



# THE LOUISIANA SHERIFF

The Official Publication of Louisiana's Chief Law Enforcement Officers

WINTER ISSUE

FEBRUARY 2013

## Louisiana Sheriffs Create Multi-agency Maritime Counterterrorist Task Force JTF7

by Lauren Labbé Meher, Communications Director



*Members of the JTF7 task force assembled at the Maritime Security Operations Center at the Port of Greater Baton Rouge. Photo Courtesy of Bill Bollier, JTF7.*

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, one important lesson learned by law enforcement agencies across the country was that we have to find more efficient ways to collaborate as a team, and that we must do so in a proactive, rather than reactive manner.

One example of this is the collaborative effort of seven Louisiana sheriffs with the formation of Joint Task Force Seven (JTF7). JTF7 is a maritime law enforcement task force created to protect the vital infrastructure of the Greater Baton Rouge Area.

The Port of Baton Rouge and the Mississippi River have always been considered valuable yet vulnerable resources. The Port of Baton Rouge is situated on one of the largest port systems in the world (the lower Mississippi River port system from Baton

Rouge to the mouth of the Mississippi River), which contains four of the top 11 ports in the country. The Port of Baton Rouge ranks among the top 13 ports in the nation. The port is strategically located at the convergence of the Mississippi River and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, and it is the farthest inland deepwater port on the Mississippi river. This strategic placement makes it the ideal location for larger petrochemical companies and their associated industries to settle throughout the 85 miles of the Mississippi River within the port's jurisdiction.

These private sector industries are constantly faced with the challenge of how to fulfill United States governmental and industrial regulations set for high-risk chemical facilities, and for the waterways upon which they travel. JTF7 will

*continued on page 6*

# Sheriffs' Educational Scholarship Recipients Announced

by Lauren Labbé Meher

Louisiana Sheriffs' Honorary Membership Program Chairman Greg Champagne, St. Charles Parish Sheriff, announced that sixty-eight graduating high school seniors have been awarded scholarships provided by the Sheriffs' Scholarship Program for the 2012 academic school year.

Sheriffs' scholarships, worth \$500 each, are made possible by the citizen members of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Honorary

Membership Program. They are awarded to students from each parish where the sheriff is affiliated with the Program. While some sheriffs divide the \$500 scholarship into two, \$250 scholarships, other sheriffs enhance scholarship benefits to larger denominations with funds they provide themselves.

To obtain information about the Louisiana Sheriffs' Scholarship Program, contact your local Sheriff's Office.

## ACADIA PARISH

Sheriff Wayne Melancon  
Recipient: Dalel Helo

## ALLEN PARISH

Sheriff Douglas L. Hebert, III  
Recipient: Matthew T. Hebert

## ASCENSION PARISH

Sheriff Jeff Wiley  
Recipients: Taylor Webb

## ASSUMPTION PARISH

Sheriff Mike Waguespack  
Recipient: Emily Rose Booty

## AVOUELLES PARISH

Sheriff Doug Anderson  
Recipient: Maggie M. Ducote

## BEAUREGARD PARISH

Sheriff Ricky Moses  
Recipient: Celeste Danielle Faciane

## BIENVILLE PARISH

Sheriff John Ballance  
Recipients: Victoria Coleman

## BOSSIER PARISH

Sheriff Julian C. Whittington  
Recipient: Danielle Jasper

## CADDO PARISH

Sheriff Steve Prator  
Recipient: Dylan F. Cowgill

## CALCASIEU PARISH

Sheriff Tony Mancuso  
Recipient: Lauren E. LaFleur

## CALDWELL PARISH

Sheriff Steve May  
Recipient: Lavelle Roquemore

## CAMERON PARISH

Sheriff Ronald Johnson  
Recipient: Unavailable at press time.

## CATAHOULA PARISH

Sheriff James Kelly  
Recipient: DARE Program

## CLAIBORNE PARISH

Sheriff Ken Bailey  
Recipients: Austin McCurry  
James T. Tuggle

## CONCORDIA PARISH

Sheriff Kenneth Hedrick  
Recipient: John A. Parker

## DESOTO PARISH

Sheriff Rodney Arbuckle  
Recipients: Nakia Nicole Graham

## EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH

Sheriff Sid Gautreaux  
Recipients: Kellee Marie Bell

## EAST CARROLL PARISH

Sheriff Wydette Williams  
Recipient: Joseph Tyler Whatley

## EAST FELICIANA PARISH

Sheriff Talmadge Bunch  
Recipient: Keamara Muse

## EVANGELINE PARISH

Sheriff Eddie Soileau  
Recipient: Jesvin Jolly

## FRANKLIN PARISH

Sheriff Kevin Cobb  
Recipient: Logan Cupp

## GRANT PARISH

Sheriff Steven McCain  
Recipient: Daniel Asa Riggs

## IBERIA PARISH

Sheriff Louis Ackal  
Recipient: Jacob Ryan Landry

## IBERVILLE PARISH

Sheriff Brett Stassi  
Recipients: Morgan Dean Olivier  
Natalie Elaine Orcino

## JACKSON PARISH

Sheriff Andy Brown  
Recipient: Ashlee Johnson

## JEFFERSON DAVIS PARISH

Sheriff Ivy Woods  
Recipient: Amber Dawn Byrd

## LAFAYETTE PARISH

Sheriff Mike Neustrom  
Recipient: Brooke LeBlanc

## LAFOURCHE PARISH

Sheriff Craig Webre  
Recipient: Meranda Plaisance

## LASALLE PARISH

Sheriff Scott Franklin  
Recipients: Cameron Gordon  
Windham  
Macy Mills

## LINCOLN PARISH

Sheriff Mike Stone  
Recipient: Unavailable at press time.

## LIVINGSTON PARISH

Sheriff Jason Ard  
Recipient: Hannah Renee Kent

## MADISON PARISH

Sheriff Larry Cox  
Recipient: Robert Keith Grady

## MOREHOUSE PARISH

Sheriff Mike Tubbs  
Recipient: Adam Cole Patrick

## NATCHITOCHE PARISH

Sheriff Victor Jones  
Recipient: Christopher Ryan Metoyer

## ORLEANS PARISH

Sheriff Marlin Gusman  
Recipient: Erica M. Reed

## OUACHITA PARISH

Sheriff Jay Russell  
Recipient: Ashley Camp

## PLAQUEMINES PARISH

Sheriff Lonnie Greco  
Recipient: Rhett Orgeron

## POINTE COUPEE PARISH

Sheriff Beauregard "Bud" Torres  
Recipient: Kristina Kleinpeter

## RAPIDES PARISH

Sheriff William Earl Hilton  
Recipient: Jazzmine E. Ferrell

## RED RIVER PARISH

Sheriff Glen Edwards  
Recipient: Ethan Squires

## RICHLAND PARISH

Sheriff Lee Harrell  
Recipient: Michael Austin Hughes

## SABINE PARISH

Sheriff Ronny Richardson  
Recipient: Katie Leitz

## ST. BERNARD PARISH

Sheriff James Pohlmann  
Recipient: Melanie Burkhardt

## ST. CHARLES PARISH

Sheriff Greg Champagne  
Recipient: Devin Antonio Hernandez

## ST. HELENA PARISH

Sheriff Nathaniel "Nat" Williams  
Recipient: Kadeidra Smith

## ST. JAMES PARISH

Sheriff Willy Martin  
Recipient: Brooke Elizabeth Rome

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

Sheriff Michael Tregre  
Recipient: Shelby Thompson

## ST. LANDRY PARISH

Sheriff Bobby Guidroz  
Recipient: Brooke Thompson

## ST. MARTIN PARISH

Sheriff Ronny Theriot  
Recipient: Ajha Duplechin

## ST. MARY PARISH

Sheriff Mark Hebert  
Recipient: Cassidy Moton

## ST. TAMMANY PARISH

Sheriff Jack Strain  
Recipient: Jamie Smith

## TANGIPAHOA PARISH

Sheriff Daniel Edwards  
Recipients: Destiney A. Carroll  
Abby Earles

## TENSAS PARISH

Sheriff Rickey Jones  
Recipients: Teagan Colleen Johnson  
Stacie Alexander

## TERREBONNE PARISH

Sheriff Jerry Larpenter  
Recipient: Kaily Bourg

## UNION PARISH

Sheriff Bob Buckley  
Recipient: Christen Crow

## VERMILION PARISH

Sheriff Mike Couvillon  
Recipient: Megan Norris

## VERNON PARISH

Sheriff Sam Craft  
Recipient: Brooke Bennett

## WASHINGTON PARISH

Sheriff Randy Seal  
Recipient: Joiya T. Smith

## WEBSTER PARISH

Sheriff Gary Sexton  
Recipient: Andrea Gill

## WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH

Sheriff Mike Cazes  
Recipients: Ashley Marionneaux  
Caitlyn Chenevert

## WEST CARROLL PARISH

Sheriff Jerry Philley  
Recipient: Shelby Usry  
Dana Easterling

## WEST FELICIANA PARISH

Sheriff Austin Daniel  
Recipient: Piper Adair Ferguson

## WINN PARISH

Sheriff Cranford Jordan  
Recipient: Savannah Lea Lovell

## LOUISIANA SHERIFF

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# Sheriffs Elect 2012-2013 Board at Annual Meeting

by *Lauren Labbé Meher*

Union Parish Sheriff Bob Buckley has been elected president of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association for the 2012-2013 term, succeeding Sheriff Mike Cazes, according to Michael Ranatza, Executive Director of the LSA. Sheriff Buckley will lead the Association's sixty-four chief law enforcement officers and 14, 000 deputies.

