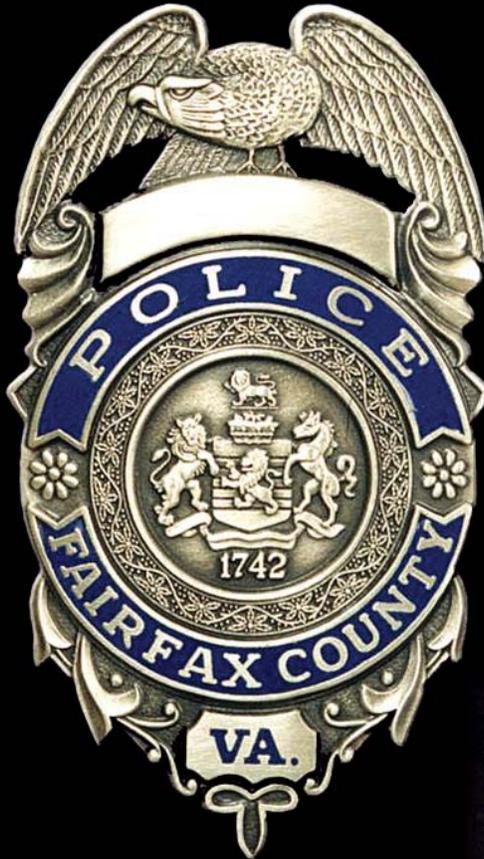


Behind the Badge

*Fairfax County Police Department
10th Ed., August 2009*



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Past and future editions of Behind the Badge can be found on-line using the following web address:

[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/newsletter/
btb.](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/newsletter/btb.)

From the Chief - Integrity and Ethics

As I was thinking of a topic to write for this column, I was considering an update to the seemingly never ending FY10 budget process. But my thoughts continually turn back to the one issue which has troubled me for the past few months – that of the alleged misconduct in our promotional processes. And while this may not be a ‘soft’ topic perhaps better suited for a column of this type, I believe it too important an issue to just stand silent. I’m aware the allegations involve only a relatively few members of our Department, but sadly, the alleged misconduct reflects on all of us.

I’m proud of our Department, and I’m proud of all who serve, or have served, our community. Our Department has been founded and built over the years on a standard of excellence, and we are each responsible as stewards of our heritage and our professional standards and values. Our profession is highly respected not only in our community, but across our country.

To that end, we are also each stewards of the public trust. Integrity and character do matter. We must continue to uphold our core principles and values, for these are the very bedrock of our profession and of the respect and public trust we enjoy. We must all embrace our individual and collective responsibilities and embody the traditions and core values of our Department and of policing. As stated, in part, in our Department values, “We believe the highest moral and ethical standards are the cornerstone of the department, and all members are expected to adhere to these standards.”

I reject the rumors or implications that “cheating” on promotional processes has been systemic. To me that is only an excuse offered by some, and regardless, unethical conduct cannot, and will not, be tolerated. We all make mistakes, but misconduct is different. We are each responsible, and accountable, for our actions, and ethical misconduct in particular cannot be tolerated.

We focus heavily on skills training to ensure competency, but perhaps we do not focus enough discussion and training on our values or ethics – yet these are fundamentally important in the effective and proper performance of our mission. As a learning organization we are committed to self-assessment and continual

improvement. I ask that we all personally commit to the same.

Whether one chooses to acknowledge or accept it, police officers are looked to as role models. Police officers are entrusted with unique powers and authority by the public, and the public trust we are afforded must never be

compromised or taken for granted. We are rightly held to a higher standard and it is our actions that speak louder than our words. It is a reality of our chosen profession, and we should embrace this, viewing it not as a burden but as a privilege and an honor – one founded upon the trust and respect we have earned through selfless sacrifice and quality public service.

Integrity matters in our everyday lives, but certainly integrity and ethics within policing are fundamental values which require our commitment. Integrity matters in how we treat others; integrity matters in the arrest and prosecution of offenders; integrity matters in how and when we apply the use-of-force, including deadly force; and integrity matters in the fair and consistent application of discretion.

In summary, I respect and appreciate the integrity, professionalism, courage, dedication to duty, and sacrifice demonstrated by so many every day in the service and protection of our community. I’m proud to serve alongside so many dedicated men and women who make a difference everyday in a profession that can bring unique challenges under, at times, difficult circumstances, but one which also offers great opportunity and reward, not just professionally, but personally. So let us together uphold and further the core values of our Department and of policing, and ensure we sustain the respect and public trust we’ve worked so hard to achieve.

