

# *Behind the Badge*

*Fairfax County Police Department  
14th Edition, July 2011*



*Goodbye Crown Vic,  
Hello New Cruiser!*

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14th Edition

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### Cover photo:

A General Motors Tahoe, a contender to replace the Crown Victoria. Photo by Keith Dobuler

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14th Edition  
July 2011



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# From the Chief: Culture of Safety

*by Colonel Dave Rohrer*

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As I write this it is National Police Week 2011, so it is appropriate to pause and remember our fallen officers, and their families and loved ones. There are 19,298 names now engraved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial – far too many. Sadly, at least 152 men and women died in the line of duty in 2010, and to date for 2011 we are ahead of that pace. More troubling is that to date more officers have been killed by gunfire than in 2010. We must do all we can to reverse these trends.

This year we marked the fifth anniversary of the attack on Sully Station, and the loss of Detective Vicky Armel and Master Police Officer Michael Garbarino. We will this year also mark the tenth anniversary of the loss of Captain Tom Bernal. We will forever remember and honor Tom, Vicky, Mike, Karen Bassford, and Frank Stecco and their families and loved ones.

September 11, 2011, will also be the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks that killed almost 3,000 persons, including 343 fire and rescue personnel and 72 men and women in law enforcement.

Police officers, and our many peers, including deputies, troopers, and federal agents, must take risks as we perform our mission to protect and serve our communities. We face the traditional risks, but we've also had to adopt and adapt new strategies and tactics to prepare for evolving threats, such as active shooters, IEDs, and the potential for multiple site attacks.

However, we must continue to do all we can to mitigate the risks, to include sound training, up-to-date equipment, strong supervision and leadership, good judgment, teamwork, and effective policies. We must accept that we are each responsible for not only our own safety, but that of others – not only for the public we serve, but for those with whom we serve. Safety is an individual and collective responsibility.

Commanders, supervisors, and safety officers certainly play key roles in promoting and nurturing a “culture of safety.” But, the reality is that every Department member has a role – whether they are sworn, civilian, or volunteer.

As an agency and as a profession we seem to have grown overly reliant on discipline as the primary remedy for unsafe practices or actions, waiting until something “bad”

happens. I ask that we change that paradigm, and instead be more proactive before something “bad” happens – let's think and act prevention.

Police officers and detectives are in a unique position to know best how well, and how safely, they and their peers are performing. They routinely see each other in training, on calls for service, on traffic stops, while driving, while performing search warrants or arrests of high-risk offenders – they probably know each other far better than their supervisors and commanders.

Role modeling and informal leadership by senior officers and detectives must be enhanced. I'm asking all to take a more active role in their own safety and the safety of others. Complacency and lackadaisicalness are unsafe attitudes we must avoid – they alone can cause injuries and deaths.

We cannot always control what offenders may do as they try to harm an officer or officers, we have to react appropriately. But we do control much of all else that impacts our safety. Examples include the wearing of ballistic vests, the use of seat belts and other safety equipment, how we conduct response and pursuit driving, backing each other up, effective training, operational planning and preparation, and participating in and learning from critiques and after-action debriefs.

Safety applies in all we do, we must take it more seriously. Safety has to become a Departmental value, an embedded attitude. Safety has to become a core strategy, not just a hoped for outcome. We control the outcomes far more than we seem to at times accept or care to acknowledge. I ask that all acknowledge and accept their role, and, perhaps, to borrow liberally from an old maxim, “Watch out for others, as you would have them watch out for you.”

Think safety, act safely, be safe,

- Colonel David M. Rohrer



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# FCPD New Cruiser Recommendation Project

by Keith Dobuler

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The FCPD, and law enforcement agencies across the nation, are in the market for a replacement for the Ford Crown Victoria for use as a primary patrol vehicle. After nearly a generation in use as the standard, full-size police patrol vehicle, Ford Motor Company announced in November of last year that production of the Crown Victoria would end in May 2011, with the final orders taken in March. The plant previously used to produce the Crown Victoria is being retooled to manufacture the new Ford Police Interceptor sedan.

With this in mind, I sat down with Charles Bond, Director of the Logistics and Property Division of the Resource Management Bureau, to discuss possible replacement vehicles and the future of our fleet. Prior to his current position, Mr. Bond spent 26 years as a police officer with our Department, retiring at the rank of First Lieutenant. In March 2009, a working group was formed by the county Department of Vehicle Services (DVS) and FCPD to evaluate what was on the market and establish standards.

This new cruiser recommendation committee has members from a wide range of county agencies, including a number of first line patrol officers. They've spent most of their time conducting research and evaluations. Our Command Staff is represented on the committee by Captain Shawn Bennett and Captain Joe Hill, while Tony Bizjak represents DVS.

As of this writing, there are three main contenders in the search for a replacement vehicle for the Crown Vic. Ford has two vehicles the committee is looking at, the Police Interceptor (Taurus) and the Explorer. The Interceptor is available in both all-wheel drive and front wheel drive, while the Explorer is available in four-wheel drive and two-wheel rear drive.

General Motors contenders include the new Caprice PPV, a rear-wheel drive platform, the Impala, which is front-

wheel drive, and the Tahoe in two-wheel rear drive. The entry from Dodge is the Charger, a rear-wheel drive model. Rear-wheel drive is preferable from both a training and operational standpoint for our agency.

