



KEY ISSUES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION

Vol. IX, No. 1

Winter 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



President, Kelly S. Rowe

Greetings!

I hope this message finds everyone well, following the Holiday Season. With the decorations stored away until late 2006, it is time to get back to work.

Following a successful set of winter workshops on “Current Issues in Jail Management,” with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, we are preparing to begin the Spring

Regional Workshops with the Texas Association of Counties. This year’s topic will be the intermediate core course “Use of Force in a Jail Setting,” and again we will be traveling to several locations throughout Texas. On behalf of the instructors, let me say how excited we are to be going to these places and seeing everyone.

Also, right around the corner is our 20th Annual Spring Conference in San Antonio. As everyone is aware, we will be leaving San Antonio after this year, so it is our intention to make this conference one to remember. All preparations have been completed, and we have many outstanding topics and presenters

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT cont'd

scheduled. The facilities of the Marriott Riverwalk Hotel and Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center will be both convenient and spacious, as well as right on the San Antonio River. Mark it on your calendars and get your reservations early.

I want to close by reminding the membership it will soon be time again to elect new members to the TJA Board. Included in this issue is the Call for Nominations form. It is also time to look within our offices and seek out those individuals that deserve recognition for going above and beyond the call of duty. The Correctional Officer of the Year form can be found in this publication. Get those nominations to us, so that we can recognize those deserving individuals in May.

TJA is very strong and membership continues to grow each year at a tremendous rate. For this success to continue, we need the future leadership of this Association to make a commitment to continue in

these endeavors. I encourage and challenge everyone to consider this important responsibility. For some, I would ask that you think back to where we came from to where we are today and where we will be in the future. The Corrections Professionals of Texas have never been as well trained and prepared to do their jobs as they are now; let's make sure we do everything we can to continue to promote the training, partnerships, and networking that we are enjoying. Again, I look forward to seeing everyone as we travel over the next two months and of course in May in San Antonio.

As always take care and God Bless.



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20th Annual Texas Jail Association Spring Conference



Join the TJA at the
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
May 15 – May 19, 2006
With Lodging at the **Marriott Riverwalk**
In **San Antonio, Texas**

Early Registration by Friday, May 5, 2006
TJA Member - **\$130** (\$160 after May 5)
Non-Member - **\$150** (\$180 after May 5)

- Cancellations must be made in writing and received by the Correctional Management Institute of Texas at Sam Houston State University no later than **May 12, 2006**, in order for a full refund to be processed.
- The Correctional Management Institute of Texas reserves the right to **retain or collect fees** in full for those *who fail to cancel prior to the training or for those who fail to attend.*
 - Substitutions are permitted at any time.

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____

Title: _____ **Agency:** _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Telephone: _____ **Fax Number:** _____

E-mail Address: _____ **Name of Spouse/Guest (if attending):** _____
Spouse/Guest \$50 charge includes welcome reception

Credit Card # _____ **Exp:** _____
Master Card or Visa (circle one)

Complete the form above and forward to:
Texas Jail Association
Attn: Sharese Hurst
George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center
Sam Houston State University
Huntsville, Texas 77341-2296
or fax to (936) 294-1671

TCLEOSE: 1-TX P.O. Lic. ____ 3-Lic. Telecom. ____ 4-Elected, not Lic. ____
5-County Jailer ____ 6-Other, no TX. Lic. ____

SSN #: _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

No TCLEOSE Credit Needed (please check)

**** **REQUIRED SECTION** ****

For Hotel Reservations, call 210-224-4555. You must identify yourself as a TJA Conference attendee.



TJA Conference Agenda

MONDAY, MAY 15th, 2006

Event Times	Event	Speaker	Location
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Pre-Conference Board Meeting	Board of Directors	
1:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Golf Tournament	Robert Patterson	Quarry Golf Club
2:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Registration	TJA Staff	Ballroom A Lobby
2:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Exhibitor Setup	TJA Staff	Ballroom A
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	CJIS – CR43 Training	Sheila Bledsoe	Mission Room 103

TUESDAY, MAY 16th, 2006

7:30 am – 12:00 pm	Registration	TJA Staff	Ballroom A Lobby
8:30 am – 8:45 am	Opening Ceremony		Mission Room 103
	National Anthem	Sheriff David Gutierrez	
	Presentation of the Colors	Lubbock County Honor Guard	
	Welcoming Remarks	Kelly Rowe, President TJA	
		TBA	
		Sharese Hurst, Executive Director TJA	
		Christie Davidson, Interim Executive Director Correctional Management Institute of Texas	
		Major Robert Patterson, Past President, AJA	
		TBA	
8:45 am – 10:00 am	Keynote Address		
10:00 am	Exhibitor Showrooms Open		Ballroom A
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Refreshment Break		
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Introduction of Candidates	Danny Downes, 1st Vice President TJA	Mission Room 103
10:45 am – 11:30 am	Legislative Update	Sheriff Christopher Kirk	Mission Room 103
11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Lunch (on your own)		
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Breakout Sessions:		
	Legal Issues	Robert Davis	001A
	TDCJ State Ready Update	Ramona Koch	102
	Sex Offender Registration Training	Lonnie Milligan	101
	Current & Future Jail Issues (Q&A)	Texas Commission on Jail Standards	001B
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Refreshment Break		
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Breakout Sessions (Repeat):		
	Legal Issues	Robert Davis	001A
	TDCJ State Ready Update	Ramona Koch	102
	Sex Offender Registration Training	Lonnie Milligan	101
	Current & Future Jail Issues (Q&A)	Texas Commission on Jail Standards	001B
4:00 pm	Exhibitor Showrooms Close		Ballroom A
5:00 pm – 7:00 pm	President's Reception		Marriott Riverwalk

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17th, 2006

7:30 am – 8:30 am	Prayer Breakfast	Mike Barber	Marriott Riverwalk
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	Courtroom Challenge	Texas Commission on Jail Standards	Mission Room 103
8:30 am – 10:00 am	Breakout Sessions:		
	Political Correctness	J. Mark Warren	101
	Prison Gangs	TDCJ	102
	Bail Bonding	Robert Davis	001A
	Labor Law	Steve Chalender & Carmella Smith	001B
9:00 am	Exhibitor Showrooms Open		Ballroom A
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Refreshment Break		
10:00 am	Sheriff's Photo		Spiral Staircase – Convention Center
10:00 am	Jail Administrator's Photo		Spiral Staircase – Convention Center
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Breakout Sessions (Repeat):		
	Political Correctness	J. Mark Warren	101
	Prison Gangs	TDCJ	102
	Bail Bonding	Robert Davis	001A
	Labor Law	Steve Chalender & Carmella Smith	001B
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch (on your own)		
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Breakout Sessions:		
	Risky Business	Carmella Smith	101
	Medication Administration in Jails	Trey Flores	102
	Drug Recognition	Dawn Mathis	
	Mental Health	Mike Sorenson	
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Refreshment Break		
3:30 pm	Exhibitor Showrooms Close		Ballroom A
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Breakout Sessions (Repeat):		
	Risky Business	Carmella Smith	101
	Medication Administration in Jails	Trey Flores	102
	Drug Recognition	Dawn Mathis	
	Mental Health	Mike Sorenson	

THURSDAY, MAY 18th, 2006

8:30 am – 10:00 am	Officer Safety I	Ronald Schweer & Robert Thornton	Mission Room 103
8:30 am – 5:00 pm	Courtroom Challenge	Texas Commission on Jail Standards	TBA
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Refreshment Break		
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Officer Safety I	Ronald Schweer & Robert Thornton	Mission Room 103
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch (on your own)		
	Ballots Due by 12:00pm		Ballot Box (Foyer)
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	TBA	Jim Dodson	Mission Room 103
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Refreshment Break		
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	TBA	Jim Dodson	Mission Room 103
7:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Awards Banquet		Marriott Riverwalk

FRIDAY, MAY 19th, 2006

8:30 am – 10:00 am	Officer Safety II	Ronald Schweer & Robert Thornton	Marriott Riverwalk
10:00 am – 10:15 am	Refreshment Break		
10:15 am – 11:30 am	Officer Safety II	Ronald Schweer & Robert Thornton	Marriott Riverwalk
10:45 am – 11:30 am	Board Meeting		Marriott Riverwalk
11:30 am	Adjourn		



The TJA Golf Tournament



This year's Tournament is being held at the Quarry Golf Club located in San Antonio, Texas on Monday, May 15, 2006 with a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. This is a premiere course, and we are looking forward to a great time as usual. Your fee of \$65.00 includes green fees, cart and a box lunch provided on the course. Prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the tournament.

