

# Charles County's Sheriff Office Annual Report 2002



Sheriff Frederick E. Davis



The men and women of the Charles County Sheriff's Office are dedicated to service through superior performance. We believe mutual respect, trust and pride in our organization, combined with traditional values and innovative techniques, will ensure the community's right to a safe environment.



VALUE STATEMENTS

*Life* We believe the protection of life is our highest priority.

*Respect* We believe in individual human dignity and the preservation of human rights under the rule and spirit of law, always treating others as we would like to be treated.

*Integrity* We believe in maintaining the public trust by holding ourselves accountable to the highest moral and ethical standards.

*Fairness* We believe in the delivery of service that provides fair and equal treatment to all citizens without regard to age, gender, race, creed, color, religion or national origin.

*Trust* We believe in order to provide effective service we must develop and maintain the confidence of the community.

*Partnerships* We believe in working in partnership with the community and each other to identify and resolve problems and issues which affect the safety of our citizens.

*Loyalty* We believe in an allegiance to the community, to the organization and to each other.

*Professionalism* We believe in delivering a level of service which will reflect the pride we have in our community and organization.

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## To the Citizens of Charles County:

It is with both pride and pleasure that I present to you the 2002 Annual Report for the Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO).

This year will be remembered for the tough challenges it presented and the perseverance those challenges were met with. A fierce tornado in April, sniper attacks in October and an impending war at the year's end modified our duties as law enforcement officers as citizens grappled with unprecedented concerns.

Though enduring these challenges was demanding, the spirit of Charles County prevailed. Seconds after the tornado struck, our officers responded to ensure the safety of our citizens and the security of their property, working overtime and off-duty hours to accomplish this formidable task. When sniper attacks just across our County borders left our citizens on edge, officers responded to increased calls for service, vehicle lookouts and



checkpoints at the County lines. And as the United States prepared for war and issued terror alerts, our officers assumed very active roles in homeland security.

The events of this year reaffirmed the CCSO's commitment to serving and protecting its citizens. No matter what obstacle presents itself, we do not cower and we do not tire. A contingency of 225 sworn officers, 112

correctional officers and 172 civilian employees are committed to the tradition of excellence and supreme service that has long defined the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

We operate effectively, but we do not operate alone. I want to thank the 120,000 citizens of Charles County and the federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and elected officials for all their support this year and in years past. These partnerships strengthen our community and give us hope for our future.

We end this year mindful of the lessons we've learned and confident we can meet the challenges that lie ahead. The Charles County Sheriff's Office will continue to blend traditional policing activities with innovative approaches to provide the citizens of Charles County with the professional, dedicated and efficient law enforcement services they have come to expect.

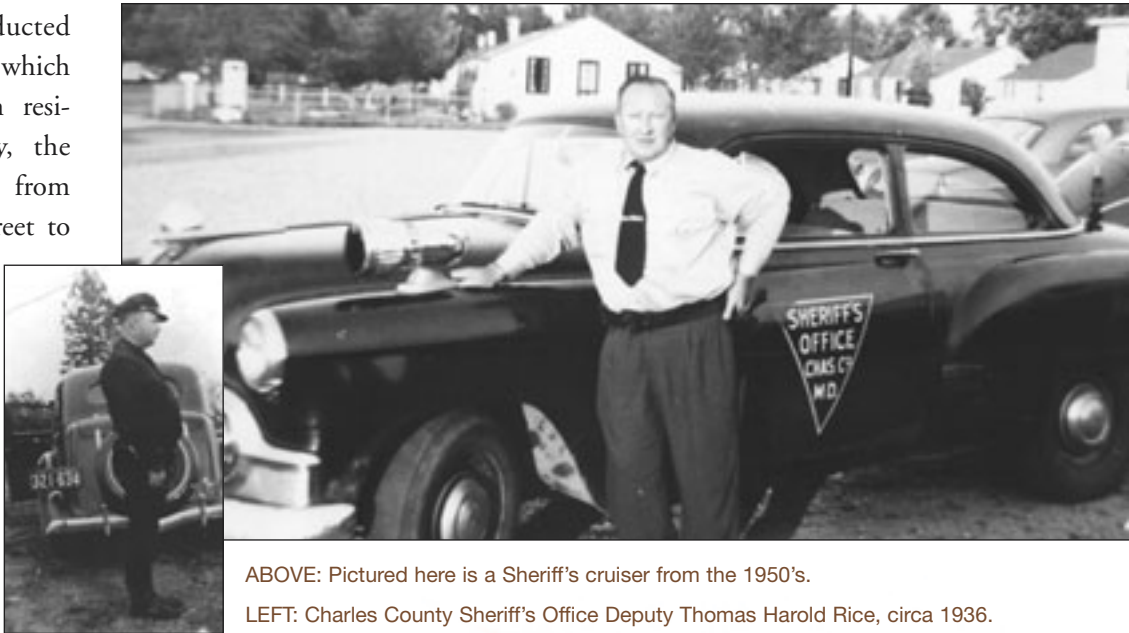
God Bless,

Sheriff Frederick E. Davis



Law enforcement services began in Charles County in 1658, when Nicholas Gwyther was simultaneously appointed Sheriff in Charles and St. Mary's counties. The original duties of the Sheriff included collecting taxes, serving warrants, apprehending criminals, executing criminals and occasionally investigating alleged witchcraft.

**I**nitially, the Sheriff conducted business wherever he could, which usually meant at his own residence. In the 20th century, the Sheriff's Headquarters moved from the courthouse on Charles Street to an abandoned military site on Radio Station Road and then to a renovated truck stop on Crain Highway. The current Headquarters, also located on Crain Highway in La Plata, opened in July 2000 and is the first building ever built specifically to serve as the flagship of the Agency.



ABOVE: Pictured here is a Sheriff's cruiser from the 1950's.

LEFT: Charles County Sheriff's Office Deputy Thomas Harold Rice, circa 1936.

The first county jail was built next to the original courthouse, located in the former county seat of Port Tobacco. The next two jails, built behind the current courthouse in La Plata in 1897 and 1926 are still used by Sheriff's Office personnel for Traffic Operations and Court Holding. The jail that was operational from 1981-1995 is located behind the District I Station in La Plata and currently houses Judicial Services employees and staff from the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation. The current Detention Center, which can hold up to 430

inmates, is located behind the Headquarters building.

The Sheriff's Office has grown from a one-man operation to a full-service law enforcement agency of more than 500 employees. As the principal law enforcement agency in Charles County, officers are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to respond to calls for service. ■

By all accounts, 2002 was a busy and demanding year for the Charles County Sheriff's Office. In addition to tending to the responsibilities commonly associated with law enforcement, the Agency was met with the unique challenges of a tornado in La Plata and serial sniper-style attacks in the metropolitan area. Despite the time and effort required by these challenges, the Agency continued to enhance operations and provide Charles County citizens with a Sheriff's Office they can take pride in.

### COURAGE AMIDST DESTRUCTION

#### *Charles County Rises from the Tornado*

**O**n April 28 at 7:05 p.m., Charles County changed forever. From a dark sky spawned a tornado that, with winds exceeding 250 mph, left only destruction and frightened citizens in its wake. The tornado cut a 24-mile swath through Benedict, Hughesville and La Plata, which suffered the most damage.

In the moments after the storm passed, every available police, fire and emergency medical service unit responded to La Plata to provide any assistance they could, and community volunteers lent a caring and gracious hand as well. They worked through the night and into the early morning hours, rescuing victims, securing property and beginning a clean-up effort like nothing ever undertaken in this community before. In only minutes, La Plata had become an unfamiliar sight.

There were times when it seemed impossible anyone could rise from such a harrowing ordeal, but if anyone can, it's the citizens of Charles County. In the hours and days following the tornado, so many volunteers wanted to help,



including law enforcement officers from as near as St. Mary's County and as far as Ocean City.

The employees of the Charles County Sheriff's Office were also vital in the aftermath of the storm. Not only did the Agency take care of its policing responsibilities, but many of the employees—sworn, corrections and civilian alike—helped by sifting through the rubble, aiding the clean-up effort and providing food and drinks to the other volunteers. In some cases, employees would arrive in La Plata after their shifts to volunteer their hands and caring hearts.

Days turned into weeks and weeks into months, and the recovery effort became the rebuilding effort. By the year's end, La Plata's look changed

once more, but this time, for the better. Homes and businesses began to rebuild and the fear in citizens began to subside.

Government officials at the local, state and federal levels provided much needed financial assistance to the citizens affected by the tornado. It's the caring and giving spirit of Charles County's citizens, however, that allowed us to find a light in the darkness. Every person who volunteered or offered a prayer played a critical role in the recovery effort.

The tornado caused millions of dollars in property damage, from which we are still recovering. What's worse is it claimed five precious lives. It is in their honor that the spirit of La Plata lives on.

## A TERRORIZED REGION

### *Snipers Strike Fear in the Metro Area*

Last October, in a period of just over three weeks, 10 people were killed and three more were injured in the Metropolitan region. The culprits, who were dubbed the “Serial Snipers” because of their sniper-like attacks, would prey on unsuspecting victims—people mowing the lawn, pumping gas or just walking across a parking lot—and then flee undetected.

Although none of the attacks occurred in Charles County, the close proximity of the incidents left us vulnerable and struck fear in many Charles County residents. The Sheriff’s Office worked diligently with regional law enforcement officials to aid in the investigation and plan for a possible attack in the County.