To date, the committee has had the opportunity to get a hands-on look at only the Chevrolets. In December 2010, I had the opportunity to attend the Chevrolet PPV demonstration at the Academy and Driver Training



County representatives check out the Chevrolet Caprice PPV. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)

Facility. Initial impressions from officers who attended and had the chance to drive the Caprice PPV were positive, both in terms of performance and vehicle ergonomics. We are currently in the process of making arrangements to look over and evaluate the Ford and Dodge offerings.

Until the other entries in the field are available to us, much of our information comes from the Michigan State Police testing reports conducted annually at track facilities in Michigan. These tests are highly regarded, but we'll make the decision on our replacement cruiser based primarily on our own needs and operational expectations. The goal is to

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have a report with clear standards and recommendations to Admin Staff by December of this year. However, as Bond explains, if we don't have enough information by then, we will not rush the decision.

The need to identify a replacement vehicle (or vehicles, as our future fleet may well consist of more than one primary vehicle type) is a priority for the county. This becomes evident when we look at some of the numbers. In calendar year 2010, as an agency, we drove 13 million miles, using 1.3 million gallons of fuel. Obviously, the rising price of fuel has a large impact on both our current and future operating budgets. Balancing operational needs, safety, reliability, and economics will prove to be the hardest part of the cruiser evaluation process.

So, where are we now? First, Fleet Services ordered 85 2011 Crown Victorias in December of last year. These

cars will be split between marked and unmarked units and, as of this writing, have started to arrive and are being prepped for entry into service. Previously, the service life of a marked cruiser was 80,000 miles and four years; today, this has been extended to six years, so the current allocation of vehicles is expected to remain in service until 2017. The three factors used in determining whether a vehicle will be replaced are the age/mileage, repair costs, and the replacement costs. This all changes, of course, if the vehicle is "wrecked." If we end up losing a large number of cruisers in the near future, there are existing contracts in place and sources from which to procure a limited number of additional cars.

Our future fleet may well consist of several models from different manufacturers. Until that time, hopefully, the venerable Crown Victoria will carry us through. Be safe, and drive carefully!



A Chevrolet Caprice PPV is road-tested at the FCPD driver training facility. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)

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# Meet the New Deputy Chiefs

by Elizabeth Byrns

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For the first time in nearly ten years the Police Department has three new Deputy Chiefs. Each officer brings a new perspective and a different skill set to a department that is evolving to face the ever changing landscape of Fairfax County.

## **Lieutenant Colonel Edwin C. Roessler Jr.**

*Deputy Chief of Police for Patrol*

***Q. When did you know you wanted to be a police officer? Is anyone in your family an officer?***

**A.** As a teenager in Brooklyn, NY I became interested in law enforcement. My family comes from a public service background. My father was a New York City Fire Fighter and many uncles, cousins and other relatives were/are cops and firemen.



Lieutenant Colonel Edwin C. Roessler, Jr. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)

***Q. How/when did you begin at Fairfax County? As a cadet/transfer etc?***

**A.** I originally began my law enforcement career with the New York City Department of Investigation and applied to the FCPD in the late 1980's.

***Q. What is one of the more memorable assignments previous to this one?***

**A.** The greatest assignment I had was a patrol officer assigned to the Reston District Station. Nothing compares to the freedom one has as a patrol officer. Generally you see your boss at the beginning and end of a shift unless a major event takes place. During your time in a patrol area you are granted the public's trust to enforce the law and to make many decisions. The satisfaction received from doing a day's work in a patrol area was truly enjoyable.

***Q. How can you affect change at the deputy level? What are your assignments?***

**A.** As the deputy chief of police for patrol, it is my strategic goal to help all members of the patrol bureau fight crime in addition to supporting the mission of the entire department. Our sworn members along with police communication assistants, civilian staff, and volunteers are professionals who know how to get the job done. One of the primary job duties of a deputy chief of police is to support all employees in their efforts to affect positive change at all levels. Through an active strategic planning process, all of us will continue to create changes in the way we do business so that we will remain a highly effective organization that serves the community well.

## **Lieutenant Colonel James A. Morris**

*Deputy Chief of Police for Administration*

***Q. When did you know you wanted to be a police officer? Is anyone in your family an officer?***

**A.** Although no one in my family is a police officer being involved with public safety was something I always wanted to do. At 18 years old I was a volunteer fireman and at that time my goal was to become an arson investigator with the Pennsylvania State Police.



Lieutenant Colonel James A. Morris (Photo by Keith Dobuler)

***Q. How/when did you begin at Fairfax County? As a cadet/transfer etc?***

**A.** In 1989 I saw an ad in the Pittsburgh Press that the Fairfax County Police Department would be testing for Police Officers in the Pittsburgh area. Although not familiar with Fairfax County Virginia, the western Pennsylvania job market did not have very many

opportunities, especially for police officers.

***Q. What is one of the more memorable assignments previous to this one?***

**A.** I would say the McLean Bike Team because at the time bike teams were new and it was a complete change of pace from patrol. I enjoyed riding a bike through neighborhoods and the Tyson's / McLean communities.

***Q. How can you affect change at the deputy level? What are your assignments?***

**A.** At the deputy level I have the opportunity to see a lot of the problems facing the department, but I also get to see the hard work and dedication so many members of this agency exhibit every day. Overseeing the bureaus that provide services and training, my goal is to make sure we are doing everything possible to support the men and women of this agency.

