

# FLORIDA SHERIFFS ALL POINTS BULLETIN

VOLUME 19 • NUMBER 2 • SPRING 2009



## Environmental Response Team Sponsors Multi-Agency Domestic Security Forensics Exercise

By Phil Wieczynski  
Emergency Response Chief  
Florida Department of Environmental  
Protection Division of Law  
Enforcement

State and local responders and forensics specialists gathered at the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy near Tallahassee on April 15-16 to conduct a joint exercise aimed at improving state preparedness for crime scene investigations in contaminated environments. The exercise involved the 50-person State Environmental Response Team

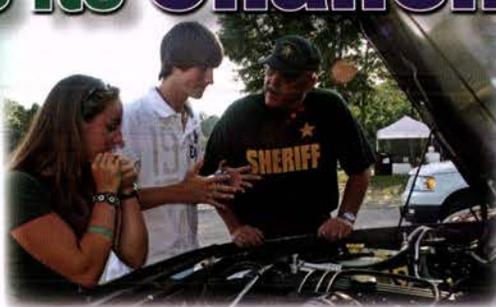
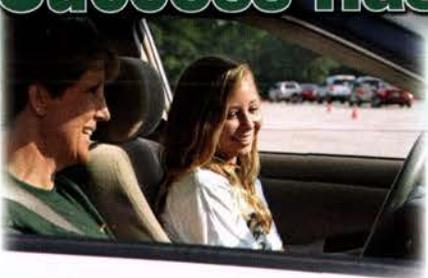
(ERT) and three 8-person Regional Forensics Response Teams (FRT). It included representatives from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Law Enforcement, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Department of Health, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Department of Financial Services, and the Duval, Orange, Alachua, Broward and Marion County Sheriffs' Offices.

*Among other benefits, April's multi-agency exercise, held at the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy in Tallahassee, provided an excellent opportunity for forensics personnel to apply their expertise in a chemically contaminated environment, a situation not always available during shorter duration regional exercises.*

Created in late 2001, the multi-agency ERT is a specialized team with the highest level of Personal Protective Equipment, Level A, criminal investigative, and environmental forensics capabilities. The team is led by Captain Blase Angiuli of the DEP Bureau of Park

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# Success Has Its Challenges



**C**oordinating the Florida Sheriffs Teen Driver Challenge is a job description full of surprises. But the call that came from London, England recently was one of the biggest.

"The lady called me and said she wanted to send her daughter to a Teen Driver Challenge course," says Phil Rivers, the TDC Program Coordinator. Never mind that the 18-year-old wasn't even licensed and our driving laws are vastly different from theirs (including driving on opposite sides of the road). The woman had heard about how the Teen Driver Challenge was helping to save lives on the road and she wanted her daughter to be a part of it.

## Challenging teens

In case you haven't heard, the Florida Sheriffs Teen Driver Challenge (TDC) was created to combat the high crash and fatality rate of teen drivers on Florida highways. Developed initially by law-enforcement driving experts, the curriculum was launched in January 2007. The program is now offered in nearly a third of all Florida counties, and with about three courses annually, has graduated nearly 2,000 teens.

Young people are crediting the course with helping them avoid collisions. When one Osceola County teen was asked how she knew how to maneuver her vehicle to avoid a devastating traffic

crash, she didn't hesitate to say she'd learned it through the Teen Driver Challenge.

Cities and counties that want to bring the TDC to their area are given all the training materials free, but there are some initial start up costs. Grants are available and Rivers says, "We'll work with them any way we can to get them on board."

A number of agencies are taking advantage of the commercial driving instruction offered through FSA – which is free – giving the program 107 instructors. That means TDC instructors are in virtually every part of the state.

"The Division of Motor Vehicles told us we have the largest commercial driving school in terms of instructors," Rivers says.

Rivers is now working on acquiring two trailers that can be towed behind skid pad vehicles to haul the traffic cones. One vehicle is kept in Citrus County and the other in Leon. Agencies reserve the vehicles in advance for use in the driving range part of the program.

For more information, visit the TDC Web site: [www.teendriverchallenge.com/](http://www.teendriverchallenge.com/), or contact Phil Rivers by phone 850-210-3852 or e-mail: [privers@flsheriffs.org](mailto:privers@flsheriffs.org).

Teen Driver Challenge's Web site features an individual page for each county offering the program, plus a video with testimonials from students. Find out more: [www.teendriverchallenge.com](http://www.teendriverchallenge.com).

## FLORIDA SHERIFFS ALL POINTS BULLETIN Volume 19, Number 2 Spring 2009

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By Julie S. Bettinger



Photo by Larry Cozberg

## Stop Sex Industry From Selling Our Children

The transcript of an online chat message came as an attachment from the Attorney General's Office. I was researching their CyberCrimes Unit and wanted to know more about the day-to-day activities of the investigators.

Reading the text conversation between a perpetrator and what he thought was a young girl was like reading a drama in a porno magazine. The man was "grooming" his victim, encouraging her to stimulate herself and calling himself her "teacher." The word "sick" just doesn't capture it – we're talking revolting.

Thankfully, the transcript was from a closed case. The perpetrator eventually met his "victim," and walked right into the trap the Unit had set for him.

