



Stars and Bars



Sheriff Jim Frank

A Quarterly Publication of the Washington County Sheriff's Office

Spring 2001

D.O.A

By Sheriff Frank

There are 230 full time employees carrying out our many functions and responsibilities. We are the fifth largest police agency in Minnesota. Volunteers and part time people help in many different ways. With our size can one person make a difference? The answer is yes. The real question is what kind of a difference do you make.

We all have different talents and abilities. Instruments alone do not make music. An orchestra combines many instruments with talented people and produces an incredible sound. Good musicians not only bring out the best in each other, they will even cover an occasional misplayed note.

Positive people are predisposed to look for good things. They have a mindset to look at the glass as half full. I believe we are the best; our glass is more than half full. Is there room for improvement? Do you work to the best of your ability? Maybe even more importantly, do you have the desire to?

DESIRE can only be determine by you. We are very busy and constantly given the OPPORTUNITY to perform our jobs. You were hired for your ABILITY to do the job. D.O.A. is what you are measured by.

Washington County Jail Receives Perfect Inspection Report

By Commander Chuck Yetter

Sheriff Jim Frank and the Washington County Board of Commissioners recently received the results of the 2001 Minnesota Department of Corrections inspection of the Washington County Jail, which occurred on April 3. This year's results continue the string of perfect compliance ratings, which the jail has received since 1995.

The Washington County Jail has established itself as a leader in meeting or exceeding all State Rules and Standards. These rules and standards govern every aspect of a jail's operations including safety, sanitation, security issues, food and health services and jail programs.

In 1999, the Washington County Jail became the first jail in the State of Minnesota to come into compliance with the newly instituted Chapter 2911 Rules governing adult detention facilities. It did so with a 100% compliance rating.

There are 111 mandatory and 108 non-mandatory standards that a jail must demonstrate compliance with, to achieve a perfect inspection rating. Sheriff Frank responded to the inspection results in a congratulatory memo to staff saying, "We received a 100% compliance rating in both categories. This is almost unheard of in most jails, but is the standard for Washington County."

Explorers Compete in Competition

By Sgt Cheri Dexter

The Washington County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post participated in a state competition on April 26-29, 2001. The competition was held at the Breezy Point Resort with other Explorer Posts from all over the State of Minnesota.

There were eleven events offered at the competition, which are hands on and academic in nature. Events for the team competition are picked by a lottery system.

The Explorers placed in the following events:

1st Place - Slow fire, Air Pistol, Cadaver Search Dogs

3rd Place - Graffiti

5th Place - White Collar Crime, Police Exam

The Explorers would like to thank everyone who helped prepare them for the competition. The Explorers did well, learned a lot and they represented the Washington County Sheriff's Office with pride and professionalism.



Explorer members: Front Row: Amber Lammon, Justin Kaeding, Tena Eells, Sara Barilla, Brad Asplund. Back Row: Chris Layman, Joel Legut, Nick Loperfido, Matt Wieland, Tom Wiberg and Mark Jara

Sgt Warren Ackerson's New Assignment with the Minnesota Police Corps

By Sgt Scott Malinosky

On June 6, 2001 Sgt. Warren Ackerson will begin a new assignment as a Staff Training Sergeant with the Minnesota Police Corps. Sgt. Ackerson, a 12-year veteran of the Washington County Sheriff's Office, has been attending training at the Mississippi Police Corps Development School in preparation for his new duties.

The Police Corps program grew out of the Department of Justice and is designed to bring people with college degrees into law enforcement. The program provides tuition reimbursement to cadets, while providing funds to hiring agencies.

The cadets in the program must have completed college, but may work on graduate studies while in the program. Once they have completed the 22-week academy, the cadets have a 4-year commitment to serve as a police officer. Law enforcement core curriculum and skills are taught during the 22-week academy.

Sgt. Ackerson will be in charge of the daily operation of the academy and will be conducting training scenarios along with skills training. The Minnesota Police Corps program is being administered by the Minnesota State Patrol and will be headquartered at Camp Ripley. The first academy is scheduled to begin January 7th of 2002. Sgt. Ackerson will be "on loan" to the Minnesota State Patrol during his assignment. We wish him well with his new duties.

Barb Reid Promoted to Correctional Sergeant

By Sgt Laura Waldon

On February 14, 2001, a ceremony was held for the promotion of Barb Reid to Correctional Sergeant. Barb's career started in November of 1992 as a Correctional Officer II for the Washington County Sheriff's Office-Jail Division.

Barb has had quite a variety of experiences within the jail. To keep herself challenged, Barb has worked every shift on the adult side of the jail. Barb then bid into the juvenile unit to further her experiences within the facility.

Demanding more from herself, Barb sought out another challenge within the Jail Division. Now a Correctional Sergeant, Barb will have all the variety of challenges she can handle for some time.

