

# FCSO Column



## New Mobile Crime Scene Unit

FALL 2008



Sheriff Chuck Jenkins has added a new mobile crime scene unit to the agency at minimal cost to taxpayers. He commented, "This unit would have been upwards of \$125,000 if purchased new, but we spotted the used vehicle at Department of Fire and Rescue Services headquarters where it was used as a back-up ambulance, and knew that it would serve our needs."

The new mobile crime scene unit consists of an ambulance and trailer. "I love it," said Crime Scene Unit Supervisor Cpl. Rick Winer. "It's a great asset to our agency and it will last forever." While the new unit was professionally painted, Cpl. Winer and his team designed and installed the

graphics themselves.

The new addition greatly increases efficiency at the scene, allowing the investigators to work without having to go back and forth to

the office for equipment. The first outing was a recent homicide investigation where, according to Cpl. Winer, investigators were able to work through the night with everything they needed right at their fingertips. It also provides the investigators with a comfortable, climate-controlled space to work so that focus can be solely placed on the investigation.



Cpl. Rick Winer displays evidence equipment

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The ambulance had only 80,000 miles on it when it came to the FCSO, and could last up to 300,000 miles
- 4 evidence-techs were recently trained in Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD)
- Recently the CSU mobile station was a big hit at the Junior Deputy Academy

## Project Lifesaver

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office is proud to take part in the Project Lifesaver program. Project Lifesaver is a rapidly growing non-profit organization that provides tracking systems for families with children or loved ones who have autism or Down's Syndrome and are likely to wander out of their homes and become lost. Project Lifesaver trains local public safety agencies to use and maintain the tracking equipment. The FCSO's program, run by Cpl. Tom Johann, has 12 registered participants and was implemented with funds raised by the Frederick County Autism Society.



to implement a search, but the Project Lifesaver organization has conducted over 1,475 searches nationwide with a 100% success rate.

The families pay an initial fee for the wristbands, which can range from \$250-\$300, and then pay a monthly fee of \$20. The Project Lifesaver program offers financial assistance to families who cannot afford the fees. Maintenance on the wristbands must be conducted monthly and is completed by Cpl. Johann and four Community Assistance Patrol volunteers.

Project Lifesaver also includes adults who suffer from Alzheimer's disease in its program. Although the FCSO's program does not include any Alzheimer's patients as of yet, Cpl. Johann says it could be a possibility for the future. All interest in the program can be directed to Cpl. Johann at ext. 13909.

The program uses wristbands to transmit a signal to a tracking unit. Each wristband is assigned a number, which can be tracked if the guardian calls and reports that the person is missing. The Sheriff's Office can then deploy 3 units to start covering a mile radius from where the person was last seen. As of yet, the FCSO has not had

held in Emmitsburg. The event was a hit for children and parents alike. The Sheriff's Office continues its mission of community outreach and education.

## Junior Academy Emmitsburg

Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup> marked another successful event for the Community Deputy Program. Over 100 children participated in the Junior Academy



*DFC John Packard teaches the children about the Special Services Team*

held in Emmitsburg. The event was a hit for children and parents alike. The Sheriff's Office continues its mission of community outreach and education.



*Our very own Carrie Payne goes through the obstacle course, with some assistance*

## INTO THE LIGHT

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual "Into the Light" Domestic Violence Education and Awareness Conference will be held on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2008. The event has been made possible by the collaborative efforts of the Sheriff's Office, Heartly House, Hood College and the State's Attorney's Office. Topics that will be covered include the mandatory arrest debate, domestic violence and bullying, and mental health issues with offenders. The keynote speaker will be Yvette

Cade, the Prince Georges County woman who was doused with gasoline and set on fire by her ex-husband in 2005.

The conference is free and so far has about 200 registrants. It will be held from 8 a.m.- 3 p.m. at Hood College and lunch will be provided. For more information contact Carrie Payne at ext. 12074 or Theresa Hiegel at ext. 11290.

## Leadership Challenge

Captain Steve Snow of the Correctional Bureau recently graduated from the Leadership Challenge training program administered by the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission. The program, a nine-month executive development course, offers public safety executives and administrators the opportunity to interact with prominent authorities in diverse fields such as business and industry, health, education, human services, technology, the military and others. The program enables the participants to analyze critical issues beyond law enforcement and corrections, to forecast their impact, and to influence their communities as well as their agencies. This program received the Specialized Topic Award of Excellence in 1995 from the International Association of Correctional Training personnel.

The attendees of this training included executives/administrators from the

Maryland Division of Parole and Probation, Juvenile Services, and the Division of Corrections. Other class participants included administrators from numerous county police agencies, sheriff's offices, county correctional facilities, Maryland Transportation Authority Police and the Metro Transit Police.

Captain Snow began his career with the Frederick County Sheriff's Office Corrections Bureau in February 1995. Since that time he has held a variety of specialized and supervisory positions. Most recently, Captain Snow was promoted to his current rank in March 2007 and now heads the Detention Center's Administrative Services Division.



*Capt. Snow (left) is congratulated by Pat Bradley (right), Executive Director of MPCTC*

## RECENTLY AWARDED GRANTS

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office was recently awarded two grants from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention; the Sex Offender Compliance Enforcement in Maryland (SOCEM) grant for \$20,000 in overtime, and the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (BJAG) for \$9,225 for Night Vision Equipment.