After many of the attacks, members of our Emergency Services Team would respond to the Prince George’s County and Virginia State lines and set up check points for suspicious vehicles. After a lookout was issued for a white box truck possibly involved in the incidents, officers responded to dozens and dozens of calls for service to investigate vehicles matching that description.

On October 9, the snipers struck at a middle school in Bowie, just over the Prince George’s County line, critically injuring one of its students. The snipers were said to have left behind a note warning that even children were not safe from their wrath. The Charles County Sheriff’s Office responded to this threat and commu-



Officers and members of the Emergency Services Team search a white van that matched the description of a vehicle in the sniper shootings lookout.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MARYLAND INDEPENDENT  
PHOTO COURTESY OF SPENCER STEVENSON

nity apprehension by placing an officer at every public school in the County. The Sheriff’s Office also responded to a call regarding an armed suspicious subject in the woods at a local elementary school. Officers quickly surrounded the school, allowing no one to enter or exit the perimeter they had established. After searching the area for two hours, officers did not locate anything suspicious.

On October 23, acting on information from the media, a citizen called police to report two people whom he believed were the sniper suspects sleeping in a car at a Frederick County rest stop. Police responded and quickly apprehended the suspects without incident. When the public later learned the two individuals arrested were in fact the serial snipers, a much needed sigh of relief resonated throughout the metro-area and in Charles County.

Throughout the search for the snipers, the Charles County Sheriff’s Office worked many hours to ensure the safety of its citizens. The Agency assisted fellow law enforcement officials with the investigation and worked with Southern Maryland law enforcement to develop a plan in case of an attack in our hometowns. Fortunately, no attack was ever committed in the County and the suspects will now face the justice they deserve. For the Charles County Sheriff’s Office, this was an unparalleled learning experience that demonstrated the Agency’s commitment, perseverance and its allegiance to work in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies.

### A LOCAL HERO

#### *Citizen Saves Mother and Daughter from Burning Car*

Welcome resident Jeanie Quade was in the right place at the right time on the morning of December 12. Driving northbound on Blossom Point Road at 7:30 a.m., she came upon an accident and, what would happen in the next moments would change her life and save two others.

The other vehicle had hit a patch of ice on the road, struck several trees and caught fire. The driver had managed to escape from her vehicle, but her injuries prevented her from rendering assistance to her two-year-old daughter who was still trapped inside. Knowing the vehicle could explode at any moment, Ms. Quade risked her life to get the child out of the vehicle and remove both the child and her mother to a safe location.

Minutes later, the resident of a nearby home called 911 to report the incident. When officers, the Fire Department and Emergency Medical

Services personnel arrived on the scene, they found the vehicle engulfed in flames and its occupants in a safe location.

Sheriff Fred Davis commended Ms. Quade for her actions, calling her, "a hero by any standard of the word."

### TAKING COMMAND

#### *Sheriff's Office Acquires New Command Center*

In the spring of 2002, the Charles County Sheriff's Office acquired a new Incident Command and Communications Center for use as a central unit for communication during emergency operations.

The command center was acquired thanks to vigorous efforts led by the Waldorf Jaycees and the Waldorf Lions. Inside the vehicle is a Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) work station, a conference center, color television monitors, VHS-VCRs, and telephone systems for both land-line and cellular telephones. A mast-mounted video surveillance atop the vehicle includes an ultra-high performance video camera that requires minimum object illumination. The command center also has access to a number of other agencies' radio communications, among many other amenities.



**Vest-A-Dog:** Three local teenagers raised money to donate a protective vest to the Agency's K-9 Unit this summer. The donation was made as part of Vest-A-Dog, a program that helps community members donate protective vests to police K9s by donating part of the funds. Pictured from left to right are Cpl. Daniel Bacon, K9 Tarzan, Erica Moran, Kristin Qualters, Jenna Garrett and Sheriff Fred Davis.



**A Ride to Remember:** In observance of the one-year anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks, six members of London's Metropolitan Police Service, Heathrow Police Station, biked 1000 miles in 10 days from Tampa, Florida to Ground Zero in New York to raise money for families of September 11th victims. On the eighth day of the trip, they visited with the CCSO. Pictured are the bicyclists, Capt. Dave Williams and Sgt. Craig Stillwell and Lt. Karl Hense, who escorted them through the County.

**A LIFETIME OF SERVICE**

*CCSO Salutes Our Retirees*

Although the Charles County Sheriff's Office consistently welcomes new officers to the Agency, it has never forgotten those officers who have preceded them. The retirees of the Sheriff's Office dedicated their careers to building the Sheriff's Office into the premier law enforcement agency it is today. The Agency gives thanks to all those who have supported the Sheriff's Office through dedicated service and unwavering commitment, and would like to recognize those individuals who retired this year.

**Sworn Officers**

- Capt. Dwight Miller, #79
- Lt. Dale Scheider, #127
- Sgt. Catherine Dodson, #94
- Sgt. Eric DeStefano, #123
- Sgt. Glenn Gaither, #138
- Sgt. William Winters, #142
- Cpl. Larry Luttrell, #66

**Correctional Officers**

- Lt. Eunice Amey, #2117
- Cpl. Susan Turnbull, #2190

These names will join the others on the retirees panel of the Agency memorial. We thank them for their service to the Agency and to the citizens of Charles County. ■



The Charles County Sheriff's Office Memorial, located outside the Headquarters building in La Plata, pays tribute to fallen officers, retirees and Sheriffs past and present.



**K9 Retiree:** He was one of the finest four-legged members to serve the Charles County Sheriff's Office, but after five-and-a-half years of dedicated and loyal service, Tarzan, a police dog in the CCSO's Canine Unit, retired on September 11. He served the CCSO well as a patrol dog and a narcotics dog, tracking suspects and searching for evidence and missing persons. In his career, Tarzan assisted with 91 apprehensions. Tarzan now resides with his handler, Cpl. Daniel Bacon, as a family pet.



**Court Holding Facility Renovated:** The Court Holding facility in La Plata was renovated this year to allow all 2,432 square feet of the building to be utilized. Previously, just over half of the building's space could be used. Sheriff Fred Davis is pictured here with staff from the County's Public Facilities Department, who undertook this labor-intensive project.





Since 1658, the Charles County Sheriff's Office has been committed to serving and protecting its citizens with honor and distinction. In 2002, the CCSO continued its tradition of providing Charles County with superior law enforcement service through traditional policing and innovative programs.

**T**he Charles County Sheriff's Office is a full service law enforcement Agency, which means the Sheriff provides all services generally associated with a police department, as well as court-related services. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office operates the Charles County Detention Center.



ABOVE: Sheriff Fred Davis, joined by, from left to right, Commissioners President Murray Levy, La Plata Mayor William Eckman and La Plata Police Chief Cassin Gittings, holds a press conference after the April 28th tornado.



LEFT: Sheriff Fred Davis was sworn into his third term as Charles County Sheriff by Clerk of the Circuit Court Richard Day on December 4.

With more than three decades of law enforcement service behind him, Sheriff Frederick E. Davis oversees the operation of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. First elected in 1994, Sheriff Davis was re-elected once in 1998 and again this year. Under his guidance, the Sheriff's Office continues to meet the demands of an increasing County population and is regionally recognized as one of Maryland's premier law enforcement agencies. Sheriff Davis has implemented a number of innovative and effective programs, and, in 2001, he led successful efforts

to obtain national accreditation of the Agency through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

Sheriff Davis is a member of both the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) and the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA). In 2002, he stepped down as president of MSA after serving in that capacity for a year.

Sheriff Davis, with assistance from Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 24 President Jon Norris and Correctional Officers' Association President Brandon Foster, worked diligently to

successfully pass the Collective Bargaining Bill in 2002. The legislation achieves the appropriate balance between the rights of sworn and corrections employees and the management needs of the Agency, while continuing to ensure the highest level of law enforcement services to the citizens of Charles County.

On March 18, Sheriff Davis was presented with the "My Boss is a Patriot" Certificate of Appreciation by Lt. Colonel Thomas Knight, Commander of the 581st Troop Command of the Maryland Army

National Guard. The certificate recognized the Agency's support of National defense through continuing support of the National Guard and Reserve. Because of the influx of servicemen and women called to active military duty after September 11th, 2001, including several from the Charles County Sheriff's Office, Sheriff Davis worked with the County Commissioners to enact a "Gap Pay" policy. Under this new measure, the CCSO supplements the difference between military pay and Agency pay for any employee who is called to active duty. Those employees may also elect to continue health care coverage through the Agency and are guaranteed employment and scheduled promotions upon returning to work after completing their service to the military.

Sheriff Davis carries out his law enforcement responsibilities through the **Office of the Sheriff**, which oversees, guides and directs all components of the Agency, including its

seven divisions: Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Corrections, Technical Services, Special Services, Support Services and Administrative Services.

To help the Agency operate effectively, Sheriff Davis receives assistance from all components of the Office of the Sheriff, including the Assistant Sheriff, the Executive Assistant to the Sheriff, the Office of Professional Responsibility and the Office of Legal Affairs.

The Sheriff receives critical support from the **Assistant Sheriff**, Major Michael O'Toole. As second-in-command, the Major assumes a great amount of responsibility by managing the daily operations of the Sheriff's Office, fulfilling the duties and responsibilities of the Sheriff during periods of his absence, and advising the Sheriff on important Agency matters.