The QUARRY is a Soft Spike only Course and 'proper' golf attire is required (shirts w/collars)

TJA Golf Tournament 4-man scramble (make your own team) Registration Form Fee: \$65.00

Last Name: _____ First: _____
 Agency: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ FAX: _____
 Team: _____, _____, _____

Contact Tournament Director:

Bob Patterson at
(254) 933-5409 Office
(254) 778-1091 Home

Return Registration & Fee to:

TJA. Golf Tournament
C/O Bob Patterson
3209 Bonham Avenue
Temple, Texas 76502

<http://www.quarrygolf.com/>

Courtroom Challenge

The Courtroom Challenge is a team game involving participants representing their counties by showing their knowledge of Texas Jail Standards. The game uses a game show format, with two opposing teams squaring off to "win jurors" by answering questions about Jail Standards. Once a team wins, that team advances through the elimination chart, and faces other teams until a team takes first place. Trophies are given for first, second, and third place. Each jail may have more than one team.

In December of 2005, the Commission on Jail Standards redesigned their game presentation to make it look slicker and more like an actual game show. The Commission is looking forward to another year of challenging jail staff from all over the state.

To register your 2 person team, complete the following:

Name #1: _____

Name #2: _____

County: _____

Detach and mail to:

Texas Jail Association
 Correctional Management Institute of Texas
 George J. Beto Criminal Justice Building
 Sam Houston State University
 Huntsville, TX 77341-2296

JIM WHITE MEMORIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

by
Cheryl White Mynar

I am pleased to announce the second recipient of the Jim White Memorial Law Enforcement Scholarship – **Deputy Danny Dickson** of the Montgomery County Sheriffs Office. Danny was presented with his scholarship December 14th in the presence of his wife, Margie, his parents, **Sheriff Tommy Gage** and **Lt. Robert Green**.

Danny has been with the Montgomery County Sheriffs Office for over 10 years and is a member of TJA. He is currently assigned to the Transportation Division and in addition works with the United States Marshals providing security for federal inmates in the Federal Courthouse.

Danny is a State Certified Police instructor and State Certified Jailer. Danny is very active with the Youth Ministry at his church. He boxed for over six years and won the 1994 Silver Gloves Tournament. He married his high school sweetheart, Margie ten years ago. They have one daughter Taylor who is seven years old.

Danny will attend North Harris - Montgomery Community College in January to continue pursuing a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice.

We are proud of his accomplishments and wish him well in his future endeavors.



**** NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS ****

NO conference certificates will be handed out at the Annual Conference or the Jail Management Issues Conference without a written request.

NO TCLEOSE credit will be awarded to participants if they have not signed in at each conference session.

More information will be given at the conferences!

CORRECTIONAL MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE OF TEXAS HOSTS BASIC JAIL ADMINISTRATION TRAINING PROGRAM FOCUS GROUP

On November 7-8, 2005, eleven leaders in various areas of law enforcement and corrections participated in a Focus Group held at the George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center on the campus of Sam Houston State University. The Focus Group, convened by the Correctional Management Institute of Texas, consisted of representatives from the Texas Jail Association, the Texas Association of Counties, the Sheriff's Association of Texas, the American Jail Association, the local police chief, and several jail administrators from around the state.

Focus Group participants included Wayne Dicky, Bob Patterson, Chris Kirk, Jean Sanders, D. V. "Red" McKaskle, Carmella Smith, Steve Chalender, Jay Johnson, Sharese Hurst, Christie Davidson, and Dan Richard Beto, who facilitated the discussion.

The Focus Group's goal was to discuss and plan for the creation of a Basic Jail Administration Training Program. It was determined that the quality of training currently offered for jail administrators in Texas is lacking and that there is a need for a specific training program for newly appointed jail administrators. The Focus Group concluded that an intensive 40-hour program with topics facing all jail administrators would be of great benefit to the field of corrections. Some of the topics for the core curriculum would include risk management, jail standards, developing and implementing policies and procedures, issues relating to jail staffing, budget management, purchasing and contract negotiations, and inmate supervision. This course would be offered four times per year and would include an application process requiring a letter of recommendation from the applicant's Sheriff.

Final preparations will be made for this new program in the spring of 2006. The target date for the first training is September 2006. The Basic Jail Administration Training will be held at the George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center in Huntsville, Texas, and will be coordinated by Sharese Hurst.



Back row left to right: Wayne Dicky, DV "Red" McKaskle, Steve Chalender, Jay Johnson, Bob Patterson, Chris Kirk. Front row: Christie Davidson, Sharese Hurst, Carmella Smith, Dan R. Beto

TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT ASSIST KATRINA EVACUEES

by
Pamela Mayo Clark
Director of Community Services

Sheriff's Office Gives Help and Hope to Evacuees

It was the morning after more than 4,000 Katrina evacuees arrived, many as late as midnight, in Austin's Convention Center. Four deputies and one civilian employee from Travis County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) had already set up tables and chairs to fingerprint the children, most of whom had just gotten their first hot meal and first comfortable sleep in five days.

From Katrina-ravaged areas in Louisiana and beyond, they streamed past the TCSO tables. Almost every parent accepted the deputies' offer to put their children's fingerprints in a booklet to help identify the youngsters if needed.

Among the many who stopped to ask questions, **Marcel Weathers** had the most unique mission: He was looking for a job as a Corrections Officer.

Five days earlier, on August 29th, Katrina obliterated Weathers' home and the St. Bernard Parish jail where Weathers had worked for 11 years. Their local Sheriff dismissed Weathers and the other employees at the jail; there were no more inmates to guard.

It was an APD officer who took Weathers to the tables where TCSO folks were filling out Child Identification booklets and handing out stuffed animals, coloring books and crayons.

The deputies told Marcel that **Sheriff Greg Hamilton** would be back at 3:30 that afternoon. At the appointed time, Marcel returned and began his sales pitch to the Sheriff about his experience as a corrections officer. The Sheriff was impressed and asked Weathers to call him after the Labor Day holiday.

Weathers called Sheriff Hamilton early Tuesday. He still didn't know if his family was okay.

The Sheriff had good news.

A few minutes earlier, Sheriff Hamilton had received an e-mail from a friend who had a vacant house in San Marcos. It was available indefinitely and rent-free for any evacuee the Sheriff might know.

That Friday, Weathers finally got a call through to his brother-in-law's cell phone. He and the rest of the family, including his mother, sister, and three nieces,

were at a shelter in Shreveport, La. When he heard the news, Weathers said, he began to cry.

The day after he retrieved his family from Shreveport, Weathers woke up at 5 a.m., drove to the Travis County jail in Del Valle and took oral and written tests to become a corrections officer. He aced both.

Then our Sheriff picked Weathers up and drove him to San Marcos to see the house. "We'll take it," Marcel said.

The Sheriff's Executive Assistant, **Jeannie Miller**, and Chief Bailey's Assistant, **Josie Matthias**, emailed TC Sheriff with requests for furniture and other accessories to fill the house.

Deputies and other employees donated sofas, a television, a stereo, beds and kitchen supplies. Two weeks ago, workers loaded the furnishings and drove them to San Marcos.

Weathers, his two brothers and mother moved into the house that day. Five other family members are staying indefinitely in government housing in Austin.

After going through the usual application process, background check, and boards, Weathers' started his new life as a Corrections Officer in TCSO on October 24.

Lisa Moore, and Larry Morgan, and their 10 children are another family of Katrina evacuees who had the good fortune to come to the attention of **Sheriff Hamilton** and his wife, **Maize**. But first they had to endure one of the scariest evacuations.

All twelve of them had struggled to survive for four days in the attic and on the roof of their hard-scrabble home in New Orleans' Ninth Ward, the area most devastated by the broken levees. They made it on a couple of cans of fruit cocktail. Larry painstakingly squeezed drops of juice into the mouths of the youngest children, who were withering from dehydration.

Finally on August 31st, a chopper hovered overhead, and the family faced a nightmarish dilemma. "I can only take five," their rescuer shouted. The four youngest children, especially 2-year-old Irielle, were growing weaker by the hour, so Lisa and Larry handed them into the sky. Then Larry grabbed 13-year-old O'Neil, and sent him up the rope ladder.

"We thought they were going to take us all to the Superdome and we'd meet up there," said Larry. Instead, the chopper carrying O'Neil and the four younger children dropped them off on a freeway bridge in another part of the city. From there, they were transported by

bus to the Terrebonne Civic Center in Houma, about 60 miles from New Orleans. O'Neil was alone in charge of Irielle, 2; Larrelle, 5; Larioina, 10, and Leindre, 11.

Meanwhile, the boat carrying Lisa and her older children dropped them off near New Orleans' convention center. Larry and the rest of the family, in the other boat, ended up on a truck that took them to New Orleans' Superdome.

Finally, Lisa and her older daughters were transferred to the Convention Center in Austin, where conditions were much better. Her cell phone started to work again, and there was a message from Larry, telling her that he had made it to the Astrodome. She called back, and within hours Larry and the other kids were on a bus to Austin. But there was still no word from O'Neil and his siblings.

