



# The Lawman

The Newsletter of the Bossier Sheriff



Volume 10, Issue 3

News and Information From Your Sheriff

March 2009



## From the Sheriff

Larry C. Deen

### A new day in law enforcement training

**M**onday, Sept. 18, 2006, the North Louisiana Criminal Justice Academy was dedicated, and with that dedication, a new day began for law enforcement and training in north Louisiana. This exciting endeavor is already raising the bar of excellence in the criminal justice field.

March 9, the first class of Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) recruits reported to the Academy, which is now a fully accredited P.O.S.T. facility. The Academy features a

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## North Louisiana Criminal Justice Academy starts full P.O.S.T. certification

Photos and story inside

# THE PEOPLE PAGE



Obie Hamiter, who retired March 1, began his service in the Bossier Sheriff's Office in 1986 in the Corrections Division. He worked in the Civil Office, serving court documents, then soon moved to Patrol, where he served until retirement.

## Myricks have twin girls

Deputy Charlie and Stacie Myrick are proud parents of twin girls born Jan. 31.

Cooper McKenzie Myrick weighed four pounds, five ounces and was 17 inches tall.

Cameron McKenna Myrick weighed four pounds, 11 ounces and was 16-3/4 inches tall.

Do you have an item for the People Page? We want to hear about special training, honors you or your family have received, engagements, weddings, births, vacation adventures and other news. write to Allen Smith at [asmith@bossiersheriff.com](mailto:asmith@bossiersheriff.com).



Chief T.C. Bloxom received the VFW Outstanding Law Enforcement Award from the Dept. of La. VFW and also the VFW National Law Enforcement Award at a ceremony in January in Alexandria.



Sheriff Deen administered the Oath of Office to newly hired deputy Michael McConnell. He is assigned to the Maximum Security Facility.

## FROM THE SHERIFF *(Continued from page 1)*

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staff with a broad range of experience in law enforcement, education and the military.

We live in a time when security and preparedness have never been more important. The quality and training of law enforcement personnel has never been more critical.

The Academy will provide this training for personnel in this area and from other areas.

In the years to come, hundreds and hundreds of law enforcement personnel will take part in in-service retraining. Their fundamental training will include such curricula as firearms, defensive tactics, chemical and less-than-lethal weapons, report writing, courtroom testimony, community oriented policing and death notification procedure.

There will also be training for patrol officers in such things as defensive driving/vehicle pursuit, basic crash investigations, basic patrol tactics, criminal patrol techniques, officer survival and felony vehicle stops.

Corrections officers will receive instruction in correctional facility procedure, cell and dormitory extraction and prisoner transport. The investigations curricula will include internal investigations training, interview and interrogation techniques, burglary investigations, crime scene photography, domestic violence investigations, sex crimes investigations and white collar crimes investigations.

### ***Three components***

The Academy, with its top-quality



**The North Louisiana Criminal Justice Academy is a major component in the Bossier Sheriff's long-range plan. The Academy is located north of Benton.**

instruction, is the third component in our long-range plans for the Bossier Sheriff's Office. The first component was salaries. Thanks to the wonderful people in Bossier Parish, we are now able to offer to our deputies \$35,000 annually as a starting salary – \$40,000 for deputies who have a four-year degree from an accredited college. That helps us attract and retain the very best deputies we can find.

### ***Corrections facilities***

The second component was the building of corrections facilities. We started in 1995 with the Bossier Parish Penal Farm, which is now called the Bossier Minimum Security Facility. It has a capacity of 250

beds and is used primarily to house pre-sentence inmates. It is for low-risk, non-violent offenders and was the first step in the Bossier Parish correctional system infrastructure. It is a working farm which produces peas, tomatoes and other foods. The produce is used to feed inmates in the system, thus reducing food costs.