Sheriff Buckley's election and installation, along with that of the Association's Executive Board and Committee, occurred on August 22, 2012 during the LSA's Annual Sheriffs' and Wardens' Training Conference. During the conference, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Honorary Membership Program also recognized East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff Sid Gautreaux and Tensas Parish Sheriff Rickey A. Jones for their performances in the 2012 Acquisition and Renewal Campaign. Sheriff Gautreaux holds the distinction of generating the highest parish revenue in this year's campaign, and Sheriff Jones received the highest percentage response rate. Attorney General Buddy Caldwell presided over the installation ceremonies along with keynote speaker, Concordia Parish Clerk of Court, Clyde R. Webber Jr. The three day conference consisted of business meetings, legislative updates and training sessions.

Sheriff Buckley and the Association's newly elected officers and board members will serve until July 2013 and they include:

President	Sheriff Bob Buckley	Union Parish
First Vice-President	Sheriff Tony Mancuso	Calcasieu Parish
Second Vice-President	Sheriff Mike Waguespack	Assumption Parish
Secretary-Treasurer	Sheriff Mike Stone	Lincoln Parish
Sergeant-at-Arms	Sheriff Sid Gautreaux	East Baton Rouge Parish
1 <sup>st</sup> District	Sheriff Newell Normand	Jefferson Parish
1 <sup>st</sup> District Alternate	Sheriff Jack Strain, Jr.	St. Tammany Parish
2 <sup>nd</sup> District	Sheriff Marlin Gusman	Orleans Parish
3 <sup>rd</sup> District	Sheriff Louis Ackal	Iberia Parish
3 <sup>rd</sup> District Alternate	Sheriff Lonnie Greco	Plaquemines Parish
4 <sup>th</sup> District	Sheriff Steve Prator	Caddo Parish
4 <sup>th</sup> District Alternate	Sheriff Sam Craft	Vernon Parish
5 <sup>th</sup> District	Sheriff Jay Russell	Ouachita Parish
5 <sup>th</sup> District Alternate	Sheriff Wydette Williams	East Carroll Parish
6 <sup>th</sup> District	Sheriff Cranford Jordan	Winn Parish
6 <sup>th</sup> District Alternate	Sheriff Steven McCain	Grant Parish
7 <sup>th</sup> District	Sheriff Randy Seal	Washington Parish
7 <sup>th</sup> District Alternate	Sheriff Jason Ard	Livingston Parish
8 <sup>th</sup> District	Sheriff Mike Couvillon	Vermilion Parish
8 <sup>th</sup> District Alternate	Sheriff Doug Hebert	Allen Parish
9 <sup>th</sup> District	Sheriff Doug Anderson	Avoyelles Parish
9 <sup>th</sup> District Alternate	Sheriff Nathaniel Williams	St. Helena Parish
Ex-Officio Member	Sheriff Mike Cazes	West Baton Rouge Parish.



# Sheriff Bob Buckley

## President's Profile

by Lauren Labbé Meher

There is a hand-painted mural above the entrance to the Union Parish Sheriff's Office that boldly states, "Through these doors pass the finest law enforcement officers on earth." Shortly after Sheriff Bob Buckley took office, he had someone paint this message to inspire everyone who passes through the doors each day. This mural is perhaps one very telling example as to why Sheriff Buckley is the longest seated sheriff currently serving in Louisiana: he has created a people-centered culture, focused on service before self.

But these legacies that Sheriff Bob Buckley has established were years in the making, and Buckley has been a fixture in the Union Parish Sheriff's Office long before he first took his oath as sheriff 24 years ago.

A native of Union Parish, Buckley has always had an interest in police work, and has known since he was eight years old that law enforcement would be his life's calling.

While in high school, Buckley expressed an interest in working for the Union Parish Sheriff's Office, so the sheriff outfitted him with a uniform etc. and allowed him to work as a "weekend dispatcher."

His role at Union Parish transitioned to full-time for the next few years as Buckley graduated from high school and attended college.

Buckley's goal was to gain as much information as possible, so that he could do the best job possible, so when given the opportunity to work for Louisiana State Police, he welcomed the opportunity.

For the next 22 years Buckley worked for the State Police serving in a variety of capacities from patrol trooper, to legislative details, to eventually becoming a detective for Troop F in Monroe.

Although all of these experiences helped lead him to his ultimate career as sheriff, Buckley attributes his role as detective as probably having the most influence.

"As detective I spent a number of years working murder cases, public corruption cases, and often a variety of assignments where help was needed from nearby sheriff's offices. In partnering with a variety of sheriff's offices I was able to see what worked, and what wouldn't work, so when I was approached in 1990 to run for sheriff, I knew what I wanted to do."

Although Sheriff Buckley had big dreams and plans that he wanted to implement as sheriff, when he was elected in 1990, he knew he must first address the financial issues that the sheriff's office was facing.

When Buckley took office, the Union Parish Sheriff's Office was virtually broke, and it was also lacking in even the most basic equipment. Buckley and his Chief Civil Deputy, the late Peggy Yelton, put their heads together to develop a plan to turnaround the financial troubles they were faced with.

For the first few years, Sheriff Buckley didn't take a full salary, because the money just wasn't there. Buckley credits Yelton's skills at pinching pennies and closely analyzing every aspect of the office's budget in helping them turn the corner.

Luckily, no money had to be borrowed to maintain the operations of the sheriff's office, because within those first two years, the people of Union Parish passed a one cent sales tax to show their solidarity with the Union Parish Sheriff's Office who protected them.

Once Sheriff Buckley had the office back on track financially, he was then able to implement many of his ideas developed from his earlier years of law enforcement.

His main goal was to develop a well-rounded sheriff's office that had the same capabilities as larger offices. Buckley understood that while he may not have the equipment, finances, and manpower as larger offices, he could still have the same level of training and caliber of people on his team.

Additional improvements included the establishment of 24 hour patrol, and a new focus on the development of the sheriff's offices detective department. The detective department needed further training and equipment in order to properly handle the parish's larger cases.

In the years that followed, Buckley was also responsible for

implementing a parish-wide radio system. This system was the first of its kind, not only for Union Parish, but also for the entire United States. This new system enabled all emergency services entities in the parish to communicate with each other parish-wide via handheld transceiver. Partnerships strengthened as communications between organizations across the parish became easier.

In order to create the well-rounded, people-centered atmosphere Buckley envisioned, the sheriff also developed community partnerships with young and old through the creation of Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) and Triad programs.

The D.A.R.E. program enhances relations between students and law enforcement officers through its educational program run by trained D.A.R.E. officers.

The Triad program strengthens community relations at the other end of the spectrum by focusing on the elderly. This collaborative effort between the sheriff's office and senior citizens was created to reduce and prevent crimes against seniors while addressing the special needs of senior citizens in Union Parish.

One unique service that Triad provides is their monthly donations of food delivered to the elderly in need. Partnering with Catholic Charities and the Northeast Louisiana Food bank, the sheriff's office helps distribute a 40 lb box of staples to the elderly established as "in need" each month by the USDA.

As the sheriff's office has evolved over the past 24 years, Buckley's philosophy of "service before self" becomes evident as the foundation behind everything the Union Parish Sheriff's Office does.

Buckley's leadership role has reached much farther than the lines of Union Parish though. In addition to his current role as LSA President, Buckley also serves as secretary-treasurer for the Louisiana Sheriffs' Honorary Membership Program, and for the past 20 years he has served as the Northern District Coordinator for the LSA's Special Task Force.

When asked about his thoughts on his role as LSA president, Buckley said, "I'm honored to serve as LSA president, and looking back at all the past president's I've had the honor of serving with, every one of them has looked out for their deputies. Our deputies are the backbone of our sheriff's offices, they are the first contact with the public, and without them we would be nothing. If I don't do anything else in my tenure, I would like to pull deputies and sheriffs together and let both parties know that this is *their* association, and encourage them to become an active part of it."