### **Lieutenant Colonel Maggie DeBoard**

*Deputy Chief of Police for Investigations/Operations Support*

***Q. When did you know you wanted to be a police officer? Is anyone in your family an officer?***

**A.** I had no plans to become a police officer until the beginning of my sophomore year in college at George Mason University. Something "clicked" at that point to put me on the path of law enforcement, although I cannot pinpoint what prompted it. I have no family members in the law enforcement field; although I had a neighbor growing up whose dad was a DC cop. I spent a lot of time at his house and around him, and he took me to work with him on a couple of occasions to see what it was like. My dad died when I was very young, so he became a surrogate dad for me in many ways.



Lieutenant Colonel Maggie DeBoard  
(Photo by Keith Dobuler)

***Q. How/when did you begin at Fairfax County? As a cadet/transfer etc?***

**A.** I was hired as an officer with Fairfax County in March 1986, a semester before I finished my college degree. I attended the Academy during the day, and finished my last class at George Mason at night. I have just completed my 25th year with the Department this March.

***Q. What accomplishments are you proudest of to date?***

**A.** There are several things that stand out for me in the area of accomplishments. First is my ability to maintain a high level of health and fitness in a profession that is often plagued by stress and unhealthy behaviors, and I don't take this for granted one moment.

Second is my involvement and work over the past 10 years with the Police Unity Tour. I became committed to this group after riding for the first time in Virginia many years ago and seeing the impact that its mission has on the survivors left behind. I am now the President of a new chapter based out of northern Virginia. We rode a new route from Richmond, through Charlottesville, and into Washington, D.C. this year. Running a new non-profit organization has proved challenging, especially when trying to also balance work and home life. Because of the daily support of a talented and committed team of officers and board our outreach and work has progressed within the surrounding community creating awareness about our profession and our fallen officers in ways we could not have done in the past. This has opened up lines of communication and broken down barriers with community members in many ways, which only serves to enhance our ability to conduct effective policing.

***Q. How can you affect change at the deputy level? What are your assignments?***

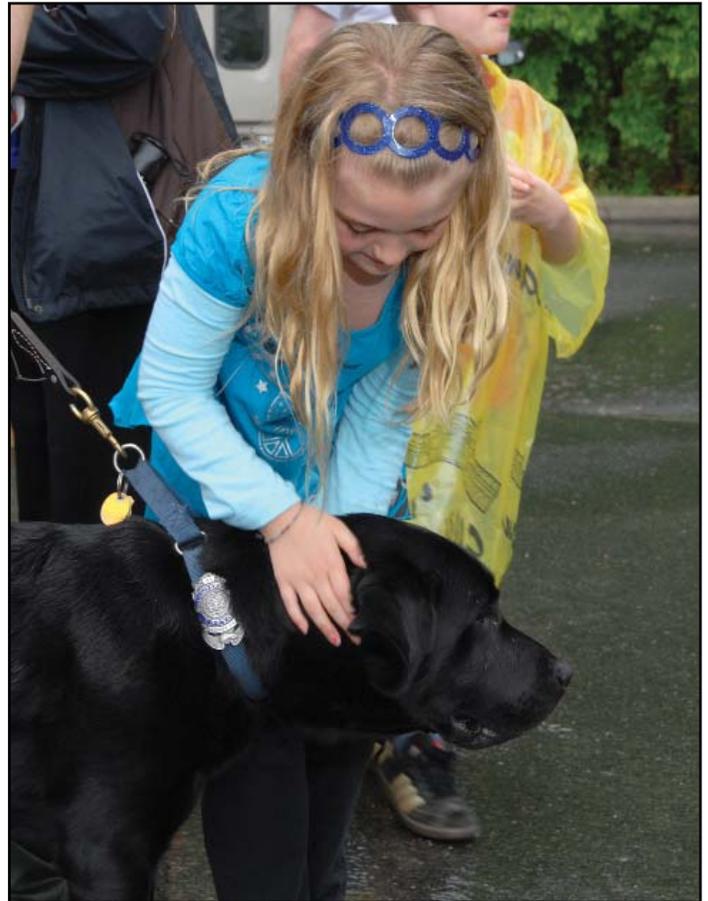
**A.** Having only served at this position for a couple of months, I am still studying my various areas of responsibility to determine ways in which I can best support and move the organization forward. I oversee Investigations, which includes Major Crimes, Organized Crime, Intel, and Forensics. My other area of responsibility involves the Operations Support Bureau which includes the Special Operations Division, Traffic Division, and the Helicopter. I have worked in SOD, Helicopter, and OCN during my career, and feel these assignments have prepared me well for providing leadership in this particular deputy chief position.

# Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

April 28, 2011

On April 28, 2011, the Fairfax County Police Department, along with the Fire Department, Sheriff's Office, Circuit Court, and General District Court, participated in "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day," which is more commonly referred to as "Bring Your Child to Work Day." Coordinators from each agency worked together to provide a pizza lunch and a variety of different activities for the children to participate in such as demonstrations and exhibits by K9, Motors, SWAT, and EOD. These activities and demonstrations allowed the children to not only see what their parents do day in and day out, but also gave them the opportunity to see some of the other aspects of the Police Department.