### ***Medium Security Facility***

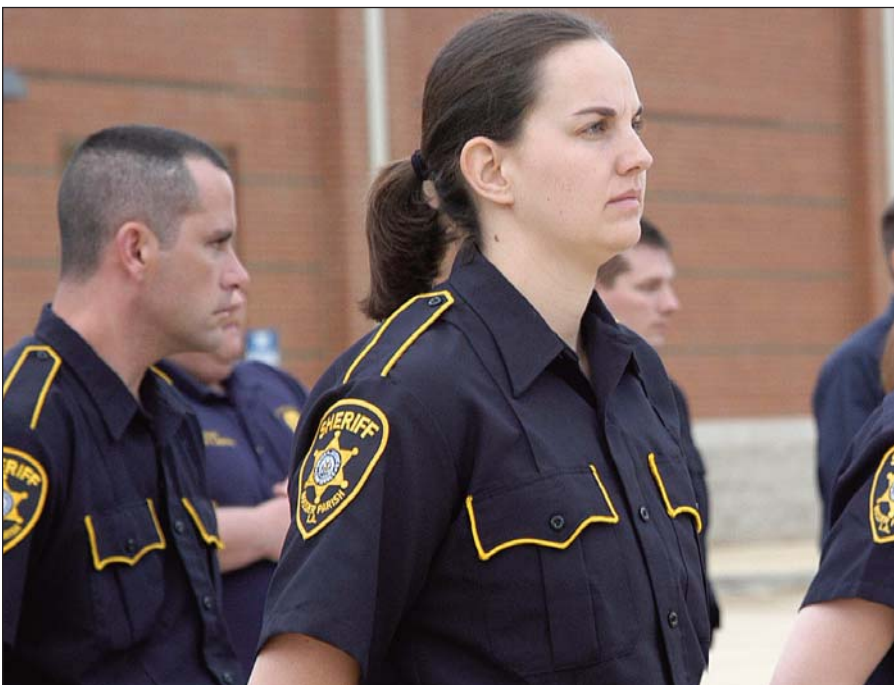
The second step in the corrections component was the construction of a 600-bed medium security facility. This state-of-the-art building has eight dormitories of 75 beds each, with areas for isolation.

The facility was constructed at a cost of \$7.9 million with no indebtedness.  
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# Newly accredited Academy launches its first complete P.O.S.T. class

The North Louisiana Criminal Justice Academy began a new era in law enforcement training when it began its first class as an academy fully accredited by the Louisiana Peace Officers' Standards and Training Board.



Deputies and officers learn proper bearing and attitude in addition to a comprehensive knowledge of law enforcement principles and practices.

New students get nine weeks of thorough training

**T**he North Louisiana Criminal Justice Academy (N.L.C.J.A.) March 9 welcomed its first Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) class. Thirty recruits walked through the doors at the Academy's location on Old Plain



**Academy director, Dr. David Walden, welcomes the trainees to nine weeks of hard, but rewarding work.**

Dealing Road, approximately halfway between Benton and Plain Dealing. Today marks the first day of nine weeks of training in such things as criminal law, traffic control, defensive driving, defensive tactics and firearms. At the end of their training, the recruits will take the P.O.S.T. final exam.

By a vote of the P.O.S.T. Council in Baton Rouge on Nov. 20, the Academy received its certification to offer basic law enforcement training. The P.O.S.T. Council was established by Act 397 of 1976 to develop training standards for law enforcement officers in the state of Louisiana.

“These recruits will be the first of many to pass through the halls and classrooms of the Academy,” said Sheriff Deen. “This marks a new day for law enforcement and training in north Louisiana. This exciting endeavor will be raising the bar of excellence in the criminal justice field for many years to come.”

The Academy, which was dedicated Sept. 18, 2006, features a staff with top-notch credentials, including many years of educational, law enforcement and military experience, providing unsurpassed quality instruction.

“With the security of our homeland at stake, the need for qualified,

trained, front-line ready officers has never been greater than in this post 9/11 era in which we live,” said Deen.

Focusing on leadership by example, the Academy’s goal is to elevate the law enforcement agencies of Northwest Louisiana, as well as the agencies of neighboring states, to the highest level of expertise possible.

“We realize that the quality of the product is determined by the atmosphere in which it is produced,” said Deen. “We believe we have created an ‘atmosphere of excellence.’ It is an atmosphere that is one of reaching for the highest level of excellence attainable.”



Sheriff Deen helps James Harris into his D.I.R.T. vest at a Disaster Instant Relief Team meeting Feb. 17. The volunteer task force stands ready to help with heavy equipment in the event of a disaster. Harris is the team leader/coordinator.

## FROM THE SHERIFF *(Continued from page 3)*

edness to local taxpayers. State and Department of Corrections monies were obtained to defray the cost.

It is a long-term housing facility for sentenced inmates from Bossier Parish.

The third step in our corrections component was the construction of the Bossier Maximum Security Facility which was done under the guidance of the Bossier Parish Police Jury. Because of Hurricane Katrina, it was opened early – autumn 2005, in order to take in prisoners from south Louisiana.

This \$22.7 million facility replaced the old Bossier Parish Jail

which was located on the fifth floor of the Bossier Parish Courthouse. It is one of the most up-to-date correctional facilities in the country.