- Colonel Dave Rohrer



Patches of the Fairfax County Police Department

by Second Lieutenant

Over the past year spent researching the Department's history, we've come across vintage patches, weapons, documents, and other assorted police equipment. We know many officers and retirees have an interest in police patches, and in this article we'll show many of the mainstay shoulder patches issued by the FCPD through the years.

We have been able to document the basic series of patches which have been used from 1940 to the current day. All of the patches shown are actual vintage Fairfax County Police issue.

The Fairfax County Police Triangle Patch



The first patch was a triangle issued to our original 1940-era officers. Photos of the "Road Police" or "Special Police" in service prior to 1940 all show officers wearing uniforms without these triangular patches. Once the Department became a stand-alone agency on July 1, 1940, photos show the earliest Fairfax County Police Triangle Patch displayed only on officers' outer jackets until the mid-1940s. At that time, it appears officers began

wearing these patches on their uniform shirts as well.

The Mount Vernon Shoulder Patch



The Mount Vernon patch came into service around 1953. This patch prominently displayed George Washington's Mount Vernon mansion and remained in use from 1953 through 1963. It was worn on the uniform shirts, jackets, and the Fairfax County Police Baseball Team uniform.

1963 Series Shoulder Patch

Our current style of patch came into existence in 1963. We have found five variations of the standard-issue patch to date as well as patches for Rangers, Park Police, several Tactical Patch styles, and a metallic thread gold patch possibly used by the Honor Guard in the 1980s.

Tactical Patches

The first Tactical Patch used by our tactical officers was a gold patch which was blackened with a magic marker. Colonel Dave Rohrer and Major Mike Lomonaco both advised this was the process to darken



Officer Grafton "Tab" Wells In Uniform Jacket Circa early 1940s



Fairfax County Police baseball Team - Shown are Officer Mike Shenk (left) and Officer Julian Burke (right)



The Pistol Team wearing the 1963 series patch - circa 1966. Left to right; Officer Roy Irvin, Officer Frank Scott, Officer Ray Newman, Sergeant Ron Watts



Shumate and Side Car

- Fairfax County Police Museum Archive Project

Curator Dan Courtney



Officer Kenny Wilson, Circa 1950s



This 1963-era patch is believed to be the first of the current patch series. It has a faceless lion on top of the county seal and a wide flat border around the edge.



Sergeant Eugene Columbus, circa 1950



Officer Grafton "Tab" Wells, circa 1941



the patches for their TAC Uniforms. Patch circa 1984 – Courtesy Major Lomonaco.



The second of the series of Tactical Patches was all black in color. This patch was used from 1988/89 until around 2000.



This is the current style of Tactical Patch in use and the style used by other specialized Department entities. The gray wording provides better identification of the wearer.

This quick overview is meant to show the standard patches issued by the Fairfax County Police Department. There have been a series of other patches, unit-produced, which we do not have in our collection. The information we have listed comes from sources such as our 1994 yearbook, other printed historical information, and

the experience of our retirees. We welcome additional information. Should anyone in our police family have additional material or information, please contact me. In future editions of "Behind the Badge" we hope to showcase the basic service weapons issued by our agency through the years, along with photos of other equipment from our past.



2nd Generation Patch set



3rd Generation Patch set circa 1970s



4th Generation Patch set circa 1980s



5th Generation Patch set circa 1993

Fairfax County Police Bomb Squad History

by 2Lt. Chris M. Cotone

The Department's Bomb Squad had humble beginnings with officers primarily assigned to patrol taking on additional part-time duties to respond to periodic bomb-related calls. Resources and equipment were limited in the early years and consisted primarily of a good hand tool kit, long rope, sharp knife, and steady nerves. Remote disablement tools like water cannon disruptors, portable X-rays, bomb suits, and robots had not yet been developed. Once they were available, they remained cost prohibitive for many years. This forced most small bomb squads to improvise their own specialty tools or try to acquire items through the military. One homemade technique to create a water cannon was to combine a stout piece of galvanized pipe, a prophylactic, and a hand loaded, electrically initiated, specialty shotgun round.

In the early 1980's, domestic terrorism created a change of direction for our little squad. A Puerto Rican terrorist group known as the FALN stepped up bombing attacks against U.S. corporations. Mobil Oil was specifically targeted several times at its headquarters in New York City. These incidents sent the company on a search for a new headquarters location in a quieter, lower-profile area where employees could work in a more secure environment.