When Sheriff Buckley is not working with the Union Parish Sheriff's Office or the LSA, he is actively involved with the Masons and Shriners. Buckley says he's proud to support these organizations and does so to honor his family who received their help after the death of his grandfather.

Although Buckley is in his seventh term as sheriff of Union Parish, he shows no signs of slowing down. He is currently completing the construction of the new expanded headquarters for the Union Parish Sheriff's Office. This project was ten years in the making.

The new location was a necessity to better accommodate the recent growth of the Union Parish Sheriff's office, and although externally, things may appear very different, inside things will remain the same. Sheriff Buckley says a new version of the mural from the old office will be created, sending his message out to a new generation of law enforcement officers. Along with that, the spirit of service that Sheriff Bob Buckley has cultivated during his time as sheriff is sure to leave a lasting impression on Union Parish.



**Bob Buckley**  
**Union Parish Sheriff**  
**Louisiana Sheriffs'**  
**Association 2012-2013**

# Sheriffs-Elect Complete Executive Training Program in Baton Rouge

by Sheriff James Kelly, Catahoula Parish



Gov. Bobby Jindal, center, is seen as he welcomes Louisiana Sheriffs' Institute participants to the Governor's Mansion for an informal meeting. Pictured from left to right are LSA assistant executive director Gary Bennett; LSA executive director, Michael Ranatza; Sheriff Michael Tregre, St. John the Baptist Parish; Sheriff Lee Harrell, Richland Parish; Sheriff Steven McCain, Grant Parish; Sheriff Brett Stassi, Iberville Parish; Sheriff Jay Russell, Ouachita Parish; Sheriff Randy Seal, Washington Parish; Sheriff Mark Hebert, St. Mary Parish; 2011-2012 President Sheriff Mike Cazes, West Baton Rouge Parish; Sheriff William Earl Hilton, Rapides Parish; Governor Bobby Jindal; Sheriff Ivy Woods, Jefferson Davis Parish; Sheriff Douglas Hebert III, Allen Parish; Sheriff Wydette Williams, East Carroll Parish; Sheriff Lonnie J. Greco, Plaquemines Parish; Sheriff Kenneth Hedrick, Concordia Parish; Sheriff James Pohlmann, St. Bernard Parish; Sheriff Ron Johnson, Cameron Parish; Sheriff Kevin Cobb, Franklin Parish; Sheriff Julian C. Whittington, Bossier Parish; Sheriff Glen Edwards, Red River Parish; Sheriff Jason Ard, Livingston Parish; Sheriff Cranford Jordan, Winn Parish; Sheriff Ronny Richardson, Sabine Parish; Not pictured, Sheriff Jerry Larpenter, Terrebonne Parish.

Twenty sheriffs-elect, two sheriffs and eighteen executive personnel representing twenty four parishes from across the state recently completed the Louisiana Sheriffs' Institute, according to Michael A. Ranatza, executive director of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.

The Institute, a one-week, comprehensive executive development training program, conducted at the Baton Rouge Marriott during the week of February 26 through March 2, 2012, was designed to enhance the administrative capabilities of the sheriff, enabling him to efficiently discharge the duties of the office of sheriff. It is conducted every four years prior to the time the sheriffs take office.

Ranatza said, "The sheriff, as chief law enforcement officer of the parish, upholds a position with a tremendous amount of public trust. The Institute provides a means for emphasizing the importance of accountability associated with the sheriffs role in criminal justice, policing, prosecution, the courts, corrections, probation, and civil proceedings."

The Louisiana Sheriffs' Institute class comprises the following law enforcement executives:

**Allen Parish Sheriff Douglas Hebert III** and Chief Civil Deputy Lynda Hamilton; **Bossier Parish Sheriff Julian C. Whittington** and Chief Deputy Charles Owens; **Cameron Parish Sheriff Ron Johnson**; **Concordia Parish Sheriff Kenneth Hedrick** and Chief Deputy David Hedrick; **East Carroll Parish Sheriff Wydette Williams** and Chief Deputy Glendon Threats; **Franklin Parish Sheriff Kevin W. Cobb**; **Grant Parish Sheriff Steven McCain** and Chief Deputy Stacey Roberts; **Iberville Parish Sheriff Brett Stassi** and Chief Criminal Deputy Stephen J. Engolio; **Jefferson Davis Parish Sheriff Ivy J. Woods** and Chief Deputy Robert C. Broussard; **Livingston Parish Sheriff Jason Ard** and Brian Smith; Orleans Parish Chief Deputy Jerry Ursin; **Ouachita Parish Sheriff elect-Jay Russell** and Chief Deputy James Purvis; **Plaquemines Parish Sheriff Lonnie Greco, Sr.** and Chief Deputy Brian M. Boudreaux; **Rapides Parish Sheriff William E. Hilton** and Chief Deputy William Robinson; **Red River Sheriff Glen T. Edwards**; **Richland Parish Sheriff Lee Harrell**; **Sabine Parish Sheriff Ronny Richardson** and Chief Deputy John Adair; **St. Bernard Parish Sheriff James Pohlmann**

and Chief Deputy Richard A. Baummy; **St. John the Baptist Parish Sheriff Michael K. Tregre** and Chief Deputy Tregg Wilson; **St. Mary Parish Sheriff Mark Hebert** and Chief Civil Deputy Susan Crochet; Tensas Parish Chief Deputy Rob Rushing; **Terrebonne Parish Sheriff Jerry J. Larpenter**; **Washington Parish Sheriff Randy Seal** and Chief Deputy Mike Haley; and **Winn Parish Sheriff Cranford Jordan** and Chief Deputy John Thomas.

Governor Bobby Jindal met with the sheriffs at the Governor's Mansion during the training session and thanked them for their service.

Governor Jindal said, "Louisiana sheriffs work in the heart of our communities to root out criminal acts, so that our families are safe. Whether it's cracking down on sex offenders, getting fake baths salts out of our communities, or targeting violent offenders, we've formed close partnerships with sheriffs to do what's needed to put criminals away. We'll continue to look to their expertise as we work together in making Louisiana the best place in the world to get a great education, pursue a rewarding career and raise a family."

West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff Mike Cazes, 2011-2012 Louisiana Sheriffs' Association president welcomed the class and instructed the group on management and transition issues for law enforcement officials and was on hand to award certificates of completion to sheriffs and chief deputies on the final day of class. St. Charles Parish Sheriff Greg Champagne, current National Sheriffs' Association treasurer, and Lafourche Parish Sheriff Craig Webre, 2007-2008 National Sheriffs' Association president, addressed the class at orientation.

The Institute is sponsored and developed by the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association. The training program's faculty comprises selected legal and criminal justice instructors from throughout the State of Louisiana. Designed to assist sheriffs as criminal justice executives, the program is funded by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice and the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.

Ranatza concluded, "The extensive program agenda covered virtually all phases of the chief law enforcement officer's administrative duties. The curriculum ran the gamut from office transition and management, budgeting and legislative matters to ethics, homeland security and prison inmate issues."

## Louisiana Sheriffs Create Multi-agency Maritime Counterterrorist Task Force JTF7 continued from page 1

provide the security needed to help the private sectors stay in compliance, while protecting their interests and saving lives through their unique partnership with the private sector.

Since these large petrochemical plants and busy ports make Louisiana a target-rich environment for terrorists, in the event of terrorist attack, sabotage, or incident, in any of the surrounding Greater Baton Rouge Parishes, this highly trained task force could be on hand in a moment's notice to assist the Sheriff. In addition to emergency response, on a daily basis JTF7 members can be found performing pre-scheduled routine facility patrols, providing facility support through ground teams, patrolling the waterways, providing escort services for hazardous materials along the Mississippi river, and administering security tabletop training with their industrial partners.

Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff Bud Torres, who spearheaded JTF7 said, "Law enforcement officials have been looking at counterterrorist measures since the early 80's, and it became

obvious what needed to transpire. In order for our government and industry to protect lives and property, we have to come together."

Not only did the seven sheriffs come together partnering with the private sector industries, but also with the Port of Baton Rouge itself. On December 5, 2011, a dedication was held at the new Maritime Security Operations Center at the Port of Greater Baton Rouge. By partnering with the Port of Baton Rouge, JTF7 will be one of several interagency groups that can utilize the new central command center to help improve communications and coordinate efforts during a hurricane or other disaster or emergency situation.

"We're here to respond in force and in unison no matter where those events occur," said Sheriff Sid Gautreaux of East Baton Rouge.

Members of law enforcement from the federal, state, and local level were present for the ribbon cutting and to witness the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by the sheriffs of seven parishes surrounding Greater Baton Rouge along the Mississippi river.