The **Executive Assistant to the Sheriff** also provides support to the



Sheriff Fred Davis talks with a community member during National Night Out.

Sheriff by overseeing the presentation of information to the Sheriff regarding the performance of the Agency and all its components. For more than two years now, Capt. Joseph Montminy has assumed the responsibilities of this position. In this role, Capt. Montminy also manages the Office of Planning and Accreditation, the Public Information Office, Chaplain Services and the Cadet program.

The **Office of Planning and Accreditation** coordinates with the

## EXECUTIVE COMMAND STAFF



**Major Michael O'Toole**  
Assistant Sheriff



**Capt. Joseph Montminy**  
Executive Assistant to the Sheriff



**Capt. David Williams**  
Commander, Patrol Division



As Sheriff For a Day, McDonough High School student Nick Pryde spent the day with Sheriff Fred Davis learning all about the Charles County Sheriff's Office. Here, Pryde learns about security at the Detention Center from CFC Tristan Taylor.

Sheriff and all components of the Agency to maintain the Agency's CALEA accreditation and plan and provide written direction for activities of the Agency. The Office of Planning and Accreditation creates and maintains the policy contained in the Agency Administrative and Operational Manual with the approval of the Sheriff or Assistant Sheriff, and

creates and maintains the Agency's standard operating procedures manuals with approval from the component commanders.

The **Public Information Office (PIO)** is the voice of the Sheriff's Office. Through daily press releases and 24-hour on-call responsibilities, the PIO remains in constant contact with media services and provides up-

to-date information about the Agency. The PIO maintains a working relationship between the media, elected officials, Agency personnel, the general public and peer groups, and is also responsible for the publication of *The Sheriff's 10-43*, a monthly newsletter. Additionally, the PIO publishes the Annual Report and other communicative pieces that assist in the dissemination of Agency information.

Both employees of the Sheriff's Office and members of the community benefit from the benevolence and inspiring words offered by local clergymen through the **Chaplain Services** component of the Sheriff's Office. Chaplains minister to the members of the Agency in times of personal need or strife. They assist in the notification of families of officers who have been seriously injured or slain, provide comfort to injured or afflicted employees and assist in death notifications to citizens by Agency personnel. Chaplains also offer invo-



**Capt. Samuel Graves**  
Commander, Criminal Investigations Division



**Capt. William Mancuso**  
Commander, Corrections Division



**Capt. Gale Willett**  
Commander, Special Services Division

cations and benedictions at Agency ceremonies. The Chaplains include Rev. Vaughn Artis, Father Karl Chimiak, Rev. Steve Davis, Dr. Bill Miller, Rev. Wilson Morales, Father Aloysius Newman, Rev. Jeff Perry and Rev. John Warren.

College students who want to pursue a career in law enforcement gain invaluable on-the-job experience through employment with the Agency in the **Cadet Program**. Cadets assist all Agency personnel by performing a variety of duties, including transporting and setting up the speed trailer, tagging abandoned vehicles, fingerprinting, assisting Station Clerks and compiling computer records. Their responsibilities help them prepare for entry into the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy.

The **Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR)** investigates complaints of employee misconduct and ensures employees comply with all policies and procedures of the

Sheriff's Office. Under the command of Capt. Brian Eley, OPR also manages the Agency's random drug testing program. OPR investigated 126 cases in 2002. Of those cases, 73 cases were sustained (proven), 13 were non-sustained (not proven), 13 were exonerated (cleared), 16 were unfounded and two were withdrawn. Nine of those cases were pending at the year's end.

The **Standards and Inspections Unit** was established as a component of OPR and acts as the Agency's "Inspector General." The unit conducts routine financial audits and accounting of all Agency cash flow/charge accounts. Its employees also conduct yearly physical staff inspections of all police and correctional facilities under the control of the Office of the Sheriff. The unit is charged with detecting and preventing fraud, and waste and abuse of Agency resources.

Legal guidance and representation for the Sheriff and Agency personnel are coordinated through the **Office of**

**Legal Affairs**. Led by its General Counsel, Ms. Sue Greer, a specially assigned Assistant County Attorney, Legal Affairs provides thorough, consistent and accurate legal advice to the Sheriff and the Agency. This office works in partnership with the Sheriff, Charles County Commissioners, the Southern Maryland Delegation, the Maryland Sheriffs' Association and the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association to draft, review and make recommendations regarding legislation. Legal Affairs' responsibilities also include providing legal advice and assistance regarding the daily operations of the Agency to Agency employees, responding to civil suits involving the Sheriff's Office and providing legal representation in various courts. This component of the Agency coordinates with the State's Attorney's Office, the County Attorney's Office and the Attorney General's Office, and assists in examining the rules, policies and procedures of the Agency. ■



**Capt. Michael Wyant**  
Commander, Support Services Division



**Capt. Dwight Miller**  
Commander, Technical Services Division



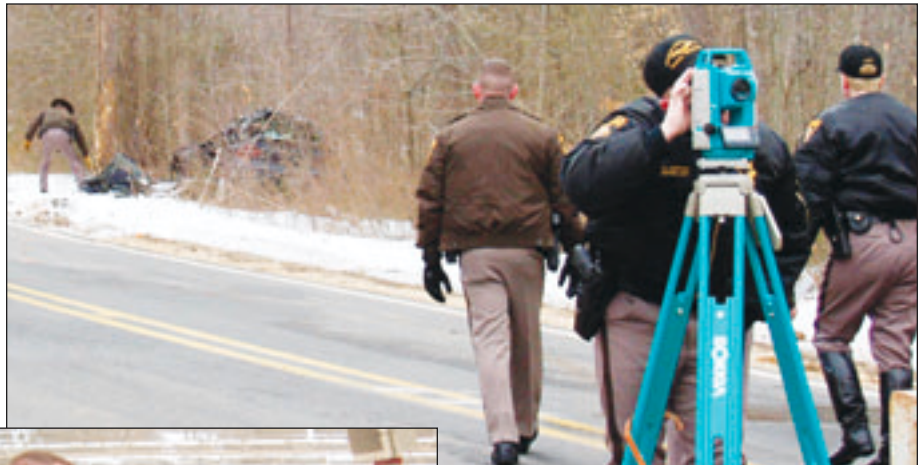
**Ross Pitrelli**  
Director, Administrative Services

As first responders and the most visible component of the Sheriff's Office, the Patrol Division bears a hefty responsibility. In 2002, the Patrol Division continued its tradition of professional and dedicated service, despite the many challenges police officers across the country are facing.

Steady growth and increased homeland security responsibilities have modified law enforcement and increased the demand for police services. The Patrol Division, led by Capt. R. David Williams, responded to this need with determination and commitment. Four shifts of officers covered all 458 square miles of Charles County around the clock, responding to 123,987 calls for service in 2002 and patrolling nearly 2 million miles. Patrol officers are dedicated to building a strong rapport with community members, maintaining high visibility throughout the County and providing protection to their fellow officers. As the first to arrive on a scene, they must always be prepared for the unpredictable.

The division maintained its strong community ties and business partnerships through community outreach and crime prevention programs. Several specialized units support the Patrol Division and are supervised by Lt. John McConnell, Assistant Patrol Commander. These units provide critical support to patrol activities and tactical operations.

The **K-9 Unit** is comprised of five officers and a Sergeant who are spe-



ABOVE: The Traffic Operations Unit investigates all fatal crashes handled by the Agency. Officer Jason Hopkins uses the Total Station system to map a crash scene while PFC Robert Padgett and Cpl. Cary Jones make their way to the vehicle to assist another officer.



LEFT: Officer Jason Stoddard conducts a commercial security survey at the La Plata Wal-Mart. Commercial and residential security surveys are effective crime prevention tools offered by the Sheriff's Office free of cost.

cially trained to handle the unit's ten dogs. The K9s are trained in narcotics detection, patrol work and/or explosives detection. In 2002, the unit conducted 103 building searches, 149 tracks and 113 drug searches, and made 113 apprehensions.

The **Emergency Services Team (EST)** is comprised of 20 officers who consistently undergo intense training that emphasizes tactics and teamwork, so officers can respond to crisis situations and perform high-risk

operations. EST members require a high level of physical fitness, expert marksmanship and an extreme and constant awareness of their surroundings as they respond to high risk search warrants and barricade situations. Throughout October, as sniper attacks haunted the Metro area, teams were called out several times to assist in vehicle checkpoints at the County lines in search of the elusive suspects. EST was called out 37 times to execute high-risk search and seizure

Strength, courage, marksmanship and discipline are essential for members of the Emergency Services Team. The team executes high risk search and arrest warrants and responds to barricades and hostage situations.



warrants or to assist in narcotics operations. The team searched and cleared two residences in an attempt to locate a homicide suspect, responded to four hostage/barricade incidents and assisted in surveillance on a bank during a string of armed robberies.

It takes skill and patience to deal with individuals in crisis situations, but the **Hostage Negotiations Team** is specially trained to help bring these situations to peaceful endings. Teams consist of a primary negotiator, a coach and an intelligence officer. Under the supervision of a commander, each person in the two three-member teams is cross trained to be effective in each position. In March, the team responded to a barricade that, after 14 hours, ended with the peace-

ful surrender of the individual to authorities. In addition to having specialized skills, team members must be able to stay calm under pressure to handle these events successfully.