Congratulations Barb!!



Barb Reid at her promotional ceremony.

David Wulfin promoted to 911 Center Coordinator

By Troy Ruby

On April 29, 2001, David Wulfin was promoted to the position of 911 Center Coordinator. He was originally hired as a 911 Call Taker in September of 1999 and was promoted to 911 Public Safety Dispatcher that same year.

David has been a member of the Washington County Sheriff's Office Reserve program since 1997. He is currently assigned as the Operations Sergeant with the Reserve unit.

David and his wife Paula live in Stillwater. They have 2 sons, Drew age 4 and Parker age 2.

Congratulations David. We wish you well in your new position!



David Wulfin at his promotional ceremony.

Patrol Division News

By Commander Don McGlothlin

The first quarter of 2001 was significant for two reasons. First the snow and cold posed a number of significant challenges.

The second area was staffing. During the quarter, the Division worked up to four deputies short. Overtime increased significantly to cover those shortages.

During the quarter we lost Deputy Greg Weiss to the Forest Lake Police Department. Deputy Weiss was also a K-9 Deputy.

After some discussion it was decided that Deputy Kirby Livingston, who has extensive experience with training, would attempt to become K-9 Jax new partner. At the end of March, Deputy Livingston and Jax went through a testing program at the St. Paul K9 training facility and passed with flying colors. Jax and Deputy Livingston are now working the night shift as a team.

As we enter the 2nd quarter, the Division will be starting one new employee on April 23rd. We will also be looking for 4 more candidates. We also anticipate that we will be receiving help from the Youth Unit of the Investigative Division for the summer as well as Deputy Petrey from the Mahtomedi School detail. Those additions should help the Patrol get through the quarter with a reduction in the overtime that is presently being used.

Spring Flooding of 2001

By Sgt Cheri Dexter

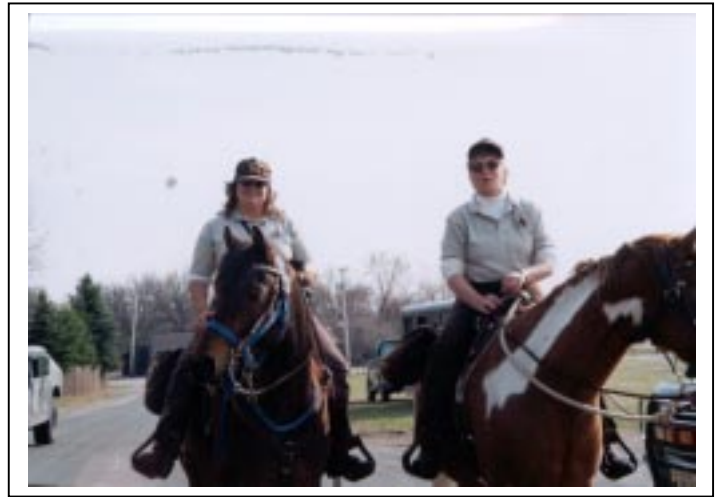
Flooding on the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers this spring, activated several programs within the Sheriff's Office. The communities of St. Croix Beach, St. Mary's Point, Lakeland and Afton benefited the most from the Sheriff's Office. The St. Croix River reached a crest of 692.3 feet above sea level, a near record which surpassed the 1997 level.

The mobile command trailer was set up in the City of St. Croix Beach and the Sheriff's Office coordinated security efforts from it. Deputies manned the command trailer and provided patrol services to the area. Reserve deputies along with the explorers manned barricades to prevent sightseers from entering the area and walking on the dikes. The Mounted Patrol assisted with patrolling the dikes for sightseers and locating possible weak points.

These efforts were teamed with the National Guard and Air Police who were also called upon to support the security efforts in the area. Congratulations on a job well done by everyone!



A flooded house in the City of Lakeland



Mounted Patrol members Laura Kemmis and Becky Brooks.

County Auction

By Michelle Ritzer

The Washington County Auction will be held on Monday, June 18th, 2001. It is schedule to start at 4:00 p.m. The auction will be located at the Washington County Public Works building, 11660 Myeron Road, Stillwater Township.

The list of auction items is currently being prepared. The public and employees will be notified when the list appears on the county website in May. The Sheriff's Office currently has title to 34 items consisting of vehicles, trucks and motorcycles obtained by forfeiture.

Sheriff's Office Volunteers Recognized

By Sgt Cheri Dexter

On April 4, 2001, a recognition dinner was held for 67 jail and law enforcement services volunteers. The volunteers who assist in the jail provide services in the areas of religious programs, chemical dependency and education opportunities. The volunteers who assist law enforcement provide services in Mounted Patrol, Chaplain Corps, Water Recovery, Law Enforcement Explorers and Reserve Deputy Sheriff's.

