

# FEATURES



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## 54 Bearing the Burden

Chaplains serve Kentucky law enforcement as officers, as pastors or as both. From Harlan to Logan County and beyond, chaplains bear the burdens of officers and relieve them of daunting duties.

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Profiling (Ret.) Lt. Denise Spratt, Crisis Intervention Team training coordinator and former Louisville Metro Police Department officer. Spratt explains how better communication skills learned by CIT-trained officers can better serve their agencies and communities' citizens.

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The 2000 Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony honored the lives of 28 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Hundreds gathered in April to pay tribute to Kentucky's fallen officers, including two killed in 2008.

## 68 To Drive or Not to Drive

Across Kentucky, there are individuals who, by choice or by circumstance, are limited in the type of vehicle they can use. The many obstacles low-speed vehicles, like horse-drawn buggies and others, face on the roadways can equal the obstacles law enforcement officers face in maintaining safety for them and those with whom they share the roadway.

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The Kentucky Law Enforcement staff welcomes submissions of law enforcement-related photos and articles for possible submission in the magazine and to the monthly KLE Dispatches electronic newsletter. We can use black and white or color prints, or digital images. KLEN news staff can also publish upcoming events and meetings. Please include the event title, name of sponsoring agency, date and location of the event and contact information.



## Kentucky Receives Funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

/J. Michael Brown, Secretary, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet

**F**unds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 are beginning to make their way to the various governments and not-for-profit organizations, along with the challenges of understanding and managing the programs and projects those funds support.

The diverse components of the ARRA, signed into law by President Barack Obama on February 17, reach into almost every aspect of government programs and community life, including justice and public safety initiatives. Aimed at preserving and creating jobs and promoting economic recovery to assist those most impacted by the recession, the ARRA also seeks to spur technological advances in science and health; invest in transportation, environmental protection and other infrastructure projects that will provide long-term economic benefits; and stabilize state and local government budgets, in order to minimize and avoid reductions in essential services and counterproductive state and local tax increases.

The U.S. Department of Justice will help communities improve the capacity of state and local justice systems through various competitive and formula grant awards, many of which will be managed by the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet through its Grants Management Branch. These grants will be available to state and local government agencies and not-for-profit organizations through competitive applications during the upcoming months.

Already, the cabinet has opened a special application cycle, accepting requests and proposals

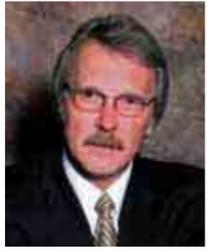
for the nearly \$15 million in stimulus funds that will be available for supplemental Justice Assistance Grants. (The application period for these supplemental JAG funds closed May 29.) State and local government agencies, as well as not-for-profit agencies, were eligible. After completion of the peer review process, awards will be announced later this summer.

The one-time funds represent the largest portion of the state's public safety stimulus dollars, and are part of the "Kentucky at Work" initiative announced by Gov. Steve Beshear in February.

The funds come at a critical time, as federal dollars for the annual program have dwindled. The cabinet received \$1.5 million in JAG funds last year; in 2005, the total was \$4.4 million. The Justice Assistance Grants appropriated under the stimulus program will allow the cabinet to fund the same important programs and purpose areas as the annual awards, including enforcement, prevention and education, and victims' services.

These grants are in addition to the ARRA Justice Assistance Grants awarded directly from the U.S. Department of Justice to many Kentucky counties and municipalities. Communities receiving these direct awards have likely already completed the required planning process and dedicated the dollars to projects and activities unique to their jurisdictions.

The justice cabinet is also responsible for managing and awarding other grant funds to state and local government agencies and not-for-profits through competitive applications during the upcoming months. These include Victims of Crime Act and Violence Against Women Act, both of which have an application cycle that is tentatively scheduled to open mid-June 2009. Please access the grants portion of our Web page, [www.justice.ky.gov/departments/gmb](http://www.justice.ky.gov/departments/gmb), to review these grant opportunities and determine if they will meet your agency's needs and goals. Assistance may also be obtained by contacting the Grants Management Branch at (502) 564-3251, or [askgmb@ky.gov](mailto:askgmb@ky.gov).



## The Other Face of Law Enforcement

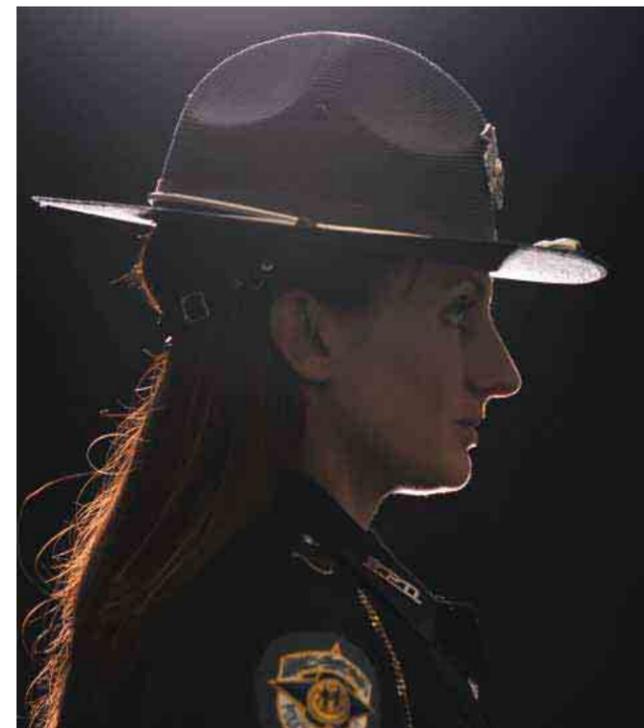
/John W. Bizzack, Commissioner, Department of Criminal Justice Training

**I**n 1845, the first women to be hired by the New York City Police Department were called matrons. In 1968, the Indianapolis Police Department made history by assigning the first two female officers to patrol on an equal basis with their male colleagues. In 1985, Penny Harrington, became the nation's first female police chief of the Portland (Oregon) Police Department.

Increasingly in the past few decades, women have entered the field of policing and played a significant role in the development of contemporary law enforcement.

In the early 1970s, only 2 percent of law enforcement officers were women. Today, a combination of societal changes and legal mandates has helped pave the way for women to enter the field of policing in record numbers.

Even with the increasing numbers, in 2001, women accounted for only 12.7 percent of all sworn officers in large agencies, 8 percent in small and rural agencies and 14 percent in federal agencies. In 2003, the U.S. Department of Labor reported out of the nearly 900,000 people employed as police officers, sheriffs, detectives, police supervisors and criminal investigators, approximately 15 percent of those positions employed women. It seems the rate of female employment in law enforcement will not achieve equality for several generations, if at all.



Policing is a difficult job to work and an equally difficult job in which to recruit and retain qualified candidates, particularly women. In an effort to increase female recruitment and retention, the National Center for Women and Policing supports and promotes opportunities for women to become involved in law enforcement and for those who are already officers. The International Association of Women Police also promotes and assists with professional development, training, mentoring, peer support and networking.

The Kentucky Women's Law Enforcement Network, an organization the Department of Criminal Justice Training helped establish in 1999, has the same function in Kentucky. There are more than 18 local, national and international associations serving women in policing.

In this issue of "Kentucky Law Enforcement", we have focused on the issues surrounding women in policing, from the Big Sandy region to the Mississippi River. Obviously, they face multiple challenges on a daily basis, just as their male counterparts. However, Kentucky's female officers go far beyond the old stereotypes, serving as partners on regular patrol beats; as supervisors, instructors and mentors; and doing the tough jobs as well as anyone else in their departments.

In fact, 155 Kentucky law enforcement departments employ POPS-certified female officers on their rosters. Led by Louisville Metro with 154, a total of 536 POPS-certified female officers serve their communities in the commonwealth. That number increases annually as more and more women join their ranks. Kentucky now boasts one female sheriff and, as of this writing, three female chiefs in communities large and small.

However, there is much room for improvement since more than 270 of Kentucky's 427 POPS-certified agencies do not employ any females.

Unfortunately, advancements by women in Kentucky policing also have required sacrifices. There are three female officers' names engraved on the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial, which honors those who died in the line of duty.

Empirical evidence from decades of research affirms that female officers are not only as competent as their male counterparts, but an essential population from which continued recruitment is critical for the progressive evolution of American policing.



▲ The Department of Criminal Justice Training received its official Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies reaccreditation certificate March 21, marking the department's second reaccreditation since initially being accredited under the Public Safety Training Academy Accreditation program in March 2003. Pictured from left to right: Sylvester Daughtry, Jr., CALEA executive director; Drexel Neal, DOCJT staff assistant; Gerald Belcher, DOCJT internal policy analyst; Herb Bowling, DOCJT deputy commissioner; and Louis Dekmar, CALEA president and chair.

## ■ KPOA Conference Scheduled for July

The 74th Annual Kentucky Police Officers' Association conference will be July 19 to 22 at the Radisson Hotel – Cincinnati Riverfront in Covington. The firearms championship will be Sunday, July 19. The conference will feature Lexington Division of Police Detective Keith Ford and the Kentucky Law Enforcement Council-certified class entitled Proactive Policing Strategies. The program is being provided on site, and the Radisson Hotel has guaranteed special room rates for KPOA conference participants needing overnight accommodations. There is a \$125 conference registration fee. For more information, visit the KPOA Web site at <http://www.kpoa.info/conference.htm>.

## ■ Eight Receive Highway Safety Awards



The Kentucky State Police recently honored eight members of the agency who went above and beyond the call of duty to make the commonwealth's highways safer. Excellence in Highway Safety Awards are based on the highest number of occupant-protection, speed, driving-under-the-influence and commercial-vehicle citations written in 2008. An additional award was presented to the public affairs officer who recorded the highest number of community education events relative to highway safety.

The KSP 2008 Excellence in Highway Safety Awards honored (front row, left to right) CVE Officer Glenn Perry, CVE Officer Travis Rogers and CVE Inspector Marty Young and (back row, left to right) Sgt. Derris Hedger, Sgt. Steve Walker, Tpr. Walt Meachum and Tpr. Chris Steward. Not shown: CVE Officer Anthony Bersaglia.

## ■ Legal Issues 2009 Class Addresses Officers' Needs

Legal Issues 2009 is a new eight-hour class developed by the Legal Training Section of the Kentucky Leadership Institute at the Department of Criminal Justice Training.

The class was developed in response to comments by officers about the need for a legal training class that would bring officers up-to-date on new developments in the law and provide effective refresher training on search-and-seizure and interrogation law.

The class will be offered four more times this year in Louisville, Elizabethtown and Paducah. Students attending the class learn changes in the KRS, as well as recent cases from the courts

interpreting various statutes. A major subject area addressed is the changes made in KRS Chapter 503 regarding justification of force by the Castle Bill. Miranda also is reviewed, as well as a general review of the applicability of the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth amendments to the United States Constitution. Major concepts, such as Terry stops and frisks, plain view, vehicle stops, canine sniffs, search warrants and exigent circumstances also are addressed.

Legal Issues 2009 allows officers to complete their 40-hour training requirements when they are taking or have taken a 32-hour block of instruction.

## ■ New Chiefs of Police Across the Commonwealth

### Teddy Lacy, Campton Police Department

Teddy Lacy was appointed chief of the Campton Police Department on October 7, 2008. Lacy graduated from the Department of Criminal Justice Training Basic Training Class No. 252. He began his law enforcement career at Clay City Police Department and has more than 13 years of law enforcement experience. His goals are to implement a drug-interdiction program in Wolfe County.

### Roger Bird, Williamsburg Police Department

Roger Bird was appointed chief of the Williamsburg Police Department on November 17, 2008. Bird was born and raised in Williamsburg and has more than 15 years of law enforcement experience. He graduated from the Department of Criminal Justice Training Basic Training Class No. 267. Bird's goal is to pursue accreditation through KACP. Since taking office, he already has implemented a K-9 program and hopes to change the public's perception of the department by implementing a public affairs office.

### Horace Johnson, Glasgow Police Department

Horace Johnson was appointed chief of the Glasgow Police Department on February 16. Johnson began his law enforcement career with the Western Kentucky University Police Department in 1976, serving as chief from 1991 to 1999. He served in many leadership positions while employed with the Department of Criminal Justice Training, retiring as Training Operations Division director in December 2007. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, Class No. 145. Johnson emphasizes education and training and looks forward to the department becoming more involved in the community through community-oriented policing.

### Steven Yocum, Hollow Creek Police Department

Steven Yocum was appointed chief of the Hollow Creek Police Department in February. He graduated from the Department of Criminal Justice Training Basic Training Class No. 264. Yocum began his law enforcement career as a juvenile detective in Jefferson County. He has hired three officers, making Hollow Creek a five-man department. He also replaced the old radio system and purchased TASERs for his officers. Yocum is working to purchase new vehicles for the department.

### Anthony Holder, Franklin City Police Department

Anthony Holder was appointed chief of the Franklin City Police Department on February 23. Holder has more than 24 years of experience. He began his law enforcement career with Cave City Police Department and has served Western Kentucky University and Glasgow police departments and retired from Kentucky State Police after 20 years of service. Holder looks forward to expanding his department by hiring nine new officers and updating the department's information and case management systems.

### Donald J. Herron, Mortons Gap Police Department

Donald Herron was appointed chief of the Mortons Gap Police Department on March 26. Herron graduated from the Department of Criminal Justice Training Basic Training Class No. 162. He began his law enforcement career at Oak Grove Police Department and has more than 23 years of law enforcement experience. He plans to hire more officers and make the department paperless.

## ■ Shain Wins Women's Leadership Award

Cindy Shain, director of the Kentucky Regional Community Policing Institute at Eastern Kentucky University, recently was named the winner of the Women Leading Kentucky's Martha Layne Collins Leadership Award.

The Martha Layne Collins Leadership Award recognizes a Kentucky woman of achievement who inspires and motivates other women through her personal,

community and professional contributions.

"Cindy is a strong leader – both professionally in a traditionally male-dominated field and through her volunteer activities," said Janet Holloway, executive director of Women Leading Kentucky.

Before joining ECU, Shain was a deputy chief in the Louisville Police Department.

Shain has overseen approximate-

ly \$4 million in federal grant projects from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services since 1999. She is a founding member of the Louisville Human Trafficking Task Force and also served the Human Trafficking Task Force chapter in Lexington. Shain has been a board member for Seven County Services, participated in international law enforcement efforts and actively mentors students.



▲ Cindy Shain and two others were chosen as finalists for this award from more than 40 applicants.

## ■ Cybersafety Legislation to Take Affect

On July 1, new cybersafety legislation will go into affect in Kentucky. The new law will help our criminal statutes keep pace with changes in technology.

It also will provide law enforcement with new tools to help keep predators off social-networking sites, charge criminals with cyberstalking, stem the use of webcams in certain crimes and make it easier for parents to search the Kentucky Sex Offender Registry for suspicious e-mails.

House Bill 315 contains the following provisions:

- Prohibits sex offenders from logging onto social networking sites that are used by children under the age of 18.

- Requires sex offenders to update their e-mail addresses and online identifiers with the registry. The bill codifies the Kentucky State Police's current practice of making e-mails available in a searchable database that is accessible to the public. The bill further would require that online profiles, such as those used on MySpace or Facebook, also be included in the searchable database.

- Amends Kentucky's stalking statute to include cyberstalking

- Closes a loophole in current law by clarifying that it is a crime for a person to transmit live, sexually-explicit images of themselves to minors over the Internet

or other electronic network via webcam or other technological devices.

- Allows police to seize personal property, such as a computer or car, which has been used by a predator in the commission of sexual offenses against children.

- Grants administrative subpoena power to the Office of the Attorney General when investigating online crimes involving the sexual exploitation of children.

- Creates a new offense of phishing, the practice of scam artists inducing others to divulge personal information for fraudulent purposes.

## ■ SAFE Patrol Helps Thousands on Highways

In its first full year of operation, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's Safety Assistance for Freeway Emergencies Patrol saved the day for more than 22,000 motorists. SAFE Patrol performed a wide range of services to motorists, from providing directions and assisting at crash scenes to vehicle repair and first aid.

SAFE Patrol consists of 22 trucks and 36 trained operators who provide free assistance to stranded or injured travelers along

Kentucky interstates and parkways, 365 days a year.

"This is one of the best public services we could provide, and the need is obvious," said Secretary of Transportation Joe Prather.

In 2008, SAFE patrol received nearly 715,000 calls for information or assistance.

SAFE Patrol operators are trained in areas such as minor vehicle repair, incident management, CPR and first aid, customer service and highway-security issues.



## ■ Dehner named ABC Commissioner

Tony Dehner recently was named commissioner of the Kentucky Office of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Dehner, 61, served recently as the director of the division of Insurance Fraud Investigation in the Department of Insurance. Dehner has more than 30 years experience in the judicial and criminal justice system.

▲ Dehner will serve the remainder of a four-year term that began Jan. 1. Dehner began his new position May 16.

## ■ Kentucky Narcotics Conference a Success



▲ Jim Rogers receives the Kentucky Narcotics Officers' Association Award of Excellence from President Dave Keller (left) and Executive Director Tommy Loving (right).



▲ 2009 Kentucky Narcotics Officers' Association executive board members: front row (left to right) Tommy Loving, Byron Smoot, Dave Keller, Stan Salyards, Rich Badaraco and Jennifer Carpenter. Back row: Jeff Scruggs, David Smith, Dan Smoot, Dave Gilbert, Vic Brown, Mike Brackett and Mark Burden.

More than 275 local, state and federal officers attended the fourth annual Kentucky Narcotics Officers' Conference, conducted Dec. 8 to 10. The conference highlighted significant efforts by officers and legislative leaders to reduce the

availability of drugs and other controlled substances, and offered tactical training for drug-eradication efforts.

Detective Thomas Bowling of the Louisville Metro Police Department and Special Agent Brian Sanders of the Drug Enforce-

ment Administration were named narcotics officers of the year.

Congressman John Yarmuth was presented the Legislative Leadership Award for his efforts to restore Bryne/JAG funding

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## KLEC Presents CDP Certificates

/KLEC Staff Report

The Kentucky Law Enforcement Council's Career Development Program is a voluntary program that awards specialty certificates based on an individual's education, training and experience as a peace officer or telecommunicator. There are a total of 17 professional certificates, 12 for law enforcement that emphasize the career paths of patrol, investigations, traffic and management, and and five certificates for telecommunications. The variety of certificates allows a person to individualize his or her course of study, just as someone would if pursuing a specific degree in college.

The KLEC congratulates and recognizes the following individuals for earning career development certificates. All have demonstrated a personal and professional commitment to their training, education and experience as a law enforcement officer or telecommunicator.

**INTERMEDIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

**Hardin County Sheriff's Office**

Harry M. Braxton Jr.  
Donna P. Cross  
John P. Meadors  
Michael F. Riley  
Charles A. Williams  
Bonnie S. Wheeler  
Pamela J. Yates

**Covington Police Department**

Brian P. Kane  
James A. West Jr.

**Bluegrass Airport Police Department**

Robert R. Powell

**Inez Police Department**

Adam T. Crum

**Erlanger Police Department**

Jeffrey G. Miles

**Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources**

Jason N. Slone

**Kentucky Office of Charitable Gaming**

Stella A. Plunkett

**Ludlow Police Department**

Bartholomew T. Beck

**Paris Police Department**

William B. Machal

**Radcliff Police Department**

Jeremy J. Davis  
David R. Love  
Wayne T. Raifsnider

**Somerset Police Department**

Christopher W. Gates  
Robert J. Girdler  
Greg W. Martin

**University of Louisville Police Department**

George R. Parsons

**ADVANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

**Ashland Police Department**

Jackie R. Conley

**Bluegrass Airport Police Department**

Robert R. Powell

**Campbell County Police Department**

Lana L. Helton-Fillhardt

**Covington Police Department**

Theodore J. Edgington

**Eddyville Police Department**

Jaime L. Green

**Erlanger Police Department**

Jeffrey G. Miles

**Hardin County Sheriff's Office**

Donna P. Cross  
John P. Meadors

**Kentucky Office of Charitable Gaming**

Stella A. Plunkett

**Radcliff Police Department**

David R. Love

**Somerset Police Department**

Robert J. Girdler

**University of Louisville Police Department**

George R. Parsons

**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER INVESTIGATOR**

**Covington Police Department**

Christopher P. Gangwish  
Brian P. Kane

**Daviess County Sheriff's Office**

Jeffrey S. Jones  
Michael E. Pearre

**Kentucky Office of Charitable Gaming**

Stella A. Plunkett

**Paris Police Department**

Jeffrey L. Lizer

**LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAFFIC OFFICER**

**Somerset Police Department**

Robert J. Girdler  
Greg W. Martin

**LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPERVISOR**

**Daviess County Sheriff's Office**

William D. Thompson

**Eddyville Police Department**

Jaime L. Green

**Independence Police Department**

Shawn T. Butler

**Kentucky Alcoholic Beverage Control**

Steve R. Peyton

**Lewisburg Police Department**

Hugh A. Alsup

**LAW ENFORCEMENT MANAGER**

**Daviess County Sheriff's Office**

William D. Thompson

**Independence Police Department**

Shawn T. Butler

**Madisonville Police Department**

Danny W. Williams

**LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVE**

**Independence Police Department**

Shawn T. Butler

**Madisonville Police Department**

Charles W. Shockley Jr.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Ashland Police Department**

Robert W. Ratliff

**Clinton Police Department**

Tracy J. House

**Independence Police Department**

Shawn T. Butler

**BASIC TELECOMMUNICATOR**

**Bowling Green Police Department**

Melissa D. Piper

**Lawrence County 911**

Barbara Howard  
Jill N. Jackson  
Patty S. Sizemore

**London/Laurel County Communications Center**

Melody J. Reams

**Nelson County Dispatch**

Mary E. Jensen

Megan R. Wells

**Pendleton County Dispatch**

James W. Jones

**Warren County Sheriff**

Denisha L. Alford

**INTERMEDIATE TELECOMMUNICATOR**

**Elizabethtown Police Department**

Merlene R. Reynolds

**Winchester Police Department**

Donna J. Estes

**ADVANCED TELECOMMUNICATOR**

**Elizabethtown Police Department**

Merlene R. Reynolds

**Winchester Police Department**

Donna J. Estes

**CRIME SCENE PROCESSING OFFICER**

**Boone County Sheriff's Office**

Jeremy A. Rosing

**Independence Police Department**

James E. Moore

**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER ADVANCED INVESTIGATOR**

**Covington Police Department**

James G. Coots

Brian C. Fuller

James M. Thompson

**Daviess County Sheriff's Office**

Michael E. Pearre

# New Legislation for 2009

/Steve Lynn, DOCJT, Assistant General Counsel

The 2009 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly adjourned March 27. The following bills of interest to law enforcement were passed during the session. Unless otherwise noted, all of the following bills will become effective on June 25, 2009.

**House Bill 21 – Low-speed electric vehicles and alternative speed motorcycles**

This bill created a definition for "low-speed vehicle," which appears to address the increasing use of golf carts on public streets and roads. It also allows the use of low-speed vehicles on highways with a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less and requires low-speed vehicles operated on a highway to be insured in compliance with KRS 304.39-080, titled, and registered as a motor vehicle in accordance with KRS 186.050(3)(a). The bill further created a definition for "alternative-speed motorcycles" and imposed similar restrictions and requirements as those for low-speed vehicles.

**House Bill 53 – All-terrain vehicles**

This bill requires all-terrain vehicles purchased on or after July 1, 2010 to be titled for purposes of protecting security interests. The bill prohibits the owner of the

all-terrain vehicle from receiving certification of registration or operating it on the roadways except in accordance with KRS 189.515.

**House Bill 55 – Firearms certification for peace officers**

This bill amended KRS 237.140, relating to federal Law Enforcement Officer Safety Act certification and recertification of active and retired peace officers, to permit any peace officer who has successfully completed a Kentucky Law Enforcement Council approved firearms instructor course to certify active and retired officers under KRS 15.383 and 237.140.

**House Bill 321 – Collection of DNA samples**

This bill provides for the collection of a DNA sample for any person convicted of a felony offense after July 1, 2009 and juveniles at least 14 years of age who have been ruled delinquent as a public offender for certain sex crimes.