A young participant finds out despite being a bomb dog with a badge, Spicey is also a regular dog who likes head rubs. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)



Second Lieutenant Lance Schaible introduces the children to bomb dog Spicey. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)



Children watch a demonstration of the bomb squad's robot. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)



Deputies from the Sheriff's Office provided digital fingerprinting for participants. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)

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# We Ride for Those Who Died

by MPO Mark P. Dale

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“We ride for those who died.” This is the motto that motivates riders and support members during the annual Police Unity Tour, a 230-mile bike ride over three days through the hills of Virginia. The primary mission of the Police Unity Tour is to raise public awareness of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. The secondary mission is to raise funds for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and Museum.

This year there was a new route for the ride. The group started riding just outside of Richmond on May 10. On day two, the riders battled the hills around Charlottesville and Warrenton. The last day of this year’s journey ended at the National Law Enforcement Memorial where we were greeted by survivors, family, and friends with tears in our eyes and pride in our hearts.

Department members came out and greeted us on our last stop before we headed into Washington, D.C. on May 12. We rolled into the upper parking lot of the McConnell Public Safety and Traffic Operations Center (MPSTOC) mid-morning, and loved seeing our colleagues, family, and friends greet us before we headed into the Memorial.

In 2010, the Police Unity Tour raised \$1.3 million, the largest amount ever raised in a single year, bringing the cumulative total to over \$8.4 million. A large portion of the money raised last year went towards the Memorial Restoration Project. This included re-engraving, coating, and sealing the 18,983 names on the memorial walls. The funds also went towards cleaning the walls and other improvements to ensure the names on the memorial never fade and memories are never forgotten.

The re-established Chapter IV of the Police Unity Tour is based in Fairfax County and though most of its members are from Northern Virginia, the chapter also has members

from all over the country. Chapter IV was represented by several veteran riders who have previously ridden with other chapters in southern Virginia and New Jersey. This year we were also honored to have survivors join with us as members of the tour.

On March 12, 2011, Chapter IV held its Gala fundraising event at Moore Cadillac where the show room floor was transformed into a very elegant dining area. Sponsors plan to hold this event annually. The event was attended by 175 guests and VIPs, including several members of our surviving families, Chapter IV Board Members, Chief Dave Rohrer, and Craig Floyd, chairman and CEO of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF).



The Police Unity Tour riders arriving at MPSTOC. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)

At the Gala, MPO Mike Garbarino’s widow Sue represented the surviving families and gave a very emotional account of how her life has changed in the past five years since her husband was killed in the parking lot of the Sully District Station. She eloquently stated what the memorial means to her and how much she and her family

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have thrived due to the love and support from the police family.

Craig Floyd gave a passionate speech at the event to raise public awareness of the thousands of officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Lt. Col. Maggie DeBoard spoke from the heart about why she rides and has taken part in the Unity Tour for so many years. As she put it, what better way could there be for her to display her gratitude, respect, and homage to her fallen brothers and sisters?

We are looking forward to expanding our membership and continuing to raise awareness of law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. We expect our chapter membership to grow over the coming years and will be

accepting applications in July for the 2012 ride. We have a limit on the number of riders we can accept, so if you are interested in reserving a spot for next year, sign up early. Only sworn members can ride, but support members are key to our ability to make this journey possible. Signing up as support provides non-sworn personnel, as well as family and friends, an opportunity to become a part of the Unity Tour.

We are proud and humble to wear our hearts on our sleeves; however, we stay forever strong for our brothers and sisters who have gone before us and we will always, “ride for those who have died.”

For more information on Chapter IV, please visit our website at [www.policeunitytourchapteriv.com](http://www.policeunitytourchapteriv.com).



PFC Tammy Russell waves as she arrives at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)

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# Police Week 2011

Photos by Keith Dobuler

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Lt. Mike Wall addresses the crowd, including Second Lieutenant Frank Stecco's family, at the dedication of the Stecco Memorial Garden at Mount Vernon District Station. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)

Participants' candles illuminate the night at the Candlelight Vigil. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)



Wreath-laying ceremony at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)



Natalie Garbarino, daughter of fallen officer MPO Michael Garbarino, with Chief Rohrer. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)



Recruits wave goodbye to COPS and Kids Day participants. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)

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# Civilian's Corner: Seth Palenscar

by Lucy H. Caldwell

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## FCPD's Very Own "Spielberg"

Behind a non-descript set of double doors in the basement of the Criminal Justice Academy there is an office/studio where the magic of film comes to life every day. Subjects and situations that police routinely encounter are transformed from paper and conversation onto the big screen by the creative talents of the FCPD's own videographer and multi-media specialist Seth Palenscar.

From concept to completion, award-winning videographer Palenscar seizes topics such as pursuit driving, domestic violence and child safety seats and creates films designed to educate, inform and enlighten his audiences.

Recently recognized with a "Telly" Award, a symbol of film excellence, for his pieces on *Response Driving in Law Enforcement*, Palenscar, 35, feels fortunate to be in a position where his skills and talents can be useful to others. Hired by the FCPD in 2006, Palenscar specializes in all things audio visual. Armed with extensive experiences in freelance film, sound, lighting, and editing work and degrees in film and business from Full Sail University in Winter Park, Florida, Palenscar set about establishing a full-scale broadcast production facility for the FCPD.

One of the biggest misconceptions Palenscar encounters is that most people feel that "anyone" can produce high-quality video. He stresses that, like anyone who wants to do a good job in any profession, it's the keen attention to details that make the difference in a high-quality production. "So many people have access to the tools to create videos these days, but there is an art to it. Believe me; there's a lot that can go wrong."