### Good riddance!

Few things turn my stomach like stories of children being victimized. What is it about adults justifying their behavior – the stepfather who secretly sexually abuses his stepdaughter, beginning at age 5, calling it "love"; the close friend of the family who introduces a 13-year-old boy to drugs, so that way he "won't be uncomfortable" when his friends are doing it; the total stranger who creates an online persona intending to lure attention-craved kids by his ramblings. "I'm your

friend, I understand you – your parents don't."

What are they thinking?

Unfortunately, this line of business is growing. A recent statistic from Family Safe Media stated that pornography is a \$13.33 billion industry in the U.S. Its revenues are larger than the top technology companies combined – Microsoft, Google, Amazon, eBay, Yahoo!, Apple, Netflix and Earthlink. The Internet portion, which is the one most frequently used to victimize children, is \$2.84 billion. And there are an estimated 100,000 Web sites offering illegal child pornography.

It's so accessible now that grossly misguided parents are betraying their children for money – offering them for sex and use in videos.

Law enforcement is fighting back. And we're getting our share. Individual Sheriffs' Offices carry out their sting operations and many combine forces with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Attorney General's Office and federal agencies.

Most law enforcement Web sites have some component that instructs parents on how to protect their children, too. But we must persevere – the message can't be overemphasized: Kids are being targeted.

### Trending

Any School Resource Deputy will tell you that keeping up with the latest things kids are into can be mind boggling. And each new trend (blogging, texting, chat rooms, etc.) poses a new opportunity for victimization.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children recently launched "Netsmartz411.org," a Web site devoted to keeping parents and guardians informed about the ever-changing world of technology.

Among other things, it answers questions such as, "How many teens are actually engaging in sexting?" Their statistics suggest 20 percent. According to their poll, 71 percent of the teen girls who participated in "sexting" sent or posted the nude or semi-nude photos or videos of themselves to a boyfriend or girlfriend; 66 percent of the teen girls and 60 percent of the teen boys did it to be "fun or flirtatious."

Of course, we all know that they lose control of that image as soon as it's out there.

Every story about a new twist on sexual exploitation of children can suggest the battle can't be won. And budget cutbacks can certainly weaken our efforts. Combining resources will strengthen the arms.

Read the AG article...get familiar with those Web sites. Let's be vigilant. Our kids deserve it.

*Julie*

## Florida Sheriffs Association Calendar of Events 2009



- National Sheriffs Association 2009 Annual Conference & Exhibition, Ft. Lauderdale, FL, June 20-24
- FSA Annual Summer Conference, Palm Beach County, PGA National Resort & Spa, July 19-21
- FSA Conference for the Sheriff's Assistant, Diamond Head Beach Hotel, Ft. Myers, Aug. 10-13

Please check the FSA Web site for the latest dates and locations: [www.flsheriffs.org](http://www.flsheriffs.org).

# The History of Standards Development in Florida Jails

## Part 1: Professionalizing Jail Facilities



By Ned Hafner  
Director of  
Corrections and Jail Services  
Florida Sheriff's Association

**Editor's Note:** This is part 1 of a two part series. "Professionalizing jail staff," will run in the summer edition of APB. Download the full article online at: [www.flsheriffs.org](http://www.flsheriffs.org). Choose the Law Enforcement link.

It may be hard to believe, but prior to the early 1970s, there were no standards in existence for correctional facilities, as it relates to professional training, operation or construction. Correctional facilities were merely buildings that existed to warehouse those who committed, or were alleged to have committed, crimes. Those employed within the jails of Florida were unskilled and provided virtually no tools of the trade. You could say, "It was just a job."

The journey for development of professional standards has been a long one. There have been many decisions for change and a host of individuals over the span of almost four decades have been a part of the journey.

I was very much a part of the corrections revolution. I kind of grew up in the criminal justice system, following college in 1974. I spent time as an instructor at a criminal justice academy and later



Special thanks to Thurgaland Marketing for photography: [www.sheriffphoto.com](http://www.sheriffphoto.com)

had the opportunity to be part of the design and construction team of a local jail facility. Once completed, I was involved in the opening and transition into the new facility. In the years that followed, I had the honor of serving as the chief administrator in two jails over the span of the next 24 years, which meant I was part of the development and implementation of the standards for Florida jails.

### **Professionalizing jail facilities**

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, corrections officials throughout the country recognized that facilities and staffing were being scrutinized and corrective action was needed. Inmates were filing civil lawsuits throughout the country.

Following a 1983 civil rights suit, the Federal Courts were forced to focus on the problems which plagued the corrections industry. They adopted a "hands-on

approach," by issuing mandates and entering orders for injunctive relief in many facilities. As local jails began to recognize standards and constitutional mandates, the courts eventually pulled away and allowed the correctional administrators to manage their facilities.

The courts basically said, "If you, (federal, state or local government), are going to maintain a jail or prison, you must operate them in a constitutional manner."

The years between 1972 and 1974 marked the beginning of the development and implementation of acceptable standards in corrections. Federal Legislation created The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) in Washington, D.C. Its mission was to develop standards for federal, state and local corrections. The LEAA published the first code of recommendations, called the "Federal Criminal Justice, Stan-

dards and Goals.” Each state was given this four-volume collection, along with federal funding via discretionary grants which allowed them to study, edit and implement acceptable standards in their corrections facilities.