In Austin, Lisa gave their names to a volunteer, who entered them into the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's database. On Thursday, a network of volunteer pilots called Angel Flight America flew O'Neil and the youngest Moore children from Baton Rouge to Austin. When they landed shortly before midnight, the parents rushed up to the plane and grabbed the kids before they could even touch the tarmac. It was Larry's 45th birthday. They celebrated - together.

The next day, Maize Hamilton was in a Pflugerville drugstore when she overheard a man asking about local bus transportation. In a distinctive New Orleans accent, Larry Morgan said he wanted to go to the Dollar Store. Maize gave him and his youngest daughter, 2-year-old Irielle, a ride.

At the Dollar Store, Morgan loaded his cart with food and new underwear and T-shirts for his 10 children. But when he tried to pay for the items, the cashier told him they would not accept a debit card from FEMA. Larry was ready to put the items back when the woman behind him offered to help pay. She wrote a check for the clothing, and Maize paid for the food.

When Mrs. Hamilton drove Larry to his temporary apartment, she saw that the family had nothing. "They didn't even have a pot to boil water in," Maize said.

That night Maize told her husband about her chance meeting with a Katrina evacuee. The Sheriff mused out loud that they probably didn't have any way to cook dinner. Maize and Greg Hamilton took dinner, enough for the whole family, to Larry and Lisa's apartment.

Jeannie Miller's broadcast email to the Travis County Sheriff to recruit furnishings for Marcel Weathers included a request for clothes and other necessities for the

Morgan-Moores. **Captain Cyril Friday** and wife Alysia donated many items, including a complete dining room set. A truck had to be recruited just for the trip from the Friday's home to the Morgan-Moore's apartment.

That was about the time that Larry Morgan learned that the outgoing guy who had been so helpful is the local Sheriff. "I said to him, 'WHAT? You're the Sheriff of Travis County?'" Larry laughed, adding, "I just couldn't believe it."

Now about two months after the hurricane, Marcel Weathers and the Morgan-Moore family are rebuilding their lives. The process has been aided by the generosity of strangers, including the most generous of all: the employees of the Travis County Sheriff's Office.

Reprinted with permission from the Travis County Sheriff's Department; Parts of this story were excerpted directly from the Austin American-Statesman and from Newsweek.

TEXAS COUNTIES RESPOND TO HURRICANE VICTIMS' NEEDS

by
Maria Sprow

From the days before Katrina struck, as Louisiana residents packed their bags and headed slowly down the interstate into Jefferson and Chambers and Panola and Orange counties, to the days afterward, as busload after busload after busload packed shaken New Orleans refugees into shelter after shelter after shelter, Texans have opened their hearts, homes and wallets to Hurricane Katrina victims.

It's believed that Texans sheltered as many as 373,000 hurricane victims, according to data collected for Governor Rick Perry.

Officials and staff throughout Texas, in counties both large and small, from Far East Texas to El Paso, stood up to the plate and gave their resources, time and energy to the displaced victims. Texas county officials and staff opened shelters in convention centers and churches. Texas emergency management personnel and law enforcement officers left their own homes to clean up areas devastated and destroyed, while others spent days collecting goods, feeding victims and helping those who have only questions.

Officials are still unsure of what the long-term impacts of the recovery and shelter effort will be. Indigent health care and impact on hospitals are the biggest concerns; unemployment; getting federal reimbursement are others. But the real impact on health care will not be known until it's determined how costs to the state's Medicaid program will be split.

Larger counties race to aid evacuees

In Dallas County, the need for shelters was tremendous and immediate. While city-operated shelters, including Reunion Arena and the Dallas Convention Center, quickly filled up, officials scrambled to find other available facilities. County Judge Margaret Keliher and Sheriff Lupe Valdez, along with the commissioners court, quickly collaborated to turn their attention to the Decker Detention Center, known around Dallas for its former glory days as a star-studded hotel.

At the time, the center held 717 inmates, all of whom had to be immediately transferred to surrounding facilities. That was just the first problem of many that county officials quickly solved. Officials didn't want evacuees to feel like they were being held behind bars, so they spruced the place up.

"We had (low-security inmates) go through it and clean the entire facility, every room," said Don Peritz, of the sheriff's department. The jail's mattress factory stitched together 500 mattresses within the next 36 hours so that evacuees would have comfortable beds. Telephones were put in place on each of the center's 10 floors so refugees could begin calling friends and family. Televisions were added so they could have access to the news. Officials corresponded with Wal-Mart and area news agencies to make sure evacuees would have clean clothes to change into after they showered and access to the help wanted ads. County computers were sent to the facility so that evacuees could get online.

"We had to do it overnight," Peritz said. "It was a mass mobilization. ... I don't think anyone envisioned this occurring."

Several evacuees staying at the shelter expressed their gratitude for not just the county's efforts, but to all those they had met in Texas.

In one room, a Dallas County deputy sat talking with Lilion Freeman, who said she once taught middle school math in New Orleans. Her sisters, Karen Knox and Mary Clements, were there as well. Together and with strangers who had become friends, the group had spent days in the Superdome before arriving in Texas, and eventually, Dallas.

The group, who arrived along with two more sisters and a couple they had met in the Superdome, had taken and turned their tight quarters into a tightly-knit home. They were preparing to move out in a week, to a new apartment, just outside Dallas, where they would try to start over.

They didn't know how long they would be staying, but were all happy that they were in Texas. "I'm going to give it awhile, it might be better for me here, economically," said Clements.

The group stopped in several different cities before finally landing in Dallas, they said. "Everywhere we stopped, we were very much welcome," Knox added. "I'm staying because I'm blessed, blessed to be here."

"It was the will of God that brought us here," said Freeman in agreement, mentioning life in the Superdome and how she was still having nightmares about the experience. After becoming a little upset, Freeman caught herself, and the trio again said how thankful they were to be in Texas. "They've shown us a lot of love since we've been here, at the Decker facility."

Suddenly, "Decker facility" rang through the air like a gospel song, as the others repeated it: "That's right, Decker facility, uh-huh."

Looking at the deputy, who the three had dubbed "Mr. B," the three declared him to be a guardian angel of sorts.

"We love Mr. B," Freeman said, and that, too, became like a gospel song.

Efforts of Texas counties make a difference

But the story behind Katrina wasn't written only by large counties, and each county found its own way to contribute to the effort. Officials from several counties reported that they are expecting about one-third of their evacuees to become permanent residents, based on conversations, requests for permanent housing and enrollment into area schools.

In Chambers County, evacuees driving down Interstate 10 began showing up the night before the storm hit. Many, stuck in the traffic caused by the mandatory evacuation of New Orleans, had driven for 24 hours to reach shelter. By the time the storm struck New Orleans, refugees had begun setting up camps along the highway, under bridges. So the county, with the help of the Red Cross, opened more shelters.

Tarrant County became a refuge to more than 4,500 Katrina victims, more than 3,000 of whom were staying in area shelters at one point. One county-operated shelter, a gymnasium where evacuees could eat, rest and

shower, housed 175 people. County and city officials there formed a committee to help meet the transitional needs of their guests. The county focused its efforts on giving evacuees housing and job training assistance and transportation to other areas, should it be requested.

In Collin County, spokeswoman Leigh Hornsby said employees all worked together to take in evacuees who had headed toward the overwhelmed Dallas area. Since Red Cross staff were largely focused on the metropolitan shelters, employees in Collin had lots to learn, and quickly.

They managed to secure a shelter site from a local church. The site, Baptist Encampment, was one of the higher-class facilities available to refugees. It offered air conditioned rooms and privacy. Almost 100 people filled the area originally, but that number was quickly cut in half since many evacuees found homes with family and friends.

“We have not established a shelter like this on our own before,” Hornsby said, adding that, always before, the county had relied on the Red Cross during emergencies. “This was a learning experience for some, and it’s a good exercise in teamwork.”

Steve Deffibaugh, Collin County’s fire marshal, added that the set-up for the shelter was unlike anything he’s ever done before. “This has covered the entire county,” he said, adding that it was unknown how long the Collin County-run shelter’s guests would stay. “We’re set up for the long-term. Listening to the state operations center and watching TV reports on how long its going to take to get back to New Orleans, it may be two to six months.”

While both Collin and Dallas counties operated their own non-Red Cross shelters, others, such as Clay and Shelby, did not have to, since faith-based organizations were available and could easily handle the number of evacuees that came to their counties. Several counties, such as El Paso, helped with shelters jointly operated by cities and counties. In Brazos County, area officials scrambled to find shelter for evacuees, about 1,700 of whom were staying in area hotels. They successfully worked with Texas A & M and other community leaders to find refuge.

Several counties, such as Jack County, offered and set up facilities for shelters, but they went unused as shelters elsewhere welcomed the visitors. Many of the shelters went unused because county officials diligently worked toward obtaining more private temporary housing. Jack County, which volunteered facilities for 150 people who never came, instead supplied 200 meals with ice and an ice trailer to a nearby shelter.