"I'm from a law enforcement family; I've been around officers for so much of my life that I've got a knowledge of the details of what officers go through," said Palenscar,



Seth Palenscar, doing what he does best. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)

a Centreville native. "These details matter on the screen. I know the procedures, the protocols, he wouldn't wear his hat this way, she wouldn't approach a suspect that way; those are small details that matter. The credibility and authenticity of the video is at stake with every single segment."

Aside from video, Palenscar is an accomplished musician with a passion for percussion. He's been playing drums since the age of seven and with his band "Signal's End" for a decade. Shades of Stone Temple Pilots, Alice in Chains, and a bit of Shinedown thrown in; the band is heavily

influenced by the music of the '90s. While they don't have hoards of young groupies, they draw respectable-sized crowds at local Fairfax County venues such as Sully's, Jammin' Java and Jaxx. "We've been off and on for the past several years," said Palenscar, "We're trying to rebuild our fan base now; find us on Facebook or Myspace to see where we're playing next."

Palenscar married his love of music and film in his early days of freelance video production, editing, and lighting projects. "I've been very fortunate to work on some interesting sets with fascinating people; Black Entertainment Television (BET on Jazz), the Smithsonian's music series with artists like Junior Brown, a series of halftime shows for ESPN Monday Night Football up in Baltimore." He's been involved in historical moments as well; lighting the set for the Barbara Walters/Monica Lewinsky interview and getting hit in the head by balls while filming the finest soccer players in the world at World Cup events in D.C. "Some friends tell me how lucky I am to spend time with notable people in interesting places; but frankly, I'm so focused on getting the shot and getting it right that I tend not to notice everything going on around me. I've got to get the right sound level, piece of lighting equipment, and try to ensure the highest production quality. Getting it all together, then taking it to the editing room for hours of work; it's not that glamorous. But, for me, if there is any glory, it is in doing a good job. I've seen instances where I know that the work I do has helped others; possibly even saved a life."

Palenscar recounted a joint video project he'd worked on with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority around the time of the Obama Presidential inaugural festivities. The film was about responding to emergencies involving Metro. Shortly after the film's release, a woman fell onto a Metro track and an officer (from another jurisdiction who had viewed the film) jumped in and pulled her to safety into a concrete compartment behind the tracks, just in the nick of time. One 15 minute film, well-told, made a difference.

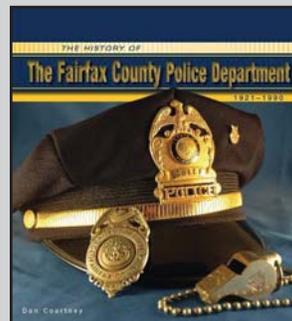
Palenscar's recent works include a 30 second spot on financial fraud prevention currently being shown at theaters across Fairfax County, an e-learning training curriculum, and supporting the new in-car camera video project. With a variety of in-house training demands, as well as the external educational priorities, Palenscar's plate of assignments continues to be full. "People are more and more accustomed to wanting to see more and hear more

about our experiences instead of simply reading about them. The demand for video services is booming. His position has evolved and there are a lot of different people wanting a lot of different things; Seth welcomes them all. "My door is always open," says Palenscar.



Seth Palenscar, drumming for his band Signal's End. (Photo courtesy of Seth Palenscar)

### History of the Fairfax County Police Department: 1921-1990



This one-of-a-kind publication is on sale now on Amazon.com.

A portion of all proceeds will be donated towards establishing a Fairfax County Police Museum.

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# VIPS Corner

by Donna Spiewak, Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) Program

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## **2010 Auxiliary Police Officer of the Year**

APO Francis Sullivan II  
*Internal Affairs Bureau*

## **Auxiliary Police Officer of the Year: Patrol**

APO George Ludwig, Jr.  
*Sully District Station*

## **Auxiliary Police Officer of the Year: Crime Prevention**

APO Mary Nugent  
*Mason District Station*

## **Auxiliary Police Officer: Most Hours Worked 2010**

APO Chelton "Todd" Givens: 1,143 Hours

## **Meritorious Achievement Award**

APO Frederick Sanborn, APO William Ridgeway  
*Operations Support Bureau*

APO George Ludwig, Jr., APO Antonio "Tony" Pelegrin  
*Sully District Station/Operations Support Bureau*

APO Pat Gallagher  
*W. Springfield District Station/Operations Support Bureau*

## **Joyce McDermott Award**

APO Alex Squadrini  
*Honor Guard*

## **2010 Volunteer in Police Service of the Year**

VIPS David Welch  
*Internal Affairs Bureau*

## **VIPS of the Year: Training**

VIPS Stone Baggiano  
*Juvenile Diversion Program*

## **VIPS of the Year: Crime Prevention**

VIPS Mary Weaver  
*Mason District Station*

## **VIPS of the Year: Administration**

VIPS John Sherburne  
*Franconia District Station*

## **Chaplain of the Year**

Rev. Howard "Ike" Hendershot  
*Fair Oaks District Station/Operations Support Bureau*