Once the state of Florida received the grant, then Gov. Reubin Askew created the, “Governor’s Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals.” The Commission’s staff support was housed within the Florida Division of State Planning, Bureau of Criminal Justice Planning and Assistance. The main office was located in Tallahassee.

The Federal plan consisted of four separate categories: Police, Corrections, Courts and Crime Prevention. Once Florida accepted the mission, the same four categories were separated into four task forces – independent of each other. The Governor appointed the membership of each of the four disciplines. Further, under the leadership of a Bureau Chief, one professional Planner and a Research Associate was assigned to each of the four disciplines. Additionally, an appropriate number of clerical support personnel were available.

Over the next 18 months, each of the task forces met in different locations around the state. The task forces went through the entire federal publication, word-for-word, and edited or adjusted selected standards to meet the needs of Florida’s criminal justice system. At the end of the review, the Bureau produced a single volume encompassing all results of the efforts of the four Task Forces entitled, “Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Goals.” This publication was distributed throughout Florida’s criminal jus-



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tics system. Discretionary funding was also made available to local governments as an avenue for implementation of these new standards and goals.

Once the standards and goals movement got under way, issues began to surface. The local county jails were now scrutinized and required to meet these new standards. The Florida Division of Corrections (later named the Florida Department of Corrections) was designated by the Legislature to oversee inspections of county jails. The original inspection report was very subjective. It only consisted of three legal size pages.

#### **Lawsuits light fires**

In 1976, Costello v. Wainwright was filed at the Federal Courts level. This class action suit alleged that inmates currently incarcerated within the Florida Prison System were not receiving constitutional benefits guaranteed under the 8th Amendment. These same issues were made applicable to all states under the 14th Amendment. The case was originally filed based upon medical issues. However, over the next two decades, several other conditions were addressed pertaining to conditions of confinement, i.e., housing standards, food standards, requirement for regular outdoor recreation, access to courts, access to programs and



general overall living conditions. The case took 20 years to resolve.

As a result, standards were developed based upon the constitutional guarantees to be enjoyed by all citizens. Prison inspection, which now became more regular, was based on criterion for that level of care. This system of standards and inspections has been in place since the conclusion of the civil suit.

While the Costello case was filed by a state inmate and addressed the prison system, another suit was filed by a county inmate in 1981. Arias v. Wainwright addressed the same issues within the county jail system. Filed by an inmate, Willie Arias, who was incarcerated at the Monroe County Jail in Key West, the class action suit included nine other named inmate Plaintiffs.

The Arias case addressed the same basic issues pertaining to conditions within the jails regarding constitutional guarantees. After months of deliberations and 12 drafts, a set of operational standards were developed and

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## TRAINING

*Continued from page 1*

### **Environmental Response Team Sponsors Multi-Agency Domestic Security Forensics Exercise**

Police and Emergency Response Manager Doug White of the DEP Bureau of Emergency Response. It includes 25 personnel from DEP (Environmental Special Agents, Park Police Officers, and Emergency Response Specialists), representatives from the other state agencies, and one member from the Broward County Sheriff's Office. Personnel are not assigned to the team full time but perform other duties within their respective agencies, participating in the ERT as a collateral duty. The ERT is available to support local incident commanders for a wide range of incidents including potential terrorism events.

The Regional FRTs were established to support Florida's domestic security program, and at least one team is available within each region. Many of the regional teams are comprised of personnel from different organizations. This exercise provided an excellent opportunity for these forensics personnel to apply their

expertise in a chemically contaminated environment, a situation not always available during shorter duration regional exercises.

The scenario involved a tractor-trailer load of various chemicals that were being used to create a chemical weapon as a form of protest. Drums were filled with water to simulate chemicals such as Osmium Tetroxide, Hydrochloric Acid, Sulfuric Acid, Acetone, and other assorted chemicals. A small chemical lab also was set up inside the trailer where the individuals were making their weapons. The ERT focused on the trailer while the FRTs assessed evidence around the crime scene and in the truck parked adjacent to the trailer. Multiple entries into the crime scene were made with personnel from the different teams to assess, stabilize, offload the drums, and sample the drum contents.

"I am very impressed with how well these teams worked together during this exercise," said DEP Division of Law Enforcement Director Henry Barnet. "The collection of legally defensible evidence in a chemically contaminated environment presents many challenges

for responders. This exercise improves our overall preparedness to address chemical or biological threats within Florida."

The exercise was funded by a grant from the Department of Homeland Security as part of the state domestic preparedness program. It marked the second time the ERT had exercised with Regional Forensics teams other than the Region 2 Team from Tallahassee FDLE. The teams exercised crime scene management in an environment contaminated with hazardous materials. Sufficient time was provided to exercise all facets of assessment, sampling, decontamination, and forensics activities. Traveling personnel lodged at Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy, where the exercise was held, saving substantial dollars.

*For more information on this and other exercises, contact: Phil Wieczynski, Emergency Response Chief, Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of Law Enforcement, via e-mail: Phil.Wieczynski@dep.state.fl.us or call: 850-245-2875.*

### **Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. Update**

The Florida Accreditation winter conference was held February 23 - 27 in Tampa at the Crowne Plaza East.