This MOU formally establishes the relationship between the United States Coast Guard and JTF7.

JTF7 is comprised of the seven sheriffs in the areas surrounding Greater Baton Rouge: East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff, Sid Gautreaux; Ascension Parish Sheriff, Jeff Wiley; West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff, Mike Cazes; Iberville Parish Sheriff, Brett Stassi; West Feliciana Parish Sheriff, Austin Daniel; East Feliciana Sheriff, Talmadge Bunch; and Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff, Bud Torres.

JTF7 is supported by the initial investment of the seven sheriffs, which includes SWAT team members who are POST certified commissioned deputies with arrest powers; pre-existing basic equipment such as patrol cars, weapons and radios; as well as some specialized equipment including six patrol boats, two UTV's, two Bearcat assault vehicles, one OH58, IEDK-9s, dive team equipment, SRT weapons and tools.

In addition to the Sheriff's initial investments additional funding is provided through the Port of Baton Rouge, made possible by a 6 million dollar Homeland Security Grant. JTF7 will also be partnering with its private sector industry partners to develop sustainment funding and become the first of its kind, multi-agency cooperative endeavor.

Sheriff Torres said, "Through cooperative endeavors like JTF7, we can meet the demands of the future, and hopefully serve as a model pattern for other jurisdictions nationwide."

On the Net: JTF7 Web site:

<http://www.jtf7.com>

Port of Greater Baton Rouge:

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

Terror by the sea: The unique challenges of port security: [http://www.redorbit.com/news/technology/251940/terror\\_by\\_sea\\_the\\_unique\\_challenges\\_of\\_port\\_security/index.html](http://www.redorbit.com/news/technology/251940/terror_by_sea_the_unique_challenges_of_port_security/index.html)



***Captain Peter Gautier, Sector Commander, U.S. Coast Guard and the sheriffs of JTF7 sign a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the relationship between the United States Coast Guard and JTF7 on December 5, 2011 at the new Maritime Security Operations Center. Front row, left to right: Sheriff Jeff Wiley, Ascension Parish; Sheriff Sid Gautreaux, East Baton Rouge Parish; Captain Peter Gautier, United States Coast Guard. Back Row: Sheriff Mike Cazes, West Baton Rouge; Sheriff Talmadge Bunch, East Feliciana Parish; Sheriff Austin Daniel, West Feliciana Parish; Sheriff Bud Torres, Pointe Coupee Parish; Sheriff Brent Allain, Ret. (not pictured). Photo courtesy of Port of Greater Baton Rouge.***

# JTF7 Holds Maritime Security Training and Exercise Program

by Lauren Labbé Meher

For most Louisiana residents October 11, 2012 was an ordinary day. But it would not seem so ordinary upon closer observation of the goings on in the area surrounding the Mississippi River Bridge. Boats from multiple agencies were patrolling the waterways, while a helicopter was humming from above. Law enforcement officers and members of the coast guard were swiftly communicating back and forth via radio and email to dozens more buzzing about at the nearby Port of Baton Rouge. And all eyes were pointed upward to one particular red spot, just underneath the structure of the Mississippi River Bridge. “There is a bomb on the bridge,” one officer radioed in. Although it seemed like a dramatic crisis scene from some summer blockbuster movie, the next words heard from the officer’s radio should ease all minds. “There is a bomb on the bridge. THIS IS A DRILL. Repeat. THIS IS A DRILL.”

What transpired that day was not a true emergency, but rather a full-scale Maritime Security Training and Exercise Program done to test, validate, and improve the Baton Rouge Area Maritime Security Plan.

JTF7 has done several trainings on False River, but this was their largest training drill to date. Members of Joint Task Force Seven (along with air support from Livingston Parish Sheriff Jason Ard), the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit, and members of the Port-Wide Security Committee all participated, including over 90 trained personnel from local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

“JTF7, the Coast Guard, and the Port of Baton Rouge have spent many hours training for this exercise to show the rest of the country how we can come together to protect our shipping channels,” said Iberville Parish Sheriff, Brett Stassi.

This type of partnership is rare according to United States Coast Guard Maritime Security Senior Planner Jesse Rangle, “What you are doing here...the collaboration, the preparedness, it’s amazing. I try to identify examples of

best practices wherever I go, and I will certainly be talking about Baton Rouge. This is proof to the other senior leader throughout the country that this can work.”

Many officials and sheriffs at the training attributed this spirit of cooperation to lessons learned from hurricane Katrina. “We learned to take advantage of each others’ resources, and we became more efficient after Katrina. Because we began to more clearly see the advantages of working together,” said Louisiana Attorney General, Buddy Caldwell, who also participated in the



*East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff’s Office and U.S. Coast guard boats patrol the Mississippi River during the Area Maritime Security Training and Exercise Program.*

exercise.

In its first full-scale exercise, JTF7 clearly demonstrated that they are prepared to respond to any threats presented to the Greater Baton Rouge area, and that they are ready to stand together as a model of how cooperation, communication, and collaboration can enhance public safety for other ports across the United States.



*Louisiana Attorney General Buddy Caldwell discusses the maritime exercise with JTF7 and U.S. Coast Guard members. From left to right: West Feliciana Parish Sheriff Austin Daniel, Louisiana Attorney General Buddy Caldwell, United States Coast Guard Maritime Security Senior Planner Jesse Rangle, and Iberville Parish Sheriff Brett Stassi.*

# LSA Task Force and East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office Reach Out Following Hurricane Isaac

by Casey Raborn Hicks, East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Sid Gautreaux and the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office began preparing for Hurricane Isaac a week before the storm hit by ensuring that all personnel and equipment were ready for deployment.

Deputies went to 12-hour shifts prior to, during and following the storm in order to keep the parish safe and enforce the enacted curfew.

"Safety for the public and our deputies was our number one priority," Sheriff Sid Gautreaux said. "Fortunately we saw very few incidents of crime. Once we knew we had things under control in our parish. We knew we needed to do what we could to help those in surrounding parishes that suffered much more damage."

After assessing and preparing for any needs in EBR parish, EBRSO deployed additional deputies to assist Sheriffs in other parishes throughout the state. The deputies staged with other



*East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office deputies sighted this boat at least 30 feet away from the water on the road leading to Venice Marina.*

Sheriff's Offices as part of the JTF7 Task Force and the Louisiana Sheriff's Association Task Force. The Task Force sent deputies to Plaquemines, Ascension and St. John the Baptist parishes to assist with criminal patrols and night-time raid surveillance. Deputies in the river parishes helped prevent and catch looters that were burglarizing evacuated camps on the river.

Immediately following the storm, two barges sunk in the Mississippi River in St. James Parish near the

Sunshine Bridge. The Coast Guard closed the river to traffic being unsure of the location of one of the barges. EBR deputies in cooperation with the Baton Rouge Port Commission located the missing barge in 62-feet of water outside of the channel. This operation allowed the Coast Guard to re-open the river. Deputies used the new Underwater Inspection System acquired by the JTF7 grant in order to locate the missing barge.

"I want to thank all the deputies that worked so hard in and out of our parish for the storm," Sheriff Gautreaux said. "So many of our deputies worked long shifts, often at personal risk, to keep our residents and those in other parishes safe. Thanks to them for their service."



*United States Senator Mary Landrieu meets with Assumption Parish Sheriff Mike Waguespack, East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff Sid Gautreaux, and Plaquemines Parish Sheriff Lonnie Greco to discuss disaster recovery and relief efforts after hurricane Isaac.*



# Plaquemines Parish Sheriff Lonnie Greco Makes Harrowing Rescue During Hurricane Isaac

by Lauren Labbé Meher

History repeated itself for the small West Pointe à la Hache community in Plaquemines parish when hurricane Isaac made landfall on August 28-29, 2012.

This resilient community has been standing up to hurricanes and their accompanying storm surges since 1812, facing down some of the most powerful storms in history like the 1915 New Orleans hurricane, hurricane Betsy, hurricane Camille, and hurricane Katrina. With each storm West Pointe à la Hache experienced breaches in levees or serious flooding and severe damages.

This past year, when hurricane Isaac struck, Sheriff Lonnie Greco was in the heart of it, helping his local parish residents to safety.

Interestingly, Sheriff Greco experienced the storm from both perspectives, as he rescued victims, then eventually needed to be rescued himself due to the storms dangerous currents. Ultimately, what was most important in the outcome of this particular rescue was that *everyone* made it home safely.

After the initial impact of hurricane Isaac, Sheriff Greco and Captain Keith Wattigney ventured out to brave the waters, knowing that some families had remained in the area despite mandatory evacuation orders. Luckily, Capt. Wattigney had a 14, 500-pound truck, an International CXT, available to navigate the rising currents.