## **Commendation Certificates**

APO Chelton "Todd" Givens  
*Fair Oaks District Station*

APO Forrest Houston  
*McLean District Station*

Rev. Dr. Carroll Baltimore  
*HQ/CIB/Admin County Wide*

Rev. Duke Bendix  
*Sully District Station*

Rev. Philip Bishop  
*Franconia District Station*

Rev. Jeri Fields  
*Mount Vernon District Station*

Father Ronald Gripshover, Jr.  
*HQ/CIB/Admin County Wide*

Rev. Douglas Jones  
*Reston District Station*

Rev. Dr. Harry Pilson  
*Mason District Station*

Rev. David Pratt  
*West Springfield District Station*

Rev. Robert Selekmán  
*Reston District Station*

Cantor Michael Shochet  
*McLean District Station/Chaplain Program Coordinator*

VIPS Martha “Marty” Long  
*Criminal Justice Academy*

VIPS Tracey Ryan, VIPS Mort Berger, VIPS Emily Bikofsky, VIPS Lisa Kennedy, VIPS Julie Stepp, APO William Ridgeway  
*Citizens Police Academy Staff*

VIPS Janis Sotherden, VIPS Dan Cronin  
*Criminal Intelligence Division/Pawn Shop*

**APO and Chaplain Service Hours**

**1,000 Hours**

APO Tony Butera, APO Douglas Cossa, APO James Davison, APO Richard Emard, APO William “Thatcher” Furgerson, APO Francis Hinnegan, APO Craig Janus, APO Andrew Kline, APO Vinay Narang, APO Sharon Nichols, APO Daniel Parsons, APO Louis Scicli, APO Jennifer Wheeler, APO Richard Zhu

Rev. Jeri Fields, Rev. Robert Selekman

**2,500 Hours**

APO Frank Detaranto, APO William Hauda, APO Juan Lopez, APO Thomas Reavis, APO Jason Tuninga

Rev. Dr. Carroll Baltimore, Rev. Dr. Harry Pilson, Rev. David Pratt

**5,000 Hours**

APO Charles Fields, APO James Truesdell, APO Daniel Wenger

Cantor Michael Shochet

**7,500 Hours**

APO William Ridgeway

**10,000 Hours**

APO Rodney Lovdal

**Presidential Call to Service  
(4,000 Hours or More Over Lifetime)**

APO Chelton “Todd” Givens, APO Robert Reece, APO Joe Vitale

Rev. David Pratt, Cantor Michael Shochet

**VIPS Service Hours**

**500 Hours**

VIPS Jackie Chin, VIPS Janis Sotherden, VIPS Isabel Tirath

**750 Hours**

VIPS Emily Bikofsky, VIPS Robert Bradford, VIPS Lisa Gables, VIPS Gary Griesmyer, VIPS Martha “Marty” Long, VIPS Robert Stein, VIPS Julie Stepp

**1,000 Hours**

VIPS Glen Hosey, VIPS Gerry Kirwin, VIPS Maria Spetalnik, VIPS John Werderman

**1,500 Hours**

VIPS Dan Cronin, VIPS Alton Summers

**2,000 Hours**

VIPS Jane Barrett, VIPS Beverly Cherkis, VIPS Norman Cherkis, VIPS George Evans, VIPS John Sherburne, VIPS Sondra Siemers, VIPS Van Vanderwal, VIPS Marie Jose Wessels

**If you have story ideas, “Our Family Tree” photograph submissions, or would like to otherwise contribute, please email [behindthebadge@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:behindthebadge@fairfaxcounty.gov)**

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# Retiree's Corner: Life After the Police Department

by Paul R. Puff (Captain, Retired)

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Retired in March 1982 after 22 years of service, I truly enjoyed my career with the FCPD. My first assignment was to the Patrol Bureau's Groveton Substation in 1960. My last assignment before retirement was as Emergency Operations Center Commander.

I had no definite plans when I retired. I was a deputy sheriff in the City of Falls Church between 1984 and 1985, then took a security investigative position with Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU). I was the first professional law enforcement person to be employed in their security department and eventually replaced the man who hired me. As the head of security worldwide for NFCU I was able to travel internationally because there were offices wherever the Navy and Marine Corps serve. My training and experience with the FCPD is what helped me obtain and get promoted in this job. I retired after 11 years.

I still wanted something to do, but something less demanding. For the next six years I delivered flowers for a local florist. This was one of the most satisfying and fun jobs I ever had. Had I realized how much flowers and chocolates meant to the ladies, I would have spent less on cars, and more on flowers and chocolates! This was the last paying position I held.

One of my hobbies is antique cars. My wife Linda and I belong to four car clubs: Buick Club of America (BCA), BCA's Metro Washington Chapter, Riviera Owners Association (ROA), and Buick Driving Enthusiast (BDE). We own a 1985 Buick Riviera convertible and a 1970 Buick LeSabre two-door hardtop. The Riviera, which we've owned for 15 years, has won the highest award it can get from the Buick Club of America. It is one of only 3,889 produced. The LeSabre, purchased last June, has just been repainted and had some rechroming done. We're looking forward to showing it this year. The fun is in the people you associate with during the shows and competitions. We've been on several club-sponsored driving tours and sightseeing events in various parts of the USA and Canada with as many as 65 antique

Buicks on one tour at a time!

My other hobby is history—mainly World War II. When I was a young boy, at night my grandmother would listen to the war news broadcasts on her radio. I remember thinking that someday I would like to see all those places our troops were fighting. That wish came true when my brother Jerry and I took three trips with World War II veterans. Our first trip to Europe in June 1998 included taking the Eurostar train from London to Paris via the Chunnel. We were at Normandy on June 6 (D-Day anniversary), witnessing several wreath-laying ceremonies in honor of the 9,400 troops buried in the cemetery overlooking the landing beaches.