The **Honor Guard**, which was originally formed specifically to assist families of fallen officers at funerals, has become a constant and dignified fixture at funerals, graduations and other functions. In 2002, the Honor Guard presented the colors at 13 events, including the Crime Victims Vigil, the Maryland Special Olympics Opening Ceremony, police and corrections graduations and the Charles County 9/11 Memorial Ceremony.

The **Patrol Operations Section** maintains a District Commander concept, which divides the County into

three geographic areas, allowing officers to respond quickly and to address community concerns comprehensively. Lt. Ralph Acquaviva and Lt. William Brown serve as District Commanders and Lt. Edward Godwin and Lt. Charles Smith serve as the Agency's Operational Commanders. As commanders, they are critical in the effectiveness of this community-based concept.

There's no bond quite like the one shared between K9 officers and their dogs. In addition to working with the dogs everyday, the officers keep the dogs at home with them during off-duty hours. Together, they track dangerous suspects, locate lost children and conduct bomb searches. Here, Sgt. Vincent Weaver and K9 Odie search for explosives.

The **Community Services Section** plays an integral role in developing and maintaining strong relationships within the community. Under the direction of Lt. Karl Hense, the section administers innovative and effective crime prevention programs and leads numerous community outreach efforts through the Traffic Operations, Crime

Prevention, Community Oriented Policing and Alcohol Enforcement units.

The **Traffic Operations Unit** is assigned the very important task of keeping Charles County's roads, drivers and passengers safe. Among its many responsibilities, the unit handles fatal crashes, school bus crashes

and complaints, radar enforcement, abandoned vehicles and commercial vehicle inspections. The unit also maintains the Agency's red light cameras, which have served to significantly reduce accidents at the locations where they are installed.

The six officers and one sergeant in the Traffic Operations Unit are committed to ensuring driver and passenger safety by vigorously enforcing seatbelt and child safety seat laws. Their efforts were recognized for the fifth consecutive year by the Maryland Chiefs of Police with a first place finish in the Chiefs' Challenge. The Challenge is a seatbelt and child safety seat enforcement campaign that recognizes law enforcement agencies that take an aggressive approach to not only enforcing the laws, but to educating the public on the importance of those laws as well.

The **Crime Prevention Unit** maintains strong partnerships with



PFC Kris Syvertsen holds one of 100 Personal Data Assistants (PDAs) the Sheriff's Office received in 2002 as part of a grant from the Making Officer Redeployment Effective Program. PDAs help save officers time by assisting in traffic stop data collection and tracking field interview reports. They will also strengthen the Agency's ability to share information with other law enforcement agencies. The Maryland State Police also donated five more PDAs to the Sheriff's Office. These PDAs will allow officers to run on-the-spot computer inquiries on vehicles, driver licenses and stolen articles instead of radioing in requests to dispatchers, and will also facilitate gun searches.

RIGHT: PFC Charles Figgins conducts radar stops on vehicles traveling above the posted speed limit.



citizens and businesses and assists them in implementing a number of crime prevention programs. Those programs, such as Citizens on Patrol, Neighborhood Watch and National Night Out, help citizens take active roles in crime prevention. The unit provides free home and commercial security surveys, which give citizens and business owners advice on how to better prevent burglaries and other crimes. In 2002, the unit conducted seven commercial security surveys and 58 home security surveys. Officers in the Crime Prevention Unit also sponsor activities such as Skate Night, during which kids skate at the local roller rink free of cost under the officers' supervision. Officers conduct safety talks to children, adults and seniors, and also provide talks on other issues, such as self-esteem and road rage. Two of the officers serve as instructors for the Criminal Justice Program, which is offered as part of the high school curriculum to students interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement.

To ensure Charles County's liquor-licensed establishments are adhering to all federal, state and local regulations, the **Alcohol Enforcement Unit** conducts routine compliance inspections. In 2002, the unit disbanded 17 underage alcohol parties in Charles County and issued more than 80 citations for underage drinking. One-hundred-thirty-five adults and 97 juveniles were issued citations for underage alcohol use and/or possession of alcoholic beverages and the Agency's Alcohol Enforcement Officer arrested 13



There's a special bond between officers and the communities they serve, and the power of that bond became evident on September 12, 2002, when Officer Bruce Peed was involved in a near-fatal motorcycle collision. When citizens learned of the crash, they responded by adorning their marquees with messages of their thoughts and prayers for Officer Peed, who kept photographs at his bedside. Although he did not return to work this year, Officer Peed did begin to recover from his injuries and was eventually released from the hospital.

individuals for consuming alcoholic beverages in parking lots. The unit also helps business owners better identify false identifications and underage persons attempting to purchase alcohol through the Cops in Shops program.

Based on a foundation of outreach and community commitment, the **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)** Unit is a concept embraced by the Sheriff's Office more than a decade ago. Every officer is trained in utilizing this concept, however, there are 10 COPS officers and two sergeants who are primarily responsible for maintaining ties with 74 neighborhoods in Charles County. Each community works with one officer who helps implement neighborhood crime watch and citizens on patrol groups and address problems and concerns within that neighbor-

hood. COPS is based on the premise that, by working closely with one officer, citizens will find the officer more approachable and will be quicker to dismiss the traditional and sometimes intimidating stereotype police officers have held in the past.

In addition to crime prevention programs, COPS officers participate in a number of community outreach projects. Thanks to donations from community residents and businesses, the unit provided 50 brand new bicycles and helmets to underprivileged children in Charles County. Officers raised \$2,800 to purchase the bicycles from The Bike Doctor in Waldorf, and employees of the store donated staff time to order and assemble all of the bikes. The unit is also supportive of Special Olympics Maryland and coordinates numerous fund-raisers to benefit the organization. ■



With teamwork and persistence, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) maintains a strong commitment to solving in-depth and often complicated investigations. In 2002, the division maintained an impressive case closure rate and continued the tradition of tenacity CID is known for.

Under the leadership of Capt. Samuel Graves, CID is comprised of two sections, the Investigations Section and the Vice/Narcotics Section.

Detectives in the **Investigations Section**, which is led by Lt. Richard Gregory, are trained in interview and interrogation and practice modern investigative techniques. Detectives work in several units each supervised by a sergeant. These units require specialized training and, because many cases cross unit boundaries, teamwork is essential.

The **Crimes Against Persons Unit** investigates homicides, rapes, deaths, assaults, kidnaping cases, and cold cases, in which all investigative leads have been exhausted. In 2002, the unit investigated five homicides, compared with nine investigated in 2001. Two of those cases were closed with arrests. The unit also investigated 20 assaults, 20 deaths, 80 missing persons and 29 rape cases. Of the 186 total investigations conducted by the unit, 138 were closed, including 31 by arrest. Four of the cases were unfounded.

In the past year, a number of high-profile missing persons cases, such as the abduction of Elizabeth Smart in Utah, have increased the demand for



Fingerprint Specialist Ernie Jones shows the skull of an unidentified victim to Brent Underwood, a La Plata High School student who participated in a job shadow program with CID.

more aggressive means of investigating missing persons. In recognition of that demand, Crimes Against Persons acquired the Lost Child Alert Technology Resource, or LOCATOR system. LOCATOR was provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The system software is a template-based application that allows the Agency to instantly create posters for distribution to

law enforcement agencies across the state or across the country. The system includes a database of active missing and abducted child cases and an address book for all the law enforcement agencies that participate in the program. In addition to missing person cases, the system may also be used for crime alerts and wanted persons or vehicles.

The **Crimes Against Dependent Persons Unit** investigates instances of child abuse and vulnerable adult abuse. This unit conducted 74 sexual

child abuse investigations, 59 physical child abuse investigations and six investigations into cases of neglect. Detectives also conducted three investigations of vulnerable adult abuse cases. The detectives conducted 206 investigations this year; they closed 161, including 59 by arrest, and determined 32 of the cases to be unfounded.

Robberies and automobile thefts are the focus of the **Robbery/Auto Theft Unit**, which is comprised of the Robbery Detail and the Auto Theft Detail.

Although this unit experienced an increased workload in 2002, they maintained a very successful case closure rate. On September 23, detectives arrested the suspect in a string of armed bank robberies in Charles County. Detectives were conducting surveillance on the suspect when they received the call for another bank robbery. As the suspect returned to his vehicle, detectives approached him but he fled the scene, leading officers on a brief pursuit. The suspect struck several other vehicles and attempted to flee on foot, however, he was quickly apprehended by a K9 unit. Fortunately, no one was injured.

The unit investigated 55 commercial robberies, 25 citizen robberies and 65 auto thefts. Detectives also conducted numerous community talks to citizens on auto theft prevention.

The **Crimes Against Property Unit**, which includes the Financial Crimes Detail, investigated 25 embezzlement cases and 32 instances of credit card fraud. Detectives also investigated 20 cases of Forgery.



From left to right, Det. Chris Bean, Sgt. Joseph Goldsmith, Det. Patti Duckworth- Garino and Crime Lab Technician Rick Brown process a crime scene.

Collectively, Property Unit detectives conducted 197 investigations, closing 82 of them, including 72 by arrest.

The **Forensic Science Unit (FSU)** assists detectives and officers at crime scenes by lifting fingerprints, photographing the scene and analyzing evidence. Their expertise, combined with access to new technology, makes the FSU critical to investigations and criminal trials.