**House Bill 369 – Theft offenses**

This bill amended various sections in the penal code and KRS Chapter 434 relating to theft offenses to raise the class D felony offense level from \$300 to \$500 and to further enhance offenses involving \$10,000 or more to a class C felony. The bill further

amended KRS 532.356 to prohibit a person who owes restitution for a theft offense from driving until the restitution is paid in full, but provided an option to apply for a hardship license.

**House Bill 410 – Kentucky State Police Trooper R Class**

This bill created within the Kentucky State Police the position of Trooper R Class in order to retain retired officers commissioned under KRS Chapter 16 on a contractual basis to supplement the ranks of the Kentucky State Police. In addition to other requirements, those eligible would be troopers originally commissioned under KRS Chapter 16, who retired in good standing after 20 years of service and have been retired one to 60 months. Contracts for the Trooper R Class are for one year and may be renewed for four additional terms.

**House Bill 411 – Kentucky State Police reorganization and creation of Chapter 16A**

In addition to reorganizing the Kentucky State Police, this bill created Chapter 16A to establish requirements, duties, promotional process and disciplinary process for commercial-vehicle enforcement officers, arson investigators, hazardous-devices investigators and facilities-security officers. J



# TEACH ME TO TALK

Kentucky Crisis Intervention Team training coordinator Denise Spratt talks about the benefits for CIT-trained agencies and officers / **Abbie Darst**, Program Coordinator

**A** London police officer hears a 10-72 come across his radio. Recognizing the address, his mind races through the stories he has heard about this one. He arrives on scene, knocks on the door and shouts, 'Police, open the door': a voice from inside answers. As he and his partner push open the door, they find themselves staring down the business end of a 12-gauge shot gun. Snatching his pistol from its holster, he aims it at the bridge of the stranger's nose and begins squeezing the trigger – then stops. He realizes the man's gun is actually rested on the arm of the chair, pointed between him and his partner at the door. "Hey buddy, what's the problem, here? You having a problem with your neighbor?" the officer asks calmly, de-escalating the tension and allowing this call to take a dramatically different path that potentially leads to all three lives being spared.

This case, like so many other examples provided to Denise Spratt, is a prime example of how officers trained in crisis intervention can use communication and de-escalation skills to lessen the need for lethal force in many situations encountered during routine calls for service with those who are mentally ill or emotionally disturbed. As Kentucky's Crisis Intervention Team training coordinator and one of the instructors, Spratt has helped officers across the commonwealth learn reliable communication skills that defuse many situations posing a serious threat to law enforcement officers.

**Crisis intervention is a second career for you. How long were you with the Louisville Metro Police Department before you retired and what duties/positions did you hold there?**

I actually started with the Jefferson County Police Department in 1984. The departments merged in 2003, so I actually retired from the Louisville Metro Police Department in 2007. I was there 23 years and about 10 of those were spent in patrol. I was a homicide detective for seven years and spent about two years in internal affairs as an investigator, which was very interesting. I spent about a year in training and a couple of years in support operations. I also served as the domestic violence coordinator and the Crisis Intervention Team coordinator. I had a lot of different assignments and I was able to do a lot of different things. During that time, I had a collateral assignment with the hostage negotiation team and was a negotiator for 19 years. I was the commander of the Jefferson County hostage negotiating team and then, after the department merger, was the commander of the Louisville Metro negotiating team.

Working on the negotiating team gave me a lot of experiences. What I found was the same basic skills that negotiators use are the same ones that we are teaching in CIT class. As the commander of the negotiating team, the CIT program is where I did much of my recruiting for the agency. Because the people that excelled in the >>

/Photos by Elizabeth Thomas

>> CIT class and did well with those skills obviously did well as negotiators.

If there was a hostage-negotiations career track at the Department of Criminal Justice Training, the CIT class would be the first class in the track and basic hostage negotiations would be the next one. Advanced hostage negotiation would be third. I also teach the basic and the advanced hostage classes with Jeff Majors for DOCJT, which I have helped teach since 2000.

▼ Participants in a Crisis Intervention Team training in Elizabethtown engage in a scenario where they respond to a call of a woman sitting naked in a park, played by Denise Spratt, CIT coordinator and instructor. As Spratt's character sits smoking a cigarette, the officers bring to her attention that she is sitting there unclothed — a tell-tale sign to the officers that she is suffering from some sort of emotional disturbance.

**How did your law enforcement career guide you toward crisis intervention?**

When I came through recruit school, 25 years ago – at the age of 12 – we received two hours of training about how to deal with difficult subjects, which included drunks, the mentally ill and emotionally disturbed. When you look at the statistics, one in five of the national population has a mental illness, but a lot more than 20 percent of the runs that officers make are dealing with someone who has a mental illness. Com-

ing out of the academy, we were not prepared. Once I started working with CIT at the Louisville Metro Police Department, I found the officers were hungry for the training. Officers get all this training on defensive tactics and firearms training and they need every bit of that, they need every second of it. But what kind of training do they get on verbal tactics and learning how to talk to people? I cannot tell you the amount of evaluations that we get from classes that say, "We need this in basic training. I wish I would have had this 20 years ago." And this is coming from Kentucky State Police troopers with 20 years of experience.

CIT teaches active-listening skills and verbal de-escalation skills. I never received those kinds of skills until I started taking hostage negotiation training. We should have those skills and know how to talk to people when we start our career, and we do not. There is a big need there. If you know how to talk to people, you are going to get a whole lot more cooperation. You are not going to need to resort to use of force. It is going to keep you safer, it is going to keep your subject safer and neither one of you is going to get hurt.

**As far as what CIT teaches, does it focus on just being able to communicate for safety reasons or on dealing with people with specific mental illnesses and emotional distress?**

They actually get both. We set up the training with the local community mental health center. The state of Kentucky is divided into 14 community mental-health centers. So we offer our training regionally. Wherever we go across the state, I will work with the local community mental health center and they will provide about half of the instruction and then law enforcement instructors provide the other half. Students receive instruction from the mental-health professionals on what the signs and symptoms are of mental illness, what medications are prescribed for the mental illnesses and how they interact with drugs and alcohol. Oftentimes, people with mental illness will self-medicate to either stop or dim the voices they hear in their head, or to try to escape whatever symptoms they are having. So a lot of times, it is hard for us when we encounter them to know whether we are dealing with a person with mental illness or a substance abuser, and a lot of times we are dealing with both. So, they receive instruction on the mental illnesses and developmental disabilities.

There are times when officers may be giving someone instructions or commands and it is important for them to understand and to be able to recognize if the individual is not doing what they are told to do, it may be because he/she simply cannot comprehend what the officer is telling them. It is not that the individual is being uncooperative, resisting or being non-compliant, it is just that the individual is not comprehending be-

cause he/she is either not in this reality or is hearing other voices and cannot hear the officer. We are trying to teach them to recognize that difference.

Particularly, someone who is paranoid or in a psychiatric crisis is extremely afraid of human touch. If officers mistake an individual's not abiding by their commands as non-compliance and they go to put their hands on the individual, they can escalate that situation into a violent confrontation real quick. The mentally-disturbed individual is fighting for his/her life, and officers are just fighting for their paychecks. As an officer, you are trying to control these individuals to get them to do what you want them to do and they think you are trying to kill them because they are having some kind of delusion. The chances of someone getting hurt in that situation are huge and that is what we are trying to show them.

So back to the question – they get both. We involve the experts in the signs and symptoms – the information on what these illnesses are – and then we have the police instructors come in and explain how to use that information and stay consistent with officer-safety training and use these verbal tactics to enhance officer safety. It does not replace it.

I think sometimes officers coming into the class think, 'Oh you all are going to teach me verbal skills and I am not supposed to put my hand on somebody or I am not supposed to use any kinds of tactics.'

That is absolutely not true. If you need to protect yourself, officer safety is No. 1 and we preach that from day one. This whole course is designed to keep officers safer and that does not mean they park their tactics at the door when they walk in the class. If they think that, they are absolutely wrong. The verbal tactics are designed to enhance their officer safety skills and a lot of times if they can talk to somebody, they can keep it from escalating to the point of a physical confrontation and that is what it is about.

**How long has CIT training been available to Kentucky officers? How many officers have been trained to date?**

It started with the old Louisville Police Department in 2001. Then after the merger they started training officers out in the county. So Louisville Metro has more than 500 officers trained. In the year and a half since we have taken it statewide, we trained more than 200 last year and this year we are set to train 180.

**How often are classes offered and where are they offered?**

Initially, classes were set up based on where we could draw the most officers, but now we are having agencies contact us to bring them this training. We receive

our funding from the Department of Mental Health, and at this point, how many classes we can have per year is a question of funding and how often we can get the instructors. One big push for us is to get more local instructors certified. Right now, the only instructors that are certified and qualified under Senate Bill 104 that regulates the training across the state are the Louisville instructors. They are taking vacation time to teach these classes. That limits how many classes we can have each year. We have averaged six and seven classes each year. Our goal is to get local instructors in each region and then they can work with their local mental health instructors and provide a class whenever one is needed.

**What is the most important aspect of CIT training for officers?**

Officer safety, absolutely. Increasing officer safety is the most important aspect.

**What assumptions do most officers make in communication that can pose serious danger to or threaten an individual with a mental illness or an emotionally disturbed person?**

A couple of things that officers are learning in the class is we hear about people with mental illness and we automatically think of those instances like Virginia Tech or other really news-worthy incidences and, truthfully, those are so rare. The percentage of people with mental illness that are truly violent is really low. They are much more likely to be the victim of a violent crime than the perpetrator of a violent crime.

In class, I equate that to the number of police officers there are across the United States and have them think about how many are corrupt or get into trouble, but those are the ones people hear about. Because they make such big news, you think there are much more of them than there are because of the media hype. I think that is something officers can relate to. There are only a small number of bad officers and the rest come in every day and do what they are supposed to; but you do not hear about them, just like you do not hear about all those people with mental illness who are taking their medication, going to work and doing whatever they need to do, and not causing any problems.

**Does CIT training focus on any particular type of mental illnesses or emotional disturbances or does it cover the gamut of how to deal with nearly any situation involving these individuals?**

It covers the major mental illnesses, and then it also covers developmental disabilities and substance abuse. In their basic approaches to people who are in a psychiatric crisis – we do not expect officers to be psychologists, but we do want them to understand some of the basic, major mental illnesses so they know what >>



## First CIT Conference

The first ever Crisis Intervention Team one-day conference will be conducted June 24. It is in Frankfort at Kentucky State University and is free to any officer wishing to attend. Speakers will include:

- Sen. Julie Denton, chair of the Kentucky Senate Health and Welfare Committee and sponsor of the 2007 SB104 that authorized CIT in Kentucky
- Shannon Ware, CEO of the Bluegrass Regional MH-MR Board
- Janie Miller, Cabinet for Health and Family Services
- J. Michael Brown, secretary of the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet
- Rodney Brewer, Kentucky State Police commissioner
- William Smock, M.D., a Louisville Metro Police Department police physician. Dr. Smock will address the medical issues related to excited delirium and mental illness and how law enforcement can more effectively interact with them.
- Bobby Smith, Ph.D., will be the keynote speaker. Smith is a former Louisiana State Trooper who was shot in the line of duty and blinded. He will relay his story of accomplishment and comeback from this ordeal. Dr. Smith founded and is the director of the Foundation for Officers Recovering from Traumatic Events. ■

» they are dealing with. But we do not expect them to be street-corner psychologists.

**Do you feel like being a female has given you a better understanding of how to do what you do now, or is it just a matter of training?**

I do not think that gender has as much to do with it as a desire to help, and especially if you have been touched in your family or if you have some kind of personal experience with a mental illness. Men do just as well in the course, I think. There are people that just do better at it.

It is rather like – not everybody is trained to be a SWAT officer, they are just not geared to do that, but everybody needs basic firearms preparation. This course will help everyone. It will improve everyone’s verbal skills. There are people that will just excel at it, and other people just will not feel comfortable with it. It is just never going to be their thing; but they will still be better after it.

“ I know that it works. I know that it keeps officers safe. I know that it keeps vulnerable people safe. ”

**Do you have a specific example of a case where CIT training made a dramatic difference in the way a situation was handled here in Kentucky?**

I have a collection of e-mails that officers from departments across the state have sent me just one right after another after another, and wow. Those letters to me are what make it all worthwhile because when I get them back from the officers and they are saying, ‘Wow, this really works.’ That is when I think it is worthwhile, that what I am doing really matters. When I hear back from the officers and they say, ‘I know what I would have done before. This would have ended up where I would have taken them down or in me taking physical control of them. Because of the way they were acting or as big as they were and the state they were in, this was going to get ugly.’ There are several letters like that.

After we do a training in each area, we set up an advisory board and what that does is it gets the law enforcement and the mental-health centers together along with their local advocacy groups like National Alliance of Mental Illness – NAMI – and it keeps them working to fix the system. A lot of times there is animosity between law enforcement and the mental-health centers. Once we get them all in the same room and they have

been through this training together, then they are more apt to help each other and they know who to call when there is a problem. When we set these advisory boards up in these groups, we get law enforcement to take the lead and they are able to work out these issues. We have two Kentucky State Police captains – one in Elizabethtown and one in Paducah – who run their advisory boards. We have Chief Glenn Skeens in Owensboro that runs his. There is a KSP trooper that runs the one in Hopkinsville and we are working on setting the one up in Lexington. There is a mental-health person running the one in Somerset.

**Have you taken any of this training into parts of eastern Kentucky?**

Sure, we have had training in Hazard and Ashland. We just went to Ashland in mid-December. We still need to set up the advisory board in Ashland.

**According to University of Louisville Dr. Rif El-Mallakh, every officer trained in CIT saves communities across the commonwealth \$10,000. Can you explain the reasoning behind this statement?**

He is one of the CIT instructors in Louisville. One of his fields of expertise is research and so he has taken a lot of figures on the CIT runs that Louisville has made and done a lot of research. He said actually that is a conservative figure. It would be \$10,000 to \$15,000 per officer trained based on the amount of money saved on officer injuries and consumer injuries. That is not even including the money saved in taking the person to treatment instead of taking them to jail. His figure does not even consider all of the money saved from the criminal justice system – taking them to jail; the incarceration; the money that it costs for the judge, clerks and defense attorneys. It also does not consider the money saved from prosecutors to prosecute a case that is not going anywhere and eventually will be dismissed because the person is probably going to be found incompetent. So then on top of that, you have evaluations, mental evaluations, all of that money spent and it is not going anywhere. If officers get them the treatment they need, they are addressing the problem instead of just the symptom. If you are not using force, you are not taking the chance on getting sued, you do not have to complete paperwork or administrative incident reports, and it is less liability for the department. It is just a win all around. There is not a downside to it.

**What are the characteristics of officers that do exceptionally well in crisis intervention?**

Patience and the ability to remain calm. It takes active listening skills, the ability to take their time and talk to a person. As police officers, they are taught to go in and take control and tell people what to do. With a person



in an emotional crisis, that does not work. You have to do exactly the opposite. You need to let them vent, and officers sometimes have problems understanding the difference between letting somebody verbally vent and realizing that is not a threat to them. If they are just venting, that is not a threat. That is not physical aggression toward them. Officers are not used to that. That is the thing; they need to understand the difference. But they pick it up. The officers coming through do a fantastic job once it is shown to them it is like, ‘Oh yeah, that makes sense.’

**Since officers are trained to take control, do you find that during the role play element of the class they tend to lapse back into what they are used to?**

That is why the role plays are so important because it gives them a chance to practice it before they leave. If we just taught it to them, showed it to them and they did not get a chance to practice it before they left, there might be a problem with them remembering it or practicing it. But once they get to do it themselves, I think they are much more comfortable with it.

**What drives you to do what you do?**

I know that it works. I know that it keeps officers safe. I know that it keeps vulnerable people safe. On those days that I am really frustrated and I feel like I have beat my head against the wall until I am senseless, then I get one of those e-mails and I think, ‘OK, now I know why I keep doing this.’

Because there are days that I really do get frustrated. I feel like I am fighting a battle that I cannot win and wonder why I have to keep fighting this. Then I hear from one of these officers and they tell me, ‘Thank you so much. This has really made a difference in how I deal with people and I have a greater understanding of this. I know before I would have handled this totally differently.’

Oftentimes, they will even say they have a new understanding of their father who has bi-polar disorder who they have not talked to in three years, or now they understand what was going on with one of their own family members. If we look, it affects us. Every one of us knows somebody, whether it was growing up, the kid down the street who was different or someone in our own family who either has a mental illness or substance-abuse problem.

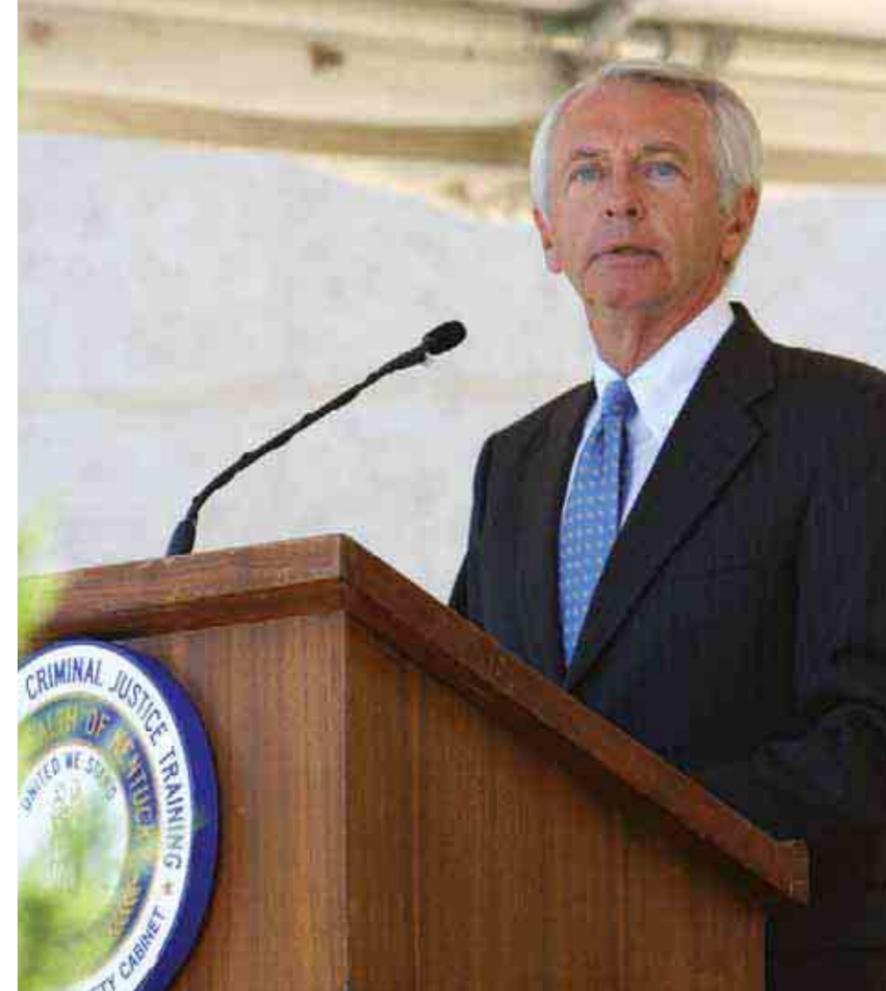
**How can an agency interested in CIT training get more information?**

We have brochures and there is a description of it listed in the DOJT catalogue. They can feel free to contact me and I can send them a brochure. We have our schedule through the end of this calendar year and hopefully we will be re-funded next year and can start scheduling those classes. J

Any agency interested in learning more about CIT training or scheduling, please contact Spratt at (502) 643-7539 or by e-mail at [denisespratt@bellsouth.net](mailto:denisespratt@bellsouth.net).

▲ The fourth day of Crisis Intervention Team training engages the officers in scenarios where their new CIT training will be a benefit. At this Elizabethtown training, CIT Instructor Tim Stokes demonstrates a person with schizophrenia who is off of his medications. He is hearing voices telling him there are rays building that will destroy the world unless he collects them. He is trying to collect the “rays” with the egg beater. Officers had to first make sure he had no weapons and was not a threat before trying to talk him into moving out of the middle of traffic.

# NEVER FORGOTTEN





# 2009 MEMORIAL CEREMONY



**H**undreds gathered at the 10th annual Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony to commemorate the lives of 28 fallen law enforcement officers who gave their lives in service to the commonwealth.

"We owe them gratitude. We owe them honor. We owe them a permanent place in this state's collective memory," Gov. Steve Beshear said at the ceremony.

Kentucky State Police Commissioner Rodney Brewer explained the significance the names engraved on the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial monument have to each officer in the state.

"Probably every man and woman that is here today, in uniform, has had at least one ... moment where they knew that it could have been them, and that brings a special covenant, a special bond unlike any other profession that I've ever seen in the world," Brewer said. "So while this monument is beautiful, I think the testament today is our

presence, your presence here today to commemorate our fallen brothers and sisters and to know that they truly never will be forgotten."

The ceremony honored two officers killed in the line of duty in 2008.

Bell County Sheriff's Office Deputy Sean Pursifull was killed Jan. 10, 2008 when his parked patrol car was struck by a fleeing suspect. Two juveniles were in the car when the driver crossed the center line and hit the patrol car. Pursifull and his K-9 partner both were killed.

Harlan County Constable Joe E. Howard suffered a fatal heart attack April 1, 2008 shortly after arresting a suspect who was wanted on an outstanding warrant. The suspect had to be restrained during the arrest. Constable Howard was later transported to Harlan Hospital where he passed away.

The other 26 lawmen whose names were dedicated at the memorial ceremony were killed in the line of duty between 1862 and 1993. **J**



# Historical Additions



**Officer Benjamin S. Rust**, Louisville Police Department  
End of watch: Jan. 15, 1862

**Lieutenant Edward B. Harding**, Louisville Police Department  
End of watch: Dec. 6, 1885

**Deputy Calloway Carnes**, Knox County Sheriff's Office  
End of watch: May 4, 1890

**Deputy Floyd Slusher**, Leslie County Sheriff's Office  
End of watch: March 31, 1892

**Town Marshal Andrew J. Blunk**, Louisville Police Department  
End of watch: July 29, 1893

**Officer Henry Brown**, Frankfort Police Department  
End of watch: Feb. 15, 1896

**Constable Jim Beltzer** of Leslie County  
End of watch: June 1, 1899

**Deputy William S. Wright**, Letcher County Sheriff's Office  
End of watch: Jan. 30, 1900

**Deputy Marshal Gus Hall**, Olive Hill Police Department  
End of watch: June 25, 1903

**Deputy Mack Roberts**, Leslie County Sheriff's Office  
End of watch: Dec. 25, 1905

**Constable L.R. Campbell** of Knox County  
End of watch: Aug. 23, 1907

**Deputy Marvin F. Cummings**, Clinton County Sheriff's Office  
End of watch: March 6, 1920

**Chief James Sexton**, Ravenna Police Department  
End of watch: May 27, 1922

**Deputy Frank Phillips**, Pike County Sheriff's Office  
End of watch: Dec. 13, 1926

**Officer Walter Vance**, Louisville Police Department  
End of watch: Aug. 25, 1927

**Chief William L. Osborne**, Martin Police Department  
End of watch: Oct. 9, 1927

**Deputy Thomas C. Tackett**, Pike County Sheriff's Office  
End of watch: Dec. 16, 1929

**Deputy Jason A. Webb**, Letcher County Sheriff's Office  
End of watch: Dec. 24, 1931

**Deputy Marion Stapleton**, Menifee County Sheriff's Office  
End of watch: July 13, 1932

**Deputy Stanley C. Helton**, Menifee County Sheriff's Office  
End of watch: July 25, 1932

**Officer John W. Carpenter**, Louisville Police Department  
End of watch: April 29, 1935

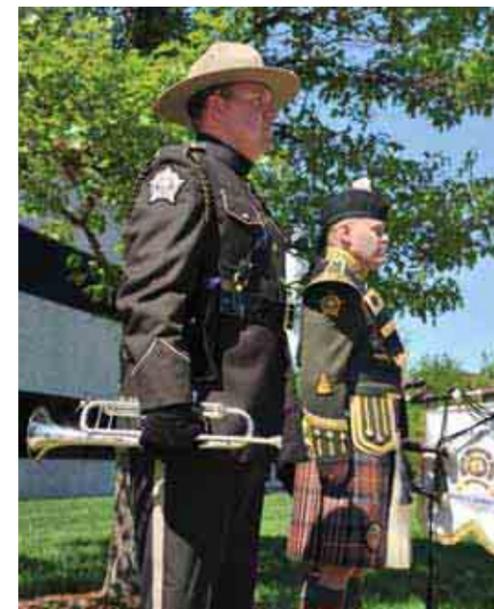
**Deputy Jerry Combs**, Breathitt County Sheriff's Office  
End of watch: Feb. 5, 1940

**Sheriff James M. Sizemore**, Clay County Sheriff's Office  
End of watch: June 1, 1969

**Sheriff Raymond Warf**, Letcher County Sheriff's Office  
End of watch: Oct. 31, 1970

**Constable Hamilton Ferguson Sr.** of Nelson County  
End of watch: Dec. 2, 1984

**Deputy Poyster Keene Sr.**, Pike County Sheriff's Office  
End of watch: May 8, 1993 ■





# MEMORIAL BRIEFS

## 2009 KLEMF Scholarships

The Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation is now accepting applications for fall 2009 scholarships. This marks the sixth year that KLEMF has awarded scholarship money to law enforcement officers, dispatchers and their families to help pay for post-secondary educational costs. The foundation will award 25 scholarships and the deadline is June 30.