For me, the highlight of our second European trip (October 1998) was following General Patton's route through France and seeing his grave in Luxembourg. As my brother Jerry puts it, "Our experience was priceless, not only in history and geography, but, more important, in being with the veterans and hearing their stories. These vets became our heroes. We were truly 'among men.'" Because of them, and the thousands of others who fought, we exist today in freedom.

Our third trip was a Pacific cruise. This tour started at Honolulu where the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. We island hopped through the Pacific Theater similar to the order of battles, and ended in



Captain Paul Puff, Ret., with one of his Buicks.

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Hiroshima, Japan. The only disappointing parts of this trip were that we weren't allowed to visit Guadalcanal because of civil unrest and Iwo Jima because the Japanese couldn't accommodate our large tour group. Our tour group had 400 World War II veterans—U.S. Navy, Army, Marine Corps, Army Air Corps, and Merchant Marines, plus allied troops, and Allied veterans—who had served in the Pacific.

I continue to be involved with the FCPD. I was active in the Fairfax County Police Association (FCPA), serving as president and as a board member. One big accomplishment while I was on the Board was construction of the Police Association Hall. Upon retirement I automatically became a life member of the FCPA, as do all members who are in good standing when they retire.

I now am active in the Fairfax County Retired Police Association (FCRPA), which is for Fairfax County retired police officers only. I have served as president and as a board member. As president my first priority was to bring the FCPA and the FCRPA closer together. As a group we

—for the first time ever—elected a retired officer to the Fairfax County Police Retirement Board. We established a day at the Police Academy for competition driving and pistol qualification for National Right-to-Carry. We were able to obtain payroll deduction for our dues. We formed an ad hoc committee to represent FCRPA and be a voice to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for our pay and benefits. We have social events and generally look out for our members and their widows.

I also currently serve on the board of the Fairfax County Police Historical Association (FCPHA), a non-profit group formed in 2010. Its primary focus is establishing a Fairfax County police history museum to preserve and display our department's history. The FCPHA recently published *History of the Fairfax County Police Department, 1921-1990*; all of our portion of the book's sales will benefit the museum.

The only time I regret retiring is when I wish I still had the authority to issue a summons or lock somebody up.

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## 57th Academy Session Graduation

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Front Row R-L: McCarthy, Sheila; Culkin, Joanna; Conroy, Michelle; Lumsden, Nicole; Mejia, Sandra; Moser, Joshua; Kim, Hyung; Schmitt, Leslie; Dias Neto, Kristen; Andres, Brandy; Lattimer, Nancy; Corder, Sherry

Middle Row R-L: Woerhlen, Bradley; Kim, Da; Culbertson, Earl; Gamble, Harrison; Duffy, Matthew; Perina, Hugo; Mizer, Jason; Curry, James; Hovhannisyian, Georgi; Trader, David; Lane, Matthew; Ronk, Robert; Pope, Jacob

Back Row R-L: Moya, Edson; Nyhuis, Jeffrey; Williams, John; Buracker, Brian; Liu, Peter; Harrell, Jamecca; Hunt, Kenneth; Mote, Zachary; Matusiak, John; Aughavin, Kevin; Kiley, Patrick; Ronan, Joshua; Henty, Jacob

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# Lieutenant Colonel Steve Sellers' Retirement

Photos by Keith Dobuler

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Lieutenant Colonel Sellers and his long-time friend, the late Second Lieutenant Mark Payton.  
(Photo by Keith Dobuler)

Chief Rohrer presents Lieutenant Colonel Sellers with a shadow box.  
(Photo by Keith Dobuler)



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# Captain Tom Bernal Memorial Dedication

Photos by Keith Dobuler

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On Tuesday, June 28, 2011, the Fairfax County Police Department honored Captain Tom Bernal. June 28 marked the 10th anniversary of the tragic death of Captain Bernal, former commander of the Traffic Division. He died after his motorcycle was struck during a training exercise. A memorial to Captain Bernal was dedicated at the base of the flag pole in front of the Operations Support Bureau.



Honor Guard members raise the American and Fairfax County flags to begin the memorial ceremony. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)

Marlys Bernal, wife of Captain Tom Bernal, lays a rose at the memorial to her husband. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)



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# The Passing of Second Lieutenant Mark A. Payton

January 27, 2011

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Mark A. Payton, 53, a highly respected and outstanding 33-year veteran of the Fairfax County Police Department, died suddenly on January 27, 2011, at his home in Fairfax Station. At the time of his death he was living his dream of leading the FCPD's 31-member Motorcycle Unit. His life-long love of motorcycles began when his father served as a motorcycle officer with the Arlington County Police Department.

Second Lieutenant Payton began his lengthy police career as a cadet in 1977. He was appointed a sworn police officer one year later and was assigned to patrol the former Groveton Station in the Mount Vernon police district. He was chosen to serve on the Department's Helicopter Unit for three years until his promotion to Sergeant

and assignment to the McLean District Station in 1989 and the Mount Vernon District Station in 1991. He also worked briefly for the Deputy Chief of Investigations and Operations Support.

He was among the top one percent of competitive police riders in the country for motor skills and abilities. In 2004, he was one of the founding partners and CEO of Motorcycle Riding Concepts, Inc. The company teaches riding skills and safety at the basic, advanced, and expert levels.