The search led to Fairfax County and into discussions with the Board of Supervisors (BOS). Mobil was assured by the BOS that the Police Department would be expanded to enhance security for the proposed new headquarters complex. In 1983, the BOS approved the creation of a full-time Tactical Team and two EOD positions. These became standing units within



FCPD - Hazardous Devices School Bomb Technicians through the Years:

Robert (Bob) Reis.....1973-74
Ken Snyder.....1974-99
John Mueller & K9 Blackjack (Ret.).....1975-94
Cody Perry.....1976-93
David Barrett.....1977-84
Mike Harris.....1992-99
Jim Reid.....1993-96
Chris Cotone & K9 Misty (Ret.).....1995 – present
Wayne Hirst & K9 Kisco (Ret.).....1998-2006
Ken Campo.....1999-2002
Tom Eggers & K9 Puget.....2003 – present
Bryan Cooke & K9 Spicey.....2004 – present
Brian Buckholtz & K9 Lightcap.....2004 – present
Joe Clerkin & K9 Gracie.....2004 – present
Mike Nickolas.....2006 - present
Greg Moss.....2006 - present
Ramon Robertson.....2007 - present

the Special Operations Division (SOD) of the Department.

At that time, the officers assigned to the newly formed, full-time bomb squad were finally given the opportunity to get the equipment they so desperately needed. Some specialized EOD equipment was now available and a short list consisting of one bomb suit, portable X-ray equipment, a water disrupter system, hand tools, a response vehicle, bomb trailer, and rigging equipment was submitted and approved. The equipment was purchased within a short period of time.

John Mueller and Dave Barrett, the first full-time bomb technicians, began duties in SOD as a part of the Operations Support Bureau (OSB). Back then, OSB was located in an old house in Annandale. It later moved to the then new, West Springfield District Station. EOD remained in the Annandale CIS Section since there wasn't enough room at West Springfield.





Dave Barrett left the squad when he was promoted to sergeant and Ken Snyder joined the full-time squad in early 1984. When the Department took over the Pine Ridge Facility, EOD rejoined OSB there. Cody Perry worked with the full-time squad while assigned to the Park Police Division. He went back to patrol at Chantilly when the Park Police were absorbed into the Department and remained a part-time bomb technician.

In the years since, EOD has remained with SOD at Pine Ridge and many officers have worked in the squad and moved on or retired. In 2003, the Department formed a cadre of supplemental bomb technicians to handle the increasing call volume, technical duties, and certifications required of current bomb technicians. The original training course has been expanded from three weeks to a six-week basic course. Duties now require cross training in HAZMAT and Weapons of Mass Destruction. In-service training requirements dictate a minimum of 16 hours per month of EOD-related training, 48 hours of HAZMAT related training per year, and a trip back to Redstone Arsenal every three years for official recertification by the Hazardous Devices School (HDS).

In 2004, HDS moved to a state-of-the-art facility with a large “Hogan’s Alley” training area. The facility has over 15 venues including stores, houses, an apartment building, transportation center, bank, gas station, movie theater, church, strip mall, etc. Each venue is typical of the locations bomb squads are called on to respond. Current training organizes students into teams of four, which are then “dispatched” to various locations throughout the multi-acre facility. Teams are sent to deal with scenarios such as suspicious packages, post-blast situations, explosive labs, and WMD/terrorism-related scenarios. Teams drive to each problem in an assigned bomb truck outfitted with equipment typical for most bomb squads. The training is very dynamic and immersive, testing technicians in a skills-based, hands-on environment. Stressors are built into the training in the form of time-limits, multiple hazards, and injured victims needing rescue.

Today, in addition to its regular mission of investigating

suspicious packages and explosive-related incidents, the Bomb Squad regularly supports the Tactical Team in their missions. The EOD Section also handles bomb threat calls with four explosive detection canines. Puget (Jed), Spicey, Lightcap, and Gracie are trained and acquired through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives’ K9 Program. Congress legislated the ATF as official certifying agency for explosive detector canines. The dogs are trained in explosive recognition under the National Odor Recognition Training (NORT) Standard.

In 2004, with the assistance of grant and seized assets funds, the bomb squad was able to obtain the current heavy response truck. The truck is well equipped but the bomb squad has quickly outgrown it because of increasing needs to acquire and carry additional specialized equipment to meet current threats, both domestic and international. Every officer in this agency can appreciate the target-rich environment Fairfax County represents and how dramatically different the county is from the quiet community of 30-40 years ago.