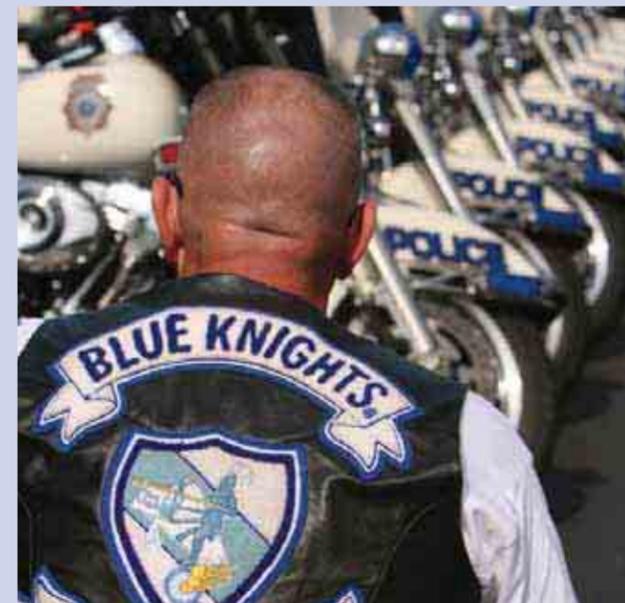
The award is limited to a maximum of \$1,000 per year, except if the award recipient is a fam-

ily member of an officer who was killed in the line of duty, in which case the amount will be \$2,000. These scholarships will be restricted to law enforcement officers and law enforcement telecommunication personnel (current, retired or disabled) and their survivors and dependents. The scholarships may be used at any accredited college or university, including two-year and community colleges. It also may be used for a recognized or certified vocational or trade school.



/photo by Jim Robertson

The Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation again was a benefactor of the Oscar's Gala, Inc. Fundraiser sponsored by Malone's of Lexington. KLEMF's share of the benefit proceeds totaled \$20,000. Pictured left to right: Ben Elder, KLEMF board member; Chuck Melville, executive director KLEMF; Lois Reynolds, Oscar's Gala board member; Melinda Drake, Oscar's Gala board member; Paula Elder, Oscar's Gala chairperson; and Bruce Drake, Oscar's Gala board member.



## Law Enforcement Memorial Ride to be Conducted in September

Bell County Sheriff's Deputy Sean Pursifull and Harlan County Constable Joe Howard Sr. will be honored on Sept. 12 during the eighth annual Law Enforcement Memorial Ride. The event will kick-off on the Department of Criminal Justice Training campus with a program at 11:15 a.m.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. and the ride will commence at 11:45 a.m. The route will begin from DOCJT's campus and continue down U.S. Highway

52 to Lancaster, Ky. 39 to Crab Orchard, through Somerset and Highway 80 to end in Stab, Ky.

Registration costs this year have been lowered to \$20 per driver and \$10 per passenger because of the economy and include a pin, T-shirt and meal. All proceeds benefit the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation.

For details, contact DOCJT Instructor Joe Gilliland at [joe.gilliland@ky.gov](mailto:joe.gilliland@ky.gov) or (859) 622-5073.



# The Eaglet has Landed

Seven Kentucky agencies are sharing a plane as part of a test program for law enforcement aviation /Abbie Darst, Program Coordinator



**L**aw enforcement agencies and officers often are asked to think outside the box in situations they face. But, for seven Kentucky agencies, thinking outside the box meant thinking outside of their cruisers to gain a whole new perspective on how to better serve their communities.

An airplane was provided to the Mason, Fleming, Rowan and Menifee County sheriffs' offices, along with the Maysville, Morehead and Flemingsburg police departments as part of a unique opportunity to participate in a test project through the National Institute of Justice and the Rural Law Enforcement Technology Center in Hazard.

"The biggest thing is getting your people, when you're not used to having access to an aircraft, to think outside the box and actually call it up when you need it," said Menifee County Sheriff Rodney Coffee. "[We were] just not used to having it. Now we have the department more used to having it and we'll get on the ball with getting it in the air when we need to."

In the 18 months the test program has been in effect, these agencies have come up with numerous ways to not only put the plane to good use for their departments, but also have instilled confidence in and offered reassurance to members of their local communities.

In August 2007, an Italian aircraft called the Sky Arrow 600 Sport, the original plane provided to the agencies, was flown from Charlottesville, Va. to the Mason-Fleming Airport by two of the program's pilots – Mitch Coleman, who runs the airport and volunteers as the program's chief pilot and Tim James, RULETC's Mason County project manager. The program officially be-

gan Oct. 1, 2007. In January, they switched to a different plane – the Tecnam Eaglet – which they will keep for at least one year, James said.

The Fleming County Sheriff's Office took immediate advantage of the aircraft's availability in a search for stolen 4-wheelers. They were able to fly over property in the county and locate the stolen all-terrain vehicles with ease, said Sheriff Scotty Royse.

"We are just tickled to death to have it," Royse said. "It is another piece of equipment that we didn't have before within our community to use. God forbid if we did have an emergency, but it is in place if we do need to use it."

Making any emergency an agency may face possibly easier to deal with is one of the strengths the aircraft offers these agencies. The Menifee County Sheriff's Office used the plane several times in the search for a 27-year-old missing mother from Frenchburg who was last seen alive Jan. 19. After the treacherous weather that slammed into Kentucky in late January left ground searches harder to maneuver, Sheriff Rodney Coffee and one of the program's pilots were able to fly across numerous places in Menifee County on two separate flight missions to assist in and add a new dimension to the search for the missing woman.

Using the plane to search for missing individuals, even if unsuccessful, provides a significant amount of comfort to the family members involved, James stressed.

"The sheriff could stand on the ground in the front yard of ... [the] parents ... and say, 'We're looking for your [child],' James said. "We're out here, we're pulling out all the stops, we're doing the right thing ... Everybody's life is valuable. That is an invaluable message to send to the community."

In addition to searching for stolen property and missing persons, some agencies have used the plane to take aerial photographs of their critical infrastructure and schools. In case of a school-shooter incident, agencies would be able to use these photos to help plan their tactical response and entry.

Likewise, the Maysville Police Department used photographs taken from the aircraft to assist its tactical team on an insertion.

"It was valuable for them to do because they could see things that you cannot sneak up and see,



especially without tipping your hand," James said about the mission. "So I think there is some great value there."

Agencies also have used the aircraft in marijuana-eradication efforts. Not only can the plane be used to fly over fields and search for marijuana, it also can be used to fly top cover while ground officers search a property for marijuana and provide them with information on whether anyone is sneaking up on them or if there are booby traps laid out.

"There is a real good feeling about knowing someone is up there watching your backside," said James, who also is a retired federal agent from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. "It is nice to have somebody else just watching for you."

"And to have that communication from air to ground," added Mason County Sheriff Patrick Boggs.

The Mason County Sheriff's Office is the program's lead agency. When the idea was initially pitched to the involved agencies, Boggs immediately agreed to be the executive agent.

"In order to keep up with the criminal element, you have to try new and innovative ideas," Boggs said about his desire to dive head first into the project. "I'll jump at anything like this. It is a resource to our county along with the surrounding area. As long as the majority of the funding is coming from the national government, we should take advantage of it."

Cost is a major element to the success of this program. Though NIJ/RULETC have covered all costs associated with the plane, including the purchase, maintenance, insurance and fuel throughout the proof-of-concept phase, the purpose of the project is to evaluate whether law enforcement can benefit from the use of an aerial platform in the light-sport aircraft category. A newly created category, light-sport aircrafts are considerably more affordable options for law enforcement agencies than helicopters.

"The remarkable thing about the little [plane] is that it brings aviation capability to law enforcement agencies that previously could never even begin to think of it," said Dean Owen, psychology professor

▲ The Rural Law Enforcement Technology Center's aviation program, based in Mason County, has four pilots available to fly missions. (Left to right) Mitch Coleman, Dean Owen, Tim James and Tim Nolder.

◀ Like everything about the light-sport Tecnam Eaglet, the control panel is relatively simple, having only those gauges which are necessary for safe flight and maneuverability.



/Photo by Abbie Darst





>> at Morehead State University and one of the four pilots involved in this program. “Helicopters are used extensively and have been for many, many years. But helicopters, by nature, are complex and very expensive to maintain and to operate. And this little aircraft can provide, other than vertical take off and landing, virtually identical capabilities to a helicopter and do it at 1/100th the cost.”

On one hand, helicopters range anywhere from \$200,000, at the very least, to a few million dollars. In addition they can cost from \$600 to \$1,200 per hour to run if you include maintenance, insurance and fuel costs, James said. On the other hand, the program’s original plane, the Sky Arrow, costs approximately \$75,000 and the Tecnam Eaglet, which is a nicer, roomier, more comfortable plane according to the pilots and agencies, costs approximately \$125,000. But even more important to these agencies than initial cost is the upkeep cost. These light-sport aircrafts cost less than \$50 per hour to run.

“If a number of departments wanted to go in and buy some sort of aerial platform, could seven or eight agencies go in together and pay \$125,000 for an airplane? Maybe. But, make that a million dollars for a helicopter and that is never going to happen, unless it is Louisville, Lexington or northern Kentucky. But, these counties do not have the tax base for that,” James said. “They start to think how many cruisers could I have and how often am I going to use the aircraft. So, the right approach is for agencies to share it. You have to realize that you are not going to have a plane in the air every day like Officer Don down in Lexington – you don’t have that kind of tax base, but [having it available] can bring a lot of things to the table.”

Having an airplane available on a regional basis also gives other agencies that are not part of this specific project access to an aircraft in emergencies. In Menifee County, Coffee heard about an escaped inmate in Bath County and called the Mason County pilots to fly over to Bath County and help them search for the missing inmate.

“Before this program, we would have to call Scott County or the National Guard for anything aerial,” Boggs said.

“But if other counties want it, what we have sort of talked about is on an as-needed basis we’ll lend our support,” James added.

Each department involved in the program has been asked to identify officers to serve as tactical flight officers. TFOs provide observation capability alongside the pilot during a mission. Each TFO has to be trained according to the NIJ operational guidelines. In addition, James and the other pilots have put together a pilots’ handbook of best practices, ways to conduct searches and what can and cannot be touched in and on the plane, among other things, to orient the TFOs before they fly any missions.

The availability of this small, light-sport aircraft has dynamically changed the capabilities and resources of these four rural counties and their surrounding area, and that expanded capability only increases their ability to better and more effectively serve their communities and citizens. J

◀ This Tecnam Eaglet, light-sport aircraft arrived at the Mason-Fleming Airport in January. It costs approximately \$50 per hour to fly, considerably less than a helicopter. The aircraft gives law enforcement agencies the ability to use an aerial platform without the huge costs.

▼ Mason County Sheriff’s Dep. Tim Nolder is the program’s only pilot that also is a sworn law enforcement officer.

## Skilled Fliers

There are four pilots who fly for the Rural Law Enforcement Technology Center’s aviation program.

- Tim James is the aviation project manager stationed in Mason County. In addition to overseeing the day-to-day operations of the program, James is also a retired Naval Criminal Investigative Service agent.
- Mitch Coleman is the program’s chief pilot for the program and runs the Mason-Fleming Airport. Coleman has nearly 12,000 flying hours.
- Dep. Tim Nolder, who works for the Mason County Sheriff’s Office, is the only sworn pilot in the program.
- Dean Owen is a psychology professor at Morehead State University. Owen flew planes in the U.S. Air Force and is a retired law enforcement officer. ■



# CHANGING THE LETTERS OF THE LAW

# WOMEN POLICE MEN

## Issues, benefits of being women in law enforcement

/Kelly Foreman, Public Information Officer

It has been widely noted that the call to law enforcement is one that is unique.

But for a woman to embrace that call, she must be extraordinary if nothing. She must be willing to tote an AR 15, battle any drunk on the street and dress up as bait to catch would-be Casanovas all while maintaining her sense of femininity.

It is not an easy rope to walk.

"You don't have to give me anything extra, you don't have to give me the sweet assignment, you don't have to protect me, you don't have to do all this stuff to make me different than this one, I just want to be treated the same as this officer standing here," said Tiua Chilton, Kentucky State University assistant police chief. "Whether it be a male officer, whether it be another female officer,

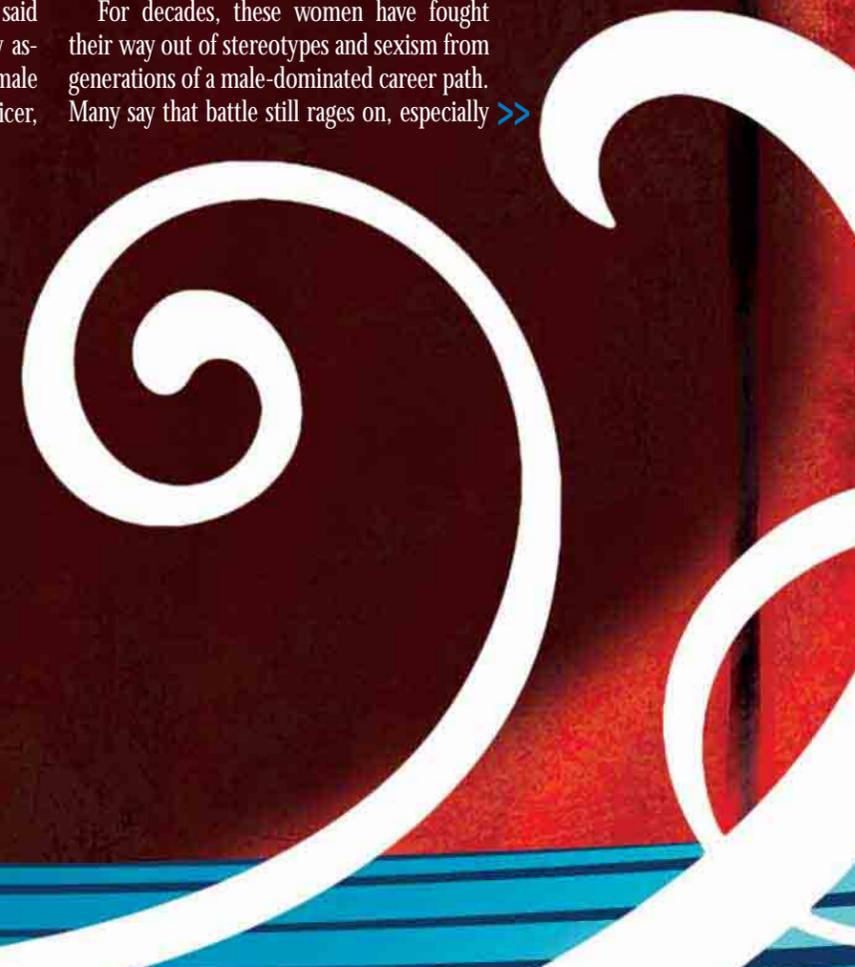
whether it be a black officer, whether it be a Hispanic officer – I just want to be treated the exact same."

Women inherently are nurturers, motherly, compassionate and emotionally adept. These traits, some say, are what enhance the quality and resources of a department which employs them.

Their use of force statistically is lower. Their ability to talk themselves out of dangerous situations is part of their nature. They implement community-oriented policing and improve law enforcement response to violence against women.

For decades, these women have fought their way out of stereotypes and sexism from generations of a male-dominated career path. Many say that battle still rages on, especially >>

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■ Louisville Patrol Officer Brooke Benton talks to a suspect stopped on a busy Louisville street for expired registration, who ultimately was arrested on multiple charges. Benton is one of more than 150 female officers employed by LMPD.

/Photos by Elizabeth Thomas



in small-town Kentucky where southern values and mindsets are prevalent.

But what makes these women more than the stereotypes that struggle to define them?

Kentucky officers say it is their sense of passion, their commitment to the job and their willingness to risk everything to prove that the thin blue line is not drawn between genders.

### On being tough

Asked about how their journey on the streets is different as females, the resounding response from officers across the state was that it never is enough to prove themselves once.

“You have to prove yourself over and over and over,” said Denise Spratt, Kentucky’s Crisis Intervention Team training coordinator and retired Louisville Metro Police lieutenant. “And some people, I don’t think you will ever change their minds.”

Women traditionally are viewed as the softer gender – the weaker sex, the ones needing protecting. So for the women who break out of those roles and into law enforcement, they not only have to have thicker skin, they also have to be more physically fit, more passionate and better educated to prove they can do the job.

Paducah Police Interim Chief Sandy Joslyn graduated from Murray State University with a bachelor’s degree in criminology, corrections and rehabilitation. But it took more than just her degree to help her earn the respect of the criminals, citizens and her co-workers.

“I think the most difficult thing about it was not being taken seriously in your career,” she said. “I had trained, I had gone to college to prepare for a career in this field and I had

gone to the academy and worked very hard. I felt when I came back that I was qualified for the position and I wanted to be accepted for that.”

For some it takes years to earn that respect, to be taken seriously and to be seen as an officer and not a female in a class A uniform. Bowling Green Police officer of six years, Donitka Kay, said it takes at least one “lose your mind moment” for people to see that you are serious about your job. You have to be willing to take the ribbing, the cussing, the jokes and the disrespect and rise above it.

“I had a passion to be here and I had a passion to do the job and to do it well,” Joslyn said. “I think people will do to you what you allow them to do. I just always stood up for myself and moved forward and I think that’s the key to anybody surviving in the workplace, male or female. You have to stand up for what’s the right thing.”

And Kentucky’s women are up to the challenge.

“I want to be known for what I did,” said Debbie Marasa, a 20-year veteran officer with St. Matthews Police Department.

Sarah Stumler, a rookie Louisville Metro patrol officer agreed.

“Some people want to get into it for different reasons, but I just wanted to come on and make a difference for someone,” she said.

Louisville Metro Homicide Detective Leigh Maroni got into law enforcement because she saw her chance to make that difference. In the homicide unit, Maroni said she had to make a decision to be tough to keep pace.

“I just think everybody’s going to feel the new girl out when they come out on the >>



street,” Maroni said. “They’re going to see what you’re capable of doing and some of them will push you in terms of what they talk about in your presence. Or out on the street they’re going to see how you talk to people and they’re going to base their decision on whether they want to work with you or not. Same thing in the investigative unit. You get there, you’ve got to be able to hold your own and show that you can get a confession or you can lock somebody up for the same crime they can.”

### On being girls

Most women over the years learn how to hold their own with their male co-workers. But, “it is not always good to be one of the boys,” said St. Matthews Assistant Police Chief Kathy Eigelbach, a 20-year veteran. Sometimes women who work hard to be tough and prove they can keep pace forget it is OK to maintain the femininity that makes them unique.

That is just one part of what the Kentucky Women’s Law Enforcement Network helps to prevent. The group also helps provide camaraderie among female officers.

Early in her career, Eigelbach said it was kind of lonely being one of the only women and not having any female mentors.

“There were many times that I would have liked to have had another female in this career just to talk to about issues unique to women in this career,” Joslyn said. “We didn’t have the Internet and all the resources you have today to network back then.”

Kentucky State University Police Chief Stephanie Bastin experienced a similar struggle in her early days at the University of Kentucky Police Department.

“There were not any females in administrative positions that I could go to, that I could watch, that I could talk to and say, ‘I’m having this problem, how do I take care

of this?’” Bastin said.

Today, Bastin sees mentoring her female co-workers as an important part of her job. And she also makes an effort to show them through her brightly painted fingernails and Prada handbags that nothing about her uniform makes her any less of a woman.

Louisville Patrol Officer Brooke Benton also has no qualms about being the strong female she is both on and off the clock.

“When I go to court they don’t recognize me if I am in civilian clothes,” Benton said. “I think sometimes people get confused when they look at us and they just see the uniform. They don’t understand we are mothers and daughters and sisters. I think sometimes a uniform blinds people to think that we’re not human beings. Yeah, we like to be girly-girls and we go out and we have our fun, too. It’s just a career choice that we made.”

### On family life

Law enforcement often makes being a mother, daughter, sister or wife difficult tasks. There is shift work, holiday assignments, overtime and difficult days to deal with.

“The vast majority of women get in to law enforcement while they are still single,” said Chilton, a 14-year veteran.

Bowling Green’s Kay has sacrificed having a family because she is aware of the struggles she will face in the career she loves.

“You’re away from home – some chicks deal with that, some don’t,” Kay said.

“Especially if they get into it after they have a family. If it is a career change, that’s a big sacrifice that not every woman is willing or wants to make.”

Dating as a female cop can be difficult enough. Some men are not comfortable with a woman who carries a weapon and has the constitutional right to take a life. Others >>



■ Paducah Interim Police Chief Sandy Joslyn served the department for 25 years, retired, then returned to serve as chief in 2008. Administration is a good fit for females, Joslyn said.

## Joslyn on “overcoming basic training obstacles”

“Physically it was very challenging for me, but I’ll never forget going over the wall, I had difficulty going over the wall and I spent a couple weeks banging myself against that wall trying to get over it until I stayed one evening to work on that and was just in there repeatedly not making it over the wall. There was an older man there that was the janitor and he was watching me and he finally came over and said, ‘Honey, you want me to show you how to get over that wall?’ I guess he saw people do it a lot and so he gave me some tips on how to get over that wall and by the next day I was the first one over the wall. I never knew his name but I always remembered that.”



become so fascinated with her choice of career that they fail to see the woman behind the badge. Even more struggle to find time to go on a date if they work late shifts and weekends.

For that reason, every Kentucky officer interviewed who was married – with one exception – married someone who they say gets it: other police or firefighters. The benefit of marrying another officer or a firefighter can help give police marriages that have a staggering failure rate a fighting chance.

Some women, like Bastin, whose husband is a retired officer, find it comforting to be able to talk to their husbands about what is going on at work and have them understand. Others appreciate having an understanding husband, but would rather keep work out of their home.

“We really try not to [talk about work] because when, I’ve been at work all day, I don’t want to hear any more stories,” Maroni said. “I have dated outside of law enforcement and that’s all they want to talk about – ‘Tell me some stories.’ ... But it’s nice to have the support of somebody who knows what the job entails. I can tell [my husband] anything I want to and vice-versa. We share the funny stories.”

Bastin said female officers have to be just as dedicated to their marriages as they are to the job. Because of shift work, Bastin said for years she and her husband communicated through notes left on the kitchen table.

“It is very hard balancing a family,” she said. “It is very hard to stay married. I have been married 28 years. I am very proud of that. I am very proud of the fact that together we raised two wonderful children. But that wasn’t easy.

“It is very difficult as a woman to come in, do your job, take control of a situation and have to be assertive,” she continued. “Sometimes you have to be aggressive. Then you go home and you’ve got to be a different person. You have to be a partner. You have to be a mother. And it is hard to turn that on and off. A lot of men have a very difficult time with wives who have that kind of personality.”

Chilton was married to an electrician before she decided to attend the police academy, she said. Her job became a problem for them even in the early days at the academy.

“I remember him making a joke ... when people would say, ‘So what do you think about having a wife who is a cop?’” Chilton said. “And it was funny – it’s still funny – but he would say, ‘Oh, now when I hear a bump in the night I make her go check.’

