

Quarterly Report of the HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INTEGRITY QUALITY SERVICE PROFESSIONALISM

Sheriff Susan Benton



2014 July-Sept 3rd Qrt

VISION

Our vision is a safer Highlands County where citizens and law enforcement are joined together; the rights of all persons are respected; and community values are reflected.

MISSION

The Highlands County Sheriff's Office is committed to protecting life, property, and individual rights while maintaining peace and order.

Goal 1:

Create safer neighborhoods by reducing criminal activity and conditions that foster crime and fear within the community.

Goal 2:

Enhance vehicular and pedestrian safety of Highlands County roadways through education and enforcement.

Goal 3:

Assure accountability by effective and efficient use of personnel, equipment, and technology.

Goal 4:

Provide a professional work environment that attracts and retains a diverse group of quality applicants, rewards employee excellence, and promotes leadership through education and training.

Goal 5:

Assure effective Judicial and Detention processes and services.

Crisis Intervention Training



In July, 2014, Sheriff Susan Benton kicked off a two year initiative to train Law Enforcement and Detention Deputies in crisis intervention techniques. Kirk Fasshauer, Director of Crisis Services at the Peace River Center and Deputy Mark Smith of the Polk County Sheriff's Office conducted the training which included classroom sessions as well as a behind-the-scenes tour of the Peace River Crisis Center in Bartow. Members also had an opportunity to participate in some hands-on experiences simulating the minds of persons in crisis. During the 40 hours of training, participants visited mental health partner facilities in Highlands County as well as becoming familiar with the resources available at the Florida Center in Avon Park. The training involves two 20 hour segments - one segment explains psychological conditions and terms which will assist deputies in recognizing when a subject may be suffering from these issues. The second 20 hour segment deals with officer-safety issues and is taught by current law enforcement officers. Ideally this training provides the tools for effective interaction and intervention between the criminal justice system and mental health care. When an arrest is the only outcome and a subject is detained, deputies will also be educated on how to evaluate the subject for possible alternatives to prosecution such as enrollment in pretrial intervention programs that are already in place at the Highlands County Sheriff's

Office. Sheriff Benton's initial goal is to have at least one sergeant and one deputy on each squad in both law enforcement and detention divisions trained during the first two-year phase with the ultimate goal to train all sworn members of both the law enforcement and detention divisions in crisis intervention. Obviously this will be an ongoing initiative due to the number of members who will need this training and the limited opportunity for seats in the program. The Polk County Sheriff's Office conducts CIT training programs each quarter. Thanks to the cooperation between Sheriff Benton and Sheriff Grady Judd, Highlands County will be allowed 5 spots in each of these programs. Highlands will conduct one full session per year where as many as 30 deputies could attend, here in Sebring. Sheriff Benton commented that she is very pleased this training has begun. "Our deputies come into contact with hundreds of people throughout their careers, many of whom may suffer from some type of mental health issue. Being able to detect this special situation and proceed accordingly will enhance the safety of these people as well as our deputies" she said. "We want to keep the public safe but at the same time we want to address the mental health issues to reduce reoccurring encounters. Any additional tools we have at our disposal to deal with these situations can only be helpful."

Medical Supplies Relief



Sheriff's Office members help load supplies to Liberia to assist in the fighting the Ebola virus. Local Doctor Kevin Strathy and his wife Natu have been gathering supplies for the fight of the disease. Once there were enough supplies for a full container, Natu reached out for community help to load the shipping container. As a humanitarian service, members of the Sheriff's Office and some volunteer inmate workers as well as help the County Road and Bridge department aided in loading all of the supplies into the container for the long transfer to Liberia. The generosity of our community and local medical providers, donated enough supplies that we also helped load a second container.



Active Shooter/Tactical First Aid Training

Incidents involving "Active Shooters" are no doubt on the increase throughout the country. While typically associated by the public with our schools, these incidents take place more often than not in businesses, such as malls or office complexes, but can occur just as easily at government institutions or in a neighborhood, such as what occurred in Sebring in February, 2014, when a resident went on a shooting spree, firing more than 120 rounds of ammunition from an AK-47 assault rifle and additional rounds from a shot gun.

In March 2014, Sheriff Susan Benton sent 8 members of the Sheriff's Office to specialized instructor-level training on active shooter response in Daytona Beach, Florida. The following month, Sheriff Benton raised the bar even further when she sponsored a Tactical First Aid instructor course, taught by Jacksonville-based SWAT CARE. SWAT CARE members taught a select group of 7 members to provide life-saving measures to victims in the immediate aftermath of an Active Shooter event, before EMS and Fire personnel can assume responsibility for patient care. These two training classes prepared these individuals to return to the Sheriff's Office and provide the same instruction to their fellow members.

In late April 2014, Sheriff's Office personnel combined with Sebring Police Department members for an Active Shooter exercise at the Highlands Regional Hospital to not only train hospital, EMS and Fire personnel, but to test and augment the training the instructors had received. Lessons from this exercise were utilized to upgrade the training planned for local law enforcement personnel.

