



# Stars and Bars



Sheriff Jim Frank

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## Solutions

By Sheriff Jim Frank

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who put in a consistent extra effort to ensure our services are provided in the best way possible. It is very easy to sit back and find what is not working well and wait for **someone** to fix it. It takes commitment to identify ways to improve things. The old adage of bringing forth solutions not problems seems to fit our organization well. Many solutions have been identified after a multi-divisional approach was used to tackle the issue. Team work is alive and well in our agency.

A good example of team work is in the Court Security unit. A decision was made to increase screening for weapons in the courts area by establishing one control point. Correctional Officers were called on to assist in this process until permanent personnel could be identified and trained. The results have been remarkable.

Because of timelines and the number of business units we have throughout the organization and our twenty-four hour operation, it has always been a challenge to get time cards processed and submitted in a short amount of time. Through team work, an electronic time card was developed. We have reduced the number of people managing time entry and greatly improved the process. The concept is now being introduced county wide.

The list of accomplishments dips into every facet of our agency and extends outside in some cases. Merging two special weapons teams into one county wide Special Response Team (SRT) took commitment and effort from our office and all of the other police agencies in the county. The end result is a more efficient and effective ability to respond to a crisis situation anywhere in the county.

Our citizens are well served by your Commitment to Excellence.

## Business Continuity Plan

By Commander Bernie Morency

Washington County is currently in the process of developing a business continuity plan. While we at the Sheriff's Office are already familiar with the concept of business continuity, we have never really put a name to it.

In business continuity, planning for and considering ways to eliminate or reduce the impact of an emergency is essential to restoring operations, minimizing financial losses, damage to equipment or facilities, regulatory fines or business interruption.

As much as possible, this plan provides for continued use of our normal decision-making and action processes. The plan does, however, require preplanning and coordination of these normal activities.

Buildings, business records and equipment may be destroyed, lost, or inaccessible; employees may not be able to work or get to work. Obviously, our reactions to the various possibilities will depend upon the type of interruption.

This plan is not designed to handle the cause of the crisis or interruption. The plan does attempt to minimize the effects of that interruption by anticipating major problems and providing a process for immediate decision-making, continued operations, and return-to-normal through a restoration process.

When you consider all we do on a daily basis, and how important what we do is to the public good, restoring our ability to resume normal operations is a high priority. The business continuity plan will lay out the steps we need to take to accomplish our critical functions.

The Sheriff's Office plan is well on its way to completion. The County plan is expected to be completed sometime this fall.

# SRT

By Brian Mueller



Within the last year and a half the Washington County Special Response Team (SRT) has added team members to reflect the increasing population in Washington County. Nearly all police agencies within the county are represented in the multi-jurisdictional team.

The team currently has a total of 45 members, 32 of which are assigned to the tactical unit, 7 as negotiators and 6 in communications.

All units train separately throughout the year and together during our summer and winter practical. The tactical unit is comprised of 13 deputies, 7 Woodbury Officers, 5 Cottage Grove Officers, 2 officers each from Stillwater and Forest Lake and one officer each from Oak Park Heights and St. Paul Park and Bayport.

We train monthly and once per year a

contingent of team members are sent to a week long training session hosted by the Southeast Metro Tactical Officers Association (S.E.M.T.O.A.). This training is held alternately at the army bases at Camp Ripley, MN and Fort Dodge, IA. The Washington County SRT also belongs to the Special Operations Training Association of the Upper Midwest (S.O.T.A) and the National Tactical Officers Association (N.T.O.A.).



Along with our monthly training, team members are also sent to specialized training throughout the year. All tactical team members are cross-trained in the areas of entry, tactical and deliberate searching, perimeter, chemical munitions and less lethal deployment, field searching, hostage rescue and mobile field force operations. We have seven tactical officers who are also cross trained as medics, five marksmen (snipers) and three K-9 handlers.



Seventeen team members have recently volunteered to be a part of a newly formed self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) unit. This unit was formed to provide our team the capability to conduct operations in clandestine drug labs, chemical storage facilities or any environment where there may be an inhalation hazard, oxygen deficiency or possibility of smoke inhalation. All SCBA unit members completed a 24 hour certification course. We suspect that the SCBA unit will be utilized primarily to execute narcotics search warrants at known or suspected drug labs.

The funds to form this unit and pay for the equipment and training were obtained through a WMD grant.

The Washington County SRT is on-call 24/7/365 for calls for service within Washington County. SRT may also be subject to calls for assistance outside of Washington County. This team is comprised of highly motivated, dedicated and professional team members. We are prepared to serve the citizens of Washington County by utilizing our knowledge, training to ensure the safest resolution to a critical incident.



## Torch Run

By Sgt Cheri Dexter

The Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run was held on June 17, 2004. The Washington County Sheriff's Office had a total of 15 runners from Patrol, Jail, Communication Center, Reserves and Explorers. All proceeds raised by our portion of the run stays in Washington County to help fund area special athletes.

Our leg of the run began in Duluth on June 14th. Washington County runners started from the north county line at 240th and headed south on Hwy 61 towards Hugo. In Hugo, our leg joined a second leg that came from Morehead. The run continued south to the City of White Bear Lake, where we handed the torch to White Bear Lake Police. The run then continued to the U of M.