During the meeting, the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. (CFA) reviewed and accredited four new agencies, and re-accredited 10 agencies. The agencies receiving initial accreditation were: the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Brevard County Sheriff's Office, Indian River Shores Department of Public Safety and the Florida Department of Financial Services' Division of

Insurance Fraud. The agencies receiving reaccredited status were: Alachua County Sheriff's Office, Leon County Sheriff's Office, Palatka Police Department, Boca Raton Police Services Department, Key Biscayne Police Department, North Port Police Department, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, Marion County Sheriff's Office, Ormond Beach Police Department, and Volusia County Beach Patrol. Congratulations to all for their success.

The CFA Standards Review and Interpretation Committee, chaired by Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission

Director of the Division of Law Enforcement Col. Julie Jones and co-chair Hernando County Sheriff Rich Nugent, reviewed the new Inspectors General Investigation Standards. They went chapter by chapter, accepting all with the caveat that additional standards were needed for the handling and securing of evidence.

The Change Notice for standard changes approved by the Commissioners for February's meeting is available on the CFA Web site. Programmers are still working on updating the Accreditation Manager© software program, which should be ready very soon.

Other Commission business in-

*Continued on page 12*



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## The History of Standards Development in Florida Jails

published. Additionally, a very detailed inspection report was created with over 50 pages, compared to the three pages cited previously.

These documents became a part of the "Administrative Rules and Regulations for Local Detention Facilities" and were inserted in the Florida Department of Corrections Rules, identified as Section 33-8. These became the newly established rules and regulations for county jails in Florida. Under the new rules, the Department of Corrections was mandated to conduct regular inspections of all of Florida's county jails. In the early days, there were a few municipal jails that were subject to inspection as well. In more recent years, municipal jails have all but disappeared in Florida.

### Bringing back local rule

In the mid to late 1980s, there was an effort to remove the jail inspection function from the Florida Department of Corrections. The movers and shakers of this effort felt that the state should not be dictating to local counties how to run their jails. A committee, consisting of two Florida Sheriffs and various county administrators from around the state, was created to study this new concept. This Committee held public hearings throughout the state and citizens were invited to testify; corrections professionals also offered testimony.

The committee eventually made the unanimous decision to make a recommendation to eliminate the Florida Department of Corrections from their



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jurisdiction over the operation of local jails. As a result of the committee's work, a new document was created to replace Administrative Rule 33-8. The document was called "the Florida Model Jail Standards." It was fashioned after 33-8, but had some minor changes. It was now up to the individual Sheriffs' agencies to promote and enforce their own management priorities and practices. There was no longer an occasion for an outside source to come into the local jails and conduct any form of inspections. The only exception was that the county Health Departments would come in and inspect food and medical services. They also had the responsibility to inspect for vermin.

In order to meet the need for an outside source inspection of local jails, the Model Jail Standards group developed a system. Under the new system, teams would enter the various jails to conduct inspections based upon their standards. The Inspection teams were primarily made up of staff members from neighboring local jails. These individuals were certified as "Florida Jail Inspectors." The certification process for these Inspectors continues to be sponsored by the Florida Sheriffs Association. The certification training is conducted statewide on an as-needed basis. Once certified, the individual is qualified to serve as an Inspector for a period of four years. When this certifica-

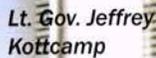
tion expires, the individual may enroll in a re-certification course.

When it is appropriate for a jail to be inspected, the Administrator of that facility coordinates with the other jails within their district or judicial circuit. The team, which is made up of two to three certified jail inspectors from the neighboring county jails, is organized and a date is set to inspect the facility that has made the request. Once the inspection is completed, the Lead Inspector submits a report to the Jail Administrator, which outlines the results. In the event that there are issues to deal with, a corrective action report is requested. Generally, within a 30-day period a response is submitted back to the inspection team.

The major difference between jail inspections conducted under the auspices of the Florida Department of Corrections and the Florida Model Jail Standards system is that the process no longer has any teeth. When the DOC conducted the inspections, it was mandatory – by state statute – that the jail take corrective action. Under the Model Jail Standards inspection system, it is merely an option that they (the jail) can choose to ignore. The only reason that the jail would want to comply is so that they can seek and maintain accredited status under the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission.

PART 2 of this story will published in the summer edition of APB. Download the full article online at: [www.flsheriffs.org](http://www.flsheriffs.org). Choose the Law Enforcement link.

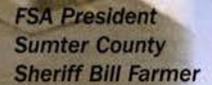
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Lt. Gov. Jeffrey Kottcamp



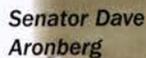
Gov. Charlie Crist



FSA President  
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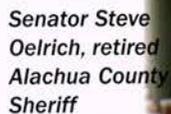
# SHERIFFS' DAY AT THE CAPITOL

MARCH 26, 2009



Senator Dave Aronberg

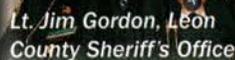
A combination of a beautiful, clear day and the smell of seafood wafting throughout downtown Tallahassee contributed to making the Florida Sheriffs Day at the Capitol one of the most successful to date. It was a chance for the Sheriffs to display some of their crime-fighting tools and meet with legislators and other state officials.



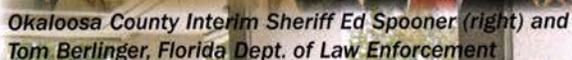
Senator Steve Oelrich, retired Alachua County Sheriff

Gov. Charlie Crist, Lt. Gov. Jeffrey Kottcamp and Senator Dave Aronberg (D-Greenacres) addressed the crowd, expressing their appreciation for the work of the Sheriffs in the state.

