad vehicles – one in Citrus County and one in Leon County to be used by Sheriffs' Offices in those parts of the state. The third vehicle is an SUV used for the Program Coordinator for support of programs, travel related to the program and delivery of workbooks, supplies, etc.

What other resources are needed?

You'll need enough instructors for students – the ideal ratio is five students to each instructor. All must be commercially licensed as school instructors through FSA's Commercial Driving School (license #3975 by Florida Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles). New instructors either go through a "Train the Trainer" class with an original team member or participate in an actual program under an established program instructor.

You'll also need space for the classroom portion and arrangements for the driving portion. The hands-on driving part has been designed so that a Sheriff's Office can put on the program in any vacant, large parking lot area (some use airport runways).

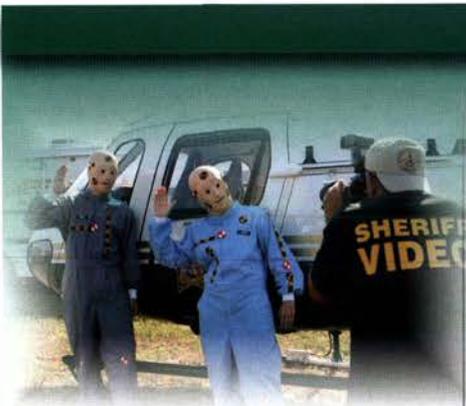
Are there any statistics to prove the program's effectiveness?

Since the program is still in its infancy, we do not have hard statistics – only testimonials from the students. Several of these appear on the TDC's Web site (<http://www.teendriverchallenge.com/>). We currently are tracking the driving records of all students – including crashes, fatalities, DUI arrests and aggressive driving citations – which will be used for comparison of TDC students and general age group drivers across the state. Since the program is implemented all over the state, we also are developing a quality assurance program in 2009.

Is there anything else that can help us in our traffic safety efforts?

The Florida DOT provides other grants related to highway safety. Find out more through the Traffic Safety Office: <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/HighwaySafetyGrantProgram/hsgp/hsgp.shtm>

For more information, contact TDC Program Coordinator Phil Rivers via e-mail: privers@flsheriffs.org, or call: 850-877-2165.

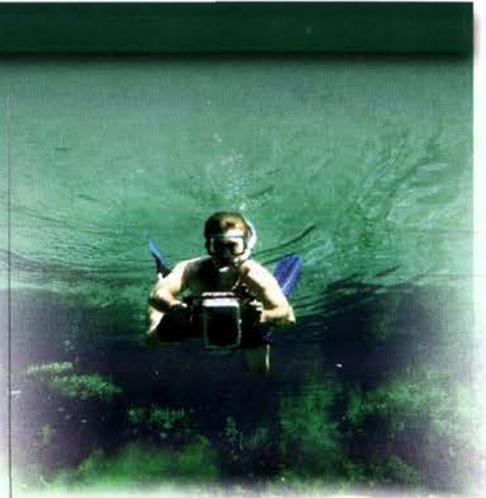


Telling Your Story: Nothing Beats a Visual

Continued from page 11

to bring along their own photo-journalists to capture still images of the same action. Freelancer Richard Rossetto's work was featured prominently in the *Ocala Magazine* piece.

The still shots are used in Sheriffs' videos, on their Web sites and to spotlight their work in the media. There are numerous overlaps between agencies and projects, too. For example, while riding on patrol with one Sheriff's Office, Todd and his profile deputy arrived at the scene of a car wreck. Todd followed him as he ran to help a young girl trapped underneath a car. As the deputy held the teenager's hand, she was pleading for her life, saying she knew something bad was going to happen, but couldn't get her seatbelt on in time. Hooked up with a wireless microphone, the deputy's response and the girl's voice were captured by Thurgaland. The video and audio have since been used



in training videos produced for FSA's Teen Driver Challenge.

"We serve a wide variety of clients and categories, and law enforcement is just a niche that we stumbled into," Todd says. It continues to be one of his favorites.

"I really want to tell their story to the public," he says. "To think what all these Sheriffs' Offices do to keep me and my family safe; to think someone would answer this calling and be willing to take a bullet for me and my family. That's tremendous."

He adds, "It's not something I knew or understood when I started."

For more information, visit the Thurgaland Web site: www.thurgaland.com, or their new sites, www.SheriffPhoto.com and www.SheriffVideo.com/.



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