“It was a joke between him and me, but it got to the point where he had a hard time dealing with the type of work that I was doing,” Chilton continued. “And because I was a new police officer, I worked second shift ... [so] we didn’t have days off together unless he took a vacation day. So that certainly affected our marriage. Our marriage didn’t last three years after I got out of the police academy. That wasn’t the only reason why it didn’t survive, but it was a large portion of it, I think.”

Joslyn’s marriage has thrived in part because her husband of 25 years not only supported her career choice, but he never made an issue of her working hand in hand with other men on late-night stakeouts, overnight trips and long days in the field.

“My husband accepts this as my career,” Joslyn said. “He accepts the police department as my extended family, these are my brothers and sisters in law enforcement and >>

## Weighted Physical-Agility Standard Proposed for POPS

The five-component test battery included in the Peace Officer Professional Standards’ physical-agility testing is under evaluation to determine if a weighted standard of scoring is plausible for Kentucky.

The Kentucky Law Enforcement Council has appointed a special committee to review these standards for possible modification, said Don Pendleton, Department of Criminal Justice Training director of training support and special committee member.

“The committee has recommended an evaluation to see if validity can be protected while implementing a weighted scoring of the five-test battery,” Pendleton said. “This would allow an individual who may be a little short on upper-body strength to make it up in other areas with a reasonableness implied, and an understanding of what range a person can improve in 18 weeks of training and successfully pass an exit test.”

As part of the evaluation, committee members intend to protect the advantages POPS provides Kentucky law enforcement while assessing the reliability of modifying the standards in hopes of ultimately expanding the applicant pool, Pendleton said.

“There has been discussion in the law enforcement community with chiefs and sheriffs for some time that the female pass rate on those tests has been less than ideal,” he said. “However, it remains critical that the POPS act provides quality applicants for law enforcement.”

Dr. Bryant Stamford, a professor, consultant, author and principal investigator for the 2001 study, which led to the latest POPS revision, has been contracted to evaluate the standards. Stamford’s previous experience and understanding of the issue is an important part of this evaluation process, Pendleton said.

“Dr. Stamford will seek to develop scalable cut-points that would present a scientifically supported rationale while conducting a review of current testing protocols,” Pendleton said.

Data should be available for the committee to review by late July.

*To qualify for employment, potential officers on a state-wide level must be able to bench press 64 percent of their body weight, complete 18 sit-ups within one minute, finish a 300-meter run in 65 seconds, perform 20 push-ups and run 1 ½ miles within 17 minutes and 12 seconds under the current standards.*

### The special committee members are:

- Daviess County Sheriff Keith Cain, co-chair, KLEC chairman and past president of the Kentucky Sheriffs’ Association
- Alexandria Police Chief Mike Ward, co-chair, KLEC member and president of the Kentucky

Association of Chiefs of Police

- Ashland Police Officer Angel O’Pell, member of Kentucky Women’s Law Enforcement Network

- Kentucky State Police LTC Leslie Gannon, KLEC member

- Luke Morgan, KLEC member and Lexington attorney

- Independence Police Chief Shawn Butler, KLEC member

- Don Pendleton, director of Training Support, Department of Criminal Justice Training

- Louisville Metro Police Lt. Todd Motley, training unit

- Lexington Police Commander Kelli Edwards

## BY THE NUMBERS

**1905**

Year the first woman was sworn as a police officer in the United States

**15**

Percentage of female peace officers in Kentucky (2009)

**536**

Number of certified female peace officers in Kentucky (2009)

**63**

Percentage of Kentucky law enforcement females who work for police departments. Twenty-one percent work for sheriffs’ offices

**34**

Number of years served by Kentucky’s current longest-certified, female peace officer

**43**

Percentage of female peace officers who graduated DOCJT Basic Training in the past 10 years who have a bachelor’s degree



he is very supportive of that.”

When the Joslyns had their second child, Keegan, he was sick a lot, she said. Joslyn came to a crossroads when she had to decide how to care for her son and keep up with her detective work. Luckily a co-worker allowed her to switch shifts with him so that she could spend the time with Keegan that she needed to and still enjoy the career she loved.

“My kids grew up around the police department,” she said. “You know, I carried a gun in my diaper bag.”

Having children and a husband to go home to was not only difficult for Joslyn, it also made her much more aware of making sure she went home to them after each shift.

“Ever since I came into this profession, my priority was to go home at night,” Joslyn said. “So, with that in mind, I tried to always make sure that I kept myself trained and used caution. That was a very important priority to me, especially having two young boys at home, and I’m sure it was a priority for my husband, too.”

For some, having children in itself became a policy issue at work. When Chilton became pregnant with her daughter while working at University of Kentucky Police Department, there was no policy about what she was to do, she said.

“They kind of said, ‘Oh, now what?’ and I said, ‘I don’t know, what do you all want me to do?’” Chilton said. “They said, ‘Well, we don’t want you to get hurt,’ ... So they put me on light duty as soon as I told them.”

“Now, the second time I got pregnant, I waited longer to tell them because I didn’t want to be pulled from the street yet,” Chilton continued.

The first time Marasa got pregnant while working at St. Matthews, she was pulled off the street and trained as a dispatcher and her police car was taken, she said.

“The second time I was pregnant, I worked in crimes against children all the way up until the day I delivered,” Marasa said.

At the Fayette County Sheriff’s Office, Sheriff Kathy Witt said she was treated very well when she became pregnant with both her children, who now are 21 and 17 years old. Witt, who is married to a fireman, said her children grew up around public safety just like she did, and she has seen the positive affects it has had in their lives.

“They both are committed to helping downtrodden people,” Witt said. “They are both very passionate about that, and I think that that comes with their exposure. When we take clothes to the Catholic Action Center or we feed the hungry, my kids are there. This last snow storm, my kids were knocking on doors. And I think that that has helped them develop the issues that they feel are very important for society to address.”

“I am just so thankful for the journey because had I not been in this role, and had my husband not been in his role and all the things he took them to with the [Fraternal Order of Firefighters], that might not have been fostered or developed within them.”

**On stereotypes and the benefits of being female**

“When I come to work everyday, I don’t feel like I am doing a man’s job,” said Ashley Farmer, a Russellville Police officer of little more than a year. “I feel like I am doing a job – the job that I love doing. Maybe some women think well, if I get this job, they are going to have bad stereotypes. Well, they are going to talk about you. They are going to say that you don’t like men – you get that every day. And they start talking about female this and female that ... I guess I would want to tell them, ‘Hey, if you are interested in law enforcement, do it. Who cares what people think?’” >>



■ From left: Louisville Patrol Officers Rachel Arroyo, Sarah Stumler, Homicide Detective Leigh Maroni and Patrol Officer Brooke Benton serve among the most highly female-populated agency in the state.

**KWLEN – A Network of Support**

In an effort to provide mentors and career networking for the women in Kentucky’s law enforcement ranks, the Kentucky Women’s Law Enforcement Network was created.

This year, the organization will celebrate its 10th anniversary, said its president, Bowling Green Police Capt. Melanie Watts. The goals and mission of the group remain strongly based in encouragement, training, advocacy and support just as they were in 1999 when Katherine E. Scarborough and

Linda Mayberry founded the network.

“KWLEN is important because it enables us to further develop ourselves as professionals in the law enforcement field,” Watts said. “Experience, advice, knowledge and support are all given and received by our members from across the state. We are a one-of-a-kind organization.”

The group is open both to male and female officers as well as coroners, probation and

parole officers, criminal justice instructors, secretaries to law enforcement and more. Anyone interested in participating should visit [www.KWLEN.com](http://www.KWLEN.com). Meetings are conducted every other month.

This year’s KWLEN conference will be Sept. 9 and 10 at the Department of Criminal Justice Training. The conference will feature hands-on, interactive training and team-building exercises. Anyone associated with law enforcement may attend. E-mail Watts at [Melanie.watts@bgky.org](mailto:Melanie.watts@bgky.org) for details.

■ Russellville Patrol

Officer Ashley Farmer said she doesn't think of her job as a man's job, just as the job she loves.



Things have changed a lot since Joslyn first began her policing career 29 years ago. If there is one thing she said she hopes has changed it is that many of the stereotypes she dealt with are gone or fading.

Lexington Police Detective Shannon Garner agreed.

"I think there is a different feeling now from when I first started," Garner said.

As a 14-year-old girl, Garner joined the police explorer program, which led her to a college job as a telecommunicator for University of Kentucky Police Department, later to employment as a UK officer and eventually to her position with Lexington Police. Garner said she never had a moment's thought that she should choose a different career because she is a woman.

Now with 23 years of law enforcement experience under her belt, Garner said the atmosphere she sees with women interested in policing is less of the old days of guiding girls into the career path and more of an expectation for them to perform immediately and equally.

"I think the younger girls, when they see us out there ... a lot of girls would show some interest," Garner said. "I think the more female officers that you see out and the more who are in high-profile positions, you will have more girls who feel like they can actually do the job."

However, some seasoned officers remember days when stereotypes were a bigger part of each day on the street.

Early in her career, Woodburn Police Chief Audrey Spies said she had a case pulled from her because her male co-workers told her it would "take her too long to get her makeup

on" to get to the scene. But it was stereotypes like that, Spies said, that pushed her even harder to prove she was not that kind of officer.

There still are jokes, like, "Are you in your husband's car?" said Kentucky State Police Trooper Melissa Alexander. A lot of that burly-hardened-female image comes with the uniforms, some say. Between shirts and pants designed to fit men, utility belts not built for smaller waists and bullet-resistant vests that are not shaped for a female figure, it can be difficult to feel feminine.

"My first five years I wore a man's vest," said Bowling Green Police Capt. Melanie Watts. "When you took it off and laid it down it was flat as the table."

"They didn't have uniforms for women," Joslyn said of when she started. "I was getting ready to graduate the academy and I didn't have a uniform."

Joslyn was so small when she started that she had to buy her pants at the little boys department at JC Penney's and have them and her shirts tailored. The agency could not fit her in a jacket or a gun belt, either.

"The holsters weren't designed for women, so the equipment was very uncomfortable to wear," she said.

While the stereotypes, jokes and uniforms can be a funny, yet disheartening part of the job for females, some say that is not what it is about.

"I know they meant well," Bastin said of her male co-workers, who made jokes and tried to coddle her. "I know they were being protective, but I just wanted to do my job."

And while there may be disadvantages to being a female in law enforcement, there is an >>

## POPS-Certified Women Employed by Kentucky Law Enforcement Agencies\*

**76** employ only one female officer

**33** employ two female officers

**15** employ three female officers

**27** employ four or more female officers

Bowling Green Police Department employs **11** female officers

Jefferson County Sheriff's Department employs **28** female officers

Lexington Division of Police employs **48** female officers

Louisville Metro Police department employs **154** female officers

\*numbers accurate as of Feb. 19, 2009

**More than 270 of Kentucky's 427 POPS certified agencies do not employ any females.**

» equal hand of benefits.

"A lot of people are not as intimidated by a woman as they are a man," Farmer said. "Kids are not going to talk to a man as they would to me ... they are going to want to talk to somebody who is sensitive."

Louisville's Maroni is called in regularly to interview and search females, she said.

"I'm one of three women in the homicide unit and when I first got there I was the only female, and I was called all the time," Maroni said. "Same with patrol, 'Can you come over here and search this female?' Or if we have a female witness in, 'Would you go in, she might feel more comfortable with you.' Or 'This guy is really breaking down, could you go in and try and nurture him a little bit?'"

"There is no ego involved in it," Maroni continued. "You just do what's required to get the job done. I don't take offense to it because I need them. And I'm not afraid to use them

when I need to, to get the job done."

Benton said she finds more contraband on women simply because she is more comfortable looking for it. Western Kentucky University Police Officer Mandi Johnson said she usually is the first called to a sexual assault case. Bowling Green's Watts said as a supervisor, she, too, has intentionally called in females for sensitive cases when she knows they will do a good job.

When it comes to intense situations that could lead to a use of force, Watts said women also do better to talk their way out of a lot of things.

But sometimes the benefit to being female is just seeing a little bit of extra courtesy.

"There is still some chivalry out there," Spies said. "I've had them even in handcuffs try to open my door for me. Sometimes people who might want to take on the uniform, when they see the actual female ... they become a lot more docile. Sometimes it blows the other way, too. They say 'Oh, this is a female' so that's when you get to jump in and show them that 'Oh yeah, I can do it too.'"

Regardless of the struggles, Witt said it is important for females in law enforcement to keep their chins up and remember what they are here for – to do the job and do it well.

"If I was treated differently I didn't know it," Witt said. "I never thought there was anything I couldn't do. I am not sure how people view me ... I don't ever dwell on that. I think the most important message is to be yourself. Whatever is inside of you, let that grow and be yourself. Fully develop yourself, always believe in yourself, be good to yourself, value yourself."

"I chose to be here and when I chose to be here I didn't stand back and say, 'OK, do I see any women.' That was never on my list of consideration," she said. "It was an opportunity to make a difference, it was an opportunity to have a great career. It is just priceless. And I just love this place. I love it." J

# THREE KENTUCKY WOMEN Killed in Line of Duty

## GWENDOLYN MALONE DOWNS

Patrol Officer, Louisville Police Department

Louisville dispatch sent word to Louisville Police Patrol Officer Gwen Downs and her partner that they were to meet a man in the parking lot of a White Castle Restaurant in downtown Louisville. It was May 16, 1977. Downs, a three-year veteran of the department's criminal investigations division, was on duty with fellow detective Edward Wegenast at the time.

At about 10 p.m., a vehicle pulled into the parking lot where Downs and Wegenast were waiting. It was Downs' estranged husband, fellow Louisville Officer Claude Downs. During their first year of marriage, Claude and Gwen separated and Gwen recently had consulted the department's internal affairs about problems she faced with her new husband.

Claude Downs motioned his wife to his car and the two began talking. The conversation escalated to yelling before several shots were fired. Upon hearing the fired rounds, Wegenast ran toward Claude, but before Wegenast could stop him, Claude pulled the trigger on himself.

Gwen Downs was 25 years old when her watch ended. She left behind two young daughters, Michelle and Alice. Gwen was the first female Kentucky officer to be killed in the line of duty.

## PATRICIA ROSS

Vocational Instructor, Kentucky State Penitentiary

The Kentucky State Prison in Eddyville offered a good salary and location close to home for Patricia Ross, a young mother of one. Ross taught inmates life skills and was a leader in the Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinquency, helping to raise funds to support programs for victims of spouse abuse and juvenile delinquency.

Late afternoon on March 1, 1984, a routine check of the facility revealed an unlocked door near the inmate

cafeteria. Upon further investigation by a prison guard, Ross' body and another critically wounded inmate also were found.

Ross died from head injuries she suffered after being lured into the storeroom by an inmate. The inmate propositioned Ross, and when she refused, he attacked her with a 10 pound commercial can opener.

The inmate who attacked Ross, Fred Grooms, was serving a 10-year sentence for first-degree assault. After a trial, death sentence and overturning of that sentence, Grooms later pled guilty to the crime and was sentenced to life in prison without parole for 25 years.

## REGINA WOODWARD NICKLES

Patrol Officer, Harrodsburg Police Department

A suspicious subject had been seen in the parking lot of the Trim Masters Corporation factory in Harrodsburg on Oct. 14, 1998. Harrodsburg Officer Regina Nickles had just begun her midnight shift and responded to the scene with fellow officer Erick Barkman.

Upon arriving at the business, Nickles shone her flashlight on a man who was lying in a field across from the parking lot. Nickles asked him to stand, and when he did, he pulled a gun and began firing at her, hitting her twice. Barkman fired back at the suspect, wounding him and ultimately placing him under arrest.

Nickles had served the Harrodsburg department for more than 15 years when she was killed. She was the first woman ever to serve the department. She also was running for the office of Mercer County sheriff at the time of the shooting.

She was 45 years old when her watch ended and left behind two children and four stepchildren.

*Information provided with permission from Dr. Billy Wilbanks, criminology expert and author of "True Heroines, Police Women Killed in the Line of Duty in the U.S., 1916-1999."*



Stephanie had become disillusioned with her academic major and considered policing something to do while she figured things out. Kathy needed a job with good benefits. Sandy found her passion for criminalistics in an abnormal psychology class. Audrey and three of her siblings followed their father into law enforcement.

Like most in the law enforcement field, their paths up the chain of command are varied – paved with achievements, milestones and hard times. But Kentucky's top ranking women share a passion for doing what is right and doing what it takes to move their agencies forward.



**SANDY JOSLYN**  
Paducah Police Interim Chief

/Photos by Elizabeth Thomas

# VIEW FROM THE TOP

Kentucky's top ranking women broke barriers to achieve top posts

/Kelly Foreman, Public Information Officer

## SANDY JOSLYN

Paducah Police Interim Chief

Sandy Joslyn's career is peppered with accomplishments, high-profile cases and commendations. But just trying to get hired as a police officer in 1980 was an obstacle, she said.

"I went to the chief's office and asked to put my application in and he told me they weren't taking applications. So I asked him, 'Would you just take it and file it for when you do have an opening?' And he said, 'Sure.' So he took my application and he wadded it up and threw it in the trash can and he said, 'It's filed.'"

Joslyn was disheartened but did not let that stop her. She applied for a job with the Madisonville Police Department and was hired. While waiting for an academy date, Joslyn discovered the chief who treated her so poorly had left Paducah and she applied again. This time, she was hired.

"I was the only female in the class," Joslyn

said. "There was another female in one of the other classes and she was the female that took my place at Madisonville. ... I was a novelty being a female. I think we were very much scrutinized, we were watched very closely to see how well we would perform. The female that was there in the other class, she was my roommate and we made a pact that we were going to get through it and actually found most of the men in the class very supportive."

Once Joslyn hit the streets in Paducah, she said the novelty continued. For the first six months of her career when she was walking a beat in the downtown area, she said most citizens who approached her asked her for bus schedules.

"It's a male-dominated field," Joslyn said. "So the perception for the public was they were expecting to see a male police officer. And if you showed up at a fight call, sometimes I'd get this look like, 'What are you going to do?'"

Joslyn also felt some resistance from her co-workers to her being on the force initially, but time overcame it, she said. By 1984, Joslyn traded her patrol car for plain clothes and a detective's badge.

"I didn't come into this career wanting to be a police officer," Joslyn said. "I had other aspirations of things I wanted to do, but after I got here and the bug hit me I really enjoyed it. I decided I wanted to be a detective."

At the time, Joslyn said most detectives earned the role by being the next guy in line when someone else left. Joslyn challenged that, asking the chief to create a test which officers could take to determine the best candidate. Soon after she suggested it, Joslyn's idea received a green light.

"He set up a testing procedure and I tested and was able to get into [investigations] early in my career, and spent the rest of my career in that division," Joslyn continued. "That was just my niche. I really enjoyed it. I was just

definitely in my element there."

During that time, Joslyn worked the first DNA case in western Kentucky and the first multi-state DNA database case, which resulted in the arrest and indictment of a serial rapist.

Within the detective's unit, she advanced in 1989 to detective sergeant and then in 1996 to detective captain. In 1997, Joslyn became the department's background investigator and developed the first background investigation procedure for hiring recruits.

After serving Paducah for 20 years, Joslyn was named assistant chief, responsible for criminal investigations in 2000. It was a role Joslyn said she was well-suited for. As a mother of two boys, Ian and Keegan, and wife to Doug of 16 years at that time, Joslyn said she had specific management skills she brought to the job.

"Women in general – we're busy, we are raising kids, we're running households and

being in management is very much like running your household," Joslyn said. "You've got to give everybody the equipment they need and the training they need to do what they need to do. You've got to be able to step back and allow them to do it and then you've got to be able to address it if they don't."

For five years, Joslyn served in one of the department's top roles before she decided to retire from the career she loved. But she didn't get to stay retired long. The department was experiencing some turmoil. When the chief resigned from his post, Joslyn's phone began ringing off the hook.

She resisted at first. Joslyn had just bought a kayak and was looking forward to lazy days with her family. She had been doing investigations for the Office of the Inspector General on a contract basis – just enough work to keep her busy, she said. But after 25 years with Paducah, Joslyn had a desire for helping get the agency back on track.

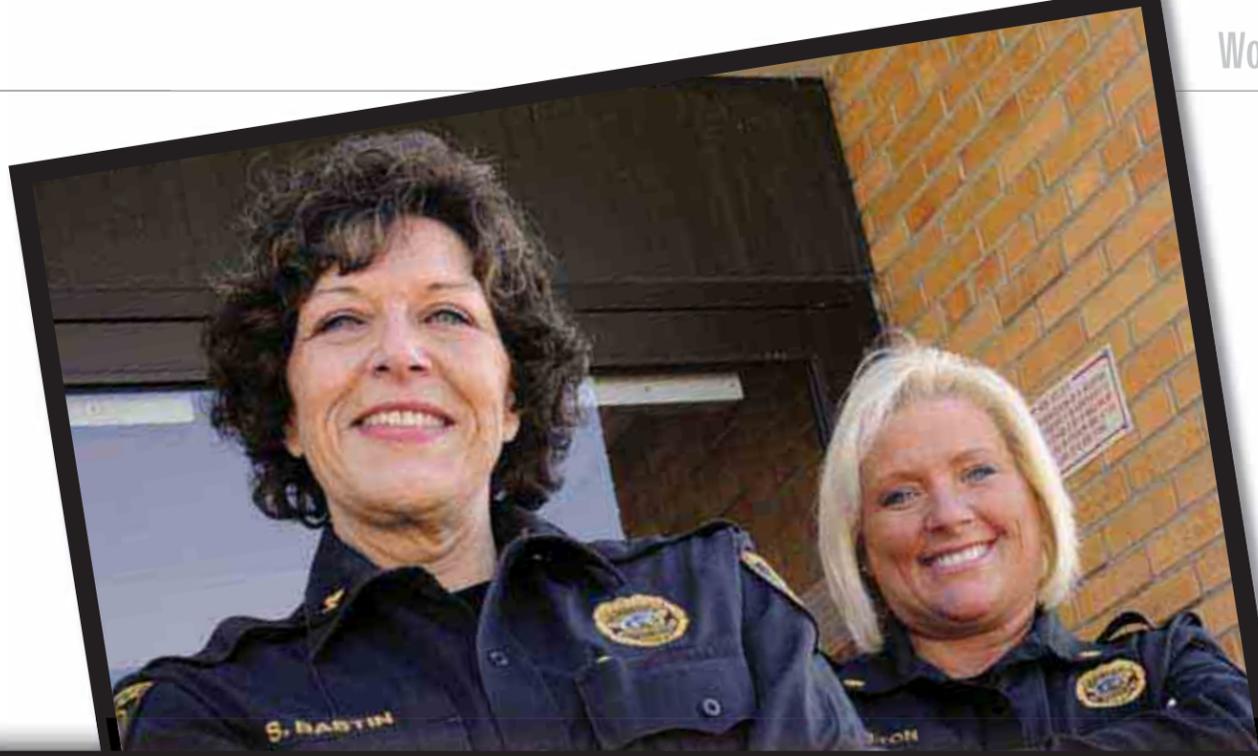
"It was like stepping back in time when I came back. ... I just kind of came in having to just pick up, so I think I was the right person at the right time to take this interim position because I had been at the department, grew up in the department, I knew some of the issues that the department had been going through, so I was able to step in and begin working"

Joslyn was sworn in as interim chief in August of last year and expected to stay three to six months while a nationwide search was completed to find a permanent chief. Her stint as chief was a little longer than expected, but Joslyn will step down again in July when her successor, James Berry of Connecticut, takes the department's reigns.

Looking back, Joslyn said she doesn't see the stereotypes as much now as she did in the early 1980s, but she sees that there still is a long road ahead for women in law enforcement. >>



**KATHY WITT**  
Fayette County Sheriff



**STEPHANIE BASTIN and TIUA CHILTON**  
Kentucky State University Police Chief and Assistant Chief



“When I grew up, you were a nurse, or a teacher; if you were glamorous you were an airline stewardess or you were a housewife,” Joslyn said. “And that was pretty much it. . . . I think they finally . . . have broken that stereotypical mold and now they realize that they can be anything they want to be.”

**KATHY WITT**  
Fayette County Sheriff

In 1983, Kathy Witt was working full time while she attended classes, studying for her biology major when she first was approached about a job in law enforcement.