Advances in technology have helped FSU establish quicker and better ways to analyze evidence. Using the Maryland Automated Fingerprint Identification System (MAFIS), the Agency's Fingerprint Specialist can scan fingerprints lifted from crime scenes, analyze them and look for matches with fingerprints that have already been entered into the

statewide system during arrest booking procedures. This process helps solve many cases, both old and new.

FSU acquired two new pieces of equipment this year, which will enhance technicians' abilities. The "More Hits" system is a computer integrated latent fingerprint imaging system compatible with the Universal Latent Fingerprint Work Station Guidelines established by the FBI for searching national fingerprint files. Soon, the system will allow the Agency to run fingerprint identification searches at a national level, instead of only relying on MAFIS and neighboring police agencies' databases.

The second piece of equipment is the "Avid" video enhancement system. The system compliments video equip-



ABOVE: From left to right, Det. Paul Gregory, D/Sgt. Randy Sweeney, Det. Ben Fiore and Det. Rob Glover review a case file.

RIGHT: Narcotics detectives work diligently to get drugs off of the streets. This marijuana was seized in March after a thorough investigation by detectives.



ment maintained by county businesses and allows law enforcement to enhance images of suspects and suspect vehicles captured on surveillance equipment. The system has numerous capabilities, including the ability to produce still photographs, magnifications and spotlighting in video images.

The unit analyzed hundreds of evidentiary items in 2002, including 593 marijuana exhibits. Technicians spent 513.5 hours on 164 crime scenes and spent 816.5 hours processing 2,122 pieces of evidence.

The **Vice/Narcotics Section**, led by Lt. Scott Whitcraft, investigates narcotics, vice and gambling violations and handles asset forfeiture cases.

Through lengthy investigations and undercover operations, the **Narcotics/Vice Enforcement Unit** is

committed to keeping drugs off of Charles County's streets. They investigate controlled dangerous substance, prostitution and gambling violations and operate as part of the federally funded Charles County Open Air Drug Market Initiative. Narcotics/Vice detectives were assigned 160 cases in 2002. The unit closed 227 cases, including cases from previous years. Detectives made more than 100 criminal arrests, executed 38 search and seizure warrants and spent 1,483 hours

performing surveillance in support of the Agency's investigations, federal investigations and joint investigations with the Maryland State Police. The unit dismantled a large indoor marijuana grow, seizing more than 100 marijuana plants with a potential street value of more than \$400,000. Several vehicles and \$16,551 in cash were seized as well.

The **Asset Forfeiture/Drug Diversion Unit** conducts financial investigations in which a person's assets

are subject to forfeiture because of criminal involvement, as well as prescription drug fraud and related investigations. When investigating prescription fraud crimes, detectives also educate and solicit cooperation from physicians and pharmacists. The unit was assigned 60 cases this year and closed 32 cases, including six by arrest. Additionally, the unit seized \$64,000 in cash.

A detective in this unit is also assigned to a Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force. Members of the task force are from various law enforcement agencies and conduct major investigations. Many of these investigations are in-depth conspiracy investigations on drug organizations operating in Charles County and other jurisdictions in the metropolitan area. These investigations are lengthy and on-going because the goal is to dismantle the entire organization, not just part of it. ■

## A COLD CASE SOLVED

With teamwork, technology and persistence, detectives closed a rape/burglary case with the arrest of a suspect whose identity had eluded them for 15 years.

The Charles County Sheriff's Office received the complaint of the rape and burglary in March of 1987. Initial investigation revealed an unknown suspect forced entry into the victim's residence and confronted her with a knife. He sexually assaulted her, stole money and fled the scene.

Officers, including Fingerprint Specialist Ernie Jones, responded to the location to process the scene. They gathered evidence, including fingerprints, to try to identify a suspect. Unfortunately, those fingerprints did not yield a match and,

despite the Agency's aggressive efforts, a suspect was not identified and the case became cold.

In 1998, the Agency acquired the MAFIS system, which allows law enforcement officials to scan fingerprints lifted from crime scenes and compare them with fingerprints entered into the system during the arrest booking process. Jones would periodically submit the prints through the system, but it wasn't until February 14, 2002 that the prints matched the ink fingerprints of an individual arrested by the CCSO in 1999 on unrelated charges.

The case was reopened, and detectives began re-interviewing the original investigating officers, witnesses and the victim. Enough information

was obtained to get a warrant for the suspect's arrest in June, and an officer in the Warrant/Fugitive Unit located the suspect on July 10. The suspect was charged with First Degree Rape and Burglary and was taken to the Charles County Detention Center, where he was held without bond.

Sheriff Davis would later say, "This is a perfect example of a collective effort within the Sheriff's Office. Our officers and employees followed through with this investigation, despite the fact a significant amount of time had elapsed and new evidence was scarce. I commend those who were involved in the investigation for the 15-year period and I am hopeful it will bring some closure to the victim and her family." ■

## DANGERS IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Although the Internet has paved the way for advances in technology and communication, it does not come without its dangers. In 2002, the Crimes Against Dependent Persons Unit investigated a case that illustrates one of those dangers.

On April 22, patrol officers with the Charles County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence to investigate the report of a 23-year-old man who had assaulted a family member. While conducting their investigation,

officers found a 15-year-old girl who was staying at the residence after running away from her Iowa home.

Investigation revealed the man and the girl had met two years prior in an Internet chat room and developed a relationship. In 2002, the man flew to Iowa and met the girl in a previously arranged location. He took her back to live at his parents' residence, unbeknownst to his parents.

After learning this information, the girl's parents were contacted and

traveled to Waldorf to bring her home. The man was charged with a third degree sex offense.

In response to this incident, the Sheriff's Office made efforts to remind parents of the importance of monitoring their children's access to the Internet and to encourage them to take an active role when their children access information or communicate through the Internet. ■

The Administrative Services Division plays an important role in the character and composition of the Agency by handling all aspects of employment for current and potential employees, as well as tending to all duties associated with the Agency's finances.

Under the command of Mr. Ross Pitrelli, the Administrative Services Division, which includes the Human Resources, Pre-Employment Investigations and Financial Services sections, carries out all duties associated with the Agency's employment and financial operations.

The **Human Resources Section**, managed by Ms. Betsy Leonhard, is responsible for a variety of pre-employment and administrative tasks regarding potential and current employees of the Sheriff's Office. This section maintains the Agency's position classification system, processes all applications for employment and maintains personnel records for all employees, past and present. As the Agency continues to grow, the Human Resources Section must keep up with changes in staffing needs so the Agency can serve the community efficiently and productively.

This year, the section processed more than 1,100 employment applications, which included administering written exams to police and corrections candidates. The testing process for police officers is nationally accredited, which ensures the process is administered in a fair and equitable manner. Of the applicants processed by this section, the Agency hired 82



Sgt. Rob Cleaveland gives instructions to police and corrections applicants as they prepare to run a mile in less than 12 minutes.

new employees, including 25 police officers, 24 correctional officers and 33 civilians.

Once the Human Resources Sections determines an applicant meets position requirements, the **Pre-Employment Investigations Section**, managed by Sgt. Robert Cleaveland, performs an extensive background investigation on that person. The section's mission is to ensure only the applicants with the highest levels of integrity are awarded positions within the Agency. In addition to the background investigation, this section also

conducts polygraph examinations on all police and corrections candidates.

In 2002, the section conducted 212 background investigations, including 75 on sworn officer applicants, 91 on correctional officer applicants, 35 on civilian applicants and seven on applicants for the Cadet program. In addition, six investigations were conducted for the Charles County Government and other outside agencies.

The **Financial Services Section** is assigned the important task of ensuring the integrity and accuracy of all financial operations of the Sheriff's

Office. Employees of this section implement sound financial procedures, effectively allocate resources and assist in meeting the operating and capital needs of the Agency. The four components of this section, Accounting, Payroll, Budgeting and Inmate Accounting, all managed by Ms. Gloria Bowers, carry out these important responsibilities.

The **Accounting** component handles accounts payable, accounts receivable, purchase orders, outside billing invoices and collections. Employees also prepare monthly and quarterly financial reports for federal, state and local grants, maintain the Agency's master grant file and ensure all goods and services are paid for in a timely and accurate manner.

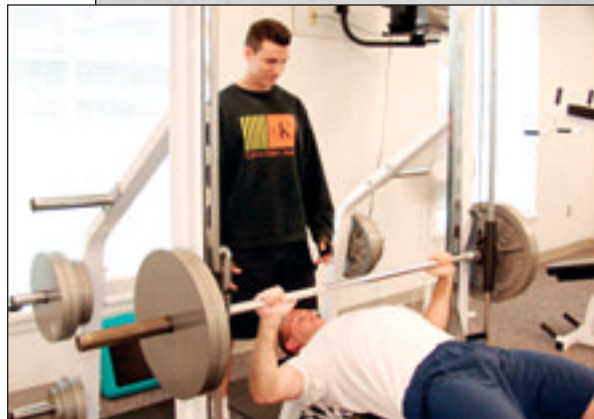
The **Payroll** component is responsible for processing employee time information, preparing salary and payroll reports and distributing paychecks and pay information to employees. In 2002, employees handled 16,479 payroll-related tasks.