Sheriff Frank emphasized the importance of volunteers and the tremendous contributions they make to the county. Sheriff Frank also expressed his appreciation to the family members of the volunteers.

Law enforcement volunteers contributed over 10,138 hours of service and jail volunteers contributed over 1,404 hours of service to Washington County in 2000. We are better able to serve the citizens of Washington County with the work of our volunteers.



Sheriff Frank speaking at the volunteer recognition banquet.

HR Corner

By Jeneen Johnson

The spring and summer months are here and I have come to learn that these are some of the busiest months for the Sheriff's Office. The increased activity spills over from the patrol & investigative division, to the jail, then onto the courts and along the way it makes a stop or two in the Special Services Division.

So how do we manage the stress that comes with the increase in activity? While a large number of us thrive on the increased activity and miss it when it is gone, others need to find a stress buster that works for them. Perhaps it is playing a round of golf, fishing, listening to music, watching or participating in a sport, enjoying time by ourselves or with family or friends.

If none of these help you, the County provides a great resource for employees through the Sand Creek Group located in Stillwater. The Sand Creek Group offers confidential counseling and referral services to employees and their family members through our Employee Assistance Program contract.

The Sand Creek counselors are available 24 hours a day 7 days a week. They can be reached at 651-430-3383 or 1-800-632-7643. Up to four visits are paid through our contract. If additional visits are needed the Sand Creek counselor will refer you to another counselor covered by your health insurance contract.

Recently, I updated a Disability Resources and Referral Guide for employees who are facing either a temporary or a permanent disability that will result in their retirement from County service. The brochure is a quick read with the basic information and phone numbers for various agencies. Anyone interested in a copy can request one through phone or e-mail.

My e-mail address has changed to:

Jeneen.Johnson@co.washington.mn.us

Investigation Warrants

By Commander Mike Johnson

Over the last several weeks, investigators have drafted and served several effective search warrants. All of the warrants were for crimes committed by persons known to us as frequent offenders.

The Narcotics Unit completed a warrant for a home in Cottage Grove where methamphetamine was being manufactured. The suspect had been served with a search warrant earlier in the year and had been arrested. He was out on bail awaiting trial when the second warrant was served. The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) assisted our narcotics investigators with the execution of the warrant. The suspect is currently in jail being held on one million dollars bail. He has not yet been able to post a bond or bail for that amount. The suspect had told several people that he was continuing to manufacture meth in his home because nothing more could happen to him.

Investigators from the South and North Team worked with St. Croix County and were able to develop probable cause for warrants in St. Paul and Cottage Grove. The warrants were issued to search for property taken in burglaries from St. Croix County Wisconsin and from Washington County. One suspect was arrested in Washington County less than three years ago for a string of residential burglaries. He was sent to prison and was released less than six months ago. The warrants were successful and charges have been filed in Wisconsin and have been requested in Washington County. Two active “fences” from Cottage Grove were identified in this investigation and charges have been requested against them for possession and sale of stolen property. The “fences” were using a computer stolen in one of our burglaries to access the Internet auction site e-bay and sell stolen property over the Internet. Wisconsin has advised us the suspect may be required to serve up to ten years for the burglaries he committed in their area.

Over the last several weeks a cooperative investigation was conducted with the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Agency (ATF). Several stolen firearms and a sawed off shotgun were purchased from a Scandia resident. The North Team drafted a search warrant last week. Firearms taken in burglaries in northern Washington County were recovered along with other stolen items. A suspect was arrested for possession and sale of stolen firearms and stolen property. Charges for possession and sale of altered and stolen firearms are pending with the federal authorities.

A series of warrants were served last week on a narcotics offender. IRS participated in the warrants when investigators determined the suspect had large amounts of money moving through his accounts. The suspect was arrested for possession of cocaine. IRS investigators and narcotics investigators continue to evaluate the information gathered in those warrants.

A warrant was also served in White Bear Lake last week. Items stolen from a burglary of a church in Hugo were recovered. One adult and one juvenile were arrested and are pending for trial on that case.

Most of the suspects arrested in the warrants from the last several weeks are well known to us. The presence of the federal agencies at some of these warrants increases the odds of some of the offenders facing federal charges. It is also indicative of good investigative work being done by our people and of a spirit of cooperation with other agencies. This cooperation will hopefully prevent some of these offenders from creating new victims in our county.



NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

By Sgt Bernie Morency

The week of April 8-14, 2001, was National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. On Monday April 9, the Washington County Sheriff's Office hosted a cake and coffee reception to honor all the Public Safety Telecommunicators in Washington County. Sheriff Frank, the division commanders, and staff from other divisions, attended the reception.