“The business I was working for was getting ready to go out of business and one of the clients there said, ‘Kathy, you need a real job with real benefits and I think you should come and work at the jail.’ And I said, ‘What?? I’m a biology major!’”

Ultimately, Witt took the advice from the jail’s then-assistant director, Ray Sabbatini, and found herself working third shift at the Fayette County Detention Center.

“There has only been a time or two that I’ve wanted to walk over and punch him in

the arm,” Witt said. “Most all the time I would go over and thank him for encouraging me. Because I guess he saw something in me that I surely didn’t see and never considered.”

The experience Witt gained working at the jail’s booking window was priceless, she said.

“Back then of course we were in a glass, concrete at the bottom, glass at the top cubicle, and so we just had a bird’s eye view of everything coming and going and we booked the offender in and had to learn those KRSs really quickly because we had to be really fast at booking that offender index card and had to help when they found narcotics on them get the PDR (Physician’s Desk Reference) book out and so forth, so it was an awesome learning experience.”

After awhile, Witt began doing some dispatching and then was able to start a communications center for the Fayette County Sheriff’s Office.

“I just sort of transitioned over,” she said.

By 1998, Witt had served in every position in the sheriff’s office – except sheriff.

“When it was clear that [the] sheriff I was working for was really going to retire, my husband, who was a firefighter, and I sat down and I said, ‘I’m a little concerned about where this is going,’” Witt said. “And he said, ‘Well, I know who would be a really good sheriff, but I think that you should go and talk to these people whose names we heard were going to run and see if you could work with them.’”

Witt was passionate about the direction the sheriff’s office was going and had seen a lot of change under three other sheriffs. After talking to the other potential candidates, Witt said she and her husband prayed about the decision to enter the race for Fayette County sheriff.

“I felt a tremendous peace and I decided to run,” she said. “I never gave it a second thought, I never looked back and it was a great journey.”

So the young, female, biology major from Frankfort with no political experience or background began knocking on doors and hearing from the people about what they wanted from their sheriff.

“Maybe I was naïve, but I thought you

know what, I really know this job,” Witt said. “I have been given a lot of opportunity and I had asked for a lot of opportunity – let me have a chance at doing a domestic violence program, let me have a chance at writing a grant. . . . But I just gained a lot of experience that I didn’t realize at the time was preparing me for this.”

Witt is responsible for 14 courts on a daily basis, the safety of the judiciary, service process, transporting prisoners and bringing fugitives back to face the courts and much, much more. After 24 years in the sheriff’s office and nearly 11 in its top post, Witt said she is proud to now be among the nation’s 42 female sheriffs.

“This is a great role for women,” she said. “Because I think women, innate in them, they are multi taskers, they are flexible, they just are. I think that is just the way we are made. I think we get it. We know that to be effective in law enforcement we have to be compassionate to the needs of our community, we have to show genuine support to victims of crime, but we also have to be tough and hold those accountable who want to perpetrate crime on other people. And so I think we are

wholly built for roles like this.”

Not only are women effective in law enforcement leadership roles, but also Witt said it is important that law enforcement be a template of our society.

“I just think that things are probably best delivered when we have diversity, and that does mean bringing women to the table to head law enforcement agencies. We need to represent our country. They are all not men. And they are all not women. They are all not white. They are all not African American.”

**STEPHANIE BASTIN and TIUA CHILTON**  
Kentucky State University Police Chief and Assistant Chief

As a college student, Stephanie Bastin had become disillusioned with her social work major at the University of Kentucky and was at a crossroads about deciding her future. She had grown up in a law enforcement family with a father who served as a Kentucky State Police trooper. So when a friend mentioned that UK was hiring police officers, Bastin thought it might be something fun to try until she fig-

ured out what to do with her life.

“And 30 years later, I’m still here,” Bastin said. “I guess I found my niche. It was fun.”

It was 1977 when Bastin graduated from Basic Training Class No. 76. She worked all three patrol shifts, then investigations and then went into crime prevention and physical security. It was about that time that the Clery federal crime reporting act was established, which became Bastin’s specialty.

“Initially what started it was when my daughter was born,” Bastin said. “She was born with sleep apnea, which meant she would quit breathing when she went to sleep. I was going to quit work because she had special needs and they asked me not to quit. The [university] told me they would accommodate me in any way they could and that’s how I ended up staying and specializing in that.”

Bastin continued climbing the ranks to assistant chief of the UK Police Department, where she stayed until she retired in 2006. But she couldn’t stay out of the field long.

In 2008, Bastin was hired by Kentucky State University to lead the department as chief, reorganize the agency and gear its goals >>



**AUDREY SPIES**  
Woodburn Police Chief

“There is always going to be a need for peace officers and I know, because I’ve done it, that women can do a bang-up job. And we can do just as well if not better as men at some things.”

and mission toward community policing.

“It was a natural transition,” Bastin said. “We are very community-oriented and that is what I wanted to bring to [KSU’s] campus. That is what the president was looking for.”

Among the first things on her to-do list in her new position was to hire an assistant chief.

“I had checked with a lot of chiefs and a lot of mentors that I have had about what I wanted to do for an assistant chief – what qualities they should have, what attributes I should look for – and they told me I needed someone who thought the way I thought, who had the same basic morals and values and someone I could trust,” Bastin said.

There were several applicants, but Bastin kept going back to Tiua Chilton, an officer who also had worked for University of Kentucky police since 1995. She was serving as the second-shift patrol lieutenant when she heard about the job opening at KSU.

“I knew it was going to be an unprecedented move hiring her because we were both female, and there is no other female chief and assistant chief in the state of Kentucky,”

Bastin said.

Chilton’s experience made her a good fit for the community population of about 3,000.

“It takes a special type of police to police on a campus,” Chilton said. “I have never worked in a city or a state, but people who have done both tell me that this is much more specialized and it is a very different environment. We understand the structure as far as how the university is laid out as far as deans and faculty and vice presidents.”

Bastin agreed.

“It takes a higher-caliber officer to deal with an educational environment,” she said.

Not only is the KSU department led by two women, but the department also employs a higher percentage overall of women than any other department in the state, which is something Bastin is proud of.

“We have a 10-officer department, five of them are women and two of them are black females,” Chilton said. “We are not your norm.”

“But I think I have seen a decline in the

female applicant pool,” Bastin said. “I know there are differences in the generation. Law enforcement is not an easy career for women. It is a male-dominated field and a lot of them may think, why bother? They don’t have to put up with what we have tolerated to make the money, because anybody in public service is not in it for the money.”

“It takes a certain person,” Bastin continued. “Certain personality traits. But I think any career you choose you have to be passionate about it.”

Last year, the Kentucky Women’s Law Enforcement Network honored Bastin with their Leadership of the Year Award, something she said was very special.

“I feel like this is part of my responsibility, to mentor [women] and bring them along,” Bastin said. “To give women the opportunity that ... I did not have. And show them, not just show the female officers, but to show other women that we can do this. This is how you do it.”

**AUDREY SPIES**  
Woodburn Police Chief

From an early age, Audrey Spies knew a career in law enforcement was in her future. She briefly considered the military, but “policing won over,” she said. “I have enjoyed every bit of it,” she said.

Spies began her career as the first female officer with the Tyler [Texas] Police Department in 1978. She, too, was passionate about her new career, but found stumbling blocks in some of her female co-workers.

“When I first started, a lot of women in the police department in Tyler were [Equal Employment Opportunity] implants,” Spies said. “It made my job hard because I got into it wanting to be a full-fledged police officer, not just a female officer.”

Spies gave examples of times when her female co-workers complained about breaking their nails and hid in the floorboard of a cruiser when an intense fight broke out, leaving a male officer to fend for himself.

Spies continually had to prove to her male counterparts that she was more than a federally-placed pretty face.

“Every time I would get in a fight, I would be just as dirty and torn up as he was,”

Spies said.

In 1987, Spies’ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives-agent husband was transferred to Bowling Green, Ky. Spies joined the Western Kentucky University Police Department, where she served for 10 years. In 1997, she had the opportunity to serve for one year as an officer with the Warren County Drug Task Force.

Spies felt a calling to serve on a crisis response team and began pursuing that dream after joining the Bowling Green Police Department in 1998.

“That was one of my lifetime goals to be on a SWAT team,” Spies said. “Of course, back in the 70s when I first started, women were just starting in law enforcement. So as far as being on a SWAT team, it was kind of like, ‘Yeah, right.’”

But Spies pursued it and eventually became the first female to serve on Bowling Green’s CRT team.

“I really enjoyed it,” she said. “It was hard work. You can’t just join a team and say, ‘I can’t carry the shield because it’s too heavy.’ I was religiously working out two hours a

day, building my muscles and trying to stay with the team and doing my runs. It was awesome.”

After five years with Bowling Green, Spies retired from policing. But like most, she couldn’t stay out of the field.

In September 2005, Spies was hired as chief of the Woodburn Police Department – a single-officer agency in a community of a little more than 300. Her CRT days are long gone, but Spies works hard to maintain the professionalism of her department and show the community the strengths of having a female lead its police department.

“There are a lot of things that we actually can do [because of our gender],” Spies said. “Rape victims feel more comfortable talking to a female; we kind of display that motherly image. Sometimes we can help calm a situation more. It is a wonderful career to be in. There is always going to be a need for peace officers and I know, because I’ve done it, that women can do a bang-up job. And we can do just as well if not better as men at some things.” J

Eighty-year-old CCSO puts a new face on Scott County court security



# GUN-TOTIN' GRANNY

Abbie Dorst, Program Coordinator

**T**he adage you can't teach an old dog new tricks certainly does not apply to Mary Lou Walker. Scott County's most recently certified court security officer turned 80 years old on May 3.

"I have really learned a lot – everything was new to me, but I met an incredible bunch of people that just included me in the group, even among 27 year olds," said Walker, who worked most of her life as a registered nurse in a hospital and private doctor's office. "I've been blessed with good health and an ability to learn new things."

As a member of CCSO Class No. 8, which completed training on March 27, Walker trained with people young enough to be her grandchildren, yet still excelled in the necessary components of the class.

"She has a God-given ability to shoot," said CCSO Instructor James Sanders.

But for Walker, that ability came as a complete surprise.

"If I had known the training for this job would involve shooting at the range, I probably wouldn't have done it," she said. "I had no idea I could shoot like that."

Walker was capable of landing nearly every round into the 'coke bottle' area of the target. Despite her ability to shoot well, the firearms portion of the training was the most grueling and challenging part of the 80-hour course, she said. Though most firing positions are standing, during the training students must shoot proficiently from

two kneeling positions – one that requires the CCSO to fire, kneel down, reload and fire again and another requiring the CCSO to kneel and fire five rounds from behind a barrier of 15 yards. These positions posed physical difficulties for Walker.

"Just getting up and down and then staying within the time limits for the timed trials was hard," she said. "This has been the biggest accomplishment of my life. I have to give a lot of credit to the Lord for getting me through."

On the day of the shooting evaluation, Walker said she was nervous, but knew things would work out if they were meant to.

"I prayed and prayed," she said. "I had half of Scott County praying. I was ready to cry when I saw that 72 showing I passed. I started jumping up and down and shouting."

A natural people person, the switch from nursing to law enforcement as a career was not a difficult one for Walker. Her part-time position in a doctor's office was coming to a close and she had heard the sheriff's office was expecting to hire court security officers. One day she received a call about the position and went to work the following Monday, she said.

"She came down here wanting to work and I said, 'Golly, Mary Lou, you've got some age on you.'" Scott County Sheriff Bobby Hammons said. "She said, 'Don't let age bother you, I can do it – I will do it.' So, I went on and put her to work. It has worked out perfectly. She knows nine out of 10 people that come through there.

She's a talker and gets along great with everyone."

"I hope to do this for six to 10 years," Walker said. "My goal is to be the oldest court security officer in the United States."

Hammons is pleased with Walker's performance over the past year.

"She's worked out excellent," he said. "She's here on time, an hour beforehand sometimes, and stays late whenever we need her to. She comes in on her off days when someone calls in, they'll call Mary Lou and she says, 'I'll be right there.' She's been great to work with and does her job right to a T."

"If you can't get along with her, then there's something wrong," Hammons added. "I don't care if you go over there and tell her, Mary Lou, you have to clean this machine, or clean the windows when you are not doing anything, or mop the floor, she'd want to know, 'Well, where is the mop and bucket? I'll do it.'"

Born in Scott County in 1929, Walker moved to Paris shortly after marriage with her husband where she worked at the hospital. Now a widow, Walker has one daughter and one 7-year-old granddaughter.

"My family is really supportive of what I'm doing," Walker said. "They are very proud of me."

"I have enjoyed every bit of this," Walker added. "I think that everybody should enjoy life to the fullest and use their God-given abilities. This has all been really exciting." J

# BEARING

## Chaplains Serving Kentucky Law Enforcement

/Article and photos by Elizabeth Thomas,  
Public Information Officer

**HUMBLE**  
Surveying the catastrophe at Ground Zero, Chaplain Mike Humble witnessed the emotional trauma of first responders as they stood amid the rubble of the collapsed twin towers when the officials made the announcement that their efforts were no longer for rescue, but for recovery.

He saw the despair in their faces; and there was not enough comfort for the crowd.

At that moment Humble realized that Kentucky's rural first responders needed comfort, too. The small towns of the commonwealth may not ever experience a disaster equal to Septem-

ber 11, 2001, but every day those towns' first responders experience crises and comfort the afflicted. But many agencies have no one to comfort the officers.

Humble, a former 20-year volunteer chaplain with the Department of Corrections, returned to Russellville with the passion to start Burden Bearers, an organization of chaplains who serve not only the local police departments and Logan County Sheriff's Office, but also local fire departments, EMTs, telecommunicators, coroners and even emergency room nurses. Burden Bearers kicked off its first cause in March 2002.

Burden Bearers is comprised of six active pastor chaplains, none of whom are sworn officers. These chaplains represent many church >>

# THE BURDEN



▼ Officer Brent Wilson, chaplain at Paris Police Department, takes every opportunity to get to know the officers at his department. Being available in any situation or just for a conversation is at the top of Wilson's priorities.

## CHAPLAIN RESOURCES

If officers are interested in starting a chaplain program at their agencies, Jerry Huffman of the Department of Criminal Justice Training encourages them to approach their agency head, whether it is the chief, sheriff or chief administrator, and explain the advantages of having a chaplaincy program.

The International Conference of Police Chaplains has compiled a list of benefits and advantages for the executive officer to review and consider.

"The hard part is convincing an agency of the benefits," Huffman said. "They're concerned about the liability of the non-sworn individual riding with officers."

According to Huffman, the benefits outweigh the liabilities.

"Having a chaplain gives the officer someone to vent to, giving the officer a clearer mind when on the streets," Huffman said.

With less stress, officers will miss work less and have less mental stress to take home, he added.

"Less stress means more safety and less liability to the agency," Huffman said.

Once officers have the support of the chief executive, Huffman stresses the importance of train-

ing as they build their program.

Training opportunities available:

1. Chaplain Basic Training Course – an eight-hour, Kentucky Law Enforcement Council-certified class taught annually at DOCJT for new chaplains.
2. Advanced Chaplains Course – a 16-hour, KLEC-certified class offered annually by DOCJT, with a new topic/theme each year.
3. DOCJT's Web site: [www.docjt.ky.gov](http://www.docjt.ky.gov) has a link to family support resources. DOCJT is developing a chaplains' directory. Huffman hopes to have the directory in a format that will allow an officer to easily locate a chaplain, even out of his region, if necessary, to remain stigma-free in his own area.
4. ICPC is the premier organization for police chaplains. Huffman encourages chaplains to join the organization, which offers a host of invaluable resources for chaplains. ICPC hosts regional chaplain training conferences throughout the nation. For more information, visit its Web site at [www.icpc4cops.org](http://www.icpc4cops.org).
5. Seek training through your denomination or religious affiliation. ■

For more information or guidance through the process, call Jerry Huffman at (859) 622-8127 or Jim McKinney at (859) 622-8130.



affiliations, but they are unified in their purpose, "Bear ye one another's burdens," as stated in Galatians 6:2.

"And we work well together. We really enjoy each other," said Jean Odum, a Methodist pastor, noting their denominational differences.

Odum joined Burden Bearers in March 2004. Her cousin worked at central dispatch and had been asked if she knew a female pastor who might be interested in their cause. She approached Odum, who prayed about it, sought wise counsel and decided to do it.

Burden Bearers is not only interdenominational, but very conscious and respectful of other faiths.

"We don't push religion on anyone," Humble said. "If we [come across someone who's] Muslim or Hindu, we're sensitive to them and try to get someone to help who's familiar with their beliefs."

Each member of the group will be on call for one week, off – but available – for four weeks, and then on backup for the on-call chaplain for a week. Obviously, Sundays can be a more difficult day to cover, but you will often find any one of them at the emergency scene, whether they are on call or not.

The most recognizable face of the group probably is that of Sam Romines, a Cumberland Presbyterian minister and Burden Bearer chaplain since its inception. Romines also is a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician.

Before Humble's idea to begin a chaplains team, Romines was asked by the Lewisburg fire chief if he would consider serving as fire chaplain.

He agreed.

"But, he insisted I take all the necessary training to be a volunteer firefighter, and that's how I got into it," Romines chuckled.

Romines may be among the first to arrive at an emergency scene, either as a first responder or a chaplain, rushing down the road in the once-patrol, now repurposed,

Crown Victoria. It is the official vehicle of Burden Bearers, decorated with the group's logos.

"We're fortunate enough that for an officer, just seeing us coming on the scene calms them down," Romines said.

"As soon as they see us, they point as to say, 'the family's over there,'" Humble added. "And with that, we know where we're supposed to be."

After he treats those on the scene as a first responder, Romines makes eye contact with everyone on the scene to make sure they're OK.

"You can see it in their eyes," he said.

When two chaplains are available on the scene, one works with the families and one works with the officers to ensure all involved are OK when they leave the scene.

"You often see someone that was involved in a situation you worked. They remember you and thank you for helping them," Odum said. "Sometimes, it's just from serving hot chocolate at a search-and-rescue site."

It can happen, though, in a small county like Logan where almost everyone knows everyone else, that a chaplain gets called to a scene involving someone they know, or a situation that might be more difficult for the on-call chaplain to handle.

"We know when one of us is having trouble at a scene – we back each other up and take that call," Romines added.

As she approaches a difficult situation, Odum said, "Sometimes, I think, 'I don't want to do this', but I know that's where I need to be, even if it's just serving hot chocolate – it's where the Lord wants me to be."

But, for Burden Bearers, quite often it's much more than serving hot chocolate. The chaplains stock their vehicles with bottles of water, Gatorade, stuffed animals and blankets. Their calls may range from a house fire where a family has lost everything to a lengthy, mid-summer search and rescue. They also keep the departments stocked

with water, so that plenty is available for the officers to take to an emergency scene.

Chaplains have helped in domestic violence situations to move the mothers and children to a safe location.

"Sometimes these little ones just need something to call their own, when they've lost everything, and that's where the stuffed animal comes in," Odum said.

When officers encounter a suicidal individual, they offer the person the opportunity to speak with a chaplain. Officers even request a chaplain to speak with an individual who's been arrested, Humble said, because the chaplains maintain confidentiality on issues which could be a conflict of interest for the arresting officer.

But the top priority for chaplains is to bear the burdens of the first responders. Those burdens often can lead to health issues, marital problems and even suicide.

"With a small community, you hear things, and you may know they're going through marital problems," Humble said.

Often, it's the chief or another coworker expressing concern that points the chaplain toward a particular officer or firefighter, he said.

"They're often short staffed, and when they're short staffed, we know there's pressure – pressure at home and pressure at the department," Humble added.

According to Humble, work-related stress can come from many sources – a case that comes out of the court and does not turn out the way the officer had wanted, or when the officer deals with a certain type of death scene, like that of child.

"You know you're going to talk to that officer about 'ghosts' in their life," Humble said.

Ghosts are traumatic scenes that officers and firefighters have worked that continue to re-emerge in their minds.

The chaplains also deal with officers who have served overseas. >>



"Their work may cause them to have flashbacks," said Chaplain Joe Vaught, also a pastor with Cumberland Presbyterian denomination.

Vaught remembers a call to a house fire that Romines received in which five people died and three survived. That tragic incident drew Vaught to join the cause of Burden Bearers with his fellow Presbyterian pastor.

As civilian chaplains, Humble said, Burden Bearers provides more safety and comfort for an officer who might otherwise feel uncomfortable approaching a coworker for help.

"We're strictly confidential," Humble said. "But, if they're suicidal or homicidal, we make sure they get help."

Just knowing a chaplain will be available if they ever need help can be very important for the officers. The chaplains of Burden Bearers are available beyond crisis situations, as well.

"We'll cook out for them when they have their softball games and provide them drinks," Vaught said.

When an officer's family member is in the hospital, a chaplain will visit them, even if the individual is in an out-of-town hospital, like Nashville, Vaught added.

Chaplains routinely ride along with officers while they are on duty.

"I was doing a ride-along once and we saw several officers parked and talking to each other. But, as I approached, they stopped talking. Then one of them, pointing to me, said, 'she's alright,'" Odum recalled. "That was a highlight for me. I knew I was accepted then."

Vaught added that officers are not much for public displays of affection.

"When you're in Wal-mart, and an officer comes up and gives you a great big bear hug, you know you're appreciated," he said.

Capt. Roger McDonald of Russellville Police Department was a supporter of Burden Bearers from its beginning.

"They do a great service. I'm proud every day when I see them out," he said.

## SERVANT

"In this line of work, every day can be a challenge," said Sgt. Mike Neal, chaplain at McCreary County Sheriff's Office.

Unlike most agencies, where an officer or civilian approaches the chief executive to offer their services as a chaplain, Neal was approached in 1997 by his then chief, Al Schafer of the Mt. Healthy Police Department in Ohio.

When Neal came to serve with the McCreary County Sheriff's Office in 2004, he continued his role as chaplain, perhaps as the first sworn chaplain to serve McCreary County. Neal is among the very few chaplains who are ordained and sworn.

With 17 years of professional experience, Neal understands both the ups and downs of law enforcement and the responsibility of caring for troubled officers. Neal is a school resource officer and supervises four individuals, including two sworn officers.

Approaching a chaplain who also is a supervisor might often present conflict for distressed individuals.

"I think the guys that I work with know that I keep things confidential," Neal said. "The trust factor goes a long way in building a working relationship."

► Many law enforcement chaplains keep the Police Officer Bible on hand for their own reference and comfort. Chaplains do not push their spiritual beliefs on officers but often provide spiritual guidance if an officer asks for it.

Neal is ordained as a Southern Baptist minister and has pastored full-time and part-time in many churches. He now serves as minister of missions and outreach at Whitley City First Baptist, and attends Clear Creek Bible College in Pineville.

As a school resource officer, Neal deals with students and teachers, as well as other officers.

"The death of someone they really love is probably the hardest," Neal said. "Sometimes just having someone who will listen to them and reassure them along with a shoulder to cry on, is the best care you can give them."

Neal is grateful for the capacity in which he serves.

"Every day holds a new challenge to help not only those you work with, but to help anyone to whom you may come in contact with," Neal said. "And to know you made a difference and answered that 'calling' in your life, it's not only a great responsibility, but a great honor."

