



THE SAFETY NET

A newsletter of the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security

April 2008

Our mission is to promote and protect the safety of people and property in Delaware

FORENSIC FIREARMS UNIT LINKING GUNS TO CRIMES

The State's Forensic Firearms Services Unit (FFSU) is helping law enforcement statewide solve shooting crimes. Governor Ruth Ann Minner and Lt. Gov. John C. Carney joined DSHS Secretary David B. Mitchell and Delaware State Police Col. Thomas F. MacLeish for a forensic firearms demonstration.

The Forensic Firearms Services Unit, operated by the DSP, utilizes state-of-the-art equipment to identify weapons and ammunition used in a crime. This technology focuses on markings formed on spent ammunition as the markings are similar to fingerprints in that they are unique to an individual weapon. This technology is important because the information it provides can lead police to a suspect, rule out a suspect or better focus police investigative resources.

"In just one year, the success of the Forensic Firearms Services Unit has already been realized by linking firearms and ammunition to crimes that have occurred throughout the state," said Gov. Minner. "The operation of this Unit means that our police can work faster and more efficiently now because they can receive critical information on weapons retrieved from crime scenes in hours as compared to days or months."

The full-service ballistics laboratory is equipped with an Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) that is used to compare images of bullets and shell casings found at crime scenes to ballistic images previously entered into a national database. When a match is found, the DSP certified forensic firearms examiner can determine if the same gun was used in both crimes.

"A very important aspect of this project is that it benefits all law enforcement statewide including our federal partners. It is another example of the true partnership that exists in our great State," said Lt. Gov. Carney who also chairs the Criminal Justice Council (CJC). The CJC supported this project with funding for the salary of the certified forensic examiner position.

In addition, police recovered guns are test-fired into a bullet recovery system and those ballistic images are entered into the



Gov. Ruth Ann Minner, Col. Thomas MacLeish, Lt. Gov. John Carney and Secretary David Mitchell observe a forensic firearms demonstration provided Firearms Forensic Examiner Carl Rone.

database to determine if those guns were used in other crimes. The Unit also uses a Brass Trax/Match Point System, a dual comparison microscope for match confirmations and technology related to the forensic analysis of ballistic evidence including the restoration of serial numbers on guns.

"The establishment of the full-service Forensic Firearms Services Unit with the IBIS technology and a certified forensic firearms examiner has had a major impact on shooting investigations statewide. With the support of Gov. Minner and Lt. Gov. Carney, DSP made these invaluable resources accessible to Delaware law enforcement agencies," Sec. Mitchell said.

To date, 734 firearms related cases have been submitted to the DSP FFSU. Of those cases, 43 were firearm-related homicides in the State. Thus far, 16 law enforcement agencies and the ATF and U.S. Marshal's Office have submitted evidence for case work.

The total cost of the equipment, including the IBIS computer system, dual comparison microscope, and the bullet recovery system was approximately \$393,000. The equipment purchase was made possible through the approval of General Funds for the maintenance and connections costs. +

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY



In March, our nation paused to reflect on the five-year anniversary of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

This anniversary brought about much discussion regarding the war. Some voicing their opinions in support of the invasion and others voicing concern about the long-term impact the war will have on those serving in our U.S. military. More praised military spouses who remain at home working hard to keep family life as normal as possible.

Thousands of military reservists have provided much need support for this military operation. Since the start of the invasion in March 2003, numerous Safety and Homeland Security employees have left their jobs here to serve their country as military reservists. Many were activated at the beginning of the invasion serving a year or more.

They have since returned home and now others have been called to serve. In some cases, a few have been recalled to support this military operation. One of our own, DEMA Planner Kevin Kille, has been activated three times. He is currently supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The men and women of the DSHS family need our continued support. I ask that you send letters, newspapers, magazines, pictures, or a box of sweet treats to let them know that they are truly missed and in our thoughts. You can also stay in contact with their families. Someone may need a helping hand.

Below is a list of DSHS family members who are supporting current military operations. I extend a very sincere thank you to these troops, their families and to our staff for taking on extra work assignments to keep the Department moving forward while our coworkers are serving our country.

Secretary David B. Mitchell



DSHS Employees Serving Our Country

Many members of the DSHS family are supporting U.S. military operations underway in foreign countries. Their dedication and service to our country is honorable. Let's show our support by sending a card or note or box of sweet treats.

Capitol Police—Deployed in support of "Operation Enduring Freedom" are Patrolman Jason Stover (DE National Guard); Patrolman Herbert (JR) Bostic (Army Reserve); and Cpl. Tom Devore (Army Reserve).

DEMA—In November 2007, Planning Supervisor Kevin W. Kille was mobilized to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

State Police—Douglas Conaway (Troop 2); Daniel DeFlaviis (Troop 6); Jerold Huber (Troop 1); David New (Troop 9); S. Grant Nash (Civilian/SBI); Zachary Williams (Civilian/HQ COMM); Takisha Williams-Snipes (Troop 4); and Shawn Wright (Troop 4).