Reserve Deputy Dennis Vicha's son, Johnny, joined the run just North of Hugo. Johnny had just won a gold medal in the 400 meter walk. Johnny was still wearing his entry number and gold medal when he carried the torch into downtown Hugo. It was an honor to have him help us this year!



Craig Cilley, Johnny Vicha, Ryan Meverden  
Andy Loehr and Brain Land



Runners: Brian Land, Jeff Marose, Cheri Dexter, Amber Lammon, Breanna Dexter, Andy Loehr, Tim Tuthill, Justin Kaeding, Kim Garvey, Jim Gribble, Ryan Meverden, Craig Cilley, Dennis Vicha, Wayne Johnson, Nick Loperfido.

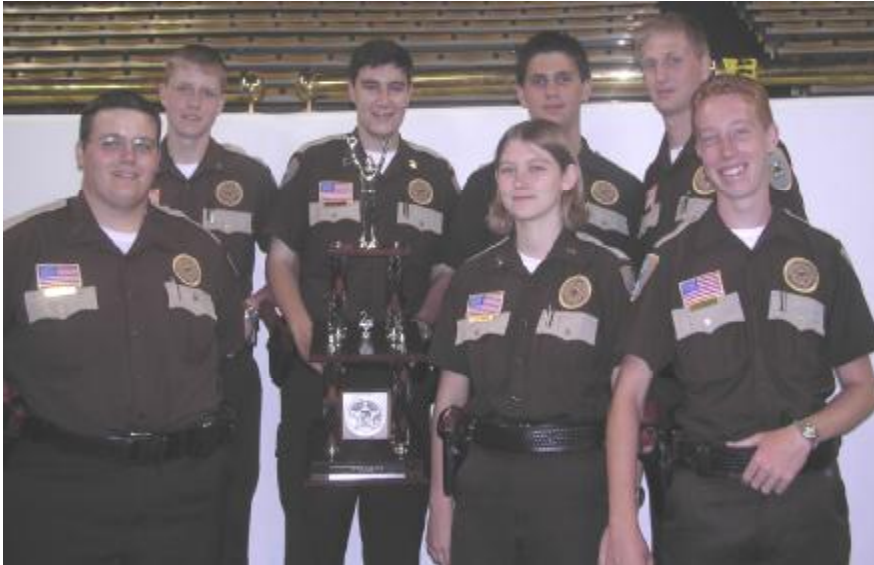
# Explorers Attend National Competition

By Sgt Cheri Dexter

The Explorers attended the National Competition in Atlanta, GA, July 17-25th, 2004. The Explorers raised money over the past two years by working odd jobs for local businesses, selling bears, ink jet recycle program, candy and pop sales. The Explorers were able to send 7 members without having to pay for travel or registration cost. Thank you to everyone who helps the Explorers by supporting their fund-raising efforts!

The Explorers once again did an outstanding job representing our County. They placed second in the nation in crime scene. The Explorers were asked to serve a dynamic search warrant and then process the scene. The competition was so close that they missed first place by .5 points. The tie breaker was the amount of time it took to complete the event. The first place team finished their event a few seconds sooner than our team.

The Explorers were also able to attend conference events and classroom sessions put on by the armed forces and federal



departments. There was a career fair, physical agility course, beam shoot and FATS. The Explorers were also able to take a raft trip down the Chattahoochee River. The entire team of 7 worked together to get their raft through the rapids. The team also was able to go to Kennesaw National Park and learn about the civil war battle that occurred there. This was the last stand before the North moved on Atlanta.

As you can see this was a great trip and the Explorers would again like to thank everyone who helped.

Front row: Brad Asplund, Amber Lammon, Steve Bell

Back row: Randy Helms, Nick Loperfido, Asa Engstrum, Mark Jara

## Court Security Metal Detection:

Sgt Richard Peterson

As of May 17, 2004, Correctional Officers from the Washington County Jail have been assigned to staffing metal detection during this time of transition. Since the inception of the metal detector at the Government Center, court security staff, with the assistance of the correctional officers, made six misdemeanor arrests and one felony arrest for drug possession. There have been 293 items that may be construed as weapons from people entering the court area. All but 16 of those items were returned.

On June 2, 2004, the first of three Deputies joined the Court Security Unit. Deputy Jerry Lannon transferred to the Court Security Unit from the Patrol Division. He was followed by Sara Puelen on August 22 and Craig Cilley on August 29. These two events are the first steps towards further enhancing the Sheriff's Office security measures within the Washington County Government Center.

# Patrol Division News:

Commander Tim Tuthill

The Patrol Division has been actively training the next generation of Washington County Patrol Deputies during this past spring / summer of 2004. The last of eight newly hired Deputies have just taken to the street on solo patrol and are actively engaged in their new duties. They each worked their way through an individualized Field Training Program which was scheduled to run 14 weeks in length.