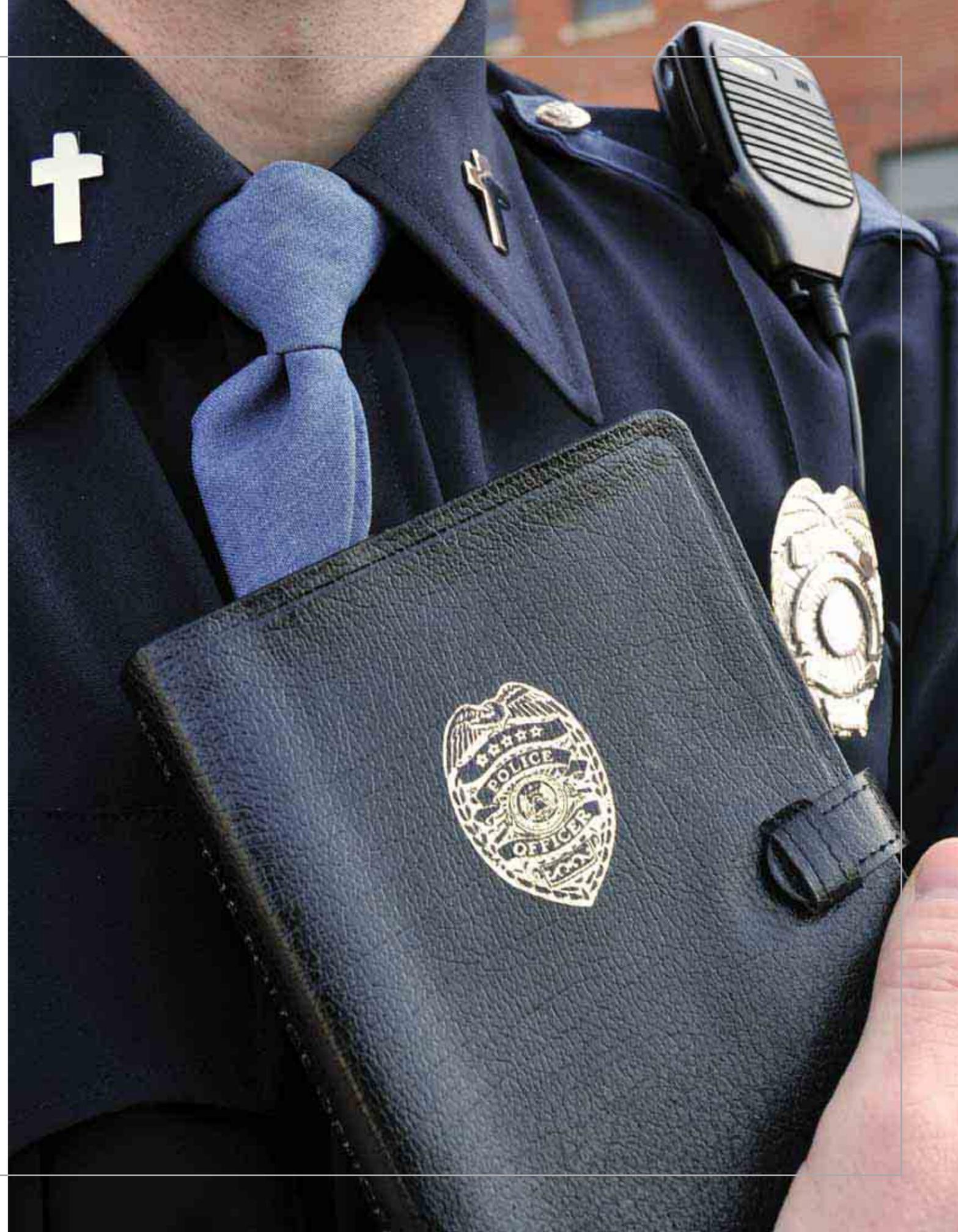
## CALLED

In August 2007, Anthony Gubitz intently watched the news coverage of the case of 6-year-old murder victim Wesley Mullins. What he saw was not only the distress of the family and the community, but also the officers who were dealing with the family and the tragedy.

"You could see the emotion in their faces," Gubitz recalled. "And I wondered, 'Who do these guys have to talk to?' and that started me on this path."

A friend and member of the church Gubitz pastors, Brent Wilson, was burdened in much the same way. Wilson is an officer at the Paris Police Department.

Before joining the Paris police, Wilson worked with Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement where he was involved in a high-speed pursuit that ended in the suspect's death. Wilson was deeply troubled by the event. >>



▼ The Logan County Burden Bearer pastor chaplains, (L-R) Jean Odum, Mike Humble, Sam Romines and Joe Vaught, along with William Washington and Patrick Kerstiens (not pictured), serve with purpose and enjoy the camaraderie of their team. Humble, with Romines, started Burden Bearers in 2002 with the mission of Galatians chapter two, "Bear ye one another's burdens."



## CHAPLAINS ON THE BEAT

### Serving first responders of Logan County, Burden Bearers

**Mike Humble**, chaplain and founder of Burden Bearers, Agape Foundation  
**Sam Romines**, Cumberland Presbyterian, volunteer firefighter, EMT  
**Jean Odum**, Methodist  
**Joe Vaught**, Cumberland Presbyterian  
**William Washington**, Baptist  
**Patrick Kersteins**, Church of Christ

### Serving McCreary County

**Sgt. Mike Neal**, chaplain, McCreary County Sheriff's Office

### Serving Bourbon County

**Officer Brent Wilson**, chaplain, Paris Police Department  
**Anthony Gubitz**, New Life Ministries, chaplain, Bourbon County Sheriff's Office

### Serving Harlan County

**Bill Ball**, Church of God, chaplain, Harlan County Sheriff's Office

“I believe God allowed me to go through that so I can help an officer who goes through a similar situation,” Wilson said.

Not too long after that incident, Wilson transferred to his hometown police department in Paris. But while at KVE, Wilson was offered the opportunity to serve as a chaplain with the agency. Wilson then mentioned it to Gubitz, his pastor at New Life Ministries. Each took it as confirmation to proceed toward chaplaincy.

But Wilson was apprehensive. “I didn’t know how to approach it. I’m young and I didn’t think I had enough experience,” he explained.

But soon, just after Wilson went to work for Paris P.D., he was ready to pursue chaplaincy. A telecommunicator, who was a local pastor, had served as the unofficial chaplain for the department in the past. But the chief was supportive of Wilson taking the role in an official capacity.

“A big part of its success is having a chief that stands behind you and supports you,” Wilson said. “Chief Tim Gray is 100 percent behind me.”

While Wilson serves the police department, Gubitz serves with the Bourbon County Sheriff’s Office.

“We do this together,” Wilson said.

“And we’re here for each other,” Gubitz added.

“I hate to distinguish who works where, really,” Wilson said. “I spend a lot of time [at the sheriff’s office], while Anthony’s at the department a lot.”

Together they developed the policies and procedures for the chaplain programs at Bourbon County Sheriff’s Office and Paris Police Department. Gubitz is a part-time volunteer chaplain and puts in at least eight hours per month, but is available when needed.

Because the two agencies often work so closely together, Gubitz said, they included in the policies and procedures that the agencies’ chaplains would always collaborate.

Speaking of the agencies’ camaraderie, Wilson added, “If we need help, they come.”

As a pastor, Gubitz has been in the ministry for more than 20 years with a bachelor’s degree in Bible and Theology from Trinity Bible College. Also close to his heart are those on the other side of the law, inmates in prison.

Both Gubitz and Wilson have attended the Basic Chaplains Training, an eight-hour course, and the Advanced Chaplains Training, 16 hours, offered annually by the Department of Criminal Justice Training.

Gubitz said that officers are trained to enforce laws not serve as grief counselors or social workers, but often that’s what they face. He willingly bears those burdens for the officers, so they can be free to do their job.

“It’s me and 24 guys, and they’re all dealing with stuff,” Wilson said. “We need more chaplains.”

Getting officers to open up also is a challenge, and it takes time. Wilson, as a full-time officer, spends much of his time with other officers and often notices behavioral changes that indicate an officer may be dealing with personal stress.

Studies show the law enforcement suicide rate is much higher than other professions, as well as the likelihood of heart attack and divorce, Gubitz said.

“It’s a matter of getting them somewhere where they’re willing to talk,” Wilson explained. “I try to talk to the officers as much as I can. I work with them every day and I can tell when something has changed.”

Although they may not be trained in everything, Gubitz said they have resources.

“If a guy wants to talk about Jesus, I’m here for that, but if he’s going through a divorce and needs marriage counseling, I can get him help,” Wilson said.

Gubitz considers getting to know the officers the most rewarding aspect of his calling. He often can be found in the cruisers,

riding with the officers, taking any opportunity to talk with them.

“I get reward out of helping someone. If an officer needs something and I can help, that’s what I want to do,” Wilson added.

# HELP

Many chaplains find that their work goes beyond law enforcement officers, death notifications and handling individuals in crisis situations.

Harlan County Sheriff’s Office chaplain and Church of God lay speaker, Bill Ball, set out to serve the deputies of the county. But, the Chaplains Corps he started in February 2007 now reaches not only other local law enforcement, but also the hungry, the needy and the drug-afflicted in Harlan and Bell counties.

Ball has come face-to-face with the desperate economic struggles and drug abuse of his eastern Kentucky county.

“You can’t arrest your way out of this problem,” Ball said. “It’s more than handcuffs and guns – a lot more.”

As a chaplain, Ball wanted to help his community, especially those who needed change.

“It costs you much more to arrest them, jail them, let them go, take them to court and put them back in jail,” Ball said. “They need to know we care about them and we want to help them. That was the driving force behind the chaplains’ program. Jesus said, ‘feed the hungry, and if they’re naked, clothe ’em.’ And I thought that sounded like a pretty good idea.”

In August 2008, Ball and fellow volunteer chaplains started the Chaplain Outreach Project, appropriately known as COP. Every Monday and Friday, COP volunteers man a warehouse supplied with food and other necessities. Individuals in need make appointments to shop for items. >>

► McCreary County Sheriff's Sgt. Mike Neal serves as the department's chaplain and McCreary Central's school resource officer. Neal is one of only 25 chaplains in the state who is both sworn and ordained.



The COP warehouse also opens its doors every year for the Back-to-School Program, offering school children books, paper, backpacks and even greeting cards for them to give throughout the year.

According to Ball, COP has served more than 14,000 people in the region, and is one of the largest independent food warehouses in Kentucky. Volunteers for COP are not only pastors and lay people from several denominations; women from the Cumberland Hope Center, a half-way house for re-integrating drug-addicted and alcoholic women into society, volunteer regularly as do many mentally-challenged individuals from the community.

Ball finds the strength to balance the needs

of his community with Chaplains Corps' top priority – the needs of the officers he serves – by incorporating routine ride-alongs with the officers. He recognizes the challenge of making the officers feel comfortable.

"Not everybody wants someone in the ministry around them," Ball said. "It's an uphill battle for them to realize that there's a need for ministers, and we can help these officers."

"I believe it's a real confidence booster for the agency and the officers" knowing certain responsibilities are off their plates, he added.

"You can be at a drug raid at nine in the morning, talking to a little kid and giving them a teddy bear," Ball said. "Then that night, you might be at a house fire and giving

out clothes."

Kentucky's chaplains are able to effectively handle the diverse and difficult situations they face only because they know where to find their own comfort and rest.

"I have the Lord to go to... and we have each other," Paris's Wilson said of his work relationship with Gubitza.

"Prayer," McCreary County's Neal agreed. "You can't bring home the baggage."

Sharing that peace with the officers and communities that surround them is the ultimate goal and calling for the commonwealth's law enforcement chaplains. J

## \*BY THE NUMBERS

**148** KY agencies **DO NOT** have a chaplain program

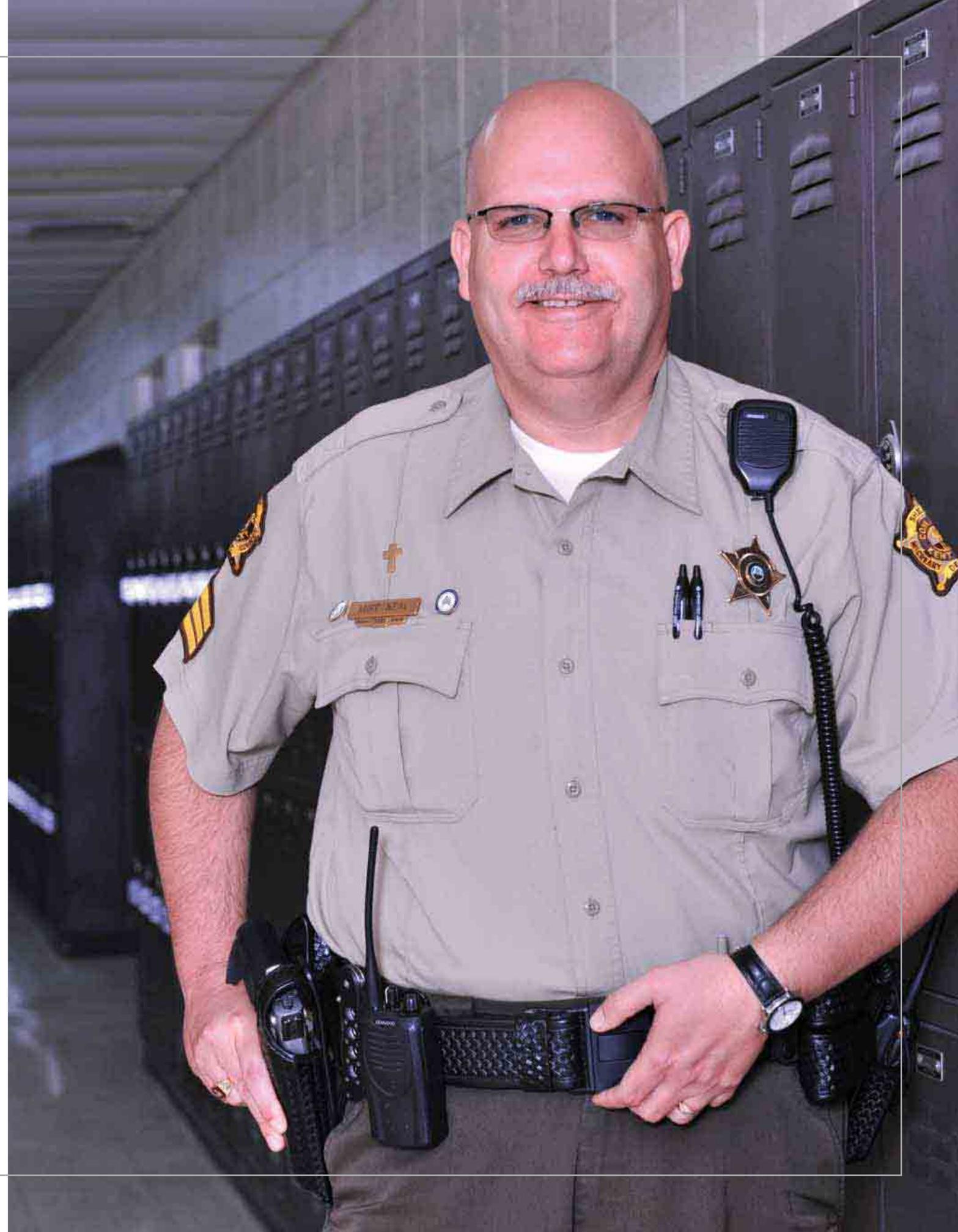
**4** agencies have non-sworn, non-ordained chaplains

**25** agencies have sworn officer chaplains who are ordained pastors

**44** agencies have non-sworn, ordained chaplains

**9** agencies have sworn officers who serve as chaplains, but are **NOT** ordained pastors

\* as of DOCJT 2007 comprehensive survey





/Photo by Elizabeth Thomas

# AT THE DOORSTEP, IT CLICKS

Chaplains bear the burden of death notifications, relieving officers of a daunting duty

/Elizabeth Thomas, Public Information Officer

Among an officer's most difficult challenges is a death notification. Chaplains can take that responsibility, relieving officers of a difficult duty.

"Death notifications are tough," said Paris Officer Brent Wilson. "I don't care how many you've done or how much training you have, they're hard for the family and they're hard for the officer."

Pastor Anthony Gubitz added, "As a chaplain, you're most likely the first one sharing the moment they learn their loved one is dead. It's not easy. You don't know them and you don't know how they may respond."

He continued, "When we're at the doorstep, it clicks. They know something's wrong"

As a pastor, Gubitz most often deals with families after they have learned of their loved one's death when he's invited to be part of their ceremony or their grieving process.

"But as a chaplain, you don't have the right to be there. You make yourself part of the situation when you walk up to their door," he said.

According to Officer.com, there are few police academies that offer training in handling death notification as a part of basic training. Officers often are not prepared

for grief counseling. In small communities, quite often, they are delivering the news to familiar faces.

"I got a call that a mom had found a family member dead on the floor. It turned out to be a guy I graduated with. He'd committed suicide," Wilson recalled. "Just three weeks before, I'd had dinner with him. You never expect something like that to happen."

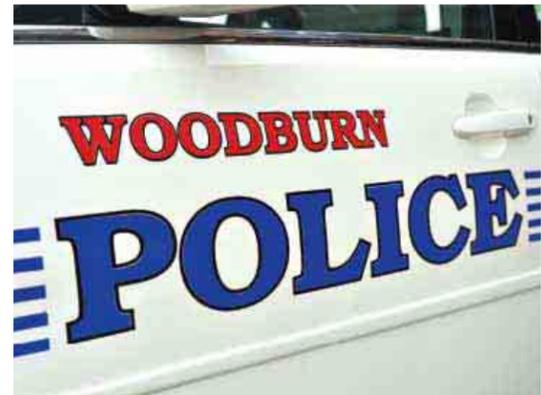
Training for death notifications is probably the most important part of a chaplain's job, said Sam Romines, chaplain with Logan County's Burden Bearers.

"Cell phones make it difficult," Romines said, noting the difference technology has made in death notifications. "Some people are notified before the chaplain has a chance to get to them. Some [passersby] even send photos of the scene from their phones to the family member."

Officers who may not have a chaplain available to them are encouraged to make it a priority to notify the family in person. If a family member shows up on the scene, an officer should not pass the duty off to another officer. It may be hard for the officer, reports Officer.com, but it is harder on the family member. Officers need to be sensitive. It is best for them to act as professionally and compassionately as possible.

"I've been to the morgue with a woman to identify her son and husband, and that was difficult," said Harlan County chaplain Bill Ball. The father and son were in an accident in a mine, after trespassing illegally, compounding the difficulty and the need for sensitivity in the situation.

If the family member lives out of town, an officer should contact the family member's local law enforcement to deliver the news in person. Officers should speak clearly and use plain language, said Officer.com, and try to make sure there is a friend or relative who can stay with the individual when they leave. J



/Article and photos by Elizabeth Thomas, Public Information Officer

**T**ucked behind the crossroads of U.S. Highway 31W and Kentucky Highway 240 sits the city of Woodburn with its 319 residents.

In a Woodburn spring, there is local and regional excitement about May's Strawberry Days and June's annual Flag Retirement Ceremony. And in the middle of it all is Chief Audrey Spies – chief and only officer of the Woodburn Police Department – mingling amid the crowds, directing a Boy Scout troop while enforcing town ordinances and stopping in to see the residents of the Hopkins Nursing Home.

Railroad tracks run through the middle of Woodburn and in early May, the townspeople celebrate the days when the L & N train would stop and unload strawberries. The Strawberry Days Festival is a regional produce and crafts festival on the same town green where the

train would unload crates of strawberries.

A month later, the city's celebrations turn to honoring old flags.

Three years ago, to celebrate Flag Day, Spies enacted the annual Woodburn Flag Retirement Ceremony to honor and properly dispose of the town's tattered flags. For this respectful flag-burning ceremony, a local Boy Scout troop is chosen to collect the tattered flags and lead the ceremony. The Bowling Green Police Department's Honor Guard presents a 21-gun salute and plays "Taps" while the Bowling Green Fire Department presents the commonwealth and country's flags for the ceremony. In 2008, the town was honored to retire a garrison flag, measuring 25 feet by 50 feet.

"There's a whole lot more to policing than law enforcement,"

Spies said. "It's the heart of the community that matters, not the badge on my chest."

Spies is the first police chief of Woodburn to wear a uniform, at least as far back as its residents can remember. Her cruiser also is outfitted with updated, state-of-the-art equipment.

As she meanders through the crowds of local events, she often hears comments like, "It's good to have a real police officer around here," Spies said.

Spies hails from Tyler, Texas, where she began her law enforcement career in the patrol division in 1978. In 1987, she moved to Bowling Green and served with the Western Kentucky University Police Department for 10 years in patrol and investigations. From there, she went to the Warren County Drug Task Force and then in 1998, transferred to the Bowling Green Police Department. After three years in the patrol division and rigorous training, Spies moved to BGPD's Crisis Response Team, which is a tactical unit. Spies considers being a member of CRT a glowing achievement of her career. She remained with CRT until her retirement in 2003. She took the position at Woodburn in 2005.

"Sometimes I miss the adrenaline and excitement of CRT," Spies said. "But Woodburn is a breath of fresh air."

Spies compared her work in Woodburn to that of larger towns.

"In big cities, you go from one call to another. But here, you meet and talk to people. You get to know the people you work for," she said. "When the vegetables are in season, I go home with a carload of squash and every other kind of vegetable."

Woodburn's most prevalent issue is juvenile crime and mischief. Sidewalks painted with obscenities and burglarized abandoned buildings and homes require more than a slap on the wrist or a night behind bars.

"Law enforcement in Woodburn is more about recovery and restitution," Spies said.

Citing a recent burglary and vandalism by teenagers, Spies said she and the parents, with the mayor, decided that community service was more advantageous than putting the teens through the court system.

"Also, in a big city," Spies said, "you have teenagers who are more

disrespectful. But in a small town, you get kids like these teenage boys who are very respectful, saying 'yes, ma'am' and 'no, ma'am.'"

Her calls are dispatched through the Warren County telecommunications center, with the Warren County Sheriff's Office serving as her backup.



"The town is never without the police nearby," Spies said.

She also serves as a back-up for the sheriff's office.

"Sometimes it happens that I am the closest unit when there's an incident on the highways, and I start to roll that way," Spies said.

With Woodburn being a one-officer department, Spies varies her hours to keep would-be crime at bay. In any given week, Spies can be found patrolling at night

or in the afternoon, when the school kids are getting off the buses. Smiling, Spies describes a typical afternoon of children jumping off the school bus, running by her car, waving and yelling, "Ms. Spies, Ms. Spies."

"You just wouldn't find that in a big city," Spies added.

She also often runs radar at either of the two major highways or nine streets running through Woodburn.

As a high-ranking female law enforcement officer, Spies has had her share of hurdles to jump.

"Back in the 70s," Spies said, "other females on the force who weren't as tough made it more difficult for those of us who wanted to make a career in law enforcement."

But being a female officer has its advantages.

"Even in handcuffs, I've had them trying to open the door for me," Spies said about how criminals respond differently to her as a female officer.

As far as her goals for the Woodburn Police Department, Spies hopes to expand the neighborhood-watch program, get all residents an emergency preparedness kit and start local ball teams.

Among Spies' concerns for residents is emergency preparation. Because the town straddles the railroad, Spies fears the town will see a chemical spill from a train derailment like the one the town experienced more than 10 years ago.

But Woodburn is a close-knit community and will come together in a crisis.

"People look out for each other here," Spies said.

And for Spies, the best part of policing Woodburn: "knowing the community is behind you and wants you here." J

◀ Chief Audrey Spies patrols the roadways of Woodburn and stops to visit friends at the Hopkins Nursing Home.  
 ▲ Spies shares a laugh with Gene Guffey, long-time citizen of Woodburn and avid collector of tractor memorabilia.

Law enforcement officers often face pressing issues due to a lack of laws pertaining to non-motor vehicles on the roadways /Abbie Darst, Program Coordinator

Most people are familiar with the laws that govern what can and cannot be done on the roadway when driving the average car, truck or van. They understand when to pass, who has the right of way and when to turn on their headlights, even if this knowledge is not always used with proper discretion. But, for those vehicles on the road that do not fit the mold of a motor vehicle, the black and white letter of the law becomes gray and blurred – leaving law enforcement officers with the difficult task of appropriately addressing traffic issues confronting many of Kentucky’s communities.

Kentucky Revised Statutes define motor vehicles as all [modes] used to transport persons or property on public highways except road rollers, road graders, farm tractors, vehicles on which power shovels are

mounted, construction equipment customarily used only on the site of construction and which is not practical for the transportation of persons or property upon the highways, vehicles that travel exclusively upon rails, vehicles propelled by electric power obtained from overhead wires and vehicles propelled by muscular power. These exceptions are what complicate enforcement issues.

For several years, the Richmond Police Department has faced a big obstacle to motorist safety, known throughout Richmond as “Big World”. The middle-aged Big World drives his flair-laden lawnmower through town, parking himself at various intersections waving at cars as they pass. Big World creates an issue for the Richmond police on two levels. Not only does he ride his lawn

mower on the Richmond bypass, one of the busiest streets in the city, but also when he is not driving, he is a major visual distraction to other motorists.