### ***Medical section***

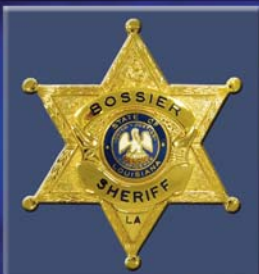
A complete medical section is included to meet the needs of inmates not only in the maximum security facility, but in the medium and minimum security facilities also.

New technology provides video arraignment, which reduces the need to transport inmates to court. In addition, video visitation reduces movement of inmates throughout the facility.

### ***Public safety***

With the addition of this facility, we are now able to house 1,400 inmates. It completes the three-part system of correctional facilities and helps rank Bossier Parish as having one of the best systems in the country.

The Academy, the corrections facilities and the salaries are all designed to emphasize public safety, which is our top priority. Strict hiring standards and ongoing training ensure that our deputies have what it takes to keep Bossier Parish one of the safest places in Louisiana.



# The Posse Press

The Newsletter of the Bossier Sheriff's Posse

Volume 10, Issue 3

News of the Bossier Sheriff's Posse

March 2009

## Southerland 'talked in' B-52 and KC-135 refueling aircraft

**C**arl Southerland's cool competence as a Ground Controlled Approach specialist saved a number of airmen's lives. A GCA controller "talked pilots in" in the days before GPS, when circumstances prevented them from navigating by sight or radar.

Southerland is credited with three "saves," in which pilots reported they could not have made it to a safe landing without Southerland's guidance.

"The one I liked best," he said, "was when Gen. Curtiss LeMay sent a letter that got me the Air Force Commendation Medal.

"While I was stationed at Thule Air Base, a B-52 was asking for fuel from a KC-135 tanker. By a strange coincidence, though, both had lost their radar and couldn't find each other.

"The Pilots of the B-52 said they had to be refueled, or they could not make it home. They asked me to vector them into a position where they could see each other.

"I was able to do it on the first try, and they reported it. Gen. LeMay sent me a nice letter and got me the Commendation."

Southerland was born in 1933 in Hot Springs, Ark., the youngest of six children.

He graduated from Lakeside High School in Garland County in 1951.

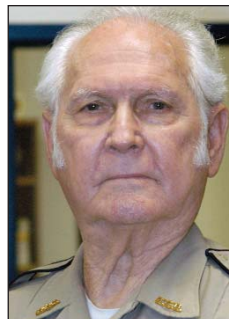
"When it became clear that I was going to be drafted during the Korean War," he said, "I enlisted in the Air Force in August 1951."

After basic training at Shepherd AFB, Wichita Falls, Texas, he was sent to Keesler AFB, where he went to air traffic control school, then to Tinker AFB, Oklahoma City, where he received his air traffic control qualifications.

He was sent to Keflavic Air Base, Iceland, and served as a GCA controller for the remainder of his career.

The job was stressful, of course, because of the extreme responsibility, but he "loved it," he said.

In those days there were only a few GCA controllers. Conse-



**Southerland**



**Southerland in 1951**

quently, he was sent all over the world, to 18 locations, including the Panama Canal Zone, Allbrook Air Base (where he was the tower chief) Eglin AFB in Florida, Hunter AFB in Georgia, Johnson Air Base in Tokyo, Biggs AFB in El Paso and others.

He met his wife, the late Margaret Shookman, while home on leave. He called a nursing school to ask a former high school girlfriend for a date, and Margaret answered the phone.

The two hit it off, and he dated and married Margaret, instead.

When Margaret's parents fell ill in Texarkana, Ark., in 1969, Carl

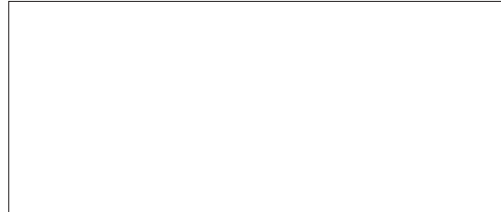
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## The **Posse Press** *(Continued from page 7)*

### *Southerland*

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asked for an assignment near them. That brought the Southerlands to Bossier City.

The Southerlands were married 53 years. They have three children, Candy Elise, David Lewis and Melanie Ann. They have four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. In June, they will have a third great grandchild.

Carl retired from the Air Force in 1971. Then, he went to work for the U.S. Postal Service, and worked for 20 years as a letter carrier.



**Chief Julian Whittington talks to the new Posse class that began March 17.**