National Public Safety Telecommunicators week is observed every year to recognize all public safety telecommunicators and the difficult job they do. The Washington County Sheriff's Office Communications Center is the destination for all 911 and non-emergency telephone calls in Washington County with the exception of Cottage Grove. In addition to deputies, the Communications Center also provides radio-dispatching services for eight city police departments and over a dozen fire departments. Full-time call takers and dispatchers as well as 67-day temporary employees staff the Communications Center.

The Communications Center staff is a proud and professional group who strive to provide the best customer service to the citizens of Washington County. We thank them for the job they do.



Communication staff members present at the ceremony were: Chris O'Brien, Katie Cafferty, Diane Ege, Linda Stage and Sgt Bernie Morency.

S.R.T. Training at Camp Ripley 2001

Sgt. Larry Osterman

S.R.T. Training was held at Camp Ripley April 30th through May 4th with the following team members attending: From the Cottage Grove Police Department, Officer Greg Rinzel, Officer Randy McAlister and Sgt. Craig Woolery; from the Woodbury Police Department, Officer Brett Billmeyer, and from the Washington County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Dan Starry, K-9 Partner Smokey, Deputy Brian Mueller, Deputy Craig Olson, Deputy Tim Wessels and Sgt. Larry Osterman.

The first day of training covered such topics as weapon retention, defensive tactics, rapid deployment, an active shooter response, ladder use and confined space clearing. The team also had training on land navigation instructions, the use of compass points and converting military data to use on civilian maps and GPS data

On Tuesday, the team attended circuit training all day. The first portion the team participated in was the confidence course. We were one of the few teams to complete the course with all of our members participating. The next circuit training was a Hogan's Alley situation with automated targets. For the sub gun course, we elected to use full auto with controlled fire.

The next round of circuit training brought the Washington County team to the Repel Tower. Washington County team members all proceeded to the Advance Tower and completed multiple repels. Deputy Mueller, Sgt. Woolery and Sgt. Osterman, also repelled off the simulated helicopter skids.

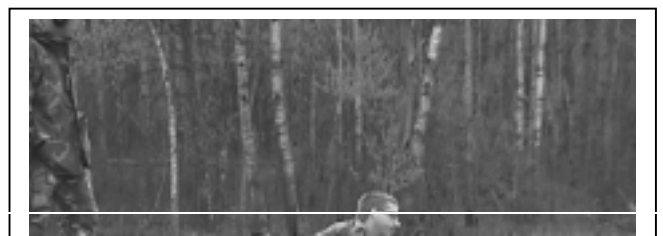
On Wednesday, the team participated in a tactical exercise in which we conducted field operations with the Dakota County Team. Our members were complimented by staff conducting the operation as well as the role players for their abilities to move swiftly, quietly and remain undetected in the field. All members of the TEAM did an outstanding job!

On Thursday, our team participated in firearms courses ranging from close quarters automatic weapons fire to automated handgun to long range sniper and M-16 fire.

This experience has left all the members with a better understanding of each other's perceptions and beliefs on several different subjects. Camp Ripley was truly a learning experience again this year.



Brian Mueller repelling off the simulated helicopter skids.



Dan Starry on the M-16 range.

Law Enforcement Memorial Service

By Sgt Dave Frantsi

Most people see May 15th as just another day. This is not the case for members of the law enforcement community. For these people, May 15th is a day of great significance. It is Law Enforcement Memorial Day.

This is the day that has been set aside to honor fallen law enforcement officers. It also provides the opportunity to express appreciation for the dedication and professionalism of all officers. The spirit of this day was the driving force which launched a recent tradition in the Washington County Sheriff's Office. This tradition is the annual Law Enforcement Memorial Day Ceremony.

The ceremony is open to the public. Considerable forethought and effort are made to insure the ceremony is worthy of the occasion. As a result, the ceremony has always been well attended by law enforcement representatives as well as the general public.

When you talk about law enforcement officers, most people think of the patrol officer, investigator or narcotics officer. Very few people consider the correctional officer. The fact is that correctional officers, especially those working in a county jail, have a very close association with law enforcement. This association is recognized by the Washington County Sheriff's Office which includes corrections in the law enforcement ceremony.

This year's ceremony was blessed with a very warm, sunny day to honor the fallen officers. The keynote speaker for the ceremony was Michael Champion, Superintendent of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. He talked about being professional and always giving your best effort because you represent all officers who have fallen in the line of duty.

The success of this year's ceremony can be found in the diverse groups and individuals who came together to produce a quality program. A special thanks to the Stillwater Senior High School Symphonic Band, Stillwater VFW Post 323, Fine Host/Best Foods, Reverend Rick Jacobsen, Michael Champion, Kevin Rabbit, Salem Lutheran Church, and First Presbyterian Church for joining with the Sheriff's Office employees to create a fine program for a very special day.



Sheriff Frank opened the Law Enforcement Memorial Service



Michael Campion from the BCA spoke at the memorial service



Washington County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard



This year's ceremony was well attended by the public and law enforcement personnel.

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