

Quarterly Report of the HIGHLANDS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

INTEGRITY QUALITY SERVICE PROFESSIONALISM

Sheriff Susan Benton



2014 Oct—Dec 4th 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.

"Will to Win & Will to Survive"



On November 13, 2014, The Highlands County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with SFSC, hosted an officer survival course titled, "**Will to Win and Survive**," at the Citrus Center in Avon Park. More than 60 deputies and police officers from Highlands, Okeechobee, Hendry, Glades, Hardee, Desoto, Orange, Martin and Indian River counties, along with the Port St. Lucie Police Department and US Department of Fish and Wildlife attended the 8-hour course.

WILL to WIN and SURVIVE is taught by the FBI's CJIS Division, which studies violent assaults and murders of law enforcement officers. The class is the result of yearly research developed by the FBI's LEOKA (Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted) project.

The course utilizes extensively researched case studies, supported by videos of the assaults/murders of law enforcement members throughout the U.S. to make its points. Some of the videos have been featured on TV, while others were seen for the first time in class.

What makes the training most impactful are the interviews of victim officers and the assailants themselves. The contrast between what the victim officers perceived to be occurring, and the

perceptions and intentions of the suspects involved in the incident, were remarkable and are presented as cautions against becoming overly confident in your ability to judge a persons' mindset. For instance, in one incident, a deputy was violently assaulted by a suspect during an arrest, while the suspect's 8-year old daughter looked on. The deputy reasoned that because the suspect was in the company of his daughter, he was less of a threat, since no "normal" parent would act out in front of their child. Conversely, the defendant explained that he "had" to attack the officer, because he could not allow his daughter to see him being arrested. The lesson was not to project your morals and beliefs to those of the people you encounter in your job. For this deputy, she was lucky to survive, though she is permanently disabled as a result of the attack.

The LEOKA unit travels throughout the country providing this training at no cost to law enforcement agencies in the hopes of reducing the danger to its members. The class is so in demand, it took more than 14 months to schedule and present.

Nurses' Training



The Highlands County Sheriff's Office medical staff recently had a class on hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) and hyperglycemia (high blood sugar). The class was taught by Kathleen MacNeill, MSN, RN, CDE. Mrs. MacNeill is a certified diabetic educator that works at Watson Clinic in Lakeland, Florida. The medical staff along with Dr. Geldart and Tina McLean PA-C attended the class. This class went over our current policies, old and new information regarding the treatment of both hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia. The training was very informative. Mrs. MacNeill was able to answer questions that the staff had in regards to managing both hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia.



Mary Braddock

Mary Braddock is the daughter of Jeannette Braddock who is one of our telecommunicators. Mary completed her internship with the Highlands County Sheriff's Office on December 2, 2014. The internship completed her requirements for her degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Business Management from Florida Gulf Coast University. She graduated on December 13th. During her internship, she was introduced to every area of the Sheriff's Office; in order for her to gain a better understanding of the many areas of responsibility that exist within a Sheriff's Office. Some of the areas she was introduced to were: road patrol, criminal investigations, special victims unit, crime scene, civil, warrants, bailiffs, dispatch, central records and the detention facility. We congratulate Mary on earning her bachelor's degree; and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors.

Florida Leadership Academy Graduation

On December 5, 2014, Sgt. Mike Ahrens and Sgt. Anthony McGann graduated along with 31 fellow graduates from the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute's Florida Leadership Academy. The graduates represent criminal justice agencies from across the state and serve in a leadership role within their agency. Graduates met for four weeks at the Eastern Florida State College's Institute of Public Safety, in Melbourne, FL. Graduates learned skills necessary to support the needs of their agency and the community as they prepare for future challenges.

The goal of the Florida Leadership Academy is to prepare first-line supervisors in criminal justice organizations to exemplify the character and integrity expected of criminal justice professionals and to examine the various components necessary to being an efficient leader.

The Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute, established within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and affiliated with the State University System, was

established in 1990 by the Florida Legislature to address the need for an innovative and multi-faceted approach to the education and training of criminal justice professionals. The Sergeants' wives and children, along with Major David Paepflow and Chief Deputy Mark Schrader attended their graduation.



Sgt. Anthony McGann, Chief Mark Schrader and Sgt. Mike Ahrens

Volunteers for Detention



Meeting with Detention Volunteers

The Highlands County Sheriff's Office Detention Facility have several volunteers who spend countless hours inside the facility offering spiritual guidance, life coaching and counseling to the inmates. The volunteers provide these services in hopes that the inmates they reach will become productive citizens, once reintroduced back into our community. Not only do these services offer hope for the inmates; but they give the inmates something to look forward to while incarcerated.