From Left to Right: MPO Tom Eggers, MPO Bryan Cooke, PFC Joe Clerkin, PFC Mike Nicholas, PFC Brian Buckhotlz, PFC Greg Moss, 2nd Lt. Chris Cotone.
Not Pictured - PFC Ramon Robertson

FCPD Hosts Honor Guard Seminar

by Officer Megan Hawkins

For the third straight year, police departments from the Washington Metropolitan area to as far away as Canada have turned to the Fairfax County Police Honor Guard for training and instructions. June 23-25, a total of 42 officers from 13 departments traveled to the Criminal Justice Academy for honor guard training. Among the agencies attending this year were the Uniform Secret Service, Edmonton, Canada, Police Department, New Jersey Department of Corrections, Clark County Sheriff's Office, Washington State Police, Norfolk Police Department, and Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office.

The FCPD Honor Guard training seminar covered topics to help teams prepare for future ceremonies including folding the flag, casket carry, casket guard, urn carry, color team, marching, and the 21-gun salute. These are among the duties used in full honor funerals for a line-of-duty death. Full honor funerals which honor law enforcement officers and their families for their service are the most important missions any honor guard team performs.



Instruction wasn't limited to mechanics and techniques; it also focused on leadership and supervision. Classes were presented on equipment, funding, preparation of a teletype notification for line-of-duty deaths, organizing a line-of-duty funeral, and coordinating an honor guard unit. This year, Chris Cosgriff, founder of the Officer Down Memorial Page, addressed the seminar. In 1996, Mr. Cosgriff started the web site, www.odmp.org, after he was compelled to find a way to honor officers killed in the line of duty.

On the third and final day of training, participants practiced a mock funeral for a line-of-duty death. Officers dressed in their Class A uniforms proudly represented their agencies. Every agency interviewed affirmed they will incorporate many of the techniques taught by the FCPD

Honor Guard and will be sending more officers to our next seminar. Sgt. Kevin Allais of the Clark County Washington Sheriff's Office had nothing but compliments for our team, "Each FCPD Honor Guard member was well versed in their procedures and appeared to be very interested in passing on their knowledge to us. I was very impressed with their professionalism."

Sgt. Gary Cook of Edmonton, Canada, Police Department summed up his experience at the seminar saying, "The highlight of the whole experience was the coming together of various agencies to learn how to honor a fallen comrade with the ultimate respect."

Author's note: In 1980, Dempsey Wilson, Bobby Hersey, Larry Jackson, Scotty Boatwright, Bill Noble, and a few others formed the Fairfax County Police Department Honor Guard. Over the years, the Honor Guard has been requested for approximately 100 missions annually. Those requests include line-of-duty and retiree funerals and presentation of colors at numerous events in the Washington Metro area. Today, the team is comprised of 40 members; 30 men and 10 women.



Police Wives Range and Track Day

by Sandra Lehr

On Thursday, October 2, 2008, the Fairfax County Police Wives set out to test their skills on the county's range and track. With the gracious help of the Criminal Justice Academy staff, the wives took part in an informative and fun day focusing on two elements of everyday police work: driving and firearms training.

The experience levels of the participants ranged from women very familiar with firearms to those who don't even want to look at a gun. After a safety demonstration and brief lecture, it was out to the range to load clips and take aim. With ear and eye protection in hand, the women were introduced to the Sig Sauer semi-automatic pistol and the 12 gauge shotgun.

After building confidence by shooting stationary targets, it was time to move indoors to "PRISim" (Professional Range Instructor Simulator). This is, as one instructor put it, "the most expensive video game you will ever play." The simulator is definitely something of a gem. The technology involved and realism of the scenarios gave great insight into the types of encounters police officers may encounter on a daily basis. The instructors were kind enough to disable the "return fire" option on the simulator which kept us from getting hit with plastic pellets. (Thanks!) After losing a hostage to a gunman on our first scenario (oops!), we were afforded a "do over." This time my deadeye partner took care of business and our hostage was able to run to safety. (Thanks Saleena!)



As if the range was not stimulating enough, it was off to the track for some high speed fun. If you thought you were pretty good at maneuvering the minivan through a shopping center parking lot and getting the kids to soccer practice on time, then this was your challenge. In and out, multipoint turns, serpentines and did I forget to mention, it was timed? Entrusted with brand new cruisers, it was lights on, sirens wailing and off to the races! Believe it or not, a few ladies had scores that ranked with those of academy cadets.