“He’s a big problem,” said RPD Sgt. Roy Johnson. “The kids get a big kick out of him, but he causes people to not pay attention to driving. He is a danger. We’ve dealt with him and we’ve gotten out with him on several occasions ... >>>”



TO Drive OR  
Not TO Drive



▲ Big World rides down the Eastern Bypass in Richmond on his flair-laden bicycle – an alternative to the lawnmower on which Richmond residents see him traverse through town throughout the summer. Regardless of his chosen mode of transportation, Richmond officers say Big World serves as a huge traffic distraction when he parks himself at intersections, waving at passing vehicles.

/Photos by Elizabeth Thomas



but he's a fixture here in Richmond."

Big World's ability to understand the impact of his actions poses challenges as well.

"It goes back to the humanitarian portion ... does he have the mental capacity to understand what he is doing," Murphy asked. "Do you cite someone who doesn't have the capacity to understand their actions?"

But for law enforcement, addressing safety issues with Big World is only the beginning. The lack of laws that specifically detail what types of vehicles can be on the highway make it complicated to define a charge or issue a citation. And that problem does not stop with Big World's lawnmower.

"The biggest nuisance for me is mopeds," said RPD Officer Garry Murphy.

Per state law, a vehicle is considered a motor vehicle if it has a cylinder capacity of 50 cubic centimeters, so dealers sell mopeds with 49.5 cc engines so that purchasers do not need a driver's license or insurance to ride them, Murphy said. For that reason, officers see many individuals with DUI-suspended licenses riding them, he said.

In one case, Murphy recalled an individual on a moped who was under the influence and hit a Ford Mustang. The Mustang suffered immense damage and since there is no law that required the individual to carry insurance, the car's owner was not able to get an insurance payment from the moped's driver to cover the damage.

Though not much is written that specifically regulates mopeds in the commonwealth, they are addressed in the Kentucky Revised Statutes, unlike Richmond's most recent and severe traffic problem – motorized wheelchairs.

"It is such a new problem that it is not addressed as far as laws pertaining to them," Johnson said.

The Richmond Police Department has responded to accidents involving motorized wheelchairs where motorists have simply

not seen them on the roadway. Individuals in motorized wheelchairs also have darted out into traffic, causing a motorist to collide with another motorist while swerving to miss the wheelchair's occupant.

"Not having laws that deal with it ties our hand on enforcement," Johnson said. "The only thing we can really do is list them in the report as a contributing factor."

Murphy agrees with the difficulty of the situation.

"You can't cite them for something that doesn't exist," he said.

For Murphy and Johnson, it is a fine line to walk with regards to how to handle the safety hazards motorized wheelchairs on the roadway present.

"I'm torn – they have to get somewhere and they shouldn't have to be just stuck at home and I see that side of it, but the law doesn't address the risk to motorists," Murphy said. "The roads are not designed or developed for motorized wheelchairs."

"You don't want to come off like you are picking on people in wheelchairs that don't have another way to get around, but you have to balance that with safety for them and for the public," Johnson agreed.

Some issues are addressed in general in the KRS for slow-moving or motor-less vehicles. These include placing at least one light on the left side of the vehicle in such a manner that it can be seen from at least 500 feet, using a four-way flashing system between sunset and sunrise and displaying a slow-moving vehicle emblem on the back, center of the vehicle for any vehicle capable of a speed no greater than 25 miles per hour.

These regulations are in place as a way to try and protect the individuals using these slow-moving modes of transportation and to make motorists more aware of their presence on the roadway and encourage them to use more caution. However, in various parts of the commonwealth, these

seemingly simple safety precautions strike a chord that runs much deeper than traffic safety.

For the Swartzentruber, old-order Amish community in Graves County, the use of flashing lights and triangular emblem go against their religious beliefs, causing some friction in the county about whether being forced to abide by these specific statutes infringes on the Amish community's constitutional right to freely practice their religion.

"I wish we could abide by the law, but I'm not scared of the law officers because I know they are just doing their job," said Jacob Gingerich, a member of the 20-family Swartzentruber Amish community in Graves County.

"Call it a mutual respect," said Graves County Sheriff John Davis. "They understand that we are doing what we do because we need to be doing that for safety reasons. And we respect them for their beliefs. We don't understand one to the other, but we do respect each other, though we do disagree."

In the past 15 years, Kentucky's Amish population has tripled, making Kentucky home to one of the fastest-growing Amish populations in the nation, according to researchers based at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania. There are now Amish districts in 21 Kentucky counties. Known best for their modest dress, limited use of modern technology and horse-based farming and transportation, their horse-drawn buggies on the roadways have sparked numerous controversies across the state in recent years.

Gingerich was issued his first ticket for not displaying the slow-moving vehicle triangular emblem in October 2004. Gingerich said the bright color and shape of the emblem are what keep him from using it on his buggy.

"It's the bright, flashy colors and the >>>



▲ The Graves County Sheriff's Office, along with other Graves County law enforcement agencies, have written 50 tickets since 2004 to members of the Swartzentruber Amish community for not displaying the orange slow-moving-vehicle emblem on the back of their buggies. Three men from the community have appealed their convictions because they think they violate their freedom of religion.



shape of the triangle represents the symbol of the Trinity," he said. "We don't use the symbol. We do believe in the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost, but we don't believe in using the symbol."

Gingerich, who has lived in Graves County since February 2002, and other members of his community have tried other methods of ensuring that their buggies are as visible as possible while traveling on public roadways. They have placed reflective tape around the entire outline of the back of their buggies. Also, they have placed two lanterns, one on each side of the buggy with red on the back and white on the front that can be seen from more than 1,000 feet, Gingerich said.

Despite these efforts, members of their community received two more citations for the absence of the triangle in 2006 and have received 47 citations since June 2007, bringing the total to 50. Gingerich, along with two other men from his community, are in the process of appealing their conviction for failing to attach the orange triangles to their buggies. Each man was fined \$20 and ordered to pay \$128 in court costs for not complying with the law.

"I try not to go to town too often, not more than I have to," said Joe Stutzman, another member of the Amish community. "We stay off the road as much as we can because of the problems we are having with the triangles. And we get off the road where we can to give the traffic room."

Gingerich and Stutzman both believe that the methods they currently are using on their buggies are more visible than the triangle.

"We set our lanterns a little different than we had them," Gingerich said. "We've put 100 square inches of reflector tape on the back, whereas the triangle only has 72 inches."

After nearly four years, unless the law changes, the problem will not resolve itself, Davis said.

"They have put reflective tape all around the outside of their buggy, which does some-

what help, but it still does not follow the letter of the law and until they change the law, we have to enforce what's there," Davis said. "And it's not that we are picking on them and I know they understand that. It is a safety factor for them and for other motorists as well."

To date in Graves County, there have been around six to eight accidents involving Amish buggies, Davis said.

Graves County isn't the only place dealing with this issue. In Barren County in 1985 a Swartzentruber man was acquitted in court for refusing to use the safety triangle, and in January 2008 a young woman broke her neck when she was thrown from her buggy after being hit by a Chevy Avalanche, according to local news reports. In Mason County this past November, one man was injured and his horse had to be destroyed following an accident between an Amish buggy and a Chevrolet Cavalier.

Though many argue that if the triangular emblem had been on the back of the buggies these incidents, and others, could have been avoided, Gingerich disagrees, citing that most accidents occur in the daytime when reflectors do not make as much of a difference.

"If somebody comes over the hill, it is not going to matter if I have the triangle on there or not, they just have that much time to stop," Gingerich said. "They can see the top of the buggy before they can see the triangle. And if they are close enough where they can't stop, they are plenty close enough to see the buggy – there is no reason not to see the buggy."

The Swartzentrubers are not the only sect of Amish that use buggies. Toby Borntrecker lives in an Amish community just across the Graves-Hickman County line. As you approach his farm, you can see nearly a dozen buggies with bright triangular emblems on the back.

"For one thing it's safety," Borntrecker said about why members of his community use the emblems. "I am for safety. But ... I was raised up this way. We've had them since

I was born. ... There ain't no more speeders or no more drunks than there was 10 years ago. Probably ain't no more wrecks either, but it is safety. If you've got a family on a buggy – that's what I look for."

Borntrecker has also added battery-powered lights to his buggy instead of hanging lanterns and usually hires a driver if he goes into town, he said. Despite these differences, members of Borntrecker's community have also been involved in accidents.

"It's just (drivers) not thinking or not paying attention, just like anyone else gets in an accident," he said. "It can happen no matter how many lights you put on."

Gingerich agrees the safety factor needs to go both ways.

"I had one man tell me he was real worried about [our] safety, then one time I was coming home from town and he shot around me and cut in front and showed me he's not worried about the safety, it's just, 'Get off the road,'" Gingerich said.

Like the Graves County case which is tied up in the court system now, law enforcement officers' hands are tied in dealing with non-motor vehicles on the roadways in many parts of Kentucky, both rural and city, because many of Kentucky's laws do not adequately address some of the situations being faced in communities.

"Unfortunately, it may take a tragic incident before something gets done," Richmond's Murphy said. "It's not an issue until it becomes an issue."

And for law enforcement officers who are sworn to serve and protect their communities, a tragic ending to a difficult situation is not how anyone wants to see these issues resolved. J

# Reaching 95 the Percent

Children's  
Fishing  
Derby

Business  
Outreach

Citizen's  
Police  
Academy

/Kelly Foreman,  
Public Information Officer

LaGrange Police  
enriching community  
with public  
relations programs

**A**s a former public information officer, LaGrange Police Chief Kevin Collett takes community relations seriously. In fact, the chief of six years said putting programs in place which meet the needs of a community ranks right up there with catching criminals.

"A lot of departments don't look at public relations as part of their on-duty responsibility, whereas I do," Collett said. "I am a very strong supporter of public relations in the respect that if you don't have the community behind you, you're going to fail. If the community doesn't have confidence in you and your department's abilities, the public is going to look at [your department] negatively."

"So I think public-relations activities are just as important as extra patrol in neighborhoods, speeding tickets and accident investigations – I think PR ... has to be up there and it has to be a primary goal for a department."

Throughout the year, the LaGrange Police Department operates three, large-scale public-relations programs – a children's fishing derby, citizens' police academy and business outreach. The department of 13 officers and two administrative assistants keep busy seeking sponsors, visiting businesses assigned to them and teaching the various courses of the 10-week academy.

"One of the biggest complaints you hear is they never see us, they don't know the officers, the city is growing so fast they don't know anybody anymore, so this is their opportunity," Collett said. "Ninety-five percent of the community wants to know their officers. They want to know their police department and want to have faith in them. Those are the 95 percent we focus on and we try to go out and meet them and have them on our side."

## Children's fishing derby

When the leaves start to fall around the Eagle Creek Country Club in LaGrange, the community knows it is time for the police department's children's fishing derby.

"When my kids were younger, I attended a fishing derby in Jefferson County that the old Jefferson County police hosted," Collett said. "The kids seemed to love it, the officers who were volunteering really seemed to enjoy it and I just thought it was a perfect tool for children to see policemen outside the uniform. ... So I thought it was a real positive thing."

After settling in as chief, Collett began working toward hosting a derby in LaGrange. On a September day in 2006, about 35 children and their parents attended the first fishing event.

"The numbers have increased every year," Collett said. "The past two years we have been in the 65-kid range. It is a very popular event for the kids. The parents love it – they absolutely think it's the greatest thing in the world."

During the derby, about half of the department volunteers its time or stops by while on shift to let the children look through their patrol cars and take pictures with them. Officers volunteering for the event grill food; hand out plastic, junior-officer badges; and help the children bait their hooks.

Trophies are awarded to the children who catch the most and biggest fish, Collett said.

To pull off a successful derby, departments should start early, get sponsors and find a visible location with plenty of parking, the chief said. At the end of April, Collett's staff begins sending out letters to sponsors to start pushing the event.

"This isn't something you can just decide you want to do next month and then try to pull it off," he said. >>



/Photos by Elizabeth Thomas

▲ Karen Eldridge, owner of Karen's Book Barn in LaGrange, Ky., displays a business sticker in the window of her coffee shop and book store. Eldridge is one of the city's participants in its business outreach program, which helps business owners and LaGrange police officers communicate about potential problems and community issues.

### Citizens' Police Academy

Annually, LaGrange police operate a 10-week citizens' police academy, allowing the community a first-hand look at police operations with the hope of resolving myths about their line of work.

The program likely is no different than any other agency's academy, Collett said. Participants learn about the court system, policing and the law; visit the firing range, local jail and courthouse; and meet the county attorney, detectives and LaGrange's K-9.

LaGrange officers were operating a citizens' police academy before Collett became chief, but popularity had waned and the program was in need of revamping and new energy, he said.

"When I came here they were in the middle of a program and there were only four participants," Collett said. "As far as efficiency for time, that is really not a good way to spend your time with four individuals."

So the officers began looking at ways to increase interest in the program. They have been successful in recruiting participants through face to face interactions with citizens they meet on the streets.

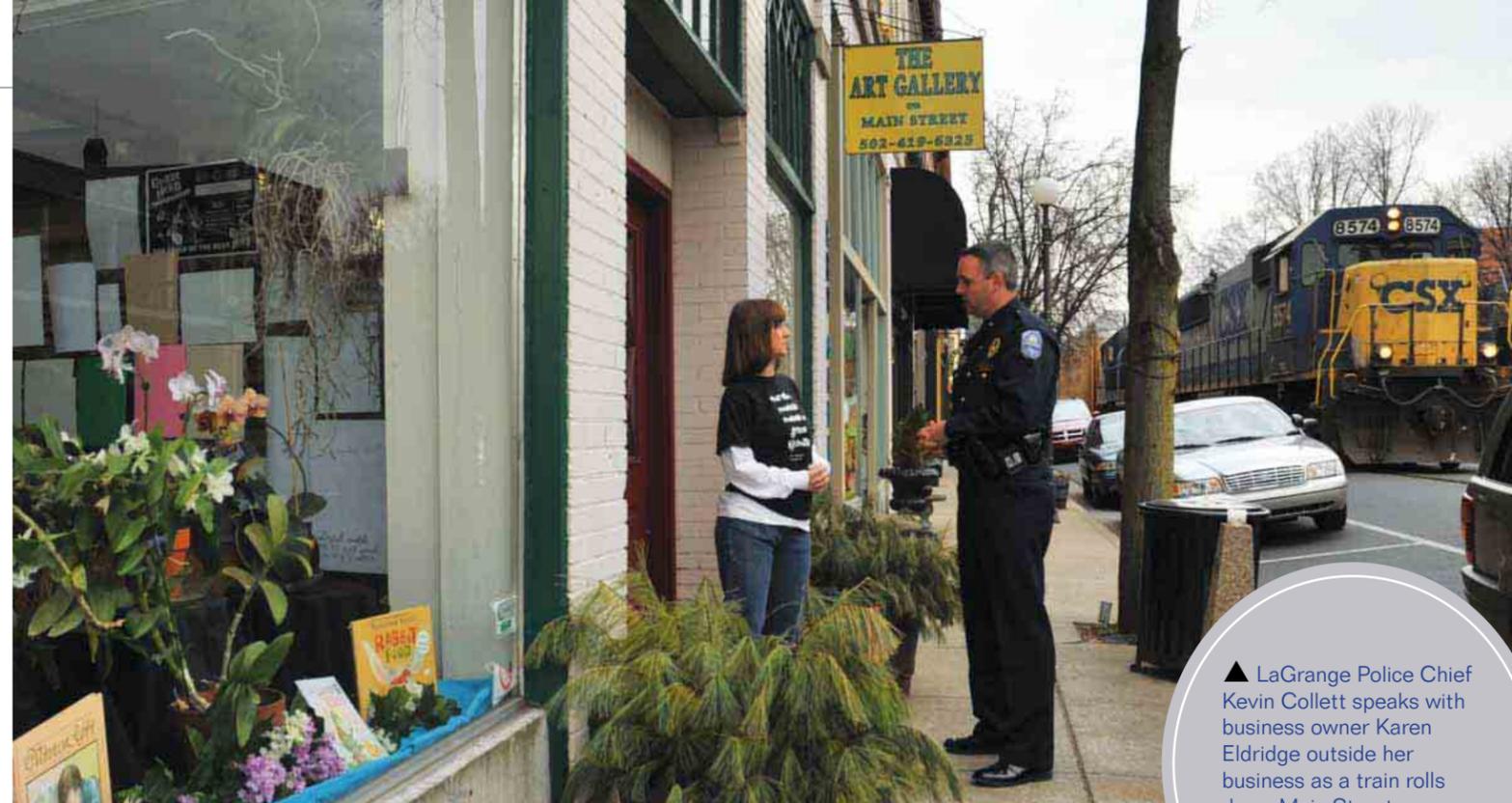
"We have increased the numbers every year," the chief said. "We try to cap it out at 20 [citizens] just so we can have the one-on-one experience with the participants."

Eventually, the officers hope to supplement the citizens' police academy with an abbreviated junior academy for children, Collett said. The department still is in the early planning stages of developing the program, but Collett said he hopes to see something in place before the beginning of the next school year.

### Business outreach

The ratio of businesses to officers in LaGrange is roughly 24 to one. Between patrolling, paperwork, public relations and administrative duties, sometimes it is difficult to ensure that each building is safe.

But LaGrange officers have established a way not only to keep all 300-something businesses safe from crime, but also to meet with business owners to hear their needs and concerns.



▲ LaGrange Police Chief Kevin Collett speaks with business owner Karen Eldridge outside her business as a train rolls down Main Street.

"It's going to be a much more efficient system at night," Collett said. "Having 13 officers, it seems like we're always short handed. We have two, maybe three officers working third shift ... and when the officers run across an open door or broken window or an alarm that doesn't have a contact number, we have to babysit that broken window and open door all night long ..."

"So we thought this would be a great program to maximize our efficiency on third shift so the officers can actually make contact with the business owner, get them out there, secure the facility and then we're out of there. And we can do the other things we're supposed to be doing," Collett said.

To implement the outreach program, the department obtained a list of all the city's licensed businesses from city hall. Letters were sent to each business explaining that the department wanted to compile identifying information so that in the case of a burglary, vandalism or other crime the officers quickly could locate and inform the business owners.

Interested businesses received forms to fill in necessary contact information as well as bright orange window clings to let would-be criminals know the police are on their side.

"We didn't have anyone who turned us

down," Collett said.

The forms then were compiled into a notebook, which has been issued to each officer as well as the city's 911 dispatchers. Officers were assigned to individual businesses and told to meet with them at least every six months to verify the information still is up to date, Collett said. It took about a month and a half to get the program up and running, but now the chief says it pretty much runs itself.

The results have been well worth the effort. Business owners are happier, the process of contacting them is more efficient and the department has received more complaints about crime and problems in the community.

"There have been a couple of drug complaints that came out of it where they have said, 'We see this going on every Friday night, we didn't think anything about it, we didn't want to bother you,'" Collett said. "We get that a lot. There have been a lot of juvenile complaints."

"But again it's a good way for businesses and owners of businesses to get stuff off their chest – to feel like they're being heard – that normally wouldn't have been heard," Collett said. "They would have let that fester and then the next thing you know it's 'The police aren't doing their jobs because we never see

them.' Now we're in their face twice a year, minimum, and they have that opportunity to vent."

Karen Eldridge, owner of Karen's Book Barn on Main Street in LaGrange, said she likes knowing that if something goes wrong at her store when she's not there, the police know how to quickly reach her.

"We get the little stickers in the door where they've come by and checked each day and it's nice," Eldridge said. "It's very nice. Everybody is very excited about it. Actually, through the program and just the fact that they like to be visible, I would say I know at least 75 percent of the department, if not more."

The next step in developing the program is to include information for all the city's public buildings and churches.

"It makes them feel a little bit safer that we are there," the chief said. "Ninety percent of businesses are never going to have a problem. But it's good for that 90 percent to know if there is a problem that we're going to be there, and that's the feedback basically that I'm getting. It just makes them feel a little bit better about the police presence and having that face-to-face interaction. And if there is a problem they know we're going to be on top of it." J

# Oxycodone Dependency Still a Big Kentucky Issue

Kyle Edelen, U. S. Attorney's Office

**A** 2008 Washington Post article cited a survey that claimed one out of five teens found it easier to obtain prescription pills than cigarettes.

In some areas of Kentucky, though, there is another statistic that is even more frightening

"Ninety-nine percent of our drug problem relates to Oxycodone," said Detective Tim Wilson with the Russell Police Department.

Physicians prescribe Oxycodone to patients to relieve moderate to severe pain. Oxycodone, perhaps, is the biggest drug problem because no other drug can match the user's dependency.

"It's a lifelong addiction," said Grayson Police Department Detective Roy Ison.

Kevin Dicken, assistant United States attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky, works with Ison and Wilson on drug cases and said he has seen a dramatic increase in drug prosecutions related to Oxycodone.

"The number of cases, we've prosecuted involving Oxycodone has skyrocketed within the past two years," said Dicken.

In some of those cases the drug prosecutors at the U.S. Attorney's Office have witnessed the potency of an opiate addiction. Dicken mentioned one federal case where an Oxycodone addict could not coherently speak with investigators and prosecutors for two months because the addiction was so severe.

That constant dependency creates a vicious cycle

that destroys families and drains communities.

"A whole generation of families in this county (Carter County) and surrounding counties is gone," Ison said. "It reminds you of a war situation and these addicts become a drain on the community and they don't even take care of their children anymore."

One teenage girl told Ison she was trying to raise her younger brother because her Oxycodone-addicted parents were no longer capable. That type of situation was becoming the norm in Carter County, he said.

Implementing a national tracking system that precisely monitors the number of prescription-pill purchases to help detect abusers is one suggestion Ison offered.

Kentucky is one of 38 states that operates a tracking system. Florida does not, and as a result, many Kentuckians travel there to get their Oxycodone prescriptions.

Dicken, Ison and Wilson helped investigate or prosecute Dr. Roger Browne, a Florida physician who provided illegal prescriptions, mostly Oxycodone, to more than 10 Kentuckians who visited his clinic. Browne and the defendants were sentenced in March.

However, all three agree the best solution is to stop the addiction before it starts.

"Education needs to start now," Wilson said. "It needs to travel through the ranks at schools, going from the kids up to the administrators. Everyone needs to know how this drug works." J



# A PLACE AT THE TABLE

Law enforcement a key stakeholder on drug court teams / Dale G. Morton, Communications Director, Operation UNITE

**A**rrest them. Put them in jail. Throw away the key.

Law enforcement officers have heard this mantra for decades. Call it a “law and order” mentality perpetuated by a host of popular television dramas.

The problem is that jails are overcrowded and costly. Recidivism among those released – often after completing only a percentage of their sentence – is unacceptably high. Most offenders return to the same environment that contributed to their incarceration.

Today, more and more officers are stepping beyond their traditional roles by participating in drug court – a special court given the responsibility to handle

time in jail, eligible participants complete a substance abuse program supervised by a judge,” according to the Administrative Office of the Courts Web site. “Because of the focus on rehabilitation, drug court graduates are more likely to return to productive lives by staying gainfully employed, paying child support and meeting other obligations.”

Drug court is a multi-phase program during which participants undergo long-term treatment and counseling, sanctions, incentives and frequent court appearances. Successful completion of the treatment program – usually one to two years – results in dismissal of the charges, reduced or set-aside sentences, lesser penalties or a combination of these. Most importantly, graduating participants gain the necessary tools to rebuild their lives.

“We’ve tried (incarceration) for so many years but found out that wasn’t the answer to the problem, but a symptom of a bigger problem,” said Paul Hays, deputy law enforcement director for Operation UNITE. “It was a revolving door with people coming in and out of the system. For those of us who have been around awhile and have seen the cycle of addiction, you do feel like you’re spinning your wheels. The only way we can truly make a change is to address the root causes.”

In early 2003, while still commander of Kentucky State Police Post 11 in London, Hays was approached to represent law enforcement on a drug court team. Around the same time, Fifth District Congressman Harold “Hal” Rogers created Operation UNITE in response to the region’s burgeoning problems with prescription narcotics, and Hays quickly joined the effort.

“I thought this (UNITE and drug court) had to be a better approach because it got them treatment and held people more accountable,” said Hays, a member of the drug court team for Clay and Jack-

son counties. “Not only are they receiving treatment, but their families are receiving treatment.”

“It’s the complete picture,” agreed Paul Sandlin, a retired KSP sergeant and police chief at Alice Lloyd College now serving as case management supervisor for UNITE. “I spent so many years in law enforcement that you could always see we were arresting people over and over. Drug court stops this revolving door.”