In Pointe à la Hache along Louisiana Highway 23, the storm surge had reached above five feet, turning roadways into rivers. Sheriff Greco received word that Buras residents Leah and Ricky Harvey were stranded in the water.

The two men began to search along the highway, using the bumps alongside the median to navigate, until they saw the lights from Ms. Harvey's vehicle in the distance.

As they approached the vehicle, they found her wading in the water nearby, with her husband in the distance. Sheriff Greco indicated to Ricky Harvey that he was going to help Leah first, and then would return for him once she was secured.

Capt. Wattigney then assisted Ms. Harvey into the truck, while the sheriff started wading through the waist high water to rescue Mr. Harvey. By the time Wattigney had turned his truck around, he had lost sight of the Sheriff and Mr. Harvey, who could not swim. At this point, the two were clinging to a signpost unable to cross the long span of strong currents back to safety.

Wattigney tried a few different methods of rescuing the two, then when all else failed, he finally drove his truck into the deeper waters close enough to pull the two men in.

Everyone was finally safe inside the truck, but their predicament continued as the deeper waters had completely stalled the truck's motor.

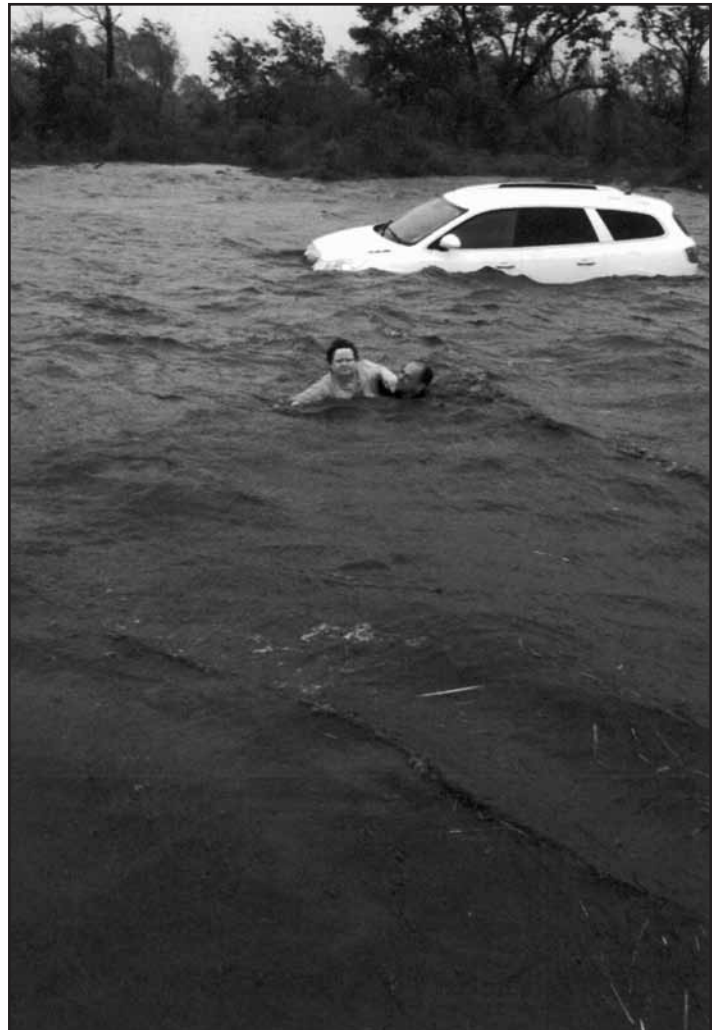
Sheriff Greco remained calm and reassured the passengers that help would be coming. Luckily, a few calls went through before his cell phone went dead.

Hours passed, and while waiting for the National Guard to arrive, a private citizen, Kevin Blondiau, arrived in an airboat and was able to lead the group to safety.

When asked for his thoughts on the harrowing rescue, Sheriff Greco humbly stated, "I was just doing my job the citizens hired me to do."

Leah Harvey described the scene to Sheriff Greco, "When we got around the curve it was just a little water but then it was just wild and once you get in it you are not sure what to do... You definitely saved our lives!"

Thankfully through the brave actions of Sheriff Lonnie Greco and his captain, everyone made it home safely that day. The next day, the waters in Pointe à la Hache began to recede as its residents outlasted yet another storm.



*Plaquemines Parish Sheriff Lonnie Greco braves the storm surge along Louisiana 23 to bring Buras resident Leah Harvey to safety.*

# SHERIFFS' HONORARY MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE

The Louisiana Sheriffs' Honorary Members Program brings educational and enrichment opportunities to  
of its Honorary Members. Here is how membership dues are worked into the program.

-S



*Acadia Parish  
Sheriff Wayne A. Melancon  
LSU-Eunice*



*Allen Parish  
Sheriff Douglas Hebert  
D.A.R.E. Program*



*Ascension Parish  
Sheriff Jeff Wiley  
Scholarship Program*



*Assumption Parish  
Sheriff Mike Waguespack  
Summer Camp*



*Avoyelles Parish  
Sheriff Doug Anderson  
Community Services*



*Beauregard Parish  
Sheriff Ricky L. Moses  
D.A.R.E. Program*



*Catahoula Parish  
Sheriff James Kelly  
D.A.R.E. Program*



*Claiborne Parish  
Sheriff Ken Bailey  
Athletic Program*



*Concordia Parish  
Sheriff Kenneth Hedrick  
D.A.R.E. Program*



*DeSoto Parish  
Sheriff Rodney Arbuckle  
Scholarship Program*



*East Baton Rouge Parish  
Sheriff Sid Gautreaux  
Nights of Remembrance*



*East Carroll Parish  
Sheriff Wydette Williams  
Crime Prevention*



*Jackson Parish  
Sheriff Andy Brown  
Senior Citizens' Program*



*Jefferson Davis Parish  
Sheriff Ivy Woods  
D.A.R.E. Program*



*Lafayette Parish  
Sheriff Michael Neustrom  
Youth Activity and  
Elderly Protection*



*LaFourche Parish  
Sheriff Craig Webre  
Youth Development  
Programs*



*LaSalle Parish  
Sheriff Scott Franklin  
Scholarship Program*



*Lincoln Parish  
Sheriff Mike Stone  
Triad and D.A.R.E. Programs*



*Plaquemines Parish  
Sheriff Lonnie Greco  
D.A.R.E. Program*



*Pointe Coupee Parish  
Sheriff Beaugard "Bud" Torres, III  
D.A.R.E. Program*



*Rapides Parish  
Sheriff William Earl Hilton  
Community Services*



*Red River Parish  
Sheriff Glen Edwards  
Scholarship Program*



*Richland Parish  
Sheriff Lee Harrell  
Youth Programs*



*Sabine Parish  
Sheriff Ronny Richardson  
D.A.R.E. Program*



*St. Bernard Parish  
Sheriff James Pohlmann  
D.A.R.E. Program*



*St. Tammany Parish  
Sheriff Jack Strain  
Senior Citizens' and  
Reserve Deputies' Programs*



*Tangipahoa Parish  
Sheriff Daniel Edwards  
D.A.R.E. Program*



*Tensas Parish  
Sheriff Rickey Jones  
D.A.R.E. Program*



*Terbonne Parish  
Sheriff Jerry Larpenter  
D.A.R.E. Program*



*Union Parish  
Sheriff Bob Buckley  
D.A.R.E. and Triad  
Programs*



*Vermilion Parish  
Sheriff Mike Couvillon  
D.A.R.E. Program*



*Vernon Parish  
Sheriff Sam Craft  
D.A.R.E. Program*

# ROUTE TO PUBLIC SERVICES AT LOCAL LEVEL

and charitable public services to local communities through the generosity  
 making throughout Louisiana. Thank you for your continued support.