Several counties, such as Brewster, Bell and Harrison, contributed to donation drives or started their own. In Brewster County, sheriffs deputies helped start the West Texas for Hurricane Relief group to collect socks, underwear, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, diapers, formula, water, food and flash lights for hurricane victims. Austin and Kendall counties opened command centers to help distribute information. Other counties provided free mobile health clinic services to the evacuees.

Other counties, such as Williamson, sent emergency management personnel to New Orleans to help with the evacuation and clean-up efforts. Panola County, with a population of just under 23,000 people, sent five ambulance crews to New Orleans and Gulfport. Though shelters were available during the first few days of the storm’s aftermath, none were needed a week later. All 600 evacuees who had sought refuge there had found temporary homes, reported County Judge David Anderson.

In addition, several county officials have been singled out by the press in recognition of their efforts. In Harris County, where more than 11,000 former Superdome dwellers found refuge in the county-owned Reliant Astrodome, Judge Robert Eckels was praised by Houston Chronicle reporters for his leadership and response.

Adapted from an article which appeared in County, the bi-monthly magazine of the Texas Association of Counties.

ASSISTING THOSE IN NEED

by
Clinton Thetford
 Communications Operator
 Lubbock County Sheriff’s Office

On September 23, 2005, at 2100 hrs the Lubbock County Sheriff’s Office responded to a call from the Texas State Emergency Operations Center for law enforcement support in the wake of Hurricane Rita. It deployed a strike force to support recovery efforts of local law enforcement agencies affected by the hurricane.

Initially, 18 personnel were deployed including 12 Peace Officers, three Detention Officers, one Communications Operator and two Private Sector Radio Repair Technicians along with nine vehicles and two fuel trailers. Among the vehicles deployed was the new Mobile Operations Vehicles that was less than six months old.

Additional personnel were deployed in two relief teams that deployed at about one week intervals. A total of 37 personnel were deployed for the relief efforts.

Our initial destination was the Texas State Guard Camp Mabry in Austin to stage for deployment. We arrived at Camp Mabry on September 24, 2005, at about 0530 hrs and were directed to barracks for sleep time. At 0700 hrs we were advised to get up and make ready to act as the security escort for a fuel convoy to Ellington AFB in Houston. All officers made ready and stood by until 1530 hrs when we left Camp Marby for Ellington AFB in Houston. We arrived at Ellington AFB at 2300 hrs and personnel were transported to a local motel for rest. On September 25 we were told to proceed to the Ford Center in Beaumont, Texas where we would receive additional instructions. Prior to leaving the Houston area we topped off all of our fuel tanks, fuel trailers and purchased non-perishable food items to last each officer about 10 days.

We arrived at Ford Center at 2300 hrs and were unable to locate our state guard contact. Contact was made with Jefferson County Judge Carl Griffith and he directed our team to respond to the City of Port Arthur, Texas as they had a pending request for 25 personnel to assist with law enforcement activities due to looting in their city. Judge Griffith provided an escort to the Port Arthur EOC which is located at the Memorial Boulevard Holiday Inn.

On arrival in Port Arthur, contact was made with Deputy Chief of Police, John Owen, for assignment. The city was found to be without electrical service, water service and extensive damage with debris filling the streets. We were surprised to find most cell phone service operational in the area. Initially officers were assigned to provide security at the local hospital and to guard a fuel depot. Acting on a citizen's tip, officers located a suspected looter in a building in the vicinity of their assigned post. Local PD officers determined that the individual knew the owner and the subject was released. Also, Communication personnel responded to the Port Arthur Dispatch Center and provided relief to Operators that had been on duty for close to 24 hours. By 0500 hrs rooms had been assigned to our team members at the Holiday Inn and all officers were off duty for rest.

The following morning our contingent was divided into 4 teams: two teams of law enforcement assigned to patrol and enforcement of curfew, one team of detention officers assigned to the EOC to support the Logistics operations, and the final team was assigned to our MOV for communications support and administrative documentation.

Initially several technical issues were identified with the setup of the Mobile Operations Vehicle and attempts were made to establish communications between the local authorities and our units. It was soon learned that Jefferson County Emergency Service used a Motorola 800 MHZ trunked radio system and our Mobile Operations Vehicle was setup with an Ericsson GE 800 MHZ EDACS trunked radio along with UHF and VHF Interoperability radio equipment. Initially our units used an 800 MHZ simplex mutual aid channel, but local authorities did not have access to the 800 MHZ mutual aid channels. This was also a problem due to range limitations with the 800 MHZ band being a line of site communications form. With assistance of two radio service technicians we learned there was an active 800 MHZ mutual aid repeater active in the area and attempted to utilize the system, but found it to be inconsistent in performance. We also obtained a handheld radio and attempted to utilize our ACS 1000 radio patch unit to link our radio system to the local emergency services radio system. This would have worked with the exception of a problem with the local system site control channel causing the system to lock-up all channels that were linked.

We then established a dispatch point in our MOV passing traffic to our units using the 800 MHZ simplex mutual aid channel and relaying relevant information to the Port Arthur PD via their hand held unit loaned to our agency. On the third day of deployment we were able to make contact with the local radio repair technician for the City of Port Arthur. We learned that the 800 MHZ mutual aid repeater, which was earlier, determined to be in the area, was actually located in Port Arthur at the police department and had in fact been newly installed just two week prior to the hurricanes arrival. Due to the fact that the local radio repair technician was overwhelmed with work, we dispatched our radio repair technicians to investigate the poor performance of the repeater. They were able to determine the poor performance was due to a damaged antenna on top of the 200 foot radio tower. Fortunately, an identical antenna was located on the portable antenna system (also stored at the same location) and the technicians were able to climb the tower and replace the defective antenna. With the replacement antenna in place, the repeater was back to 100 percent operational status. This allowed our units to utilize the repeater, increasing our radio coverage area from a few miles radius to about a 20 mile radius of Port Arthur PD. This permitted consistent radio coverage for our remaining time in the Port Arthur area. The radio technicians were also able to affect repairs to the damaged antenna and reinstalled it onto the portable radio tower

where they had borrowed the antenna to repair the repeater system.

Another technical issue developed with internet access from our Mobile Operations Vehicle. Since our unit was still new, we had not completed installation of all of the communications equipment and only had a Nex-Tel wireless modem installed in the unit at the time of our deployment. Our communications operator brought a personal laptop computer which was equipped with a USB adaptor cable to allow internet access via his Sprint cell phone. Two issues developed with the Nex-Tel Modem: it had a connection speed of 19.2 kb, which limited the number and size of files that could be quickly transmitted, and there was a system overload due to numerous emergency responders using Nex-Tel equipment to communicate. The Nex-Tel modem kept getting dropped from the system due to this overloading of the system. This may be an issue to consider in future deployments as the Department of Homeland Security recommends of the use of Nex-Tel communications devices by emergency responders. Due to the overloading of the Nex-Tel system and limited connection speed, we primarily utilized the Sprint cell phone of our communications operator, which allowed a consistent connected speed of 230 kb and was very stable connection with few problems.

On the 3rd day of deployment, DSL internet service was established to the EOC and a drop was run to our MOV. This allowed for a mini network to be built inside the MOV utilizing an 802.11G wireless router. With four built in ethernet ports on the router, we were able to establish three working laptops inside the MOV, which had complete internet access. Also wireless access was available to any other computer equipped with wireless capability.

Our satellite phone performed well with one exception, we had a fax machine connected to a secondary line of the satellite phone which allowed data to be transmitted at only 2400 baud, causing slow transmissions of faxes being sent and received.

We also had satellite television capability which worked with minimal problems.

A complete amateur (ham) radio station was also deployed with the team, which included VHF / UHF and HF transceivers. Although never utilized for communications support, the equipment was tested and radio contacts were made with the State Emergency Operations Center and amateur radio operators in Lubbock, Texas. This established the capability if needed.

Additional problems developed due to our officers

not being familiar with the area. This caused one patrol vehicle to stall in a low water crossing, causing damage to the engine of the vehicle. However, once our officers were paired with local officers these problems were minimized. The first few days the officers answered several calls of suspected looting and calls of shots being fired. There were several areas where citizens had not evacuated and were still in their homes with no utility services. There was one instance where a citizen tried to reenter the disaster area during the curfew period, ran a roadblock and shot at DPS troopers. The subject was quickly apprehended and incarcerated in short order.

When our second relief deployed, a paramedic from our STAR team was deployed to monitor the health conditions of our responders and of the local emergency personnel.

One area where there were minimal problems was the feeding of emergency response personnel. A local restaurant owner, whom was related to a local law enforcement officer, brought in portable bar-b-que grills and smokers and began cooking items from the inventory at his restaurant. He did this because there was no power for the coolers and freezers at his restaurant and the food would have spoiled if they had not been used. When other restaurant owners learned of the effort to feed the emergency responders, they also donated their remaining inventories to support the effort. Within a few days, several cookers were in place and cooking 24 hours straight. Also, self contained refrigerated trucks were brought in to store the food products. Meals were available 24 hours a day and the emergency responders did eat very well, thanks to the efforts of all involved.