Wakulla County's Seinyard Seafood Restaurant catered the event and by all the accounts from the comments, the crowd enjoyed the good company and the good fare.



Lt. Jim Gordon, Leon County Sheriff's Office



Okaloosa County Interim Sheriff Ed Spooner (right) and Tom Berlinger, Florida Dept. of Law Enforcement

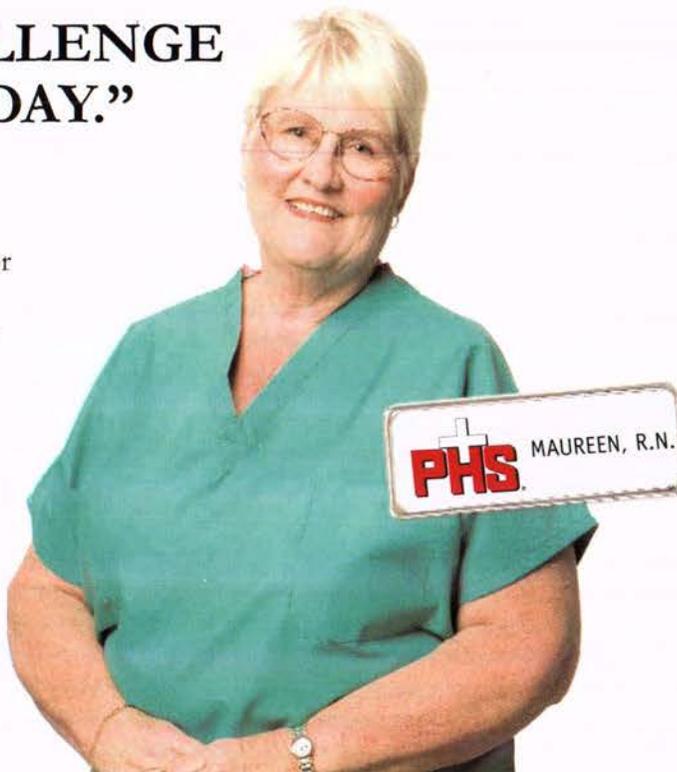
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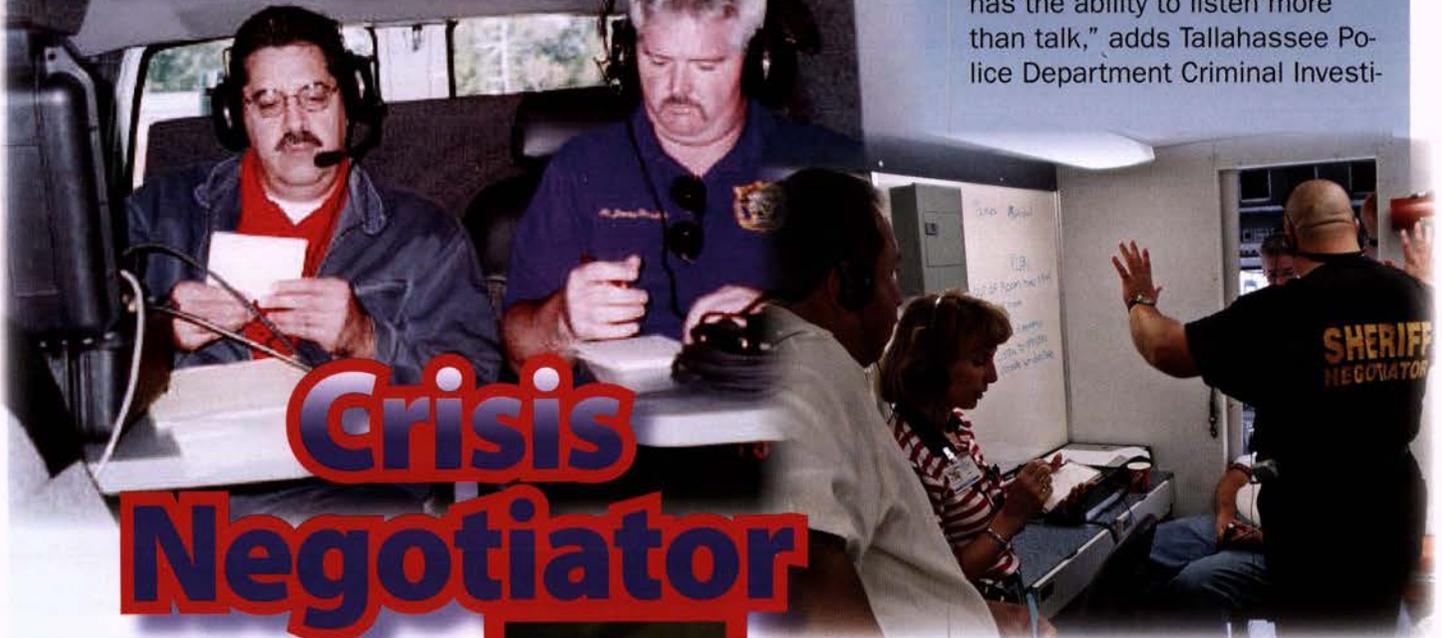
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# A Heckuva Second Job:

# Crisis Negotiator

What does it take to be a Hostage Negotiator? "Obviously you have to have good communication skills," Coughlin says, "and use them effectively."