DSP TROOPER DEFLAVIIS, NATIONAL GUARD RESERVIST, HELPS SAVE IRAQI MAN'S LIFE

FOB KALSU—While Soldiers have shown great flexibility in their operations, one principal that remains unwavering, is helping care for the Iraqi people. In January, this was evident when Soldiers of the 153rd Military Police Company, Delaware City, Delaware National Guard helped saved the life of one Iraqi man. The man was injured when he struck a improvised explosive device that had been planted in his driveway.

The soldiers were on a mission taking engineers from a civilian construction company to survey the site for a future Arab Jabour police station. The convoy had just began to secure the site. As it made a U-turn, a white pickup truck began speeding toward the convoy. The driver stopped the truck, exited, and frantically waved his arms. When two Soldiers reached the vehicle, they found an Arab Jabour resident who was splattered in blood, missing part of his left leg and needing immediate care. Several members of the Unit offered medical assistance applying a tourniquet band to the injured man and treating other injuries. Besides the amputation to his foot, the man's left arm was severely cut above the elbow. The decision was made to evacuate the man to the nearest trauma center, Patrol Base Murray.

"We probably saved a life," said 1st Lt. Daniel DeFlaviis, a DSP Trooper and member of the 153rd MP Company, as Abas was taken from the hospital.

STATE POLICE ANNUAL AUCTION

WHEN: Saturday, May 3 at 9 a.m. - Rain or shine. All property available for inspection 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.

WHERE: DSP Headquarters (U.S. 13, north of the Dover Mall)

Auctioned items include clothing, bicycles, tools, small appliances, jewelry and other misc. property. Items of interest include Play-Stations 2 & 3, Toro two turn grass cutter, air compressors – DeVilbiss & Porter Cable, Generac generator, miter saw, routers, sawzalls, nail guns, Earthquake hole digger, TroyBilt snow blower, pushmowers – Bolens, TroyBilt, CubCadet & John Deere, wine refrigerator, dirt motor bike, 50" Panasonic plasma TV, Toshiba laptops, and home theater system. No firearms or vehicles will be sold. Terms of the sale will be cash or check. All sales will be final. All property available for inspection between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m.



DSP HIGHLIGHTS

ARRESTS BRING AN END TO VIOLENT ROBBERIES

The Delaware State Police (DSP) arrested four men accused in a series of violent robberies at liquor stores in the New Castle County area. Using detectives and troopers from Troop 1 and Troop 2, DSP conducted surveillance on liquor stores in New Castle County after investigating four armed robberies by the same group of suspects.

DSP had provided local police departments with information on a possible suspect vehicle and a tip from Newport police helped develop a possible vehicle of interest. The vehicle was followed by detectives to develop more information.

While under surveillance, the vehicle left the City of Wilmington and drove to the area of the Collins Park Liquor Store. The driver eventually parked on a side street in Collins Park. Two subjects walked toward the Collins Park Liquor Store, but were startled by a patrolling New Castle County Police vehicle. They returned to the vehicle and it began to leave the area. The vehicle was stopped and four suspects were taken into custody. Two suspects were in possession of guns believed to have been used in previous robberies.

Other evidence linking the suspects to numerous robberies was recovered in the vehicle. Two suspects provided detailed confessions. The men were linked to eight robberies.

HIGHWAY SAFETY SUPERBOWL ENFORCEMENT RESULTS IN 14 DUI ARRESTS

On Super Bowl Sunday, Delaware law enforcement officers made some significant catches of their own to ensure public safety. They arrested 14 individuals for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) during sobriety checkpoints and DUI saturation patrols conducted as part of the first *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign activities of 2008.

Nine of the DUI arrests were the result of the New Castle County DUI Task Force's checkpoint, and the remaining five were made by officers from the Smyrna, Clayton and Laurel Police Departments who were conducting saturation patrols. Officers from these agencies as well as the Harrington, Milford and Millsboro Police Departments issued 106 citations for violations of Delaware's traffic safety laws.

In addition to enforcement, the Office of Highway Safety also aired radio spots encouraging the use of designated drivers on radio stations statewide, aired its *Checkpoint Strikeforce* television ad at the start of the third quarter, and placed a designated driver message on paycheck stubs that state employees received on the Friday before the big game.



DATE NEWS

LAUNCHES INITIATIVE TO RECOGNIZE LIQUOR LICENSEE COMPLIANCE

The Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement (DATE), in conjunction with the Delaware Alcohol Awareness Task Force, is embarking on a new initiative that recognizes Delaware liquor licensees that refuse to sell alcoholic beverages to individuals under 21 years of age.

"When businesses refuse to sell alcohol to minors, it is important that we acknowledge they are doing their part to keep Delaware youth safe. This initiative recognizes their commitment to and support of Delaware underage drinking laws," said DSHS Secretary David B. Mitchell.