Another area of minimal problems was lodging of the responders. By the time we arrived at Port Arthur, the EOC had been established in the Holiday Inn and a 400 KW generator was in place providing power to the facility. There was some storm and water damage to the facility, but for the most part the rooms were dry, clean with hot running water, air conditioners and cable television.

There were some highlights to the trip, which included some of our team members getting to meet Geraldo Rivera and have their picture taken with him. Another was when Governor Rick Perry arrived in the area for a tour of the damaged area.

On October 8, 2005, our team was relieved of its duties and departed Port Arthur, Texas and returned to Lubbock, Texas arriving October 9th at about 1500 hrs.

A big thanks goes to all of the people in the Jefferson County / Port Arthur, Texas area for their support and making our team feel at home and part of their family.

BRAZOS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



The Brazos County Sheriff's Office recently hosted a series of three training programs for effectively dealing with Deaf and Hard of Hearing Offenders in Corrections. Eileen Baker, M.Ed. conducted the program. Ms. Baker is a nationally recognized consultant and teacher for the deaf. Her extensive experience includes presentations at the American Jail Association, Texas Jail Association, and National Commission on Correctional Health Care Conferences.

A program designed for intake and release officers was held November 29-30, 2005. The first half of the program focused on providing the participants with insight into the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Culture. Demonstrations of hearing loss and explanation of the varying causes helped to sensitize participants to the disability. The second half of the program was a very interactive "survival sign language" segment that provided officers with a basic knowledge of signs used in critical situations. Officers learned how to communicate better when checking medical condition, inquiring about weapons and injuries, and giving basic commands.

On December 1, 2005, a program was held for jail managers and supervisors. The program consisted of an orientation regarding Deaf and Hard of Hearing Offenders and a review of recent case law. Attendees worked together to develop a sample departmental policy that complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Department of Justice requirements.

KEY ISSUES DEADLINE DATES

March 1, 2006 for April Publication

June 1, 2006 for July Publication

September 1, 2006 for October Publication

December 1, 2006 for January Publication

Send your articles on disk or via email to Sharese Hurst, Texas Jail Association, Correctional Management Institute of Texas, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas 77341-2296; sharese@shsu.edu.

COMMENTARY: BECOMING PART OF THE REENTRY SOLUTION

by
Dan Richard Beto
Chair, Governing Board
Texas Regional Community
Policing Institute
Huntsville, Texas

On October 11, 1970, Dr. George J. Beto, Director of the Texas Department of Corrections, delivered his presidential address at the Centennial Congress of Correction of the American Correctional Association in Cincinnati, Ohio, during which he spoke on the past, present, and future of corrections in America. During that portion of his speech devoted to the future of corrections, Dr. Beto made the following observation (Beto, 1971):

The future will bring an expanded use of pre-release programs. It is sheer folly to keep a man in prison two or three or four or five years and, at the termination of his sentence or upon parole, release him with a few dollars, a cheap suit, and the perfunctory ministrations of the dismissing officer. To an even greater degree, the future will witness programs which devote themselves to easing the inmate's transition from the most unnatural society known to man – prison society – to the free world. Myrl Alexander [former Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons] is correct when he says: "We must blur the line between the institution and the community."

More than three decades later, on January 20, 2004, in his State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush also addressed the issue of prisoner reentry (Bush, 2004):

In the past we've worked together to bring mentors to children of prisoners, and provide treatment for the addicted, and help for the homeless. Tonight I ask you to consider another group of Americans in need of help. This year, some 600,000 inmates will be released from prison back into society. We know from long experience that if they can't find work, or a home, or help, they are much more likely to commit crime and return to prison. So tonight, I propose a four-year, \$300 million prisoner reentry initiative to expand job training and placement services, to provide transitional housing, and to help newly released prisoners get mentoring, including from faith-based groups. America is the land of the second chance, and

when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life.

While Dr. Beto's remarks and President Bush's comments focused on prison inmates, what they said could just as well be applied to offenders confined in county jails.

Scope of the Problem

At year end 2004 there were an estimated 6,996,500 persons under adult correctional supervision. Of that figure, 4,151,125 offenders were on probation, 765,355 were on parole, 1,421,911 were serving sentences in prisons, and 713,990 offenders were in jails (Glaze and Palla, 2005).

Of the prison population, more than 600,000 offenders will be released annually (Travis and Wahl, 2003).

At the local level, according to a Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin (Harrison and Beck, 2005), on June 30, 2004, 60 percent of the Nation's jail inmates were awaiting court action on their current charge. The remaining 40 percent, an estimated 283,500 inmates, were serving a sentence in jail, awaiting sentencing following a conviction, or serving time for a probation or parole violation. Most of these will be back on the streets as well.

Most offenders released from custody are ill-equipped to deal with the complexities of urban life. Saddled with questionable value systems, many released offenders experience difficulty in finding suitable housing and employment, managing their limited financial resources, maneuvering the social service system, securing affordable transportation, avoiding persons with criminal records, and reestablishing themselves as a member of a family (Beto, 2004; Nelson and Trone, 2000).

Until recently, the issue of prisoner reentry, while appreciated as important by criminal justice practitioners and academics, has received woefully inadequate attention by policy makers and politicians. Now, however, the topic of prisoner reentry has been receiving considerable attention by public and private organizations and agencies (Beto, 2004; Travis and Waul, 2003). Many criminal justice agencies – with or without additional funding – are developing programs to better serve those offenders leaving custody in the attempt to stem the tide of recidivism.

The Norfolk County Initiative

An excellent example of an offender reentry program operated by a county sheriff may be found in Norfolk County, Massachusetts, where Sheriff Michael G. Bellotti has instituted practices and engaged partners to stem the tide of released offenders returning to custody. Sheriff

Bellotti's efforts have received favorable media coverage, as reflected in a recent article appearing in the *Boston Globe* (Laidler, 2005).

On a recent afternoon in Dedham, 12 men sat at tables, their sober expressions befitting the serious topic at hand. The setting was the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office and Correctional Center in Dedham, and the men were inmates, all repeat offenders. For more than an hour, a parade of law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and human service providers delivered a pitch that was both comforting and tough. The inmates were told of the many services available to help them stay out of trouble when they return to the outside world – and reminded of the severe penalties they face if they do break the law again.

The presentation was the latest in a series that Norfolk County Sheriff Michael G. Bellotti has held as part of a new initiative, begun in March 2005, to reduce the chances that inmates will commit new crimes once they leave the facility and be returned to custody. Initial results are positive. As of November 15, 403 inmates have been identified as repeat offenders, and 142 released. As of that date, only nine have returned to the facility, according to Christopher Dawley, reintegration coordinator for the sheriff's office.

"You have an opportunity to listen to what opportunities are there for you if you want to turn things around," Special Sheriff John Kivlan told the inmates at the outset of the session. "But we want to make you aware what the consequences may be if you don't."

The program is a collaborative effort. Before launching the project, Bellotti's office secured letters from an array of public and private agencies agreeing to participate, including police departments across Norfolk County.

"The repeat offender is the most persistent problem facing our criminal justice system, particularly at the level of our district courts and houses of corrections. By targeting these repeat offenders, they will no longer pass through the system anonymously," said David Falcone, a spokesman for the sheriff's office. "The ultimate goal is to reduce the rate of recidivism and to make sure that repeat offenders stop their cycle of criminal behavior."

Most of the repeat offenders are assigned to a presentation panel, and all receive individual counseling on the topics covered at those forums. Two weeks before a repeat offender is released, the sheriff's office notifies the police department

in the inmate's hometown.

On the release day, an inmate does not simply return to the streets. Instead, he is driven by a sheriff's deputy to a probation office if he is on probation, or to a state parole reentry center, where staff members work with newly released inmates even if they are not on parole. The offices will try to connect the former inmate with needed services.

"The first 72 hours upon [an inmate's] release are critical," said Christopher Dawley, reintegration coordinator for the sheriff's office. "We feel trying to address their critical needs at that point, and giving them as much support as possible is absolutely key to lowering recidivism," referring to the rate at which convicted criminals break the law and return to jail.

U.S. Attorney Michael J. Sullivan, who spoke at the recent presentation panel, believes the program is a good one. "I'm the eternal optimist," he said. "I believe that people that have the motivation can change their lives. It's great to see the service providers here willing to provide their support for incarcerated inmates." Sullivan added, "The bottom line is that the choice is really up to them. They hold their fate in their own hands." It was a theme that ran through both the comforting and the tough talk of the session.

"You have the opportunity to take advantage of all the different agencies that are here for one reason – to help you," said Dr. Robert Brown, of the Boston Hamilton House, a long-term residential treatment program in Boston for people with substance abuse problems. However, he added, "The answer doesn't lie with outside care. The answer lies within you."