*Sheriff Greg Champagne, Chairman-Louisiana Sheriffs' Honorary Membership Program*



*Bienville Parish  
 Sheriff John Ballance  
 D.A.R.E. Program*



*Bossier Parish  
 Sheriff Julian Whittington  
 Crime Prevention*



*Caddo Parish  
 Sheriff Stephen Prator  
 Crime Prevention*



*Calcasieu Parish  
 Sheriff Tony Mancuso  
 Youth Services*



*Caldwell Parish  
 Sheriff Steven May  
 Explorer Scout and  
 Triad Programs*



*Cameron Parish  
 Sheriff Ronald Johnson  
 To be announced.*



*East Feliciana Parish  
 Sheriff Talmadge Bunch  
 D.A.R.E. Program*



*Evangeline Parish  
 Sheriff Eddie Soileau  
 D.A.R.E. Awareness*



*Franklin Parish  
 Sheriff Kevin Cobb  
 Youth Programs*



*Grant Parish  
 Sheriff Steven McCain  
 Youth Camp*



*Iberia Parish  
 Sheriff Louis Ackal  
 D.A.R.E. Program*



*Iberville Parish  
 Sheriff Brett Stassi  
 Youth Services*



*Livingston Parish  
 Sheriff Jason Ard  
 Drug Awareness and  
 D.A.R.E. Programs*



*Madison Parish  
 Sheriff Larry Cox  
 D.A.R.E. Program*



*Morehouse Parish  
 Sheriff Mike Tubbs  
 Summer Youth Camp*



*Natchitoches Parish  
 Sheriff Victor Jones, Jr.  
 Youth Ball and  
 D.A.R.E. Program*



*Orleans Parish  
 Sheriff Marlin Gusman  
 D.A.R.E. Program*



*Ouachita Parish  
 Sheriff Jay Russell  
 Youth Programs*



*St. Charles Parish  
 Sheriff Greg Champagne  
 D.A.R.E. Program*



*St. Helena Parish  
 Sheriff Nathaniel "Nat"  
 Williams  
 Crime Prevention*



*St. James Parish  
 Sheriff Willy Martin, Jr.  
 Character Links*



*St. John the Baptist Parish  
 Sheriff Michael Tregre  
 Drug Education*



*St. Landry Parish  
 Sheriff Bobby Guidroz  
 D.A.R.E. Program*



*St. Martin Parish  
 Sheriff Ronny Theriot  
 Charitable, Educational and  
 Public Safety Programs*



*St. Mary Parish  
 Sheriff Mark Hebert  
 Scholarship and  
 Senior Citizens' Programs*



*Washington Parish  
 Sheriff Randy Seal  
 D.A.R.E. Program*



*Webster Parish  
 Sheriff Gary Sexton  
 4-H Shooting Sports  
 and Council on Aging*



*West Baton Rouge Parish  
 Sheriff Mike Cazes  
 D.A.R.E. and Scholarship  
 Programs*



*West Carroll Parish  
 Sheriff Jerry Phillely  
 Youth Drug Program*



*West Feliciana Parish  
 Sheriff Austin Daniel  
 Drug Awareness*



*Winn Parish  
 Sheriff Cranford Jordan  
 D.A.R.E. Program*

# Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office Dedicates New Training Center

by Lauren Labbé Meher

On September 21, 2012, the Ascension Parish Sheriffs' Office (APSO) held a dedication ceremony, opening the doors of their new 30, 000 square foot training center. Over 100 attendees participated in the dedication including local judges, mayors, the fire marshal, the chief of police as well as several sheriffs and members of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association.

The facility that exists today was developed under the leadership of Sheriff Jeff Wiley, but according to Wiley the evolution of the APSO goes back even further. The initial training center was actually built in the mid-80s under the direction of Sheriff Harold Tridico. BASF donated 17 acres of land, for the purpose of building a firing range and training complex. The training center evolved through the years as the APSO developed its firing range, added a classroom facility, and expanded the training center in 1998 thanks to a ½ cent law enforcement proposition that was passed.

The 64 acre tract of land, adjacent to the original 17 acre site contains two theater-style classrooms with internet connections at each desk. During the center's dedication, Sheriff Wiley dedicated the classrooms to former Sheriff Harold Tridico and the late Capt. Robert Leblanc Sr. The classrooms are used for supervisor meetings, leadership seminars and national police training classes.

In addition to classroom facilities, the site contains administrative offices for the training staff, an Emergency Operations Center to better respond to natural and man-made disasters, a logistics area for storage and distribution of supplies during emergency events, a covered storage area for Emergency response vehicles and equipment, as well as storage for the Crisis Response Team (SWAT).

One unique aspect of the facility is its ability to transform from training center to emergency operations center during

times of disaster. This dual use, between training and disaster response is seen throughout the facility. The training center's 12, 000 square foot covered storage area can convert to a "staging" area during times of crisis, the computer lab can be utilized as an emergency dispatch center, the executive conference room can be used as a staff emergency operations center, and the industrial kitchen can serve in/out of parish first responders.

These dual use capabilities of the center were put to the test even before the doors officially opened in October. When hurricane Isaac struck Louisiana in late August, the training center opened its kitchen serving three meals a day to a multitude of first responders including various law enforcement agencies, the Office of Emergency Preparedness and the National Guard. For three to four days after the storm the center remained open, and on some days served as many as 350 meals in a day.

All disaster calls were transferred to the center's storm dispatch center, and law enforcement officers held disaster related meetings in the emergency operations center. The training center performed magnificently and enabled the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office and others to handle storm related issues more efficiently.

At the conclusion of the dedication ceremony Sheriff Wiley said, "Let's be a part of something really good, but recognize our blessings should be shared with others. This facility is for everyone who ever put on a badge, come one, come all, at all times." The Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office Training Center has already proven to be an asset to the community, and will continue to do so in the future to all who utilize it.



Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office Training Center. Photo courtesy of Todd Landry, Grace & Hebert Architects.



An interior view of the APSO Training Center featuring the Tridico Room, a sixty-seat classroom named after former Sheriff Harold Tridico. Photo courtesy of Todd Landry, Grace & Hebert Architects.

# West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office Hosts Communications Training and Media Day

by Billie M. Giroir, West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office

This past spring the West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office, along with the Region 2 Statewide Interoperability Committee and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security (GOHSEP) hosted a free training event on the interoperable radio communications equipment and the Louisiana Wireless Information Network (LWIN).

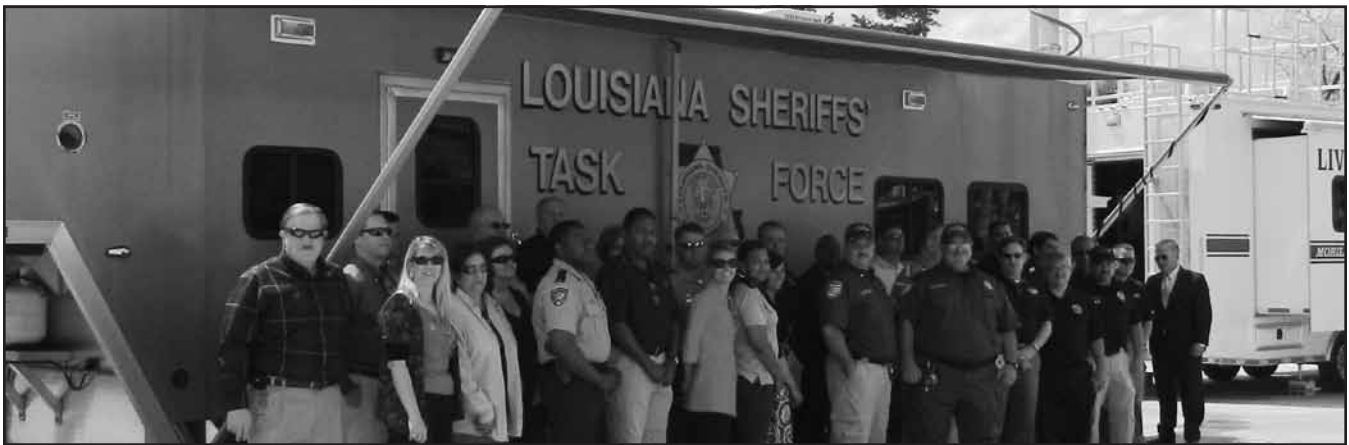
This week-long event included classes on radio programming, dispatcher training, gateway operation training, and a certification drill for Communications Unit Leaders.

On the last day of training a media day was held. Local and state agencies including the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association,

Louisiana State Police, and GOHSEP were all on hand to demonstrate their communications equipment (command posts, portable towers, etc.).

Local media and public officials were invited to tour the facilities and to view and test the equipment.

There were over 80 attendees throughout the week with six completing the Communications Unit Leader course. The Media Day was equally well received with over thirty additional people attending that day. The West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office was proud to host this event and assist in the enhancement of Louisiana's emergency responder skills through this training.



Attendees of the Region 2 Communications training event in front of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Task Force Command Center.

# St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office Launches The Yellow Dot Program

by Major Ginny Higgins, St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office

In an effort to better serve and protect the citizens of St. Martin Parish, Sheriff Ronny Theriot has implemented the "Yellow Dot" Program. The "Yellow Dot" Program is the first program of its kind in Louisiana. It is designed to assist citizens and first responders in the event of an automobile accident or other medical emergency involving the participant's vehicle. The program can help save lives by improving communication at a time when accident victims may not be able to communicate for themselves.