The day was full of fun and exhilarating experiences (even if you just watched) that gave perspective to the jobs our husbands do each day. I know my limitations and know that I am not cut out for a job in law enforcement, but I am grateful for the men and women who do the job so well every day. Fairfax County is very fortunate to have such a great facility to train their officers. Thank you to the Range and Track Staff!!!

So you think you've got what it takes? A couple of wives are thinking about the academy!!

K-9 School Graduation

January 16, 2009

The Fairfax County Canine Unit is proud to announce the graduation of these seven K-9 teams from their basic training course. The ceremony took place on January 16, 2009 after the teams completed 14 weeks of intensive training. A special congratulations to **PFC Lori Beach**, the first female Fairfax County Police Officer to complete the K-9 school and serve as a K-9 Officer.



Photograph by Donna Spiewak

In Front : **PFC Robin Wyatt & K-9 Gallo**

Second Row (left to right): **MPO David Simpson** (Instructor), **Officer Damien Austin & K-9 Smokey** (Town of Herndon Police Dept.), **Officer Janie Moreno and K-9 Thor** (City of Falls Church Police Dept.), **Officer Cheryl Nordstrom & K-9 Drago** (Arlington County Police Dept.), **PFC Michael Gubesch** (Instructor)

Third Row (left to right): **Deputy Brad Pugh & K-9 Ammo** (Warren County Sheriff's Office), **PFC Lori Beach & K-9 Elvis**, **MPO Mark Dale & K-9 Blitz**



Photograph by Keith Dobuler

Photograph by Donna Spiewak

Photograph by Donna Spiewak

Photograph by Keith Dobuler

Photograph by Keith Dobuler

Photograph by Donna Spiewak

McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center

The McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC) on West Ox Road officially opened on Friday, October 10 (2008). State and local dignitaries spoke to an enthusiastic crowd about the importance, and significance, of the new center, designed to streamline public safety responses to incidents and emergencies in Fairfax, and roadways across the region.

The \$135.5 million operations center is the new home to Fairfax County 9-1-



Former Springfield District Supervisor Elaine McConnell

1 operators, state police dispatchers, emergency management and transportation officials. Connected to MPSTOC through a glass-enclosed walkway is a 33,000-square-foot building, a new forensic facility which holds specialized police department functions, including the Crime Scene Section, the Electronic Surveillance Unit and the Northern Virginia Regional Identification System (NOVARIS). There is also space reserved for a Fairfax County DNA laboratory.



MPSTOC was named for, and dedicated to, former Springfield District Supervisor Elaine McConnell, a tireless advocate for public safety throughout her tenure in public service for residents since being elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1983.

“I’ve Got Your Back”

A Recurring Series of

By Donna

This series of articles about our patrol officers is being written to portray the lives of the men and women in uniform who respond on a daily basis to potentially dangerous situations; help citizens in need; and handle the daily volume of calls for police services. We hope that many family members and friends of officers get a better understanding of what’s “behind the badge” for officers assigned to patrol Fairfax County.

This series is entitled “I’ve Got Your Back” because it incorporates one character trait of every law enforcement officer on the Department. When a request for backup or assistance goes out, every one of them will stop what they’re doing and respond to the officer in need. This esprit de corps is the invisible thread that binds the Department together and makes it a force to be reckoned with for criminals.

The foundation of every police officer’s career is the Patrol Division. As of August 2008, there were 1,430 sworn officers in the FCPD. Every one of them started in the same place after graduation from the Criminal Justice Academy: completing their field training program, joining a squad at a district station, and several years of patrol work in designated police service areas (PSA).

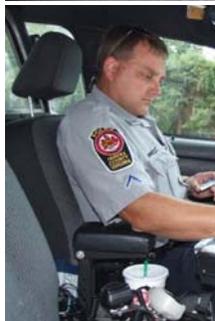
In order to gain true insight into what officers experience on patrol, I began a series of ride alongs with Patrol Division I (Sully, Reston, and Fair Oaks Stations) working with the day work, evening and midnight shifts. This series is a compilation of events that took place on patrol and is not meant to be about individual officers.