Jeanmarie Carroll, Second Assistant District Attorney for Norfolk County, told the inmates, "You get to decide what you want to do. But remember one thing: It's no one else's fault if you find yourself back here." Both Carroll and Assistant U.S. Attorney Glenn MacKinlay warned the inmates that their repeat offender status, coupled with the significant opportunities for services they were being offered, could result in their receiving longer sentences should they again break the law. "If you folks meet me again standing in federal court, it's going to be a sad day for you ... and a bad day for your entire family," MacKinlay said.

For Robert Baxter, 26, of Roxbury, one of the repeat offenders, such advice came in loud

and clear. Baxter said he was serving a six-month sentence in the Norfolk County House of Correction for assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, committed while he had an open case for possession of marijuana. He was incarcerated once before for assault and battery on a police officer, he said. "They're both along the same lines," he said of the tough and encouraging messages at the panel event. "Basically, it's putting the onus on yourself to take responsibility for your actions. And to make better decisions." Baxter said of the repeat offender program, "It really gets you ready for the future. It's good preparation, to really know that there's support out there for you, besides just being thrown out there and just whatever happens, happens."

Kivlan, addressing the inmates, put the goal of the program in simple terms. "Nobody wants to see you come back here – nobody," he said. "We're hoping that you won't. That's why we're doing this."

Granted, what Sheriff Bellotti is attempting demands additional work, it requires a concerted effort by a number of agencies and organizations, and it compels those involved to agree on a common goal, but the payoff, if successful, will be tremendous.

The St. Clair County Program

Another example of an offender reentry program administered by a sheriff's department is found in St. Clair County, Michigan. In an editorial appearing in the *Port Huron Times-Herald*, the sheriff's department, which has received some negative press about jail construction costs, is praised for its effort in reducing offender recidivism (*Port Huron Times Herald*, 2005).

It's difficult to find much good to say about the new St. Clair County Jail, given the millions of dollars that were misspent in its construction. There is one bright spot – the jail's commitment to discouraging its inmates from returning.

Jail officials are providing programs and classes to rehabilitate prisoners. The Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative is the model. The program that began in state prisons this year tries to identify and correct factors and behavior that lead prisoners to commit more crimes.

Among the assistance the jail offers are anger management and substance abuse treatment – two programs that address basic conditions related to crime. There also are classes that help correct poor education, another key contributor to criminal activity.

The jail's academy, chartered by the St. Clair County Regional Educational Services Agency, helps inmates earn their general education diplomas. So far, 18 have earned their GEDs.

The Michigan Prisoner Reentry Initiative is a welcome development – here and throughout the state's penal system. The program asserts simply locking up criminals is a limited crime deterrent. Without addressing the factors that promote criminal activity, incarceration essentially warehouses prisoners until they're released to commit new crimes.

The jail's program already has the participation of ten local organizations that include the Center for Human Resources, Safe Horizons, and the Thumb Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency. Their involvement affirms the community's interest in reversing criminal behavior.

The effort is an investment. As such, it comes with a cost. Although grants pay for the programs, eventually, county taxpayers could be asked to assume their costs.

But Kathy Branch-Gadd, who is in charge of the rehabilitation programs at the jail, has a sensible way of looking at them.

"It's not adding significant cost to the jail," Branch-Gadd said. "When you talk about trying to put things in place, there will be a cost. But whatever we can do to help them not come back to jail will decrease the cost for everyone."

As in the case of the Massachusetts initiative, the persons involved in the Michigan program see the value in preventing offenders from returning to jail.

Conclusion

Jails have a legal obligation to safely house and provide basic services for defendants awaiting some form of judicial action and for offenders serving sentences. In addition to this legal obligation, many sheriffs and jail administrators also realize they have a moral obligation to provide whatever services they have within their limited resources to better equip offenders to successfully transition into the free world and to keep them from returning to custody. This should be one of the goals of every sheriff and jail administrator.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR — 2006!

by
Maurice "Mo" Mascorro

As we begin 2006, attention naturally turns to "what the new year will bring"? It is important that we maintain and capitalize on the continued growth and success of our vendor participation.

Everyone should have received their Exhibitor Packets for the 20th Annual TJA Conference to be held May 15 – 19, 2006, at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio Texas.

The biggest "notable difference" this year that we are all excited about is that all vendors will be located in the Tower Ballroom. This will help maximize the exposure you desire and make each of you more accessible to the attendees.

We already have several vendors registered and committed to sponsorships – an exciting start so early in the process. Please take time to review your packets and get them back to TJA in order to secure your "preferred spot".

Also, please consider participating in one of the many

sponsorship opportunities. You don't have to make major contributions to make a difference. Contributions at any and all levels help the association defer the costs of not only the conference but also providing much needed and required training for law enforcement attendees. Please call Vanessa Farmer with TJA Headquarters at 936-294-3075 for more information on how you can contribute.

The Riverwalk Marriott is the Host Hotel. Be sure to call early to get your room reservation at 210-223-1000. Remember, we have a limited number of rooms at the conference rate.

See you in San Antonio!

CALL FOR SERVICE

by
1st Vice-President
Danny Downes

As public servants we are called on to serve the public. This is expected of us and something that is as natural as putting on our pants in the morning. It comes with the territory. When the public sees us on the street in uniform, at the county jail or any time we display our badge identifying ourselves as law enforcement officers they automatically expect more from us than the average person. We all know this and it goes without saying. So why am I going on about this like it is something unique or new? My way of getting to the point of this article. It, too, deals with service but at a different level and it requires a great deal of sacrifice and commitment from those who are moved to serve in this arena.

The Texas Jail Association elects Officers and Directors every year and several other people are appointed by the current President to serve in various capacities. The former are expected to serve for a number of years and the latter usually, but not always will serve only for the current year. There are requirements that go along with this service and those in service must make sacrifices as a result. These sacrifices are usually in the form of time and a lot of hard work.

Obviously, these officers, directors, secretaries, treasurers, etc. must have the support of their employers. This support requires employers to provide financial means for them to travel to conferences, board meetings and training events across the state. Some events

are requirements mandated by the By Laws of the Association and others are not required but are expected as part of the "territory." Such things as regional training provided throughout the state in partnership with Texas Commission on Jail Standard and Texas Association of Counties are examples of that which is not required, but expected. Our officers are often called on to facilitate these events which can benefit every county jail in the state of Texas.

These roles require, as I said earlier, sacrifice and commitment. As professionals who have come together for the good of the Association we have a responsibility to provide this Association with leaders so that we can continue on the journey that our founding fathers started some 20 years ago. The vision of those individuals was clear as to what we are to provide to our membership. We are called from the membership to step forward and make the sacrifices and commitments required to be the leadership of this Association.

I can tell you from personal experience that there is nothing better than the feeling you get when you have put your best foot forward, you have done your absolute best and you have served the members of this Association - our peers, those who have one of the most difficult yet rewarding jobs in this country. What a feeling to say I have not only walked in their shoes and experienced the things unique to this professional endeavor, but also, I have served these people with my commitment, my sacrifice and my dedication to the membership of the best jail association in the United States of America.

Elsewhere in this publication you will find a call for nominations. If you feel compelled to be part of the leadership of the Texas Jail Association. If you are prepared to make the required commitments and sacrifices. If you have the support of your employer. I urge you to take the steps to begin your service to this Association. Also I ask if you know someone who would "fit the bill" encourage them to seek the support of their employer and run for office.



– As a member of Texas Jail Association, you can enjoy considerable savings along with the comfort and reliability that comes with renting from Avis. For your special Texas Jail Association member reservation, call 1-800-831-8000 or reserve your vehicle online at www.avis.com and provide your Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD) number T765000.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Election time is coming and the Nominating Committee of the TJA will be selecting a slate of candidates for the following positions:

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT

The person elected will serve progressively through the Presidential preparation chairs to become your President in the year 2009. Give some serious thought to this nomination and present yourself or someone else to the Nominating Committee. The eligibility for this elected office is contingent upon active “**professional**” membership in good standing with the Association for a period of one year prior to election. The member elected will be required to attend approximately four meetings per year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the Association. The President shall be the presiding officer at all board meetings. The Board shall be empowered to authorize expenditures for the general business of the Association, authorize additional expenditures, and set appropriate charges. The Board may enter into any agreement or contract with other personal or organizations for the advancement of the Association. Eligibility for this elected office is contingent upon active “**professional**” membership in good standing with the Association for a period of one year prior to election. Members elected to this position shall serve a three year term in office.