During July and August, 2014, these trainers combined to provide eight an 8-hour mandatory training class to all law enforcement members of the Sheriff's Office. Sebring and Lake Placid Police Departments were invited and sent several police officers. It was great to train with our fellow police

departments as there are times when we all will be responding together. The class emphasized the combined skills of Active Shooter response and Tactical First Aid applications. The classroom and hands-on instruction in the morning sessions provided members with the basics of initial response- STOP THE KILLING- by seeking out the shooter(s) and neutralizing the threat.

The Afternoon sessions provided basic first aid training STOP THE DYING for the 3 primary causes of death in such incidents: bleeding, sucking chest wounds and airway obstructions. Members were instructed in the proper treatment for such injuries, not only for members of the public and their fellow officers, but also how to treat themselves in incidents where EMS or other deputies or officers might not be able to respond because of ongoing shooting. Deputies were provided with "Officer Down" kits, which included tourniquets, pressure bandages, chest seals, airways and other related equipment. The members were encouraged to carry the contents of these kits on their person for the best access in an emergency situation. The day of the training ended in combined responses by County and City law enforcement to a series of fictitious Active Shooter incidents.

Deputies and officers throughout Highlands County area are better prepared to safely respond the Active Shooter incidents and to provide hands-on treatment of victims pending the arrival of EMS/Fire personnel.

Principal Dr. Ann Lindsey of Sebring High School assisted by allowing the Sheriff's Office to use one of the buildings at the high school for this specialized training. Each class participant was able to participate in door to door searches of classrooms, clearing each as they moved along.



Highlands County Sheriff's Office *CRIME PREVENTION*

July—September 2014



National Night Out



Hickory Ridge

Four Communities in Highlands County enjoyed great hot dogs cooked by members of the Highlands County Sheriff's Office command staff to celebrate National Night Out recently. On Tuesday, August 5th, communities all across the country celebrated a

Lakes and Veranda Breeze communities.

Each event featured a presentation by a command staff member as well as interaction with members of the Highlands County Sheriff's



Leisure Lakes

Office K-9 unit. Other Sheriff's members cooked the hot dogs for the events and participants enjoyed chips and iced tea or lemonade as well. Some communities also offered pot luck items or ice cream to add to the fare.

"National Night Out give us a chance to connect with the communities in our county who participate in the Neighborhood Watch program throughout the year," said Chief Deputy Mark Schrader who presented in the event at Tanglewood. "We appreciate their cooperation in our efforts to combat crime and this is a great way for us to show that appreciation."



Tanglewood

night out against crime. Along with the traditional outside and front porch light vigils, most cities celebrate National Night Out with special neighborhood events such as the cookouts conducted in Highlands County.

Attendance estimates show that over 400 people participated in the Highlands County events which were held at Hickory Ridge, Tanglewood, Leisure



Veranda Breeze

Florida Sheriffs Youth Camp 2014



Forty-two children from Highlands County had the opportunity of a lifetime and attend the Sheriff's Youth Camp Caruth during the first week of August. Thanks to the generosity of the Tanglewood Golf Association, no campers went without essential equipment or supplies. The Tanglewood group donated duffel bags complete with camping supplies as well as \$5,000.00 towards expenses so that everyone who wanted to attend was able to do so.

Campers left on Sunday, August 3rd from the Highlands County Sheriff's Office in downtown Sebring amid a law enforcement escort provided by the D.A.R.E. officers who accompanied the kids to camp. During their time at camp they participated

in canoeing, bike riding, group activities and other physical activities. School Resource Officers and other members of the Highlands County Sheriff's Office who also went to the camp joined the youngsters in all of the activities. "This gives us an opportunity to interact with the kids in a non-threatening environment and it gives the kids a chance to see us as people who like to have fun, just as they do," said Detective Chris Carr who joined the campers for the first time. "We all had a great time and would do it again in a heartbeat!"

On their return, the campers were sporting their camp T-shirts and also presented a banner that they made at camp to representatives from the Tanglewood Golf Group to show their appreciation. "I went to camp when I was little and I remember it as one of the best times of my childhood," said

Jeanine Telfer, Treasurer of the Tanglewood Golf Association. "We wanted to be sure that all the kids had this opportunity and it was great to see them having such fun."