Criminal investigators and patrol team deputies visit registered sex offenders two times per year to ensure they comply with the state law. The Sex Offender Compliance and Enforcement Project will provide funds to the Sheriff's Office for overtime for sworn and civilian personnel to verify offender compliance beyond their normal work hours. These funds will enhance the

ability of the Sheriff's Office's staff to ensure sex offenders that reside in Frederick County are registered and comply with the state law.

The Night Vision Equipment Project addresses the need to enhance our ability to conduct nighttime operations by providing patrol teams with night vision equipment. Grant funds will provide Patrol Operations with night vision scopes for the six patrol teams and the K-9 Unit. These funds will enable the teams to conduct effective law enforcement operations in darkness or low-light situations. The night vision equipment will also improve officer safety while protecting citizens and saving lives.

## FCSO Tries Out New Ride

Thanks to Harley-Davidson of Frederick, the Sheriff's Office is sporting a new ride for the next six months. The motorcycle was offered to the agency by Mike Vantucci, owner of the dealership, as a part of a program that is specifically designed for law enforcement agencies.



The program allows agencies to try out a Harley to see if it's a good fit for the agency. At the end of the six

months, the agency has the option to buy, lease or return the bike. In the past, Vantucci has also made the program available to the Frederick Police Department and Maryland State Police.



The motorcycle is assigned to Sgt. Dave Hunter who is utilizing the bike quite frequently. "The bike is fun to ride," he said. "It rides well and is great for traffic enforcement and special details."

## Presenters at NSA Conference

At the end of June, Frederick County Sheriff Jenkins and some of his staff members traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana for the 2008 National Sheriffs' Association conference and exhibition. They had a busy, but productive week of activities.

On Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, Captain Dave Martin and Corporal Mark Landahl of the Sheriff's Office Homeland Security Section presented a seminar on "Continuity of Operations Planning for Law Enforcement Agencies". The presentation covered lessons learned as a result of Hurricane Katrina as well as one instance during 2007 when the Frederick County Sheriff's Office

had to COOP to an alternate facility because of a HAZMAT incident. Cpl. Landahl and Capt. Martin

outlined the steps they went through in order to complete FCSO's law enforcement COOP plan. The seminar attendees gave positive feedback about the presentation and understood the need for proper agency planning. Former Frederick County Sheriff Jim Hagy and his wife Theresa were also among the audience members.



*Cpl. Mark Landahl and Capt. Dave Martin*

## LETHALITY SCREENS

The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) was implemented to offer practical methods of working with victims to assess and act upon the danger they may face. It has been found that only 4% of intimate partner violence victims sought assistance and the lethality screen serves as a tool that can show victims the dangerous situation they may be in, and can help them get the assistance they need. By providing on scene referrals, victims receive immediate information regarding their victimization and direct service from the local domestic violence shelter.

Lethality Screens are completed when deputies respond to a domestic violence incident where: they believe an assault or act that constitutes domestic violence has occurred; parties involved are repeat names or location; or they believe a screen

should be completed. For FY08, 439 lethality screens were completed, and of that 42% were positive. The deputies completing the most number of screens were Deputy Chris Morris with 16, Deputy John McQuain with 15, and Deputies Joe Caruso, Andy Crone and Kevin Riffle with 12.

FCSO will partake in a study by Dr. Daniel Webster, Associate Professor at the Center for Injury and Research Policy at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Webster collaborated with Dr. Jacqueline Campbell on the research that forms the basis for much of the LAP, and was a member of the group that developed the program. The focus will be to study the program's impact on victim's subsequent victimization and provide rigorous evaluation with evidence of program's effects.

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[cpayne@fredco-md.net](mailto:cpayne@fredco-md.net) by  
Dec. 15th to be included  
in the next edition of the  
**FCSO Column**



**GRANT AWARDED**

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office was recently awarded a \$6000 grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to serve protective and peace orders. Frederick County Sheriff's Office patrol teams are given protective and peace orders based on the address of the respondent given by the petitioner. Depending on the call load of the patrol team, service of orders can be delayed due to other prioritized calls for service. The Protective and Peace Order Service Project will provide overtime funds for deputies to serve protective and peace orders as an extra-duty overtime assignment. This project will improve law enforcement services available to petitioners of protective and peace orders and provide patrol teams additional time for calls for service.

**Tactical Medical Course**

Sgt. Keith Bowerman was recently sent to Palm Springs, California, where he attended both Basic and Advanced Tactical Medicine Courses hosted by the International School of Tactical Medicine. This world-renowned school is an exclusive training opportunity to learn advanced tactical medical care and instructional material.

SWAT medics, doctors, federal agents, tactical firefighters and medics from all over the world have attended the school. According to Sgt. Bowerman, "The classes and training experiences surpassed all other law enforcement training I have had to date. It involved long 12-14 hour days, live fire drills, and



real life tactical rescue scenarios."

Sgt. Bowerman has assisted the Special Services Team as their Tactical Medic in a support role since July of 1997. During that time he has provided care to suspects, citizens, and police officers during different missions.

For more information about the school, go to [www.tacticalmedicine.com](http://www.tacticalmedicine.com).