The nominations with attached resumes are to be returned to the Nomination Committee Chairman for verification of eligibility and distribution to Committee Members. All nominations shall contain the following for consideration: **Full Name, Current Occupation, Official Title, Business Address and Phone Number, and a brief biographical sketch (not to exceed 50 words).**

A. Guidelines for nominations

1. Individuals must be members in good standing as specified in the bylaws at the time of nomination.
2. Nominating Committee members shall not be considered for office.
3. Only written nominations will be considered. Self-Nominations are acceptable.
4. Office being sought shall be identified in the nomination.
5. Endorsement of the affected Sheriff must accompany the nomination. Nominations lacking the Sheriff’s endorsement will not be considered for office.
6. Elections shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the bylaws.

We need good people from around the State to continue the tradition of dedication and commitment set by current and past officers and board members. Become involved, submit a nomination now. **Nominations must be received by March 31, 2006.** Nominations received after the deadline cannot be considered.

Send nominations to:

Danny Downes
1st Vice President, TJA
Nomination Committee, Chair
3201 E. Highway 6
Waco, TX 76705
(254) 759-5688
(254) 754-4048 facsimile

Committee Members:

Carla Stone
2nd Vice President, TJA
Kaufman County
PO Drawer 849
Kaufman, TX 75142
(972) 932-9736
(972) 932-9752 facsimile

Lt. Rick Pena
Member-at-Large
Williamson County
508 South Rock
Georgetown, TX 78626
(512) 943-5252
(512) 943-1379 facsimile

CORRECTIONAL OFFICER OF THE YEAR

The Texas Jail Association is now accepting nominations for Correctional Officer of the Year. The purpose of this award is for the statewide recognition of outstanding Correctional Officers. This award will be presented at the Annual TJA conference held May 15 – 19, 2006. A person being nominated does not have to be a member of TJA, however, he or she must be eligible for membership in TJA. Recipients will be presented with a commemorative plaque and will be recognized in the TJA newsletter. Any nomination must have the written endorsement of the agency head.

Nominations will be accepted for the following acts:

- A. Professional Achievement
- B. Valor

Please complete and return the nomination form below to the Awards Committee by **March 31, 2006**. Please describe in specific detail how this nominee meets the criteria for Correctional Officer of the Year. Attach additional pages if needed. Also attach supporting documentation such as offense reports, sworn statements, newspaper accounts, and letters of recommendation.

CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION

- A. **Professional Achievement** – An individual through personal initiative, persistence, or endeavor creates or participates in a program or system that has a significant positive impact within the field of corrections which would exceed the normal expectations of job performance.
- B. **Valor** – An act of personal heroism or bravery which exceeds the normal expectations of job performance, such as placing one’s own life in jeopardy to save another person’s life, preventing serious bodily injury to another, or preventing the consequence of a criminal act.

** Hotel room and conference fee will be complimentary for the award recipient.*

TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION Correctional Officer of the Year Nomination

Person Nominated: _____

Department/Agency: _____

Position or Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

Nominated by: _____

Position or Title: _____

Endorsement by Agency Head: _____

Return this form and any supporting documents by March 31, 2006:

TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION
 ATTN: Awards Committee
 Correctional Management Institute of Texas
 George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center
 Sam Houston State University
 Huntsville, Texas 77341-2296

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

The Texas Jail Association's Officers and Board of Directors would like to welcome the 92 new members who joined the Association between July 1, 2005 and December 31, 2005. They are: **Tina Kutach & Rosemary Sanderson**, Aransas County; **Eileen Ciampoli & Janet Wilcox**, Bailey County; **Della Baker, James MacMillan & Doris Tschirhart**, Bandera County; **Wanda Amora, Kennetta Boston, Jenny Clay, Paul McCoy, Wayne Penebaker, Mark Sparks, David White & Tammy Williamson**, Bell County; **Ervey Ayala**, Bexar County; **Jennifer Holt, Allison Klein, Angie Miller, Cindy Parker, David Pope & Verna Shull**, Blanco County; **Ross Burling, Braydon Moore & Ryan Skelton**, Brewster County; **Balde Lozano & Lamar Villarreal**, Brooks County; **Christopher Biggerstaff & Bonnie Smith**, Burnet County; **James Short**, Caldwell County; **Wendy Anaya, Idalia Benavides, Gilbert Flores, Fermin Leal, Rolando Medrano, Antonio "Tony" Ramirez, Elizabeth Sanchez, Armando Tenorio & Mario Vera**, Cameron County; **Becky Bishop, Jean Anne Goolsby, Cynthia M. Rodriguez & Judy V. Lopez**, Carson County; **Raymond McNeme & William "Bill" Ponder**, Collin County; **Raul Mata, Kenneth Snyder & Kimberly White**, Coryell County; **Greg Leveling & Jorge Meija**, Dallas County; **Randy Starr**, Denton County; **Jan Delrie**, Edwards County; **Arlene Holland**, Erath County; **Santos J. Aguilar**, Gillespie County; **Arnold S. Zwicke**, Guadalupe County; **Harvey Grady**, Hale County; **Michael R. Carruth**, Hardin County; **Robin Konetzke & Galan Wortham**, Harris County; **Brad Robinson & Samuel Williams**, Hays County; **Monte Mansfield & Johnny Walker**, Henderson County; **Eddie Adams, Hilb Rogal & Hobbs; Dennis Powers**, Kaufman County; **Billy Woodruff**, Kleberg County; **Ron Tribble**, Lamar County; **Peggy Ivey**, Leon County; **Don Neyland**, Liberty County; **Jack Campbell & Shane Kirk, Sr.**, McLennan County; **Billy Kinsey**, Medina County; **Carolyn Jeter**, Mitchell County; **Libby A. Bones, Mike Jones, Bradley S. Phelan, Bill Saunders & Doug Tipton**, Montgomery County; **Donnie Rannefeld & Jerry Watts**, Nolan County; **Diego Bustillo, Virginia Martinez & Rebecca Tanguma**, Refugio County; **Michael Young**, Tarrant County; **Philip Dennis & Jeff Janecek**, Victoria County; **Steve Fisher**, Walker County; **Larry Krueger & Diane Newsom**, Williamson County; **Billy King, Gary Laughlin & Gabriel Martinez**, Wilson County.

TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION BULLETIN BOARD

Collin County

Sheriff Terry G. Box presented Captain Jim Moody a plaque commemorating his 20 years of dedication service to the Collin county Sheriff's Office.



Captain Moody and Sheriff Terry Box



Left to right: Sheriff Terry Box, Sergeants Gina Wilson, Brad Denison, Douglas Dalton

Sheriff Terry Box promoted three Detention Officers to the rank of Sergeant

Jefferson County

Lieutenant Mark Dubois, Past Treasurer of the Texas Jail Association, graduated on October 11, 2005, from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Peace Officer's Academy. Lt. Dubois graduated Valedictorian in a class of sixteen.

Montgomery County

Montgomery County Sheriff Tommy Gage promoted Deputy Stephanie Spiller to Corporal. Sheriff Gage also promoted Detention Officer Kristy Cater to Deputy. Both promotions were effective December 3, 2005.



Left to right: Lieutenant Robert Green, Captain Ken Ariola, Corporal Stephanie Spiller, Deputy Kristy Cater and Sheriff Tommy Gage



Left to right: Russell Waters, Tammy Zavadil, Sheriff Tommy Gage, Jeremy Kurtz.

Montgomery County Sheriff Tommy Gage promoted Detention Officers Russell Waters, Tammy Zavadil and Jeremy Kurtz to Jail Deputy on January 17, 2006.

TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Key Issues, the official journal of the Texas Jail Association, is published quarterly. The journal is authorized to publish advertisements and the following rate schedule has been established:

Half Page	\$185/per issue	\$ 600/four issues
Full Page	\$300/per issue	\$1,000/four issues
Double Page	\$500/per issue	\$1,750/four issues

Advertisers should provide camera-ready copy or halftone negatives. High resolution eps, tif, or pdf files on disk are also accepted. A hard copy must accompany all electronic files. Advertisements, along with a check made payable to the "Texas Jail Association" in the correct amount should be mailed to the following:

Sharese Hurst

Editor, *Key Issues*

Correctional Management Institute of Texas

George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center

Sam Houston State University

Huntsville, Texas 77341-2296

For additional information about advertising, call Sharese Hurst at (936) 294 - 1687. Faxes may be sent to (936) 294 - 1671. Email: sharese@shsu.edu

Copy deadlines for advertisers are March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31.