Due to the large amount of volunteers now serving the inmates, it was determined a new system along with a formal training class was needed; so, on December 10, 2014, the

Highlands County Sheriff's Office Detention Bureau held a meeting for all current and potential volunteers. This meeting was facilitated by Sgt. Tracey Stalter, the Human Resources Staff, and the Sheriff's Office Training Unit. Approximately sixty volunteers were in attendance; where they all completed new Sheriff's Office volunteer applications and sat through the orientation. During this meeting, a new volunteer schedule was presented, as well as new policies and procedures for volunteers to follow. Additionally, three mandatory training dates were set for the month of January, in which all volunteers will have to attend one of; after Human Resources has vetted each volunteer. On January 5, 2015, the first volunteer training class was held, with approximately twenty volunteers in attendance. The volunteers received their training and are now ready to continue their service to the inmates. The programs offered by the volunteers and the recent evaluation and tweaking of the volunteer programs coincide with the Sheriff's Office Strategic Plan objective 5.3.1 of "Evaluating new and existing programs designed to equip inmates for a successful life outside the facility."

Highlands County Sheriff's Office *CRIME PREVENTION*

July—September 2014



Neighborhood Watch

Representatives from all Highlands County Neighborhood Watch groups were invited to attend the County-Wide Neighborhood Watch meeting that was held on November 10th at the Bert J. Harris Agri-Civic Center in Sebring. Approximately 130 people took us up on the invitation and participated in lectures and general discussion throughout the evening.

Sheriff Susan Benton opened the meeting with remarks complimenting Neighborhood Watch participants on their diligence in keeping crime down in their areas. Major David Paepflow followed with a summary of crime activity in the county and he also applauded the participation of Neighborhood Watch members in calling when suspicious vehicles, persons or activities were noticed in their areas. Captain Jeff Barfield of the Uniform Patrol Division emphasized the importance of Neighborhood Watch members in the community and the valuable information they provide for deputies and detectives.

The hit of the evening however was a presentation by Central Dispatch Training Coordinator Josh Cordero who spoke on Calling 911. Covering topics such as when to call 911 and when to call the

non-emergency line, what to expect when a dispatcher answers and how to describe locations and events, Josh conveyed some very important information in an entertaining way.

Concluding the evening participants were able to speak in an open forum session and exchange best practices with one another. Comments from attendees indicated this meeting was very informational and they enjoyed the exchange between the groups.

Highlands County Sheriff's Crime Analyst Pam Barlaug was also presented with a plaque of appreciation for her work with the Neighborhood Watch groups. Pam is responsible for creating the area maps indicating property crimes that have occurred. Some groups request maps on a monthly basis while others get maps only once a year however Pam creates everything! Pam, we appreciate the efforts you put forth to keep our Neighborhood Watch Groups informed!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the County-Wide Neighborhood Watch meeting! We look forward to working with everyone throughout the year as we carry out the Mission Statement of the Sheriff's Office; to protect life, property and individual rights while maintaining peace and order.

Participants listen intently to information presented at the County-Wide Neighborhood Watch meeting in November.



Local Business Owners Donate Bibles to Highlands County Inmates

Three local business owners associated with the New Covenant Worship Center, 1121 Memorial Dr., Avon Park, responded to the ongoing need for Bibles in the Highlands County Jail. Mike Cobb of Cobb Roofing, Donnie Thompson of Thompson Electrical and Mason Cobb of Cool and Cobb Engineering, donated a total of 240 soft-cover English Standard Version Bibles for use by inmates.

According to Detention Operations Lt. Michael Gilliam, "Our biggest request is for the Bible and we do our best to fill those requests; this will certainly help meet those needs." Sheriff's Office Detention policy does not allow inmates to bring in or receive any personal property while incarcerated, therefore, Bibles can only be provided to inmates by detention staff. Bibles are purchased through the inmate welfare fund; however, many are donated by community residents, churches, ministries and/or business owners for distribution to inmates upon request. "To put the need we have into perspective, the Highlands County Jail has the ability to house over 500 inmates daily. According to a 2014 State of Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) report Highlands County has a recorded yearly average inmate population of 383 inmates per day. Subsequently we go through a lot of Bibles each month so we are very thankful to these business owners for donating 5 cases," said local minister George Ridenour. Ridenour works for Tri-County Human Services providing services at the Highlands County Sheriff's Office in the Behavioral Health Program and serves as a volunteer working with inmates. He has been assisting with Bible donations during his time at the Sheriff's Office.

For safety within the jail, the Bibles must be of a certain construction, paperback with no metal, staples or other materials that can be misused by inmates. Inmates of various faiths can request the readings of their particular beliefs and language.

The Hebrew Bible, the Quran, or a Catholic Bible can be made available when requested.

If anyone is interested in donating to the program at the Highlands County Jail, please contact Minister George Ridenour at 863-402-7312 or Lt. Michael Gilliam at 863-402-7200.



Highlands County Sheriff's Office member Minister George Ridenour unloads 5 cases of Bibles donated to Highlands County Jail inmates last month.

Annual Meeting Reminder



All Neighborhood Watch groups are required to have at least one meeting every year where a representative of the Highlands County Sheriff's Office is in attendance. At this

meeting statistics of crime activity in your neighborhood is presented and chairpersons contact information is verified. To schedule your annual meeting please contact Nell Hays at 402-7369.