“For the true criminals ... it’s not going to work,” said Sandlin, a member of drug court teams in Perry and Knott counties. “But for the other, non-violent drug offenders, drug court is the way to go. You can work with them, get them an education and the skills they need to be able to work, pay taxes and take care of their family.”

Operation UNITE launched its drug court initiative in conjunction with the AOC in February 2004. At that time, there were only five drug court programs in the 29-county Fifth Congressional District, which covers southern and eastern Kentucky. UNITE has provided more than \$4.2 million to fund 30 new drug court programs.

Drug courts first were introduced in the state in 1993, but have been implemented by the Kentucky Court of Justice since 1996. All but five of the commonwealth’s 120 counties have a drug court. Statewide, more than 2,600 participants have successfully completed the program and \$2.9 million has been paid in child support, fines, fees and restitution.

Of this amount, UNITE’s drug courts have graduated nearly 800 individuals and more than 550 are currently active in the program. Most importantly, there have been 111 drug-free babies born to participants.

According to the AOC, the biggest return on investment in drug court comes from avoided costs to the criminal justice system with \$2.72 in savings for every dollar spent on graduates. Other financial returns for investing include savings associated with increased child support payments, reduced use of mental health services and reduced domestic violence. In addition, a two-year study found drug court graduates had a much lower felony recidivism rate (20.2 percent) compared to probationers with similar offenses (57.3 percent) and the national drug court recidivism rate (27 percent).

“I’m seeing these people that I’ve arrested getting a second chance to straighten their life up and



become productive citizens,” said Neil Adams, a UNITE detective and member of the Magoffin County drug court team. “I know these people I’m arresting are not going to be put away for life. The second best thing is you see them get straightened up instead of being a burden on society. They’re being given the opportunity to succeed.

“You can’t put everybody in jail,” Adams continued. “There are some people who are salvageable and would have fallen through the cracks. Some just fell in with the wrong crowd or were raised up in it, but they’re not bad people. That’s where you start. You can see [drug court] gives them more self-confidence in themselves.”

There is universal agreement that having a diverse composition is important to a drug court’s success. While each court is different, the team is generally comprised of prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation and parole, law enforcement, treatment and frequently members of the faith-based and business communities.

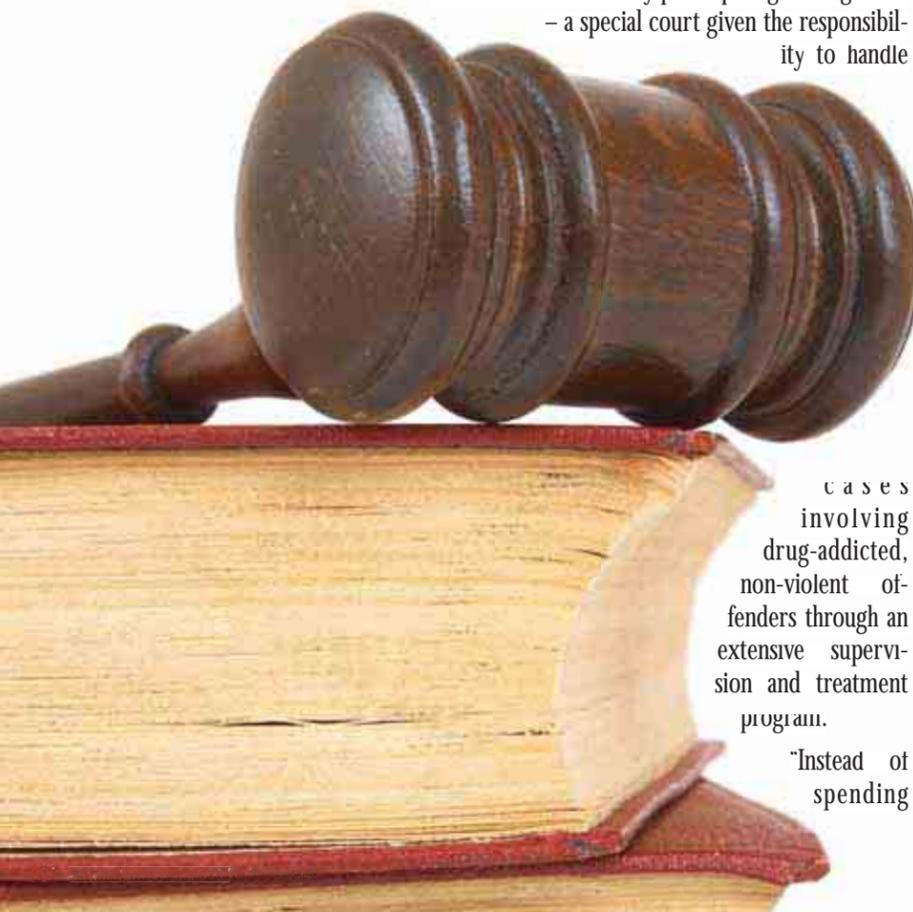
“You have to have that diversity. It allows you to see more than your first impressions. It allows you to see their total lifestyle,” Sandlin said. “Most (participants) are from the community you are from. You see people who you’ve known since the day they were born. Someone (on the team) always knows them or their family.”

This familiarity helps determine who should >>

▲ Clay Circuit Drug Court Judge Oscar Gayle House speaks with a drug court participant about his progress during a weekly meeting of the program.

cases involving drug-addicted, non-violent offenders through an extensive supervision and treatment program.

“Instead of spending



>> qualify for the drug court program and in making decisions affecting their treatment plan.

### Structured Phases

Drug court programs are structured in three phases, each with specific tasks and goals to be completed before advancing to the next phase.

Phase one is a stabilizing period usually lasting four to six weeks. This is followed by an educational period lasting about eight months. The third phase is a self-motivational period lasting about three months.

“... the success rate is significantly better than if they were only going to prison then being released back into society.”

Each of these phases include random urine drug screens, weekly counseling sessions, regular court appearances, contact with drug court staff, maintaining full-time employment or educational training and participation in self-help programs.

Failure to comply with drug court requirements results in sanctions, which include, but are not lim-

ited to, community service, jail and termination from the program.

“Every person has a voice at the table to express their views and opinions on how to proceed with each participant. While there may be differences, ultimately the team arrives at a conclusion as to how to proceed,” Sandlin said. “When you go to court you have a defense attorney advocating for their client. You have a prosecutor representing the people. In this case we’re a team looking for what is in the best interest of the participant and society. The rules are changed in this arena.”

While a drug court team has substantial input, the ultimate decision concerning a defendant rests with the judge.

“It saddens me when anyone messes up and sanctions are imposed because it’s a failure on the part of the participant. But I am encouraged by the successes,” Hays said. “Still, at the worst, the success rate is significantly better than if they were only going to prison then being released back into society.

“Law enforcement as a whole is just beginning to recognize the value of drug court,” Hays added. “There are all kinds of reasons to believe drug court is a better option.” J

For more information about drug court visit <http://courts.ky.gov/stateprograms/drug-court/>, or about Operation UNITE visit [www.operationunite.org](http://www.operationunite.org).



► Circuit Judge Kim Childers reacts to less than favorable news about a drug court participant. Judge Childers oversees programs in Knott and Magoffin counties.

# KENTUCKY, INDIANA FORM METHCHECK PARTNERSHIP

/KSP Submitted

**G**ov. Steve Beshear joined elected and law enforcement officials from Jefferson, Bullitt and several Indiana counties to announce a pilot partnership between Kentucky and southern Indiana. This partnership expands the commonwealth’s statewide electronic pseudoephedrine monitoring system to deter individuals from crossing state lines to purchase the main ingredient in methamphetamine.

While meth labs in many Kentucky counties have dwindled because of MethCheck and laws regulating the sale of pseudoephedrine, labs along some border cities – particularly Louisville, which is separated from Indiana by only a half-mile bridge – have flourished, as individuals simply cross state lines to circumvent Kentucky’s tracking system. In 2008, 29 percent of all reported meth-lab discoveries were in Jefferson and Bullitt counties.

To counter the trend, state and local law enforcement agencies have developed a novel solution. They will work with Indiana counties nearest Kentucky gateways to adopt local ordinances requiring the sale of pseudoephedrine be handled by a pharmacist and allow these counties to participate in the MethCheck program free of charge for one year.

Floyd and Clark (Indiana) counties have passed local ordinances. Kentucky-based Appriss, which runs the MethCheck program, is now working to link the system, which will grant full access to sheriffs’ deputies in Clark and Floyd counties and will include full participation by every drug store in these two counties.

“This partnership offers a tremendous tool

for plugging an opportunity that has allowed individuals to circumvent our laws with relative ease and establish meth labs in Kentucky with ingredients purchased elsewhere,” Beshear said.

The Office of Drug Control Policy will monitor the success of the pilot and work with other border cities that may benefit from a similar program. This pilot program marks the first time that states have shared electronic pseudoephedrine-purchase information on a real-time basis.

“We’re delighted to be involved in MethCheck and recognize its importance in the fight against meth abuse,” said Louisville Metro Police Department Chief Robert White. “This program will extend the investigative reach of our detectives and allow them to be more efficient in tracking people who are crossing the river to skirt Kentucky’s pseudoephedrine law.”

Indiana law enforcement officials agree.

“This is a great step for Kentucky and Indiana law enforcement for creating a partnership in combating the methamphetamine issue that has devastated our communities,” said Stephen Luce, executive director of the Indiana Sheriffs’ Association. “This collaboration is just the beginning of continuing the vision in strengthening public safety in our communities.”

In its first nine months of operation, MethCheck has recorded more than 850,000 sales and has successfully blocked more than 13,000 transactions that would have violated state and federal laws. Those transactions represent 44,000 grams of pseudoephedrine that potentially could have been diverted to produce methamphetamine. J





## Sheriff Garrett Roberts

Lawrence Co. Sheriff

Garrett Roberts is a 1984 graduate of Lawrence County High School and a graduate from the Department of Criminal Justice Training Basic Training Class No. 192. Roberts began his public service career in 1983 with the Louisa Fire Department, which led to a position as a 911 dispatcher for the city of Louisa. He then transferred to the Louisa Police Department as a patrolman in 1987. While serving the police department he held various positions, including chief for more than five years. Roberts was elected sheriff of Lawrence County in January 2003 and is now serving his second term. In December 2005, he was named Kentucky's Sheriff of the Year by the Kentucky Sheriffs' Association. Roberts is also a member of the National Sheriffs' Association. He helped start the Coats for Kids project for Lawrence County school children who did not have winter coats. Roberts started the Ride For The Ranch, a motorcycle ride for the Kentucky Sheriffs' Boys and Girls Ranch. He and his wife, Teka, have two children, Mark and Jessica and two grandchildren, Gavin and Alexis. In his spare time, he enjoys riding his motorcycle and spending time with grandchildren.

**“Having a full-time, certified female deputy would be a great asset to our office, and we look forward to the day we will have one.”**

**What do you think have been the top advancements in Kentucky law enforcement in the last 10 years?**

Training, location of training, and certified court-security officers are the top three. The training new officers receive gives them a basic understanding of what has taken place, responsibility to act and confidence to complete the task at hand. For my office, the location of training is a big hurdle. Instead of sending my deputies to Richmond 150 miles away, I can send them for in-service training in Ashland or Prestonsburg and they can be home every night, which is a tremendous help with fuel cost and time away from home.

The CCSO training puts full-time deputies back out on the road doing patrols and serving papers instead of just serving as bailiffs in the courtroom.

**Do you have a K-9 unit?**

Yes. Liah is a 4-year-old black and sable female German Shepherd, imported from Germany. She is trained in narcotics detection and suspect/victim tracking. Liah has been imprinted to sniff out and indicate on narcotics, some of which are cocaine, heroin, Lorcet and marijuana. Since her tour of duty began in April 2006, Liah has assisted Operation UNITE. She participated in a three-county drug interdiction task force headed up by the Kentucky State Police Special Operations K-9 Division. Liah has trained and worked with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources K-9 units and interdiction and calls for service within Lawrence County.

**What is your working relation with Operation UNITE?**

We have worked very close with Operation UNITE. With only four full-time deputies, UNITE has helped us tremendously with our prescription-drug problem in Lawrence County. When we get a tip on drug activity, I call the UNITE detectives and relay the information to them. They get to work on the case very quickly. We have a very successful conviction rate with two high-profile cases going to trial and receiving a 40-year sentence and a 20-year sentence. Once suspects see themselves on video selling to undercover officers, they go ahead and plead guilty.

**Have you been successful in recruiting women in your agency?**

Lawrence County is a very rural, 420 square miles. We have not been able to recruit any women. One problem I see is safety. Backup can take any where from 30 minutes to an hour depending on where you are in the county. I would like to have a female deputy as a member of our office. Now we use either the office manger or the front desk clerk to help with female transports or female mental patients. Having a full-time, certified female deputy would be a great asset to our office, and we look forward to the day we will have one.

**What equipment have you purchased to make the job easier?**

We have a simulated firearms trainer in our office called Laser Shot. I purchased it in December 2005, and it is similar to the MILO system that the Kentucky Association of Counties takes around the state. I am blessed that I have been able to supply the equipment needed for the deputies to do their jobs more efficiently without asking the fiscal court for financial support to pay for equipment. The Lawrence County Sheriff's Office also uses the KART Digital Property Room Information Management System. It uses a bar code system to enter evidence into the evidence room. We can track the evidence all the way from when the deputy gathers it, along the chain of custody, to when it is taken to the lab and when it is released or ordered destroyed. The system cost \$5,000 and was purchased two years ago.

The sheriff's office is a fee office and has budgeted that money to provide necessary equipment to deputies. Other items include TASERs, in-car video cameras, radars and portable breath testers. The sheriff's office also just received a \$16,000 dollar grant from Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program for the dTective System which helps with video clarification and enhancement. The system takes video surveillance tapes to get the best possible forensic evidence. The sheriff's office has used the system to help identify a suspect in a multi-county theft ring who was stealing electronic equipment from several stores in and around the Lawrence County area. J



## Chief David DeVoss

Murray State University Police Department

David V. DeVoss is a graduate of Henderson High School and Murray State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice and minors in sociology and English. He graduated from the Department of Criminal Justice Training Basic Training Class No. 103 in November 1979. He worked his entire career for Murray State University in various ranks, with various responsibilities from patrol to chief. DeVoss was named chief of police and director of public safety in June 2001 and director of public safety and emergency management in July 2008. He is married to Linda, a Calloway County school teacher. DeVoss is an avid sports enthusiast, who enjoys 5K runs. He also enjoys travel abroad with his wife. A board member and past chairman of Murray/ Calloway County Crime Stoppers, DeVoss said his daily interactions with MSU students, faculty and staff are a vital part of his day as chief.

**“I find that having a representative staff is appealing and am pleased to say it is a best practice for our university community.”**

**Why was the new facility for Murray State University Police Department needed?**

The department formerly was housed in a 50-year-old restaurant, where the evidence room was a frozen-food locker. Investigators were forced to use the communications' kitchen to conduct interviews. The design plan was not conducive to law enforcement activities, to say the least. The Public Safety and Emergency Management Building is now strategically located on a street that geographically divides campus. Officers quickly can respond to any emergency. In addition to an improved response time to calls, this new, prominent location is more convenient for those who wish to conduct business with us.

Finally, visitors easily can locate this facility to receive assistance and information 24/7. Designed for security and function, the 8,300 square foot facility will serve the university community well for many years. An evidence room, with its own environmental control and exhaust system, a communications room, with server closets and room to expand as technology improves and an emergency operations center, are just a few of the features which allow for the improved delivery of law enforcement services.

**What has your department done in the field of emergency management?**

Our department recently has been assigned the responsibility of emergency management for the university. Because of violent incidents at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois, emergency response has moved to the forefront for universities. Resultant federal guidelines enacted by Congress, the Department of Education and Department of Homeland Security dictate much of the course of action for public safety and emergency management. Therefore, the development of crisis intervention teams, the formation of a behavioral assessment group, the development of training and exercises to educate and prepare campus constituents for all types of contingencies, has been a focus for our university and surrounding community. Tactical responses have been emphasized as training has been conducted regularly with the Murray Police Department and the Calloway County Sheriff's Department. Rapid Deployment Training has been conducted in all city and county schools, as well as on the MSU campus.

Emergency notification systems have been purchased and installed to provide immediate dissemination of information to members of the public.

**How does having sworn females on your staff benefit the department?**

We, at MSU, cannot emphasize enough the importance of and the benefits derived from having female officers in the department. Our female officers have proven their value at all levels from patrol, investigation and training to positions of administration and leadership. Around 60 percent of our constituents are female; therefore, I find that having a representative staff is appealing and am pleased to say it is a best practice for our university community. In a university setting, many female crime victims would not have approached, reported or cooperated in an investigation if we had not had a female officer to whom they could relate. Female officers have offered, in a myriad of instances, a unique perspective that has led to clearing important cases. My lament is that, too often, I have lost gifted, talented female officers to other state and federal agencies or to the private sector. We must make every effort to recruit and retain women and minorities in law enforcement and consider their valuable potential and contributions.

**Is your department working on any new projects?**

A major project on the horizon for my agency is the planned expansion of the existing closed-circuit television system installed in the communications room. While entrances, storage rooms, laboratories and other sensitive areas are monitored by stationary cameras, the use of six pan-tilt-zoom cameras installed on the tops of our buildings and controlled by communications operators, have rendered remarkable assistance in clearing numerous types of criminal offenses. Consequently, the aforementioned project allows for 10 more of these PTZ cameras to provide additional campus coverage. These cameras can be programmed to run patterns. Additionally, these patterns can then be reviewed to allow for the identification and arrest of suspects. For instance, suspect vehicles and suspects have been identified on numerous occasions from the review of video from these cameras. J

## Book Review

# BLOOD LESSONS: What Cops Learn from Life-or-Death Encounters

by Chuck Remsberg, Calibre Press, Dallas, Texas, 2008

Reviewed by, Force Science News

**F**orce Science National Advisory Board member and award-winning law enforcement author Chuck Remsberg released a ground-breaking new officer-survival book, "Blood Lessons: What Cops Learn From Life-Or-Death Encounters." It offers major training opportunities regarding traumatic use-of-force confrontations.

The project was completed after more than a year of intense research and personal interviews with officers who unexpectedly found themselves caught in life-threatening and life-changing street confrontations.

In gripping accounts, Remsberg details what these officers experienced and then highlights what they believe other officers can learn from their ordeals that will help them survive ultimate challenges of their own.

"As you move through each vivid re-creation, you're compelled to ask yourself what you would have done each step of the way as the event unfolds, and then to consider how the lessons learned apply to your own patrol practices," said Bill Lewinski, executive director of the Force Science Research Center. "For trainers, "Blood Lessons" is a gold mine for creating realistic survival scenarios, for devising roll call teaching moments, for producing tactical brainstorming sessions and for discussing the potential impact of stress and trauma and the techniques for coping successfully.

"This is not a package of hastily summarized war stories," Lewinski said. "It's a painstakingly compiled collection of thoroughly detailed incidents that pushed officers to the brink and sometimes over it."

In all, 24 incidents are explored in "Blood Lessons." Among them is the experience of a Chicago officer who found herself in a brutal fight with a gang member at the end of a foot pursuit.

"She was a tough and scrappy cop," Remsberg recalled, "but the offender significantly outsized her. After an extended struggle he had her pinned to the ground in a vacant lot, mercilessly beating her face and trying to yank her pistol from its holster."

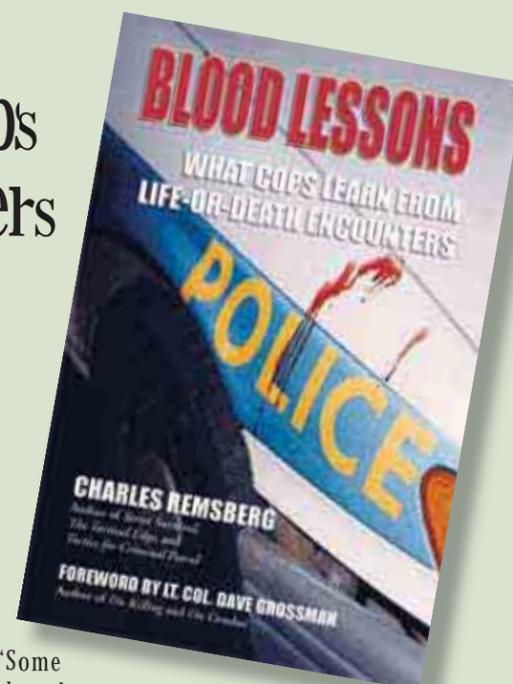
The officer, severely injured, exhausted and nearly unconscious, was about to give up, convinced she was going to die there in the weeds. "Then, very distinctly, in her head, she heard the voices of her three young children," Remsberg said. "They were calling to her, motivating her not to give in, to keep fighting for so much that she had to live for. In those voices, she found a reservoir of strength she didn't know she had. She was able to keep going and prevent her opponent from winning, until a backup officer was able to run into that lot and shoot her attacker dead."

Also included is the story of an officer in Washington, District of Columbia, who was standing on a sidewalk with his partner one night, trying to communicate with a citizen who was deaf. "As these officers struggled to get through to this individual, they were ambushed with gunfire from a passing car. The partner fell dead," Remsberg recalled.

"In the days that followed, the surviving officer was wracked with guilt, feeling that there must have been something he could have done to save his partner's life. After months of depression and mental torture, he went out to the cemetery, knelt by his partner's grave and stuck his gun in his mouth. At the very last moment, he decided not to pull the trigger."

In "Blood Lessons" this officer tells you, in his own words, why.

In each chapter, Remsberg itemizes the important lessons the officers feel they learned from their experiences that would help other officers.



"Some of these lessons are very practical and tactical, some are philosophical and some are what you might consider spiritual," he said. "I call them all 'blood lessons' because they were bought with the physical and emotional blood of the officers involved."

One of the things that makes "Blood Lessons" so unique is the candor with which these officers share the psychological dimensions of their traumatic experiences. Often when people speak with officers about an event like this, they hear about the physical details of the incident – what the suspect did, how the officer responded tactically, what ended up happening legally – but the emotional and psychological realm goes untouched. Not so in this book.

With impressive honesty, the officers in "Blood Lessons" talk not only about what they did, but how they felt during and after their encounters, Lewinski observed.

Although not a happy book, in the traditional sense, "Blood Lessons" is, oddly enough, a 'feel-good' book.

"It is a profound testament to the resiliency of the human spirit and to the unique, remarkable bond that's shared by law enforcement personnel," Remsberg said.

*NOTE: This book is restricted to law enforcement.*

## STRANGE STORIES FROM THE BEAT



/Photo by Elizabeth Thomas

**W**oman Calls 911 Over Lack of Shrimp In Fried Rice A woman called 911 to report she did not get as much shrimp as she wanted in her fried rice at a Fort Worth-area restaurant. The customer was heard telling the dispatcher, "He didn't even put extra shrimp in there." The cook said there was nothing wrong with the meal, and that, "Some customers are happy. Some are not." ■ **Carjacking Suspect Hit with Turkey** Police in Fuquay-Varina, N.C., said witnesses to a carjacking struck the suspect in the head with a frozen turkey after he physically attacked his victim. Police said bystanders grabbed a frozen turkey the victim had purchased and used it to strike the suspect in the head. The suspect allegedly escaped with the victim's car but police soon caught up to the suspect and took him to a local hospital with a serious head wound, investigators said. ■ **Man Gets Leg Back – Less Bullet** After being shot five times, a western Nebraska man went to court to get his prosthetic leg back from prosecutors. The prosthetic left leg had been held since the shooting a week prior because prosecutors wanted to run tests on it and a bullet lodged inside. Police removed the bullet from the leg before returning it. ■ **An Offensive Felony** A suspect was pulled over in South Charleston for driving with his headlights off. He was subsequently arrested after failing a series of sobriety tests. During fingerprinting, the suspect allegedly moved closer to one of the officers and passed gas. In the complaint, the investigating officer wrote that police noticed a "very strong" odor. The alleged stunt led the suspect to be charged with another offense – battery on an officer – in addition to DUI and obstruction.

If you have any funny, interesting or strange stories from the beat, please send them to [elizabeth.thomas@ky.gov](mailto:elizabeth.thomas@ky.gov)