Every tour of duty at a station begins with a roll call lasting about 30 minutes. The squad supervisors go over assignments, discuss activities or events from the Staff Duty Officer reports, schedule personnel to cover DWI checkpoints and other tasks, and update personnel on

upcoming training and Department matters. Officers may also get news of promotions, transfers, awards, or praise for a good case they’ve worked. Some may get the stomach-churning “see me” note from a supervisor that starts them wondering what did I do this time? Once released from roll call, the officers inspect their cruisers and handle administrative tasks before going on patrol in their assigned PSAs. This may be the only time during their 11-and-a-half-hour shift the officers have time to check e-mails or return phone messages.

Just for a moment, put yourself in an officer’s place. What a powerful and responsible job an officer is paid to do. Imagine that YOU have the ability to take away a person’s freedom with four little words; you are under arrest, followed by the clicking sound of handcuffs locking. Even more thought provoking, what seems to be a routine event can become a high speed pursuit, a major criminal case or an encounter with a violent individual in a split second.

Do these situations happen during every tour of duty? Honestly and thankfully, no, but officers lives depend on vigilance and preparation for any possibility. So, what really goes on during a typical day/night on patrol? It’s not the glamour and action you see on *COPS*. Just like the U. S. Postal Service, patrol officers go out in all sorts of weather; getting soaked in the rain, sliding on ice, freezing in the cold, or feeling as though they’re melting in the heat and humidity.



“Your Back” in the Patrol Divisions

Spiewak



Here are examples of events officers responded to while I accompanied them on patrol:

- Driving around for hours through neighborhoods (We must have driven by the same house at least 10 times) and business communities observing people's behavior and activities
- Responding to residential and business alarms.



- Handling the aftermath of crashes. (We came upon an accident with injury at an intersection. One driver making a left turn failed to yield the right of way. We were joined by tow trucks, fire trucks and an ambulance.)



- Meeting with the parents of a teenage driver arrested after a vehicle crash that occurred the previous night. The teenager had been charged with an alcohol-related offense and the officer was able to find out who had purchased the alcohol by conducting a follow-up interview. The officer spoke with the teen's parents to make sure they had all the facts, which appeared to be greatly appreciated.



- Responding to several civil disputes and reported assaults, most of which turned out to be unsubstantiated. (One call, though, involved an individual threatening others with a machete. Several officers responded and, after an investigation, the machete was recovered from one suspect's vehicle and appropriate charges were placed against a former gang member.)

- Investigating two complaints of graffiti on a county community center sign and on a metal enclosure at a swimming pool.

- Writing tickets for parking violations, speeding, and other traffic offenses. (We conducted speed enforcement in response to a citizen complaint about excessive speeding in the area, a common occurrence for officers assigned to a specific service area.)

- Arresting a man for domestic violence after he allegedly slapped his daughter during an argument. (We spent hours at the Adult Detention Center filling out paperwork and waiting for the subject's appearance before the magistrate.)

- Helping to locate a man who called 911 and threatened suicide. (When officers found him in a county park, he had taken pills in an attempt to harm himself. He was taken to the hospital by ambulance and officers followed up to ensure he got help and his family was notified.)

In many of these situations, the officers interviewed complainants, victims, witnesses, and suspects. Most people were cooperative although some were hesitant to become involved. It was a true testament to this Department to observe the steadfast patience and professionalism of the officers when responding to the wide variety of calls for service, the many individuals who spoke a broad range of languages, and the people who were impaired as a result of alcohol or medication.

The next article in this series will discuss costs associated with hiring, training, and equipping patrol officers, combined with some events observed during ride alongs with Patrol Division II (West Springfield, Franconia and Mt. Vernon).



Chaplain's Corner - A Second Chance To Serve

by Police Chaplain Philip J. Bishop

In 1988, after a long and arduous application process, it was a thrill to part of the Fairfax County Police family. The Fair Oaks District Station was to be my home for the next nine years, and the dedicated professionals who worked there became some of my dearest friends. Other than a few special assignments to CIB, my entire time was spent in patrol. I worked permanent days, evenings, midnights, rotating shifts, before finally settling permanently into the midnight shift as a MPO. The Fairfax County Police Department was very good to me.

In 1997, my pastor recommended me to a pastoral position at the Lighthouse Baptist Church in the Franconia District of Alexandria. It is truly a divine act of God that my career path was altered. Church pulpit committees do not call 9-1-1 when they have a vacancy in the pulpit.

My last midnight shift ended on February 28, 1997. That morning, there was a trip to headquarters to delete my computer access and out-processing. After surrendering some \$30,000 in unused sick leave, there was a check that needed to be written for my unused cleaning allowance. The Department basically owned everything in my possession, so after traffic court, I visited Tommy Hawkins in the property room. There, Tommy basically took everything down to my underclothes, shoes, and socks. He did allow me to keep one pair of pants for the trip home for which I was extremely thankful.