"A good hostage negotiator has the ability to listen more than talk," adds Tallahassee Police Department Criminal Investi-

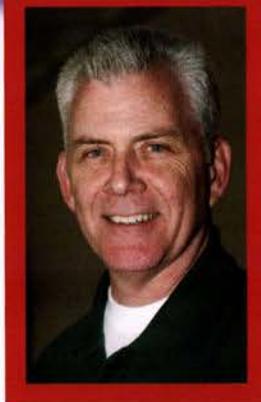


By Julie S. Bettinger

So, you'd describe yourself as being cool under fire, a good listener, able to endure long hours of focused concentration and physically fit with a little bit of a salesman thrown in for good measure?

Then your second calling might be that of a Crisis Negotiator.

Sure, you may not be involved in international hostage negotiations, but you can be the one who talks the man down from the cell tower with a promise of pepperoni pizza; the one who chooses just the right words to prevent a mentally ill person from going on a rampage; or the one who helps bring peace to a neighborhood paralyzed by drama.



Leon County Sheriff's Office Captain Brent Coughlin, Criminal Investigations Bureau Commander.

Most Sheriffs' Offices and Police Departments call this position Hostage Negotiator or Crisis Negotiator. The role is to try to bring calm to an out-of-control situation, primarily through listening and responding to a barricaded person's demands.

Leon County Sheriff's Office Captain Brent Coughlin, Criminal Investigations Bureau Commander, has been working this as a second job for nearly 15 years.

gations Lt. Chris Summers. "And they need lots of patience."

### Training is a must

Because it's a secondary job – you're on call like the SWAT Team – you'll also need to be available for ongoing, specialized training.

Coughlin and Summers, who both have served as president of the Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators (FAHN), agree that training is a critical component for the job. At its annual conferences, FAHN provides a lot of scenario-based training to test and build critical-thinking skills. This supplements training provided by individual agencies throughout the year.

The Leon County Sheriff's Office Hostage Negotiator team holds monthly training and at

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Continued from page 11

## Crisis Negotiator

least three times a year, it does joint training with the SWAT members. Recently, they held training at a church in response to the rise of violence at places of worship. This summer, they plan to train for school shootings.

### Drama in real life

In crisis situations, it usually boils down to two people on the phone – one hostage taker and a negotiator. And it's that voice on the other end of the line that can have the greatest influence on the outcome. It's a life-or-death situation – and the negotiator must be able to deal with it.

Building a rapport with a barricaded person and winning their trust is the No. 1 tool for success in a crisis negotiation. "So many times, it is just having

somebody on the other end of the phone that expresses empathy for their situation," Coughlin says. "Someone who indicates that they understand what they're going through."

Once the groundwork is laid, the negotiator starts working on a solution – having them come out in some sort of peaceful surrender that is beneficial to everybody.

Once the negotiator has made that connection, they can start offering options to them for a resolution. If the person is suffering from a mental health disorder, they can't see the options themselves. So when presented with some, they latch on.

But you never know what's going to resolve the event. It's mostly an art, not a science, says Summers. "Like fishing, you keep casting and try to find the right hook."

With the current U.S. economic crisis, which is expected to increase domestic violence, and more military personnel returning

with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, Crisis Negotiators will be needed more than ever.

If you've ever considered being a Crisis Negotiator, you can learn more on the Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators Web site: [www.fahn.net](http://www.fahn.net). FAHN's annual meeting is scheduled June 15-19 at the Sheraton Hotel in Maitland. Keynote speaker is Retired Army Ranger Captain Nate Self, who authored the book, "Two Wars." Self participated in combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and was awarded the Silver Star and the Purple Heart. He will be talking about his personal experiences of combat and internal struggle with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

For more information on the Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators, visit their Web site at: [www.fahn.net/](http://www.fahn.net/).

## Accreditation Update

Continued from page 6

cluded an update on the Inspectors General (IG) Investigations function accreditation program. CFA Commissioners reviewed all of the material developed for that program and voted to launch it July 1, to ensure the Legislature's approval of FDLE's budget, which includes the CFA.

Two CFA Commissioners, Gulfport Police Chief G. Curt Willocks and Melbourne City Manager Dr. Jack Schluckebier, ended their terms. Punta Gorda Police Chief Albert "Butch" Arenal and Florida League of Cities Manager Ken Small are the new Commissioners.

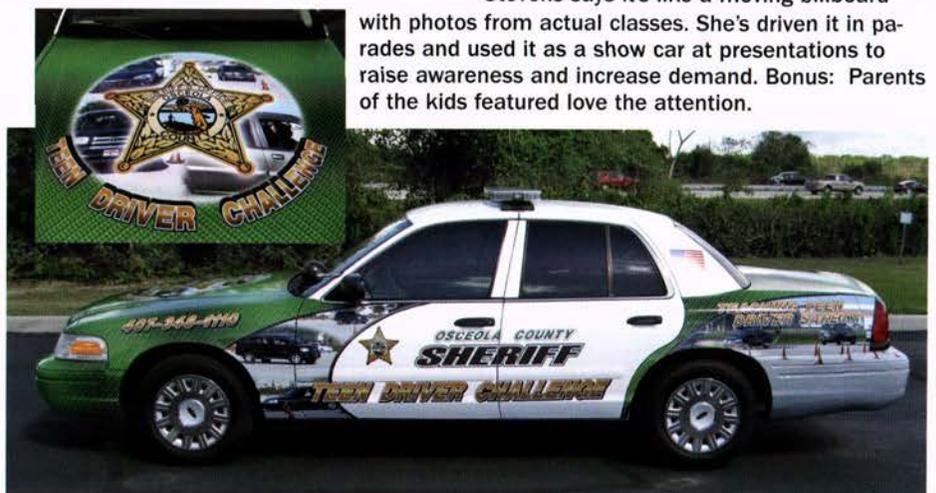
The next CFA conference will be at the Coconut Point Resort and Spa in Bonita Springs, June 28 – July 3. Please mark your calendars!