The **Budgeting** component of the Sheriff's Office assists in the development and preparation of the Agency's financial operating and capital budgets, prepares and updates Agency pay scales, prepares monthly management reports and assists in annual audits. In 2002, this component handled the Agency's \$35.9 million budget.

The **Inmate Accounting** component audits all financial records that relate to inmates at the Charles County Detention Center. Employees



ABOVE: Background Investigator Bob Denyer times two police officer applicants as they run the 300-yard shuttle run.



LEFT: PFC Gary Draheim spots PFC Joseph Pratta as he lifts weights in the fitness facility located in the Headquarters building. The facility is maintained by the Human Resources Section.

of this component oversee food and canteen billing, audit accounts payable invoices paid by inmate funds and prepare bank reconciliations, among other tasks. More than 4,075 inmate records were reviewed by this component in 2002.

Employees of this division collectively participate in many charitable events. The Human Resources Section spearheaded a collection of back-to-school supplies this year to benefit the young men who live at the Maryland Sheriffs' Youth Ranch, a facility sponsored by the Maryland Sheriffs' Association that helps disadvantaged and at-risk young men become productive members of

society. Human Resources employees also donated Christmas gifts and stockings to the young men at the ranch.

The Financial Services Section actively participates in Christmas in April, March of Dimes, Relay for Life and United Way's Day of Caring. In addition to volunteering with the cleanup effort after the April 28th tornado, this section worked with the Federal Emergency Management Administration, or FEMA, to ensure the Agency was reimbursed for expenses associated with the disaster. ■



## CORRECTIONS DIVISION

The Corrections Division prides itself on maintaining a safe and secure facility for inmates incarcerated in the Charles County Detention Center. With dedication to duty and attention to detail, the Corrections Division works diligently to maintain order within the facility and to ensure inmates no longer pose a threat to the public during incarceration.

The Charles County Detention Center is a secure facility for incarcerating adults. Stretching 135,000 square feet, it was built to maintain 430 inmates in 203 cells. This year, the average inmate popula-

tion per day was 399; also, 3,432 inmates were processed and 10,086 arrest bookings were entered. The number of arrests and inmates processed decreased this year; however, the length of sentences increased.

and assistance from Deputy Director Walter Poynor, the Corrections Division consistently takes measures to operate more efficiently, decrease recidivism and increase community outreach. Five units within the division ensure the security of the facility. This section also supervises the Emergency Response Team (ERT). Comprised of 14 highly-motivated correctional officers, ERT responds to inmate fights and other potentially dangerous situations within the facility. This year, ERT responded to 331 incidents, including fights, assaults, forced movements, cell extractions and shakedowns.

The **Standards Section**, commanded by Lt. Susie Rice, conducts audits and inspections to ensure the

Detention Center is running properly and according to standards set by the Maryland Commission on Correctional Standards (MCCS). These standards mandate a safe living environment for inmates and a safe working environment for correctional officers.

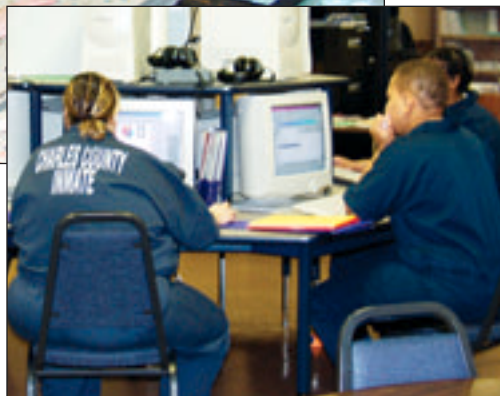
The Detention Center currently maintains 100 percent compliance with MCCS. Lt. Rice is a duly authorized inspector for MCCS and assisted the organization this year with audits of two other correctional facilities in the state.

Under the leadership of Capt. Pamela Dottellis, the **Support**



ABOVE: Correctional Officers man the facility's sophisticated control center to maintain safety and security.

RIGHT: Inmates at the Charles County Detention Center utilize the facility's computer learning center. The computers were acquired through cooperation with Charles County Public Schools.



Under the command of Capt. William Mancuso and with support

are critical to the division's successful operation of the Detention Center.

Safety is paramount at the Detention Center, and personnel within the **Custody and Security Section**, under the direction of Capt. Thomas Reece, take great measures to enact policies and procedures to

**Services Section** is responsible for Central Processing and Inmate Services. The section also oversees the inmate library and the commissary and provides security maintenance.

**Central Processing**, commanded by Lt. Al Masri, ensures the completeness, accuracy and security of inmate records and maintains communications with court systems, police agencies and other correctional facilities. Records, Intake, Finance, Transportation and Court Holding comprise this section.

Personnel within **Inmate Services**, led by Lt. DuWayne Gaddy, classify inmates who enter the facility, provide alternative sentencing programs such as Work Release and perform court-mandated drug screenings. Of the 1,772 inmates who were screened by urinalysis for illegal drugs, 261 tested positive. This section also maintains the Volunteers in Community Service (VICS) program, which coordinated 65 special projects this year.

What was just an idea a few years ago became reality for the Corrections Division this year when, with the help of the Technical Services Division, the Detention Center began utilizing the Maryland Automated Booking System (ABS). The new system will improve the arrest booking process at the Detention Center by capturing all the information obtained from an offender from the time of arrest to either release or incarceration. One of its greatest benefits is the ability to positively identify offenders quickly through digital fingerprints. The prints are compared to fingerprints



ABOVE: New members of the Emergency Response Team respond to a mock inmate disruption, similar to a situation they could face as members of the team. By training with established Correctional Officers, new ERT members learn invaluable lessons.

RIGHT: Capt. Pamela Dottellis and Lt. Robert Studds ensure inmates at the Detention Center are treated properly and have growth opportunities while also helping to maintain a safe and secure environment.



on file in the Maryland Automated Fingerprint Identification System and, within minutes, the system provides information on the subject's identity and criminal history. This makes it much harder for repeat offenders to hide their true identities behind an alias. Maryland was the first state in the nation to create such a system.

Throughout the year, the Detention Center recognizes correctional officers who go above and beyond the call of duty and demonstrate commitment and dedication to duty. This year, Cpl.

Gerald Duffield, COI Y. Jack Austin, COII Christopher Reid and CFC Raymond Boelke were named correctional officers of the first, second, third and fourth quarters, respectively. CFC Boelke was named Correctional Officer of the Year.

The Corrections Pistol Team, which was formed in 2001, participated in several matches this year, including the Annual Tri-County Law Enforcement Shootout, in which the team placed in the top five. ■



The members of the Special Services Division are a critical component of the Charles County Sheriff's Office. By ensuring judicial matters are tended to in a timely and accurate manner and by maintaining the Agency's fleet, supply stock and property held inventory, this division is important to both the Agency and Charles County citizens.

Under the command of Capt. Gale Willett, the division's components, the Judicial Services Section and the Property Management Section, are responsible for the various tasks assigned to Special Services personnel, including risk management and insurance responsibilities.

The **Judicial Services Section**, led by Lt. Kevin Barrows, is comprised of the Warrant/Fugitive Unit, Civil Processing Unit, Domestic Violence Unit, Child Support Enforcement Unit and Court Security.

Subjects wanted by the Charles County Sheriff's Office for participating in criminal activity are the focus of the **Warrant/Fugitive Unit**. This unit is responsible for serving arrest warrants, attachments, criminal summonses and indictments, entering charging documents into the system and issuing detainers for wanted subjects held at other detention facilities. Timeliness and accuracy are crucial. This year, the Warrant/Fugitive Unit served 1,713 warrants and 979 criminal summonses.

The **Civil Unit** is tasked with serving civil process, including subpoenas, summonses, evictions and juvenile court papers. The unit also processes eviction notices, landlord complaints, postings, writs of execu-



This billboard was displayed in two locations in Charles County and sent a clear message to child support violators.

tion, writs of possession, Sheriff's sales and all other civil process matters. In 2002, the unit handled 6,604 summonses, 3,181 rent notices, 37 writs of execution, and 715 evictions.

The **Domestic Violence Unit** performs the important task of handling all aspects of ex parte, protective, modification, show cause and peace orders, from entry to service. In November, 87.54 percent of registered voters who participated in the 2002 General Election voted to give District Court Commissioners the power to issue interim peace and protective orders when the Office of the Clerk of the District Court is closed. The new legislation, which took effect December 14, offers citizens 24-hour service and

protection; the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention funded an additional sworn officer to assist in the immediate service of interim orders. This year, the unit served 1,598 summonses, 1,004 protective orders and 529 peace orders.

Failure to pay child support is a crime in the State of Maryland, and the members of the **Child Support Enforcement Unit** ensure violators are found and held accountable. The unit, which is largely funded by the State of Maryland Human Resources Child Support Enforcement Administration Cooperative Reimbursement Agreement is responsible for serving arrest warrants, attachments, summonses and other process related to child support.

In 2002, the unit served 861 summonses and 349 warrants.

This year, the Domestic Violence and Child Support Enforcement Units utilized billboards to communicate important messages to the public. The messages “We’re looking for you, child support violators,” and “Domestic violence victims, it’s not your fault,” were displayed on billboards in two locations in the County. A grant from the Federal Government and appropriated to the State of Maryland’s Department of Human Resources Child Enforcement Administration funded the child support billboards, and a federal grant from the Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program and a \$1000 donation from the Center for Abused Persons, funded the domestic violence billboards.