My friends and co-workers at the station threw a wonderful farewell party in the roll call room. As my family left the station with me, and I pushed on the panic bar on the front door for the last time, I remember thinking, "This device is very properly named, 'Panic Bar!'" It was a scary feeling to leave the security of a job, friends, and a police family immensely loved to venture out into the unknown.

The last 12 years have been busy and filled with raising my three children, ministering to a growing congregation, and obtaining advanced degrees. Over these years, I would often bump into people from the Department. Inevitably, the question would arise, "Do you miss police work?" My answer would often include, "I sleep very well at 4:00 in the morning, but I sure do miss free coffee at 7-11!" However, the thing I missed the most was the friendship and fellowship of some very special people.

It was a thrill to receive a phone call a few months ago from Franconia Police Chaplain Wesley Peyton asking if I would be willing to serve along with him here in Franconia. It has been a joy to see familiar faces. Some are a little greyer; some a little heavier; some with a lot less hair; but all much wiser.

My return to the Police Department has been quite a natural transition and addition of duty. The welcome by the officers of the Franconia District has been warm and accepting. The station administration has been very supportive. The joy of that free cup of 7-11 coffee still eludes me, but it sure is good to back with my Fairfax County Police Department family.



Retiree Corner

by Captain Dan Mustaine (Ret.)

I have absolutely no recollection of ever being as young as I appear in these photographs, but apparently I was. As I recall, I had badge #139, which in those days was significant. Having a “badge change” and lowering your number (and in later years your ID number) was really a big deal. It did denote seniority and alleged smarts. I’m not too sure of that anymore.



appeared the current Sheriff would be defeated, I sold insurance for a while. I returned to the Sheriff’s Office as a civilian in Planning & Research under a new Sheriff. I retired from the MCSO with 18 years of service. When Uncle Sam told me he would send me a check for doing nothing, I ran over several people getting out of the building.

I had a marvelous career with Fairfax County and after spending a little while in law enforcement I can assure all of the current members that they are very lucky to be with a department as professional as Fairfax. My assignments included patrol in Mclean (there were only three patrol districts at the time) and headquarters. I went to Communications (which was manned by police personnel), general assignment detectives, homicide, and Crimes Against Persons. I was promoted to corporal and served in Patrol and CID. I worked as a Sergeant in Patrol and CID; a Lieutenant in Personnel; Captain at the West Springfield Station; and finally as the Patrol Bureau Executive just prior to retirement. If I were to rate my assignments by the enjoyment factor, homicide would certainly be #1 with Station Commander as #2. Everything else was OK but those two were stand outs.

I still play a lot of golf - of course “a lot” is a relative term. I usually play once a week when my old body can get around. I am 70 and have a lot of replaced parts: both knees, cataracts, and both thumb joints. If I have to fly someplace, I have to give the airport security people two weeks notice so they can fire up the extra metal detectors. I am here to tell all of you young guys that “gettin’ old ain’t for sissies.”

I have two kids. My son, Chris, is the Area Director for Young Life in Fort Myers. He is married with one daughter. My daughter Trista, 27, was just discharged from the US Army after six years. She was promoted to Captain and spent 27 months in Iraq over two tours. She is going to Law School at Stetson, St. Pete, Florida. Obviously I am very proud of my kids. It must have been their mother’s influence!

I retired in 1981 and moved to Florida. I worked with the Manatee County Sheriff’s Office in Bradenton, just north of Sarasota and south of St. Pete. I worked warrants for a while, then got promoted to Lieutenant and went into Personnel and Training. When it



Retirement has really been wonderful. My golfing partner (Russ Aloï, known to many of Fairfax’s finest) comments often about being blessed with family, friends, weather, and the opportunity to make a complete fool of ourselves on the golf course.

Recent Retirements

2Lt. Michael L. Connor,
12/23/08, 27+ years

PCA Ellen A. Orange,
1/24/09, 28 years

MPO Roger A. Siegel,
12/19/08, 24 years

MPO John W. Moss,
4/14/09, 31+ Years

PFC Ernest L. Pappas,
12/5/08, 19.5 years

Captain Michael A. Spradlin,
3/27/09, 34+ years

MPO Patrick J. O’Hara,
3/27/09, 25 years

Det. Steven A. Shillingford,
12/19/08, 24 years

MPO John (Jack) A. White,
12/5/08, 32 years

VIPS Corner

by Donna Spiewak, Director VIPS Program

I'd like to begin this column by thanking the men and women of the Fairfax County Police Department for their dedication and professionalism during this extremely challenging time while dealing with the county budget for 2010. It is a difficult situation for the county during these lean economic times. We want you to know that the volunteers who are part of the Volunteers in Police Service program are here to support the department in administrative functions wherever the need exists.