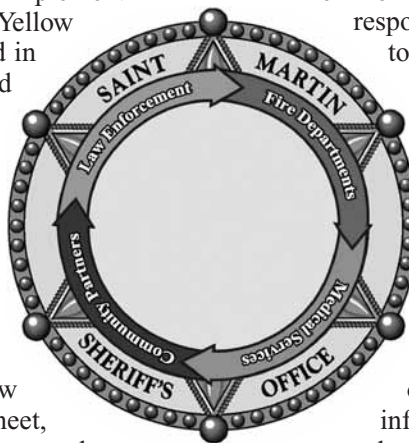
Participants of the Program will be given a "Yellow Dot" folder. This folder contains a brochure explaining the "Yellow Dot" Program, a personal information sheet, and a "Yellow Dot" decal. The completed personal information form, along with an attached photo, will be placed in the folder and then into the glove compartment of their vehicle. The "Yellow Dot" decal will be placed on the outside of the lower left corner of the rear windshield of the participant's vehicle. The decal alerts first responders that

medical information can be found in the glove compartment. The information provided in the folder will allow first responders to positively identify the person, get in touch with emergency contacts, and ensure that the person's current medications, allergies, and pre-existing medical conditions are considered when treatment is administered for injuries.

The "Yellow Dot" Program is a free service provided to individuals of all ages with an emphasis on senior citizens and those with medical conditions and it is available to all residents of St. Martin Parish.

Sheriff Theriot states, "The program offers participants a way to give vital medical information to first responders if they are unable to physically or verbally communicate for themselves.

This program has the potential to save lives and will be available at various locations throughout St. Martin Parish." For more information about the "Yellow Dot" Program, please contact Major Ginny Higgins at 337.394.2725 or by email at [ghiggins@stmartinsheriff.org](mailto:ghiggins@stmartinsheriff.org)



# Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office Young Marines Honor Veterans on Memorial Day

by Bill David, Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office

Two dozen Bossier Sheriff Young Marines placed hundreds of flags on graves of veterans at Hill Crest Memorial Cemetery in Haughton on May 26 as a way of showing their appreciation to military men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4588 in nearby Bossier City provided the flags, and the Young Marines placed the flags to prepare for the Memorial Day Service that was held May 28.

“Community service like this is just one way we show the Marine Corps values of honor, courage and commitment to our Young Marines,” said Lt. Norman Craig, commanding officer of the Bossier Sheriff Young Marines. “We teach young men and women why it’s important to remember the service and sacrifice of those who went before us,” said Craig, a Bossier Sheriff’s deputy and former Marine. “Showing these

youth how to honor our veterans during this Memorial Day and throughout the year is so important. It gives them a way to say thanks and salute those who fought for our freedom.”

Under Sheriff Larry Deen’s leadership, Bossier Sheriff’s



*YM PFC Jasper Patton, 11, of the Bossier Sheriff Young Marines in northwest Louisiana, pauses a few moments at the grave of a WWII veteran at Hill Crest Memorial Cemetery in Haughton, La., on May 26.*

Department was the first law enforcement agency in north Louisiana to implement the Young Marines program. Nearly 1,000 young men and women have been honored as Bossier Sheriff Young Marines since the first graduating class in December 2002. The Young Marines is a youth education and service program for boys and girls and promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its

members. It also focuses on character building, leadership, and promotes a healthy, drug-free lifestyle and is the focal point for the U.S. Marine Corps’ Youth Drug Demand Reduction efforts.

## Sheriff Steve May Reaches Out to Caldwell Parish Senior Citizens

by Mich Trumps, Caldwell Parish Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Steve May is active in the lives of Caldwell Parish’s Senior Citizens. He has hosted a luncheon for the Caldwell Council on Aging for over twenty years. It has been fondly named by the senior citizens as Sheriff Steve May Day. The luncheon is held on the second Tuesday of every month. The day is filled with games, prizes, music, and good food. The Sheriff always has a joke or two for them, a music group such as Eddie Dunn and Friends, they also win gift baskets and some even win cash money, and of course good food such as the fried catfish that is cooked by Columbia’s Chief of Police Clay Bennett. The Sheriff has always had a strong belief in respecting and honoring the senior citizens of Caldwell Parish. “Their hard work for posterity should not go unrewarded or forgotten”. The Sheriff also sponsors fishing days for senior citizens, where they are paired with a

student from the Caldwell Parish High School and enjoy a day of fishing in the private pond located at his home. Each year the vegetables grown by the inmates at the Caldwell Parish Correctional Center are delivered by the Sheriff and his Deputies to the senior citizens throughout the parish. He also makes cane syrup with the advice of the senior citizens and then delivers to the ones who were not able to get out. Whether he is hosting a luncheon, bringing the young and the elderly together with a fishing day or delivering vegetables and syrup Sheriff Steve May is dedicated to the citizens of Caldwell Parish.



*Caldwell Parish Sheriff Steve May*

# Grant Parish Inmates Give Back with Homemade Christmas Toys

by Lauren Labbé Meher

Sheriff Steven McCain continued the Grant Parish Sheriff's Office Christmas tradition of giving toys to needy children, but this year he sought the help of an unlikely source: the Grant parish Detention Center.



*Sheriff Steven McCain assists Santa Claus in delivering toys made by the inmates at the Grant Parish Detention Center. Photo courtesy of Melinda Martinez, "The Town Talk."*

Nine inmates came up with their own ideas for the toys they would make by hand in the few short weeks leading up to Christmas. They created wooden toys, writing desks, puzzles, and an assortment of other toys and furniture for families in need.

When asked about the idea of having the inmates build homemade toys, Sheriff McCain said, "It's an opportunity for them to give back and help someone else, which is a key element in rehabilitation."

The toys created by the inmates were then gathered together along with sports balls and backpacks donated by the National Guard. Local schools provided the sheriff's office with a list of names of families in need.

Sheriff McCain and members of the Grant Parish Sheriff's Office then assisted Santa Claus in the deliveries throughout the parish just in time for Christmas.

Over 160 children received toys, clothes and food this past Christmas, but they were not the only ones who received a gift: the Detention Center inmates learned through their experience, that the true gift is in the giving.

## Louisiana Sheriffs' Association Hosts Civil and Tax Seminar

by Lauren Labbé Meher

Periodically, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association holds a seminar for all civil and tax personnel of sheriff's offices throughout the state. The latest seminar, held on November 8, 2012, had a record attendance of over 150 attendees representing 48 parishes.

"The Louisiana Sheriffs' Association is honored to host this training event to assist in education personnel on the most recent laws and procedures for the civil and tax collection process," said the Association's assistant executive director, Sheriff Gary Bennett, Ret., who facilitated the event.

With 22 newly elected sheriffs and recent changes to laws and procedures, the Association felt it was a key time to provide the seminar.

Guest speakers included: Pete Rizzo, Chief Deputy of Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office; Erica Davis Wilson, attorney for the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office; Greg Ruppert, Deputy Chief Director of the Bureau of Revenue and Taxation, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office.

Chief Deputy Rizzo and Erica Davis Wilson presented the civil portion of the meeting. They provided information on the role of sheriff in relation to civil law, as well as specific training on enforcing civil law including: service of process, commitments & Habeas Corpus, attachments, child custody

enforcement, domestic abuse orders, seizure and sale of property and garnishments.

Chief Deputy Tax Collector Greg Ruppert spoke to attendees about the tax collection cycle and provided a detailed explanation of any new laws pertaining to it.

Ruppert also provided participants with an *Ad Valorem Tax Collection Guidelines Manual* designed to assist local property tax collectors in the performance of their duties and responsibilities in accordance with the Louisiana Constitution and Louisiana Revised Statutes. It included the most current information from the 2012 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

The Association asked attendees to submit specific questions beforehand so that experts could respond to attendees' most current needs and issues.

"Again this year, the Civil Seminar was a great opportunity to review with other Civil Supervisors and staff recently enacted legislation and how best to interpret and implement required changes," said East Baton Rouge Parish Chief Civil Deputy Stephen Hymel.

The Louisiana Sheriffs' Association will continue to host Civil and Tax seminars in the future to provide Louisiana's Sheriff's Offices with the tools they need to successfully fulfill their responsibilities related to the civil and tax process.

# Multiple Agencies Respond to Triple Homicide in Catahoula Parish

by Lauren Labbé Meher

Multiple agencies responded to a shocking triple homicide in the typically quiet Catahoula Parish community, Lake Larto. In the early morning hours of August 20, 2012 three victims were found murdered in a gruesome scene. As local deputies began to secure and process the crime scene, multiple agencies and sheriff's offices began to call in offering their help. Chuck Hurst, from the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association offered to contact the nearby Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office SWAT Team to provide assistance. Shortly after that Major Mark Wood of the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office called, along with Sheriff Scott Franklin of La Salle Parish who provided tracking dogs and additional manpower.