Heartland
CRIME STOPPERS
Polk • Highlands • Hardee

1-800-226-TIPS (8477)

HOTLINE

Webtips

Submit a tip On-Line



Text A Tip: Text "TIP196" plus your information to "CRIMES" (274637)

QUARTERLY INFORMATION—ADMINISTRATION & COURT

New Member Hires:		Court Related Services:	
PT Civilian	1	Cases In Court	7,482
Sworn	6	Inmates Taken to Court	1,079
PT Sworn	1	Arrests by Bailiffs	110
Applications Received	32	Persons thru Security Station	30,032
Applications Processed	27	Judicial/Civil Process Services:	
Payroll Transactions Processed	1,954	Received/Processed	2,066
Payable Checks Processed	541	Served	1,879
P-Card Purchases	586	Active	187
Citizens Fingerprinted	349		
Information Services Requests	434		

QUARTERLY INFORMATION—LAW ENFORCEMENT

Administrative Calls	52,651	Items into Evidence	2,684
911 Calls	11,529	Evidence Items Disposed	2,792
Computer Aided Dispatch	32,268	Crime Scene Lab Cases	200
HCSO (60%)	19,290	Crime Scene Call Outs	112
SPD (16%)	5,075	Criminal Investigation Unit Cases	74
LPPD (8%)	2,548	Investigations Open (Total)	110
FIRE (5%)	1,804	SOU Cases	81
EMS (11%)	3,551	CST Arrests	145
Offense Reports	2,602	SVU Cases Received from DCF	379
Traffic Citations Issued	627	SVU Cases Open	62
K-9 Searches	158	Business Security Surveys/residential	1/0
Warrant Numbers:		Neighborhood Watch Presentations	34
Received/Processed	620	Crime Victims Served	138
Served	687	Victim Advocate Services	674
Active	3,058		
Number of Arrests By Patrol	776		
Number of DUI's	7		

QUARTERLY INFORMATION—DETENTION

Inmates Booked into Jail	964	Average Daily Population	406
Inmates Released from Jail	883	Net Commissary Earnings	\$13,332.64
Instructional Program Hours	1,938	Medical Fees Charged	\$173,362.16
Inmate Transport Miles	31,897	Medical Fees Collected	\$3,248.88
Transports to State Prison	368	Subsistence Fees Charged	\$54,736.00
ICE Picked Up	4	Subsistence Fees Collected	\$12,002.49
Detainer's Placed	3	Inmate Per-Diem Charged	\$19,140.00
CMP Participants	7	Inmate Per-Diem Collected	\$8,425.21
Dollars Saved in Labor	\$8,191.69	Labor Hours by Inmates S/O	14,696
Dollars Collected in Fees	\$645.00	Labor Hours by Inmates -Other	2,794
Inmate Meals Served	111,787	Dollars Saved in Labor	\$124,271.03
Avg Food Cost per Day Per Inmate	\$1.92		
Alcohol Breath Tests	20		

Children as Victims

In order to help protect children from online sexual predators, it is important that parents and guardians understand how children's vulnerabilities may make them susceptible to manipulation by these predators.

Curiosity

Children are naturally curious about sex. By acting as guides, predators can exploit this curiosity and gradually lure children into sexual activity. Adolescents questioning their sexuality are even more at risk, as they may go online with the intent of finding support and companionship. Instead, they may find adults looking to take advantage of this vulnerability.

Need for Attention

Even if children receive ample attention from their families, they still crave it from others, especially those they perceive as older and more mature. Predators may offer children affection and flattery in order to coerce them into sexual acts.

Rebellion

Children may become rebellious when they reach adolescence, and predators can use this to their advantage. A child who is victimized while disobeying parental rules may be reluctant to admit it for fear of being punished.

Respect for Adults

Because children are taught to obey and respect adults, they may be less likely to disobey directions given by an adult, even those which make them uncomfortable. An adult looking to harm children can exploit this to influence a child's behavior.

Active Shooter Practical Exercise at Memorial Elementary

Highlands County Sheriff's Office Special Weapons and Tactics Team, Crisis Negotiation Team and School Resource Deputies held a practical exercise session last month at Memorial Elementary School addressing Active Shooter incidents. This training included several scenarios relating to school safety including situations where students, teachers and school board personnel were being threatened by an armed suspect. Deputies trained on their response and how these three units would work as a team to address and resolve these emergencies. Observers from the Polk County Sheriff's Office SWAT team, Webber College's Criminal Justice Management Program and the Drug Enforcement Administration were on hand to give feedback on the exercise.

The Florida State Fire Marshal's office also provided robots to be used in the exercises. "This training allowed us to learn how to utilize all the resources available to us in these dangerous situations as well as providing an opportunity for several special units to practice working together to diffuse theoretical events," Deputy Nick Kent, Highlands County Sheriff's Office Training Coordinator related. We appreciate the cooperation of the staff at Memorial Elementary for allowing us to hold the training here. In addition we thank everyone for participating in the training. It made the experience very real for us, and allowed us to

practice some very essential tactics that we hope we never have to use!"

Lt. Jack Bailey, SWAT Leader said, "we appreciate the opportunity to train with other units and within a school setting. We even conducted a hostage situation on a school bus." Thanks to the School Board transportation department for their willingness to work so closely with us to protect our children.



HIGHLANDS COUNTY **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

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**For tips on how to keep our kids safe see the Florida Sheriffs Association Child Safety Page
@ www.flsheriffs.org/child-safety**