Each of the tens of thousands of people who visit the Charles County Courthouse are screened by **Court Security**. This component of the Judicial Services Section is responsible for ensuring the safety and security of the Courthouse and all those who conduct business within it by monitoring the Courthouse entrance, providing security within the courtrooms and transporting prisoners between the courtrooms and Court Holding. Screening all the visitors and searching their property can be a tedious task, but it was made simpler this year with the acquisition of a new x-ray machine. The new apparatus eliminates the need for officers to physically search all purses, briefcases and other such bags. Instead, the bag is placed on a conveyer belt and its contents are displayed on a computer monitor. Only when Court Security Officers find a

potentially dangerous object will they need to physically search a bag.

Under the direction of Lt. Tim Crawford, the **Property Management Section** is assigned the task of outfitting an ever-growing Agency with necessary supplies through the Quartermaster’s Office, maintaining an increasing fleet through the Fleet Management Program and managing all the Agency’s property and evidence inventory through the Property Held Unit.

The **Quartermaster’s Office** is responsible for supplying personnel with uniforms and office supplies and any other items necessary for the Agency’s successful operation. From police radios and badges to pens and notepads, the Quartermaster ensures that Agency employees always have all necessary materials at their disposal.

The **Fleet Management Program** maintains the Agency’s ever-growing fleet, which stood at 315 vehicles in 2002. This component is responsible for creating vehicle-related policies that result in savings to the Agency without compromising vehicle safety, and for ensuring necessary repairs and regular maintenance are performed on Agency vehicles. New vehicles are purchased and old vehicles are disposed of through this program.

The **Property Held Unit** is tasked with regulating the receipt, storage, security and disposal of property, contraband and narcotics recovered, found, confiscated or held as a result of the activities of the Agency. In 2002, the unit received and stored



Firearms Specialist Stephen Folkee and Sgt. Michael McGuigan inventory firearms that have been seized or recovered by the Sheriff’s Office.

7,746 pieces of property. With such a large amount of property to account for, it is imperative this unit has an accurate method for tracking and management. In 2002, the unit acquired the Bar-coded Evidence Analysis Statistics and Tracking, or B.E.A.S.T. system, an electronic way of tracking and maintaining the Agency’s Property Held inventory. The Agency auctions off property that is either abandoned, unclaimed or forfeited and this year, more than \$6,000 was collected in two auctions.

In his first full year on the job, the Agency’s Firearms Tracking Specialist finished a comprehensive inventory of all 1,027 firearms held by the Sheriff’s Office. This year, 270 firearms were seized and 250 firearms were destroyed, including two illegal assault weapons. Of the 82 firearms hearings scheduled, 58 were conducted and resulted in the return of 139 firearms to their owners and the denial of 24 firearms to individuals who could not legally possess a firearm. This position is funded through the Maryland Cease Fire Council Initiative, which is managed by the Maryland State Police. ■

Through a number of successful initiatives, the Support Services Division provides critical support to the Agency, the community and to other law enforcement agencies. The employees of this division adhere to the highest standards of professionalism and ensure superior service through a number of cooperative efforts.

Under the command of Capt. Michael Wyant, each of the components of this division—the Juvenile Resources Section, Teen Court Program, Victim Services Unit, Grants Management Unit, Crime Analysis Unit, Training and Recruitment Section, Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy and Intelligence/Joint Intelligence Unit—are responsible for Support Services' many different functions.

The **Juvenile Resources Section** serves the youth of Charles County by providing them with programs that

encourage good decision making and teaching them to be upstanding citizens. There are sworn officers from both the Sheriff's Office and the Maryland State Police (MSP) who, in cooperation with Charles County Public Schools, provide one officer at every high school in the County. Those officers also maintain a presence in the surrounding elementary and middle schools. Prior to this year, there were not enough officers to station one at each school, however, the division secured grant funding through the Department of Justice COPS in

Schools Program to meet the demand. Juvenile Intervention Officers work closely with the students, make intervention efforts and provide sanctions for juvenile offenders. Officers also present several school-based programs, including Safe Schools, Truth and Consequences, Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) and Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), to thousands of public and parochial students. This section received top honors for performance of a multi-jurisdictional/agency task force from the Federal Bar Association of Washington, D.C. and a Governor's Certificate of Merit for exemplary efforts to prevent and deter crime.

The **Teen Court Program** is committed to working in partnership with the Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to provide youth offenders an opportunity to accept responsibility for their minor crimes without incurring a criminal record. Since its inception in March 2001, the Teen Court program has diverted 200 juveniles from the formal criminal justice system and none of the participants has been referred back to DJJ for failing to complete the program. Participants appear before a jury of their peers, and the jury collectively



Recruits Richard Bagley and Nadine Robinson respond to a call during training at the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy.

decides on a sentence for the participant. The juries have sentenced offenders to more than 1,380 hours of community service. Youth volunteers performed 1,785 community service hours through the program, and adults and parents volunteered 275 hours.

The **Victim Services Unit** provides resources and services to victims of crime. The unit maintains a network of state, regional and local victim services agencies and establishes memorandums of understanding and confidentiality agreements. With 24-hour on-call responsibilities, the unit ensures victims have information regarding their rights under Maryland State laws. Employees of this unit coordinated services to more than 1,347 crime victims in 2002. After the tornado, the unit worked with the National Organization for Victim Assistance and the National Capital Area Crisis Response Team to provide services to those victimized by the deadly storm. The unit works on effective ways to help a variety of victims, from children to the elderly, who are victimized by a variety of crimes. The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) are among the agencies this unit works closely with.

The **Grants Management Unit** researches new grant opportunities, prepares grant applications and coordinates the operation of the Maryland HotSpot Initiative for three communities in Charles County. In 2002, the unit worked on grant funding to support HotSpots, Teen Court, the Domestic Violence Unit, the Victim Services Unit and many other programs and initiatives.



Sheriff Davis and Lt. J.J. Fenlon talk to community members about employment as a police officer with the Charles County Sheriff's Office at one of the Training and Recruitment seminars.

The **Crime Analysis Unit** provides analytical support to the Sheriff's Office with the intent to reduce crime, provide investigative analysis to support expedient case closures and improve operational effectiveness. These goals are accomplished by identifying crime patterns and trends, the strategic use of limited resources and effectively planning new resources. The unit completed 123 assignments and produced numerous reports for the Agency.

The **Training and Recruitment Section** helps employees achieve greater knowledge, skills and abilities through training and strives to recruit new employees that reflect the demographics of the County. Employees regularly attend job fairs and career nights at high schools, universities and other locations both in and out of the County. The section sponsored and hosted numerous training events for Agency employees, including training in explosives and traffic data reporting.

The **Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy** is a cooperative effort between the Sheriff's Offices in

Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's counties, and its mission is to provide highly-trained and qualified sworn and correctional officers to the Southern Maryland area. In 2002, the Academy trained 43 new police officers, including 27 who work for the CCSO, and 15 new correctional officers, including 8 who are employed at the Charles County Detention Center. The Academy also provides in-service training for employees. In 2002, 433 sworn and correctional officers from Charles County received in-service and specialized training.

The **Intelligence/Joint Intelligence Unit** is staffed by law enforcement officers from the Sheriff's Office and MSP and collects information regarding organized criminal activities. In 2002, the unit conducted 136 intelligence investigations and assessments. The unit also conducts monthly meetings of the Southern Maryland Regional Intelligence Task Force, which is a partnership between the Sheriff's Office and MSP and includes more than 20 federal, state, local, military and correctional agencies. ■

## TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION

The employees of the Technical Services Division are the heartbeat behind the Charles County Sheriff's Office. By providing a communications link both within the Agency and externally, and maintaining hundreds of thousands of Agency records, Technical Services plays a critical role in the Agency's daily operations.

Under the command of Capt. Dwight Miller in 2002, the three sections within the division, Communications, Records Management and Management Information Systems, are dedicated to providing the highest quality of service to the Agency and its citizens.

Personnel in the **Communications Section**, commanded by Lt. Richard J. Williams, carry a heavy responsibility. By providing around the clock police and radio communications to the officers and clerical coverage of the three district stations located in La Plata, Waldorf and Indian Head, these employees ensure there is always someone on the other end of the line to offer help, comfort and information. Station Clerks receive most of the Agency's calls for service. They must obtain the most accurate and complete information to relay to officers. Police Communications Officers (PCOs) then take the information, determine its priority and dispatch it accordingly to officers on the road. PCOs tell officers where they are needed, circumstances behind the situation, background information on suspects and other important information the officers need to work safely and efficiently.



Police Communications Officers Sarah Schmidt and Jennifer Johnson relay important information to officers.

For the employees in this section, safety is the top priority, and remaining calm and collected during intense situations is critical.

On April 28, 2002, at approximately 7 p.m., the Sheriff's Office began to receive calls reporting a tornado heading through the heart of La Plata, just a half mile north of the Communications Center at the La Plata District Station. As doors blew open, ceiling tiles raised, trees uprooted outside and communications consoles shook, the employees continued to man the radios and assist citizens

who were in the lobby. That dedication would continue throughout the night as hundreds of calls, many of them emergency, flooded the phone lines. In a time of unprecedented need, the Communications Center took command of a very intense situation and volunteered their personal time to assist with the tornado response. Their assistance was indeed crucial.