Soon after, several more law enforcement officers and agencies were on the scene ready to assist including the Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, Jonesville Police Department, Louisiana Probation and Parole, United States Marshals, Louisiana State Police, the Avoyelles Correctional Center's Chase Team, as well as Northeast Louisiana Ambulance personnel.

Local citizens were also on hand providing water and snacks to over 40 responders on the job.

"This horrendous crime had the potential to overwhelm our small sheriff's office," said Sheriff James Kelly, "So it was extremely gratifying to have the help of so many brothers and sisters in law enforcement. The most amazing thing is that these agencies *wanted* to be there. There was no concern with pay, overtime, or potential dangers they would be facing; they simply knew of the situation, and knew they could help."



*Catahoula Parish Sheriff James Kelly*

Shortly after the incident two suspects were arrested by deputies from the Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office with bonds set at \$10 million on each of the parties.

Sheriff Kelly concluded that, "These arrests could not have happened without our partnerships with the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association and other neighboring law enforcement agencies. What a great feeling it is to know that when something terrible or dangerous happens, with a few phone calls, you can be soon reminded that you are not alone."

## Jail Overcrowding: Search for *New* Solution Leads to *Old* System

by Deputy Brennan Matherne, Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office

For the last decade, Lafourche Parish Sheriff Craig Webre has been forced to find creative solutions to deal with chronic jail overcrowding – a problem plaguing agencies across the country. While Webre is advocating for a new, more modern jail with greater capacity to replace the antiquated and overburdened 35-year-old facility in Lafourche, he is also championing new ways to reduce the jail population on the front end.

In 2010, the state legislature approved Webre's proposal for Lafourche Parish to become a testing ground for pre-trial home incarceration as an alternative to jail incarceration for non-violent offenders not charged with a sex crime. This pilot program utilizes electronic monitoring, which has been used for over 25 years in post-trial tracking of offenders. The Sheriff's Office was already partnered with local judges to reduce bail obligations when possible, but pre-trial monitoring has proven to be a cost-effective solution, even in the program's infancy. These subjects still have a bond, and can be released from the program at any time by posting their bond.

In the first 12 months of the program, from July 2011 to June 2012, a total of 48 clients participated in the program at an annual cost of \$19,621. This is in contrast to the cost of \$57,487 local government and taxpayers would have faced to house these individuals.



*LaFourche Parish Sheriff Craig Webre*

Electronic monitoring keeps the offender from being exposed to the influence or intimidation of violent or career criminals. In some cases, participants pay a fee for the monitoring equipment, but in most cases the local parish government puts up the cost. More importantly these individuals are paying for their own food, clothing, shelter and medical costs. The goal is to reduce the odds for recidivism by providing a familiar environment for rehabilitation.



# Iberia Parish Sheriff Louis M. Ackal Creates Directed Patrols Unit

*by Captain Ryan Turner, Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office*

Sheriff Louis Ackal recently developed a new Directed Patrol Unit (Surveillance Unit) in an effort to supplement the uniform patrol division, and to work the areas of the city of New Iberia and the parish of Iberia where a large number of burglaries, thefts and criminal damage to property occurs. The program has been so successful that it has been incorporated into the Iberia Parish Sheriff's Bureau of Investigations. Not only does it supplement the patrol division, but also narcotics, detectives and sex offender registry where surveillance is required releasing the members of the other sections to continued with other investigations.

The Directed Patrol Section uses unmarked vehicles and all terrain vehicles for their patrols. They do surveillance on an area that is suffering from thieves and burglars. They will also work areas like schools, parks, farms, and neighborhoods where prowlers and vandals take advantage of lightly populated areas to commit crimes.

Directed Patrol is made up of four team members and a sergeant. The sergeant is responsible for insuring that reports and paperwork are completed in a timely manner, that all equipment is maintained. Further, the sergeant receives and

distributes assignments from the other areas of the Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office. The sergeant answers directly to and receives assignments from the lieutenant of detectives.

To date, this team is responsible for nine burglary arrests. Most of them were in progress calls, and numerous others were on view arrests; where a marked patrol unit would have been spotted before it arrived or the criminal wouldn't have committed the criminal act had a marked patrol unit been in the area.



# St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office Partners to Host Women's Self-Defense and Firearms Safety Class

*by Captain Eddie Thibodeaux, St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office*

The St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office in conjunction with the St. Landry Crime Stoppers, the Eunice Black Belt Academy, and Harmony Lodge #410 hosted a free women's self-defense and firearms safety class on May 5th 2012. The class was held at the Eunice Black Belt Academy and was a hands-on course having the participants practice techniques on bags and finally tested on the techniques learned by fighting a "padded up" aggressor. The aggressor put the ladies through real life scenarios having them fight their way out of attacks. The class was at full capacity with thirty women from across St. Landry Parish participating. Due to the overwhelming response, the St. Landry Parish Sheriff's Office is planning on scheduling more classes in the future.

After the self-defense course, the participants were provided a free lunch donated by Harmony Lodge #410, then began the firearms safety and use of force course. After the classroom portion, the ladies were brought to the range for live firing of their weapon. The firearms course was taught by the St. Landry Parish Sheriff's firearms instructors. The instructors

answered questions and familiarized the women with their firearms. The course ended with the ladies shooting live rounds at the firing range. To date the sheriff's office has trained over 2,400 women in self defense free of charge. Sheriff Guidroz was pleased to see such an overwhelming response to the safety class and has pledged to always offer free classes to insure the safety of our women.



# Deputies Making a Change

by Eric Mahaffey, Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office

The Ouachita Parish Sheriff's Office is taking steps this year to reduce the incarceration of young people in Ouachita Parish with Deputies Making a Change (DMAC) program.

"Deputy Kenneth Tramble gets credit for getting DMAC started. He will be working with Sgt. Eric McElroy and Cpl. Marvin McFarland to implement this program. We appreciate their dedication and hard work in mentoring these young people," said Sheriff Jay Russell.

The DMAC program is on a mission to mentor youth who are at risk of being expelled from school or incarcerated. DMAC will promote: personal and academic achievement, economic self-reliance and encourage responsible citizenship.

The DMAC Program will partner with businesses, faith-based communities and schools to help foster a long-lasting, positive relationship with law enforcement and these at-risk, eight to thirteen year old students.

"By mentoring these students, we can show them how other students have improved their personal skills and habits in order to be able to achieve better results in the classroom and in sports as well as improved interaction with other students, teachers and family," said Russell.



*Ouachita Parish Sheriff Jay Russell*

## END OF WATCH



*"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."*

*-Joseph Campbell*



**Deputy Sheriff Ricky Isaac Jr.**  
Natchitoches Parish  
December 8, 2012



**Deputy Sheriff Brandon Nielson**  
St. John the Baptist Parish  
August 16, 2012



**Deputy Sheriff Jeremy Triche**  
St. John the Baptist Parish  
August 16, 2012



**Reserve Deputy John Granger**  
Evangeline Parish  
September 12, 2012



**Deputy Sheriff Randall Benoit**  
Calcasieu Parish  
January 18, 2012



## *A Special Thank You to Our Conference Sponsors*

The 2012 Louisiana Sheriffs' and Wardens' Training Conference and Exhibition was held August 19-22, 2012 in Destin, Florida. The conference included a variety of training sessions in areas such as Homeland Security, Emergency Preparedness, Seat Belt Safety, Immigration, Sex Offender Registry, Human Trafficking, and a variety of other leadership training opportunities.

***Without the support of our sponsors, this conference would not have been possible.***

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## LOUISIANA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM (For Non-Members Only)

It is your privilege as an Honorary Member of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Honorary Membership Program (LSHMP) to select individuals interested in promoting good law enforcement and crime prevention to also become members. Take this opportunity to pass this form along to a friend. Once completed, the form and dues should be returned to the address listed below. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY APPLIED FOR MEMBERSHIP WITH THE ASSOCIATION, PLEASE DO NOT RETURN THIS FORM. YOU WILL RECEIVE AN ANNUAL RENEWAL NOTICE IN 2012. Members in good standing receive a membership card, a window decal, and a subscription to our newsletter *The Louisiana Sheriff*.

Honorary Membership Dues: (\$20.00 Individual; \$35.00 Family and \$50.00 Business)	\$ _____
Additional Donation	\$ _____
License Plates @ \$7.00 each	\$ _____
Additional Window Decals @ \$2.00 each	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ _____

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Parish \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LOUISIANA SHERIFFS' HONORARY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM OR "LSHMP" AND FORWARD TO: **LOUISIANA SHERIFFS' HONORARY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM, 1175 NICHOLSON DRIVE, SUITE 101, BATON ROUGE, LA 70821**. Family memberships are for two people living at the same address. You will receive two I.D. cards in each person's name and two window decals. Please write the information on the back of this form. Questions? Please call 225.383.2871.