Information for this news item was provided by CFA Executive Director Peg Gant. For more information on training opportunities, visit the CFA Web site, [www.flaccreditation.org](http://www.flaccreditation.org).

## Osceola County Sheriff Bob Hansell's Teen Driver Challenge Program

Osceola County Sheriff Bob Hansell's Teen Driver Challenge program is turning heads on the highway with a recently wrapped patrol car. His TDC Deputy Sheriff Trudi Stevens says it's like a moving billboard

with photos from actual classes. She's driven it in parades and used it as a show car at presentations to raise awareness and increase demand. Bonus: Parents of the kids featured love the attention.



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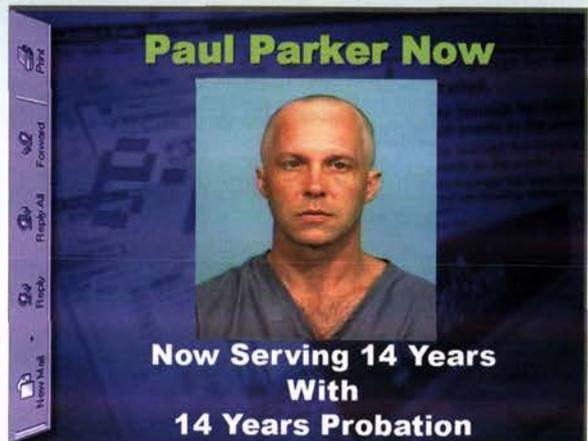
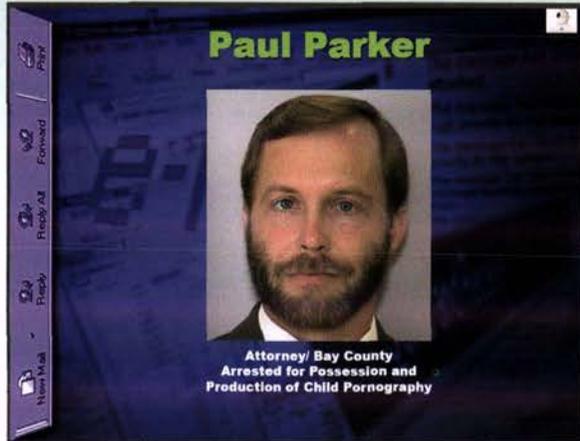
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## AG's Office Teaming Up to Fight Sex Crimes

One of the positive developments to come out of this sour economy is more teamwork. Joint law enforcement operations are on the increase.

The Florida Sheriffs Association has fostered the teamwork concept since the association was founded in 1893. It also has put policies in place, such as Mutual Aid Agreements, so agencies won't be penalized when crossing jurisdictions.

In these times of budget cuts, law enforcement must look beyond agency and county borders to find resources that can help them make a greater impact.

Many are finding a valued resource through the Attorney General's Office. Chuck McMullen,

Chief of Law Enforcement for the Child Predator CyberCrime Unit, says their five bureaus are teaming up with local law enforcement on proactive operations, sharing resources to use in schools and serving as a technical resource for investigators.

"The relationships we've established have been very effective," McMullen says. "An agency doesn't expect us to work a case for them, but be a partner and offer technical expertise."

And technical is key when it comes to Internet Sex Crimes. The technology changes so rapidly, the best training seems to come while on the job. Sitting in a classroom just doesn't cut it – as what you learn is likely going to be outdated in six months.

### The unit's activities

The AG's CyberCrime Unit investigators typically work undercover to investigate online distribution of child pornography and online solicitation – whether it's a perpetrator targeting a child or a parent offering their child for sex. Field work includes surveillance of suspects' houses.

CyberSafety Education is another component. The agency created public presentations that can be given to community service groups or used in the classroom. One 40-minute interactive CyberSafety Education presentation targets middle schoolers. Investigators from the CyberCrime Unit have been meeting with Sheriffs' School Resource Officers (SRO) and some Police Departments to show them how to customize the program and use it in the schools. Last April, McMullen did a program with the Escambia County Sheriff's Office SROs on a school holiday. He went through the entire pre-

sentation, answering their questions and leading discussions. It took about half a day and now the SROs are customizing the presentation to use in their school district.

The AG's Office also established a Web site devoted to education and networking – [www.safeflorida.net](http://www.safeflorida.net) – which has a host of other resources on it.

## Victims Get a Voice

Thanks to a law that took effect October 1, 2008, children who are victimized in Florida-based pornography can seek civil damages from perpetrators. The Exploited Children's Rights Act makes Florida the first state to allow victims of Florida-based child pornography to seek civil remedies against those who download images of that child's sexual abuse. Children who have been victimized can seek as much as \$150,000 per incident from perpetrators.