The **Records Management Section**, under the command of Lt. Michael Klotz, fulfills the responsibility of preserving and maintaining

every report the Sheriff's Office receives and ensuring old documents are destroyed according to the records retention and disposal schedule approved by the State Archivist. In 2002, records technicians processed and maintained more than 10,000 police reports, along with reports from previous years.

Records personnel process and disseminate specifically-requested records to various local, state and federal criminal justice agencies and respond to public inquiries as well. They are also assigned the important task of coding and classifying police reports for the Uniform Crime Report. The section also oversees the continuous surveillance of Headquarters and manages the Mutual Inter-Agency Law Enforcement System and National Crime Information Center, or MILES/NCIC system.

As the Sheriff's Office acquires more advanced technology, the responsibilities of the **Management Information Systems Section (MIS)** become more critical. Three sub-sections, CAD Administration, Network Administration and PC Operations, all managed by Mr. Eric Halvorsen, are responsible for maintaining and ensuring the proper function of the Agency's computers and computer programs, all the while keeping up on the latest in technology to benefit the Sheriff's Office.

The CAD Administration Unit is responsible for the maintenance of the software used to track calls for service, incident reports, warrants, civil process, arrests and incarcerations. Because this system is utilized continu-



In 2002, work began on the new 800 MHz communications system, which included erecting new towers.

ously, employees in this area must always be available to troubleshoot problems. During 2002 the unit provided coordination and oversight of a major upgrade of the software.

The Network Administration Unit is responsible for maintaining network connectivity within the Agency's sites and network servers. At the end of 2002, the unit was preparing to change the Agency's e-mail server software. The new software will allow all Agency employees, including police officers, to have Agency e-mail capabilities. The unit also started a project to enable all sworn personnel to have Personal Data Assistants (PDAs) to input traffic stop information required by law, input Field Interview Reports and process e-mail.

The PC Operations Unit is responsible for maintaining all of the Agency's PCs, fax machines, scanners and other various computer equip-

ment. This unit also maintains the Officers' Voice Mail System, which was established last year. By calling 301-609-3282 and entering an officer's identification number, citizens can leave the officer a voice message.

Technical Services also spearheaded work on the new Communications system officers will utilize in 2004. The new 800 MHz system will facilitate communication between police, fire and EMS, and will allow officers to communicate with officers in other jurisdictions. This feature would have helped tremendously during the tornado response, when many agencies responded to assist Charles County but were isolated by radio from each other. The new system will also have a number of officer safety features, including the ability for an officer to override all other radio traffic in the event of an emergency. ■



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Charles County Sheriff's Office maintains a strong commitment, not only to fulfilling the County's law enforcement needs, but to aiding citizens in community outreach efforts as well. From Special Olympics Maryland and Christmas in April, to the American Cancer Society and March of Dimes, Agency employees donate personal time and energy to a number of charitable organizations.

Christmas came early for a Waldorf family whose home was refurbished by the Charles County Sheriff's Office as part of Christmas in April. Nearly 40 employees participated in the annual event, and they spent much of the day repairing the roof, painting and doing other jobs that

In June, the Agency's Relay for Life Team, "The Posse," took to the track of La Plata High School with many other community members, as well as cancer survivors, to participate in Relay for Life. This annual event raises money for the American Cancer Society's fight to find a cure for cancer.

As part of this event, Agency employees initiate fund-raisers and solicit donations from family and friends. Then, at least one member of the team walks on the track continuously throughout the night. This year, the team raised \$3,681.92, far exceeding its goal to raise \$2,002.

The Charles County Detention Center helped put food on the tables of many of Charles County's needy families for Thanksgiving this year by holding its annual food drive. Employees donated 2,263 items of food to the Children's Aid Society.

Special Olympics Maryland is an organization close to the hearts of CCSO employees. Through various fund-raisers, the Agency demonstrates a strong commitment to the organization, which provides mentally challenged citizens with the opportunity to

participate in sporting events to develop courage, strength and confidence. In 2002, Maryland's police and corrections community raised \$930,000 for Special Olympics Maryland. At the Cops and Lobsters event, during which officers wait tables at Red Lobster for donations, the Agency raised \$10,500 of the \$20,721 raised statewide. At the year's end, the Charles County Red Lobster ranked fifth in the nation out of the 535 Red Lobsters across the country participating in the program.

The Sheriff's Office also ranked third in Maryland for sales of Torch Run T-shirts, another Special Olympics fund-raiser. The Agency raised \$9,000 by selling the T-shirts. Then, approximately 50 representatives of the Charles County Sheriff's Office, St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office and the Maryland State Police, put on their running shoes and ran an eight mile trek from the Fraternal Order of Police lodge, through La Plata and back to the lodge in support of Special Olympics. The Agency also participated in the St. Mary's Splash, during which hundreds of people congregate at Point Lookout in St. Mary's in the dead of winter to take a quick dip in the Chesapeake Bay for Special Olympics. ■



PFC Robert Gottschall takes an order at Red Lobster during Cops and Lobsters, an annual event that supports Special Olympics Maryland.

made the house look like new at the day's end. Because there were more volunteers than there was work, some of the Agency employees assisted a church group refurbishing another home in the County.

2002

## YOUTH OUTREACH



When the youth of Charles County approach an officer to report a crime, seek advice or just say hello, the Charles County Sheriff's Office knows its youth outreach efforts are paying off. The Sheriff's Office is committed to providing children with programs to help them build confidence, foster constructive relationships with their peers and interact with law enforcement in a positive atmosphere.

For five weeks of the summer, a group of middle school-aged students learned about decision making, the consequences of crime and drugs and other valuable life lessons as part of the Summer Youth Achievement program, a partnership between the CCSO, Maryland State Police and Charles County Public Schools. Through activities and classroom instruction, officers teach kids about substance abuse, self esteem, nutrition, health awareness and academics.

For young adults interested in a career in law enforcement, the Criminal Justice Program offers them the chance to learn about the job as part of their high school curriculum. During their junior and senior years, students travel to the Career and Technology Center in Pomfret and learn about law enforcement from two officers from the Crime Prevention Unit. The program is a cooperative education effort between the Sheriff's Office and Charles County Public Schools and teaches students about all aspects of the criminal justice system, from police to corrections to courts. Students who are considering careers in law enforcement as well as in the military and as attorneys sign up and participation increases each year.



Thanks to a joint effort between the Sheriff's Office and the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #24, many of Charles County's underprivileged youth started the 2002-2003 school year with more than \$500 in new school supplies. Sheriff Fred Davis, Cpl. Kelly Layfield and FOP Sergeant-At-Arms Jason Hopkins are shown here with some of the supplies.

Explorer Post 1658 is the largest post in the State and within the region. Approximately 50 young adults between the ages of 14 and 21 are offered a balanced program of career, social, service, leadership, fitness and outdoor experiences. Explorers participate in community service events, searches for lost children, fingerprinting, traffic and crowd control and neighborhood crime watch.

During 2002, Explorers participated in 71 community service events and volunteered 1,920 hours, not including fingerprinting hours. Along with students in the Criminal Justice Program, the Explorers completed 1,887 fingerprint cards. The Explorers also partici-

pated in the Explorers National Conference in Arizona this year. The conference brought together more than 4,000 Explorers from throughout the U.S., Puerto Rico and England. They were presented with scenarios often faced by law enforcement officers and participated in air pistol and laser beam shooting competitions, the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course, Police Physical Fitness Test and the Drill Team competition. The CCSO Explorers scored in the top 10 percent in the nation in the Traffic Stop and Arrest Warrant competitions and Explorer Matt Irby received the award for the top overall shooter in the nation with a score of 509 out of 600. ■



In remembrance of all those who so loyally served the Charles County Sheriff's Office, and made the ultimate sacrifice in the service and protection of Charles County's citizens.

**PTM. LAWRENCE H. MCPARLIN**

Patrolman McParlin was Charles County's first officer known to have fallen in the line of duty. On May 12, 1918, a short time after becoming a police officer, Ptm. McParlin and Officer John Conrad of the Metropolitan Police Department attempted to serve a court summons in Washington, D.C. As they entered the building, the suspect, whom investigation revealed was wanted, opened fire, killing both officers.



**PFC. DENNIS L. RILEY**

On January 11, 1977, PFC Riley was killed in a tragic accident at the intersection of Md. Route 228 and U.S. Route 301 in Waldorf. As he waited for a traffic light to change, a truck skidded to a stop and overturned on his cruiser, killing him instantly. PFC Riley left a wife and four children.



**SGT. FRANCIS "LEO" YATES**

On June 8, 1988, Sgt. Yates died of a heart attack as he left the Charles County Courthouse. Sgt. Yates left a wife and four children.



**SGT. JOSEPH E. STINE, JR.**

On May 12, 1990, Sgt. Stine arrested a disorderly subject and transported the resisting prisoner to the Charles County Detention Center. He then collapsed, due to a fatal heart attack. Sgt. Stine left a wife, two children and three step-children.



**SGT. TIMOTHY C. MINOR**

On February 12, 1996, Sgt. Minor was responding to a call near Cobb Island when a vehicle pulled in front of his police motorcycle while he was traveling on Route 257 in Newburg. Sgt. Minor left a wife and two children.

*"Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called the Sons of God."*

*Matthew 5:9*

2000



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