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	0	Cases In Court	6,652
Sworn	2	Inmates Taken to Court	1,016
PT Sworn	0	Arrests by Bailiffs	79
Applications Received	106	Persons thru Security Station	37,999
Applications Processed	100	Judicial/Civil Process Services:	
Payroll Transactions Processed	2,279	Received/Processed	
Payable Checks Processed	384	Served	
P-Card Purchases	534	Active	
Citizens Fingerprinted	261		
Information Services Requests	469		

QUARTERLY INFORMATION—LAW ENFORCEMENT

Administrative Calls	51,024	Items into Evidence	2,533
911 Calls	12,638	Evidence Items Disposed	2,749
Computer Aided Dispatch	33,203	Crime Scene Lab Cases	148
HCSO (58%)	19,399	Crime Scene Call Outs	74
SPD (17%)	5,682	Criminal Investigation Unit Cases	63
LPPD (8%)	2,492	Investigations Open (Total)	87
FIRE (6%)	1,864	SOU Cases	65
EMS (11%)	3,765	SOU Narcotics Arrests	41
Offense Reports	2,376	CST Arrests	135
Traffic Citations Issued	626	SVU Cases Received from DCF	351
K-9 Searches	182	SVU Cases Open	57
Warrant Numbers:		Business Security Surveys/residential	1/1
Received/Processed	522	Neighborhood Watch Presentations	34
Served	486	Crime Victims Served	140
Active	2,937	Victim Advocate Services	664
Number of Arrests By Patrol	813		
Number of DUI's	22		

QUARTERLY INFORMATION—DETENTION

Inmates Booked into Jail	933	Average Daily Population	394
Inmates Released from Jail	843	Net Commissary Earnings	\$20,200.87
Instructional Program Hours	2,095	Medical Fees Charged	\$255,315.44
Inmate Transport Miles	28,666	Medical Fees Collected	\$4,164.76
Transports to State Prison	65	Subsistence Fees Charged	\$51,208.00
ICE Picked Up	1	Subsistence Fees Collected	\$11,182.44
Detainer's Placed	2	Inmate Per-Diem Charged	\$18,080.00
CMP Participants	7	Inmate Per-Diem Collected	\$7,723.97
Dollars Saved in Labor	\$7,549.36	Labor Hours by Inmates S/O	15,176
Dollars Collected in Fees	\$595.00	Labor Hours by Inmates -Other	2,250
Inmate Meals Served	108,905	Dollars Saved in Labor	\$376,532.26
Avg Food Cost per Day Per Inmate	\$1.81		
Alcohol Breath Tests	35		

File Sharing

Peer-to-peer (P2P) file-sharing services allow users to upload their files so that other people can download them. It can be an easy way for people to share photos, videos, and other content. Unfortunately, it has also turned into an easy way for people to illegally share copyrighted materials such as movies, software, music, and even illegal materials, like child pornography. Illegally downloading software content from the Web is called piracy.

Piracy

Children do not always understand that piracy is stealing because they are not physically going to a store, taking something off the shelf, and leaving without paying for it. Instead they are sitting at home on their own computer and downloading or uploading copyrighted movies, music, and software. If caught, parents or guardians may be held responsible for their child's piracy, resulting in a financial penalty or worse.

Security

In addition to the legality issue, there are security concerns. Files may be intentionally mislabeled in order to disguise viruses, pornography, and other unwanted content. Some file-sharing programs require the user to download a program or "plug-in", which may come packaged with hidden spyware. Unfortunately, most P2P services do not have a central Web server where complaints may be filed. Therefore, it is important that parents and guardians pay careful attention to what their children download through file-sharing services. Make sure to scan all downloaded files for viruses and other malware, and look at all of your child's downloaded files to ensure that the content is what was expected.

Courthouse Tactics - Bailiffs' Training



around the building itself. The message is that danger can exist anywhere and deputies need to be constantly prepared.

Courthouse Tactics teaches deputies/officer survival skills, and is a first training of its kind, as it is tailored specifically for Bailiffs. Other officer survival training is more general in scope and is more designed for uniform patrol deputies and officers. Course creator, Ray DeCunto, worked with the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office for 2 decades, and taught as an adjunct for Calibre Press (the creators of **STREET SURVIVAL** training). After retiring, DeCunto developed **COURTHOUSE TACTICS** to fill the void felt by deputies working in the court system.

The course is 8 hours in length and intermingles PowerPoint, videos (many from actual courthouse encounters) and detailed accounts of incidents which occurred at federal and state courthouses around the country. Videos include a shootout at the front door/X-Ray machine in Hillsborough County, a man with a knife in an Arkansas courtroom and a man who attacks his estranged wife in a hearing over a Restraining Order. Discussions followed to examine what went right and wrong, as well as how to prepare for such an incident in the future.

On December 5, 2014, the Highlands County Sheriff's Office sponsored **COURTHOUSE TACTICS**, an advanced course training for Bailiffs. Deputies from Highlands, Okeechobee, Pinellas, Desoto, Martin and Manatee Counties attended, along with representatives of the Second District Court of Appeals. The training is a specialized course designed for deputies who work at Courthouses, and whose responsibilities put them at risk to encounter potential threats in and around the Courthouse; from the front door to the courtroom and



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