Throughout the year, DATE conducts minor decoy operations at licensed locations statewide. The minor decoy, under direct supervision of a DATE agent, attempts to purchase alcoholic beverages. If the decoy sale is denied, the business may not know that they have been tested and have passed the compliance check. With this new initiative, businesses that successfully pass the compliance check will be rewarded with a certificate of appreciation from DATE acknowledging their compliance with Delaware law.

"DATE takes the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors seriously. If a licensed location violates the law, the business faces criminal arrest and administrative sanctions," said DATE Director Daniel Kline. "However, the majority of licensees comply with State law. It is vitally important to reward and acknowledge those licensees who are in compliance. We are confident that this new initiative will be another step in furthering public safety and compliance."

DATE MAKES CIGARETTE RAID

The Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement (DATE) joined forces with the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms to conduct a two-day raid at several locations in New Castle County in an effort to disrupt an illegal cigarette sales operation. Both agencies provided manpower for the raids at two storage facilities, two retail outlets and a Wilmington residence. Police seized 35,000 fake Delaware cigarette tax stamps with a street value of approximately \$40,250; 8,000 cartons of cigarettes (80,000 packs); and \$750,000.



Most cigarettes seized in the retail stores contained fake Delaware tax stamps or out of state tax stamps. Cartons seized in the storage garages contained cigarettes with no tax stamps on any of the packs.

Other agencies involved included FBI, IRS, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Delaware Department of Revenue and New York State Revenue. These agencies came together to support one of the largest seizures of illegal untaxed cigarettes.

DSHS EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

CHOICE AWARD WINNER

3rd Quarter — Michael Bowers (DEMA)

With expertise in electronics and building security systems, Michael Bowers, DEMA Physical Plant Maintenance Trades Mechanic II, quickly became an invaluable member of the DSHS Team. DSHS Sec. David B. Mitchell presented Mr. Bowers with the DSHS Choice Award for his continued commitment to excellence.

Mike joined the DEMA staff in January 2006 and his expertise has saved the three agencies located within the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at least \$20,000. The State EOC, also home to the State Police and DelDOT Traffic Management, has a complex security system that had been maintained by an outside vendor. Mike now maintains the system—identifying problems, ordering parts and making the repairs. Mike also took the lead in setting up an alarm system on the outdoor buildings on DEMA property used for storage of equipment purchased through federally funded Terrorism Preparedness program. Prior to Mike's hire, DEMA had inquired about alarming the buildings, however, the costs were prohibitive. Mike built a system for less than \$500 that provides 24/7 electronic monitoring saving the agency several thousand dollars in up front costs and operational costs. Mike also installed several new security cameras in the EOC and relocated existing cameras to better meet DEMA's needs.



Pictured: Sec. Mitchell, Mr. Bowers and DEMA Director Jamie Turner.

CITIZEN CORPS RECEIVES EMERGENCY READINESS



Pictured (l-r) are: Manny McLee, Bob George and Tom Moran

Delaware Citizen Corps Coordinators Robert George and Manny McLee accepted an award from the All Hazards Consortium in recognition of Delaware's leadership in the area of regional emergency readiness and response.

"It is through the leadership of the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) and the Delaware Citizen Corps that our State has made such progress in the area of emergency response. This award highlights the countless hours of work both agencies have dedicated to recruiting citizens who comprise multiple Citizen Corps Councils in towns and communities throughout the State," said DSHS Secretary David B. Mitchell.

The Councils teach citizens emergency preparedness so that in the event of an emergency they can care for themselves and help others in need. Citizen Corps has also established partnerships with various groups willing to offer their services during an emergency. "We are working to make certain our State and

citizens are prepared for an emergency. The citizens of this State want to have an active role in our emergency readiness and response plans and have volunteered their service to the Delaware Citizen Corps," said DEMA Director Jamie Turner.

TENTH ANNUAL LIFE CONFERENCE



Pat Maichle, Director of the Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC), hosted a dinner at the Dover Sheraton Hotel along with the Delaware Victims Rights Task Force on January 23, 2008 in honor of Mr. Olegario "Ollie" D. Cantos VII, Special Counsel to the Acting Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Justice.

Mr. Cantos was the keynote speaker at the Tenth Annual Life Conference, the largest disability conference in Delaware held annually in January. "LIFE" stands for Legislation, Independence, Families, and Education. It is an annual information exchange for persons with disabilities, their families and those who serve them. Sponsors included the DDC, Easter Seals, Bayhealth Medical Center, CareFirst Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Delaware

Industries for the Blind, Div. of Vocational Rehabilitation, Div. of Disabilities Services for the Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities and the State Council for Persons with Disabilities.

Pictured are: Mr. Cantos, Ms. Jamie Wolfé, Chair of the Developmental Disabilities Council, Ms. Patricia Maichle and Representative Robert J. Valihura Jr.†