Usually the VIPS Column highlights individual VIPS so the department can become familiar with volunteers. However, for the next two Behind the Badge issues, information will be provided about the overall program and our celebration of 10 years of service to the department.

Many times you will see or hear a volunteer identified as a VIP, however, the correct acronym is VIPS, Volunteers in Police Service.

In 2008, the VIPS volunteered over 20,300 hours of service to the community. That's a cost savings benefit of over \$507,500. As of February 2009, we have 103 active VIPS with more candidates in the pipeline as new assignments become available. Some VIPS work multiple short-term assignments while others are responsible for major projects and programs. Those of you who work with VIPS know that volunteers take their assignments seriously and consistently offer to take on additional responsibilities. Please take advantage of their education, work experience and skills.

Prior to new volunteers entering the VIPS program, contact is made with their potential supervisor. If candidates meet the expectations of the supervisor of the assignment, they undergo a two-tier background investigation before being approved as a VIPS. There is a minimum requirement of 10 hours per quarter that each VIPS must meet in order to stay active in the program. VIPS receive on-the-job training and also attend courses at the Criminal Justice Academy.

VIPS are eligible for department awards and letters of commendation. Each year the department holds a Volunteer Awards Ceremony to recognize the outstanding contributions of individual volunteers. VIPS also receive recognition from several non-FCPD award/appreciation programs such as the President's Volunteer Service and Call to Service Awards, International Association of Chiefs of Police Awards, Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards, and various law enforcement association programs. If you supervise VIPS, we strongly urge you to recognize them for their excellent assistance with a simple thanks, a note through e-mail, a formal letter of commendation, or awards nomination.

If your office needs a VIPS, please send me an e-mail with details of the assignment, including the required tasks, number of hours per week, and whether the work can be done at home, at night or on weekends. If you have any questions about the VIPS program, please contact me at donna.spiewak@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-280-0524.

APO Graduation Session 24

October 24, 2008



Photograph by Mort Berger

Front Row (L-R): APO Julie Ayotte, APO Tony C. Butera, APO Anson Chou, APO Edward J. Cleek, and APO James Davison.

Second Row: APO Nelson Fernandez, APO LaKrishna S. Freeman, APO Thatcher Furgerson, APO Damjam S. Hezir, APO Karen Ross, APO Francis J. Hinnegan, and APO Andrew L. Klein.

Third Row: APO Curtis E. Velasquez, APO Sharon B. Nichols, APO Dan Parsons, APO Jay Petin, APO Louis V. Scicli, APO Rick Emard, and APO Mike Langerman.

If you have story ideas, “Our Family Tree” photograph submissions, or would like to otherwise contribute, please email behindthebadge@fairfaxcounty.gov

3rd Session Lateral Transfer Academy Graduation

December 19, 2008



Photograph by Keith Dobuler

Front Row (Left to Right): **Steven D. Velji** (Metro Transit PD), **Gregory A. Bedor** (Fairfax County PD), **Feliciano Wilson** (Prince William County PD), **Morgan R. Walker** (Fairfax County Sheriff's Office)
Back Row (Left to Right): **Jeffrey L. Lange** (Herndon PD), **Ira Underwood** (Fairfax County Sheriff's Office), **Charles D. Randolph** (Fairfax County Sheriff's Office)



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Fairfax County Police Department
Chief's Office of Research and Support
4100 Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
(703) 246-7832 (voice)
711 (TTY)
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police



Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. For information, call TTY 711.

Behind the Badge Staff

Project Manager:
Lt. Mike Wall

Layout and Design:
Karen Moss

Editing:
Patti Smylie, Mary Ann Jennings

Contributors:
Lt. Mike Wall, Capt. Paul Puff (Ret.), Chaplain Philip J. Bishop, Keith Dobuler, Donna Spiewak, Capt. Dan Mustaine (Ret.), Lt. Dan Courtney, Lt. Chris M. Cotone, Officer Megan Hawkins, Sandra Lehr

Staff Photographer:
Keith Dobuler



Behind the Badge
10th Edition