The new additions to the Patrol Division include:

Deputy Chris Howard

Deputy Kyle Olson

Deputy Jason Jensen

Deputy Angela Hanson

Deputy Jason Stafne

Deputy Michelle Folendorf

Deputy Lee Bloomquist

Deputy Gretchen Bloss

Congratulations to each of the Deputies with a special thanks to the Field Training Officers and individual Deputies who helped mentor them throughout their training! The longer I remain involved in the law enforcement profession, the more it becomes evident that success is built on team work, not only among each of the Deputies but the general public. We're all invested and need to work as a team to address quality of life issues so we all can benefit from the great opportunities that Washington County has to offer.

Once again, I'm reminded to make mention of the necessity to remain alert while operating motor vehicles on our roadways and to avoid the influence of alcohol consumption upon your abilities to drive and perceive your surroundings. We've had a number of accidents in the county this year, which have resulted in detrimental consequences to not only the drivers and occupants but the extended family members and loved ones left behind. All of the noted accidents have not been exclusive to alcohol but a high proportion has and in most cases has involved drivers 25 and younger.

Please do whatever you can to interject yourself when situations dictate to help minimize these occurrences. The Sheriff's Office continues to engage in extra enforcement initiatives and public education but needs the investment of all to make the necessary impact on the front end of an otherwise precarious situation from occurring.

On a separate note, the Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit participated as a team during their annual Region XVIII K-9 Field Trials held in Ashland, Wisconsin on June 27, 2004. During the trials, Deputies and their K-9 partners display their levels of expertise in such areas as agility, suspect apprehension, obedience etc..... During this year's Regional Trials, Deputy Kirby Livingston and his partner Jaxx were awarded first place in obedience. Congratulations to Kirby and the entire K-9 team for their successful completion of trials and their efforts in making a good showing on behalf of the Washington County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit. A trophy is on display in the Patrol Division acknowledging the accomplishment.

# State Inmates in County Jails

By Jail Commander Yetter

The inmate population count has been lower than usual this summer, primarily because there have been fewer lease inmates. There is one inmate lease population that is on the increase however and those are Minnesota Department of Corrections inmates.

Typically, inmates who are committed to the Commissioner of Corrections are transported to the Minnesota Correctional Facility in St. Cloud and they are left there for processing into the prison system. Because of legislative action, as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003, fewer inmates are making this trip to St. Cloud.

## 609.105 Sentence of Imprisonment.

Subdivision 1. Sentence to less than 180 days. In a felony sentence to imprisonment, when the remaining term of imprisonment is for 180 days or less, the defendant shall be committed to the custody of the commissioner of corrections and must serve the remaining term of imprisonment at a workhouse, work farm, county jail, or other place authorized by law.

This amendment to MSA 609.105 means that since July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003, inmates that are committed to the Commissioner of Corrections, but because of credit for time served have 180 days or less left to serve on their sentence, are required to serve their sentence at the local jail. These inmates are designated as Short Term Offenders (STO's). From July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, the Washington County Jail held thirty-seven (37) STO's for a total of 2,596 days.

While the Minnesota Legislature did not appropriate enough funds to reimburse jails at current per diem rates, the Washington County Jail did receive almost \$35,000 for housing these inmates which translates to approximately \$13.50 per day, per STO. Jails that have crowding problems of their own are not eager to be a solution to the State's crowding problems, but because of prison overcrowding and the cost of prison construction, it is unlikely that these inmates will be "given back" to the Department of Corrections anytime soon.



## New K-9

By Keith Anderson

The Washington County Sheriff's Office has received a new drug K-9 which will be assigned to the Narcotic's Unit. Washington County Schools in partnership with 3M have purchased a black lab whose name is She is a welcome addition to the Narcotic's Unit.

# 2004 WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR

By Jill Strong



Sgt Anschutz and K-9 Storm

The 133rd Washington County Fair was held on Wednesday, August 4, 2004 through Sunday, August 8, 2004. The weather this year was a little more fall-like than summer, but it didn't seem to keep the loyal fair fans away.

There were a few changes made this year including the speed pitch booth. The speed pitch had a new fenced area set up to contain the balls making it a lot easier to manage. No stray pitches upsetting the cattle or people strolling by.

The K-9 demonstration was moved to a great new location. Sgt. Anschutz, his K-9 Storm and Deputy Livingston participated in some of the K-9 demonstrations. The K-9's are trained and must have agility and obedience when maneuvering the obstacle course.



The Mounted Patrol also put on a demonstration. The horses are trained to endure and trust their riders. They are trained to step on different surfaces when they are on a search which might include bridges, brush or mattresses that may be lying in ditches. They are also trained to stay calm and in place while people/children make loud noises at events.

The display this year was made up of a snowmobile and an ATV used by the Water, Parks and Trails Deputies and volunteers. Also on display was an old bullet-proof vest that resembled more the vest from an old 3-piece suit than a vest the deputies wear today.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office acknowledges all the personnel and volunteers that set up and the take down of the Sheriff's Office Speed Pitch booth, and the Special Operations/Command Post Trailer.



Explorer Speed Pitch Booth



CO II Cassie Vanderheyden

## Highlights from National Night Out



Deputy Dan Starry and K-9 Smokey



Deputy Joel Legut



Explorers and reserves helping out at local events.



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