TEXAS JAIL ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kelly Rowe – President

Lubbock County Sheriff's Department
P.O. Box 10536
Lubbock, Texas 79408
Office: 806-775-1716
Fax: 806-775-1959
KROWE@CO.LUBBOCK.TX.US

Danny Downes – 1st Vice President

McLennan County Sheriff's Department
3201 East Highway 6
Waco, Texas 76705
Office: 254-759-5688
Fax: 254-757-0541
DANNY.DOWNES@CO.MCLENNAN.TX.US

Carla Stone – 2nd Vice President

Kaufman County Sheriff's Department
P.O. Drawer 849
Kaufman, Texas 75142
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CHIEFSTONE@KAUFMANCOUNTY.NET

Robert C. Green – 3rd Vice President

Montgomery County Sheriff's Department
#1 Criminal Justice Drive
Conroe, Texas 77301
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Fax: 936-538-3210
RCGREEN@CO.MONTGOMERY.TX.US

Rachelle Arrington - Secretary

Kendall County Courthouse
201 East San Antonio Street, Suite #6
Boerne, Texas 78006
Office: 830-249-9343 Ext. 385
Fax: 830-249-9478
WAY2BOOP@YAHOO.COM

David Drosche – Treasurer

Brazos County Sheriff's Department
300 East 26th Street, Suite #105
Bryan, Texas 77803
Office: 979-361-4846
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DDROSCH@CO.BRAZOS.TX.US

Mary Barron – Past President

Nacogdoches County Sheriff's Department
2306 Douglass Highway
Nacogdoches, Texas 75961
Office: 936-560-7791
Fax: 936-560-6446
MARYHBARRON@HOTMAIL.COM

Terrisa Candelaria – Director

Midland County Sheriff's Department
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Midland, Texas 79702
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Don Courtney – Director

Eastland County Sheriff's Department
201 West White Street
Eastland, Texas 76448
Office: 254-629-3298
Fax: 254-629-2500
DONC@EASTLANDCOUNTYTEXAS.COM

Mary Farley – Director

Bell County Sheriff's Department
111 West Central Avenue
Belton, Texas 76513
Office: 254-933-5783
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MARY_FARLEY@CO.TX.US.COM

Kathy Graham – Director

Taylor County Sheriff's Department
910 South 27th Street
Abilene, Texas 79602
Office: 325-691-7440
Fax: 325-691-7459
GRAHAMK@TAYLORCOUNTYTEXAS.ORG

Gus Reyna – Director

Cameron County Sheriff's Department
7300 Old Alice Road
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Office: 956-554-6700
Fax: (956) 554-6780
GREYNA1@CO.CAMERON.TX.US

Sheila Thun – Director

McLennan County Sheriff's Department
3201 East Highway 6
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Fax: 254-757-0541
SHEILA.THUN@CO.MCLENNAN.TX.US

Maurice "Mo" Mascorro – Director/Vendors

Infinity Networks
PO Box 30137
Austin, TX 78775
Office: 512-346-4354
Fax: 512-346-7593
MMASCORRO@KRICKET.NET

Cheryl White-Mynar - Director/Vendors

Global Tel*Link
2568 Mynar Road
West, Texas 76691
Office: 254-826-0600
Fax: 254-826-0601
CWHITE@GTL.NET

Jess Howell – Director/Sheriffs

Wharton County Sheriff's Department
301 W. Elm
Wharton, TX 77488
Office: 979-532-1550
Fax: 979-282-2849
SHERIFF@INTERTEX.NET

Adan Gutierrez – Chaplain

Lubbock County
Office: 806-775-1435

Carmella Jones Smith - Historian

Texas Association of Counties
1210 San Antonio
Austin, Texas 78701
Office: 800-456-5974
Fax: 512-478-0519
CARMELLAS@COUNTY.ORG

Rick Secklin – Sergeant at Arms

Midland County Sheriff's Office
PO Box 11387
Midland, TX 79702
Office: 432-688-4753
Fax: 432-688-8989
SECKLIN@GRANDECOM.NET

Bill Bryan – Parliamentarian

Bell County
PO Box 1056
Belton, TX 76513
Office: 254-760-0913
WJB@VVM.COM

Sharese Hurst – Executive Director

Correctional Management Institute of Texas
P.O. Box 2296
Huntsville, Texas 77341-2296
Office: 936-294-1687
Fax: 936-294-1671
SHARESE@SHSU.EDU

2006 TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Texas Jail Association

Date	Workshop Title	Location
January 31 – February 1	Spring Regional Workshop**	Waco, Texas
February 7 – 8	Spring Regional Workshop**	Denton, Texas
February 7 – 8	Spring Regional Workshop**	McAllen, Texas
February 14 – 15	Spring Regional Workshop**	Abilene, Texas
February 14 – 15	Spring Regional Workshop**	Austin, Texas
February 21- March 10	Basic County Corrections - Montgomery County *	Conroe, Texas
February 21 – 22	Spring Regional Workshop**	Odessa, Texas
February 21 – 22	Spring Regional Workshop**	Tyler, Texas
February 28 – March 2	36 th Annual Jail Management Issues Conference	Huntsville, Texas
February 28 – March 1	Spring Regional Workshop**	Amarillo, Texas
February 28 – March 1	Spring Regional Workshop**	Victoria, Texas
March 7 – 8	Spring Regional Workshop**	Beaumont, Texas
March 7 – 8	Spring Regional Workshop**	Lubbock, Texas
April 19 - 21	Municipal Jail Association of Texas Annual Training Conference ***	Dallas, Texas
May 15 – 19	Texas Jail Association's 20 th Annual Conference	San Antonio, Texas
May 21 – 25	American Jail Association's Annual Jail Expo	Salt Lake City, Utah
August 21 – 24	Texas Jail Association's Jail Management Issues Conference	South Padre Island, Texas

* Basic County Corrections provides 96 hours of TCLEOSE credit. It will be held at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office - Captain Clint Peoples Training Academy, #1 Criminal Justice Dr., Conroe, Texas. For more information contact Andrea Herr at 936-760-5859.

** Spring Regional Workshops are presented by the Texas Association of Counties in cooperation with the Texas Jail Association. The course title is "Use of Force in Jail Settings." To register for a class or request additional information, please contact the TAC Education Department at (800) 456-5974.

*** The Municipal Jail Association of Texas (MJAT) is hosting its Annual Training Conference and Exhibit Expo on April 19-21, 2006, in Dallas, Texas, at the Radisson Hotel Central Dallas. The registration deadline is March 17, 2006, and the fee is \$50 per member (\$75 per non-member). For additional information about registration, please contact Wayne Williams, Garland Police Department, at williamw@ci.garland.tx.us. For more information about MJAT and the upcoming conference, please visit: www.mjat.org.

2006 Spring Law Enforcement Regional Workshops: USE OF FORCE IN JAIL SETTINGS

Sponsored by Texas Association of Counties in conjunction with the Texas Jail Association
Educational Co-Sponsor: Correctional Management Institute of Texas at Sam Houston State University

Overview

Training topics will cover the statutory authority for use of force as found in the Texas Penal Code. We will be looking at code, terms and factors to be considered in use of force situations. We will address the options you have when it comes to force, communication and weapon use. We will look at deadly force topics as they relate to law enforcement. We will discuss disruptive behavior of inmates and causes of disturbances in correctional facilities and address an overview of the legal issues related to use of force.

Objectives

Upon completion of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Understand the basic statutory authority for use of force.
- Utilize use of force models and use of force options.
- Know the common causes of disruptive behavior and disturbances.
- Take appropriate preventive or remedial action to avoid potential civil liability.

Agenda for each day:

8:00 a.m.	Registration (day 1 only)
8:30 a.m.	Morning Session
12:00 p.m.	Lunch on your own
1:00 p.m.	Afternoon Session
5:00 p.m.	Adjourn

Continuing Education

These two-day workshops have been approved for 16 TCLEOSE hours (Course# 3504) by the Texas Association of Counties Law Enforcement Education Committee. This curriculum satisfies the requirement for jailers to obtain their Intermediate Jailer's Certification.

REGISTRATION FORM

2006 Spring Law Enforcement Regional Workshops: Use of Force in Jail Settings

This program is free to county employees and is offered on a first come first served basis.

Name: _____

Title/Office: _____

County: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Please **CIRCLE** which date & location you plan to attend:

January 10 & 11
KERRVILLE | Inn of the Hills
1001 Junction Highway

February 14 & 15
ABILENE | Abilene Civic Center
1100 North Sixth Street

February 28 & March 1
AMARILLO | Ambassador Hotel
3100 IH-40 West

January 31 & February 1
WACO | Hilton Waco
113 South University Parks

February 14 & 15
AUSTIN | TAC Events Center
1210 San Antonio

February 28 & March 1
VICTORIA | Holiday Inn Hotel
2705 East Houston

February 7 & 8
DENTON | Radisson Hotel
2211 I-35 East North

February 21 & 22
ODESSA | MCM Elegante
5200 East University

March 7 & 8
BEAUMONT | Holiday Inn Hotel
3950 IH-10 S. @ Walden Road

February 7 & 8
MCALLEN | Casa De Palmas
101 North Main Street

February 21 & 22
TYLER | Holiday Inn Select
5701 South Broadway

March 7 & 8
LUBBOCK | Holiday Inn Hotel
801 Avenue Q

FAX REGISTRATION FORMS TO (512) 477-1324 OR REGISTER ONLINE at www.county.org

If you have any questions, please contact the Texas Association of Counties Education Department at (800) 456-5974 or visit our website at www.county.org for more information.