Second Lieutenant Payton is survived by his wife and two adult children.



The Motor Squad stands at attention during Second Lieutenant Mark Payton's funeral service. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)



PFC Thomas Divers salutes the motors procession. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)



Chief Rohrer salutes the flag to be given to Second Lieutenant Payton's family. (Photo by Keith Dobuler)

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# Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain Douglas Jones, Reston Station

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“Carved on these walls is the story of America, of a continuing quest to preserve both democracy and decency, and to protect a national treasure that we call the American dream.”

President George H.W. Bush

There are four quotes carved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. This one, from former President Bush, reminds us that the battle to protect this fragile concept of democracy is never over. But it continues from generation to generation.

On March 25, 2011, I applauded with the other gathered family members and guests as the most recent class of recruits graduated from the Criminal Justice Academy. It was a joyous occasion. This talented group of young men and women epitomizes the qualities which every parent hopes their children will possess. I was also struck by the number of graduates who had family members present to pin their badges on for the first time. In the law enforcement community, there is both tradition and heritage. Some families have served this community for generations. It is an honor to walk among them.

But on May 13, I gathered with some of you and officers from all over the country at the NLEOM for a candlelight vigil in memory of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the badge we wear. The mood was very different and yet, many of the faces will be the same. It was an honor to walk among these people has well.

“It is not how these officers died that made them heroes, it is how they lived.”

Vivian Eney Cross, Survivor

This second quote was in my heart as I prayed for the graduates. I pray for all of my officers each day. That prayer is that they will return home safely. That same petition was raised for the graduates – the prayer that they will return home safely every day of their career. But we also prayed for their lives for there are other dangers which can befall an officer. There are temptations and there are risks.

While the departmental chaplains are certainly here to assist officers and their families during tragedies like a death, we are also here to serve officers with the challenges of living. There are crises in our personal lives



Chaplain Douglas Jones, Reston Station

which may affect one's ability to perform their job, like marriage, divorce, issues with children or parents. Other problems may confront our professional lives, such as, supervisor and peer conflicts and threats from the outside. There are even crises which impact our moral and ethical lives. Every year, we hear of an officer somewhere in our region who has succumbed to the temptation to cheat, accept a bribe, or work with the bad guys. The department provides a variety of resources to officers facing any of these situations: psychologists, peer support, and the chaplains. In some ways, the chaplains are unique. We bring confidentiality. But we also bring decades of experience. And we bring an understanding that God has a plan for your life even if it is hard to see at the moment.

“The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are as bold as a lion.”

Proverbs 28:1

This third quote from the NLEOM is the basis for the lions which surround the memorial. May you be as strong as lions as you serve our community and the country. But remember also the following verse from the passage in Proverbs, “Evildoers do not understand what is right, but those who seek the LORD understand it fully.” Some days you will not be strong. Some days you will be confused. The chaplains are here for you. Our prayers are with you daily. Call us any time.

Chaplain Douglas Jones  
Reston Station

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# In Memory

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## **Officer Timmy D. Paternoster (Ret.)**

*Date of Passing: November 28, 2010*

Timmy D. Paternoster was born March 17, 1944, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He served in the United States Army prior to joining the Fairfax County Police Department in July 1965. He was assigned to police headquarters. His assignments included the Annandale and Reston District Stations, Communications Section, Franconia Criminal Investigations Section, and the Criminal Investigations Bureau. He retired in March 1985.

Tim's wife, Jan, predeceased him. He is survived by three children and two grandchildren.

## **Willis J. Blankenship, Sr. (Ret.)**

*Date of Passing: November 3, 2010*

Willis J. Blankenship, Sr., was born August 13, 1942, in West Virginia. Willis worked as a meat cutter and a real estate agent before joining the Fairfax County Police Department in November 1971, where he was assigned to the Patrol Division. His assignments included the Annandale District Station, Operations Support Bureau where he spent almost ten years as a member of the Motor Squad, and the Public Safety Communications Center in Tele-Serv. Willis was promoted to Police Officer II in 1988. He retired in April 1996.

After retirement Willis worked for the National Reconnaissance Organization and as a driver for the Ford Motor Company. Willis was an outdoorsman. He enjoyed fishing and was an avid hunter. Willis owned a Vet and was a member of the Corvette Owners Association and also was the proud owner of a 1987 Honda Goldwing motorcycle.

Willis's wife of 48 years, Margie, survives him, along with two children and five grandchildren.

## **Auxiliary Officer William L. Finnie (Ret)**

*Date of Passing: January 20, 2011*

William L. Finnie was born February 11, 1919, in Denver, Colorado. Lt. Colonel Finnie served 28 years in the Air Force and during the Korean Conflict was awarded

the Bronze Star while stationed in Tokyo, Japan. Lt. Colonel Finnie was stationed at the Air Force Academy, in Colorado, on staff as Director of Data Automation and Assistant Comptroller for four years. After serving with the Air Force, he worked for the Burroughs Corporation for 14 years. Lt. Colonel Finnie was an auxiliary police officer for two years with the Fairfax County Police Department.

Bill is survived by his wife, Crystal, two children, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Lt. Colonel Finnie services were held at the Fort Myer Old Post Chapel and he was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

The importance of a police officer's family cannot be measured. We share with you the love one who passed away during this time. Kevin Joseph Higgs, son of retiree Joseph Higgs, passed away on November 21, 2010.





Behind the Badge  
14th Edition