The new law creates an electronic notification system that allows victims to maintain their privacy while still being heard and considered in criminal court cases. This system is a model for the rest of the nation. The law also allows the Attorney General's Office to pursue these cases on behalf of the victims at their request. Governor Crist signed the bill into law in July 2008 and it took effect October 1, 2008.

*For more information, contact the Victims In Child Pornography Tracking Repeat Exploitation Web site: <http://www.victre.com/>.*

"We created the software and have the tools, so the Sheriffs' Offices have what they need on the ground," McMullen says.

The CyberCrime Unit has a staff of 30 people spread throughout the independent functioning bureaus in Tampa, Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando and Milton – as well as Jacksonville, where the CyberCrime Unit is headquartered. Staffers offer a broad range of expertise and are on call for assistance.

"We're available if they run into something they don't get, from a technological standpoint," McMullen says. If the CyberCrime Unit investigator doesn't have an immediate answer, they can draw from other sources around the state.

Not being a first responder agency has its advantages. Investigators with the CyberCrime Unit can spend the extra time needed to monitor new crime trends and research ways of combating them. They hold weekly telephone conferences between bureaus to identify what's happening around the state. "Something new comes up all the time," McMullen says. There are new social networking sites, online games, "sexting" (sending or receiving a text message that has sexual content) and now cell phone chat rooms – all opening up opportunities for victimization of children.

The unit also employs eight full-time victim advocates – positions that are federally funded through a Victim's of Crime Act (VOCA) grant. Many local agencies have lost their victim advocates and the unit's advocates can fill the role.

"That's what they're there for," McMullen says, "specifically to

## It's All In the Numbers

- Of the 205,930 students who viewed CyberCrime's presentation to prevent victimization during 2008/2009 school year, 6,681 reported victimization.
- Of the 138,684 students who viewed the presentation during the 2007/2008 school year, 7,334 reported victimization.
- 130 arrests made since 2005. This included individuals who traveled to meet someone they thought was a child for sex and those who possess and/or distribute images of child pornography.

help these kids."

Another advantage CyberCrime brings to the table is having full-time prosecutors assigned to the unit. "That makes us different than any other law enforcement agency in the state," McMullen says. Attorneys are involved when the case is made and they give legal advice throughout the entire investigation. Investigators can learn the best practice to make their cases better prepared for court.

If a local law-enforcement agency has a legal question about a high tech crime, the attorneys can help, too. "They can call our prosecutors and say, 'What do I do here?'" McMullen says. "They are highly skilled."

The digital age and computer crimes are all part of the new frontier – and it can be tricky building a case, especially when the judges are on the same learning curve. *Continued on page 16*



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## TRAINING

*Continued from page 15*

### **Hitting the ground running**

Shortly after launch in 2005, the CyberCrime Unit created a Task Force in the Tampa area that involved numerous law-enforcement agencies. Local agencies were asked to designate an investigator who could work with the Task Force one or two days a week. The partnership has been hugely successful. Besides cracking cases, the agencies all benefit because their designee comes back with a stronger knowledge base.

In one example, the Task Force served a search warrant in Clearwater at a large business. Investigators with specialized knowledge came from agencies in Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando and other areas, multiplying the manpower.

"We couldn't have done it without the help of those other agencies," which included state and federal law enforcement. "Everyone pitches in a little bit," McMullen says.

The key was having a concentration of officers with the expertise and skills needed to work that type of crime scene quickly,

including interviewing suspects. In the Clearwater case, an employee of the company was arrested and charged with multiple accounts of child pornography.

The AG's Office has since been trying to take the Task Force concept to other parts of the state. McMullen was part of a recent weeklong multi-jurisdictional operation in Northwest Florida that involved Sheriffs' Offices, Police Departments, state and federal agencies. They targeted people soliciting online and executed search warrants. It was highly productive.

The CyberCrime Unit was involved in nabbing an attorney in Bay County who was distributing images and making child pornography, as well.

"Without our unit doing the online work, he probably would not have been discovered," McMullen says. Paul Parker is now serving 14 years in prison, with 14 years of probation.

Another joint operation involved the Department of Children & Family Services spokesman Al Zimmerman, who lived in Tallahassee and had victims all over the state. The case was investigated by the CyberCrime Unit, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement,

the Jacksonville Field Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Tampa Police Department. The 41-year-old Zimmerman, from Lakeland, pleaded guilty this past January and was recently sentenced to 24 years in prison.

It comes as no surprise that the majority of cases involving possession of child pornography lead to additional charges of active sexual abuse of children within their sphere of influence. So putting the perpetrator away saves the children from further abuse.

With the continued explosion of digital and online communications, law enforcement needs all the resources they can get to protect children from victimization.

"Our agency is in the same situation as others are in," with limited manpower, McMullen says. It's time to team up.

*For more information on the Florida Attorney General's Cyber-Crime Unit, contact Chuck McMullen, Chief of Law Enforcement, via e-mail: [chuck.mcmullen@myfloridalegal.com](mailto:chuck.mcmullen@myfloridalegal.com) or call 850-983-4463. Find resources online at: [www.safeflorida.net](http://www.safeflorida.net).*