



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

February 1, 2010

### **Sheriff's Office Civilian Training Day**

On January 28, 2010, the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office conducted civilian training at the Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship. One of Sheriff Timothy Cameron's initiatives upon taking office was to establish a civilian training committee. The training committee consists of co-chairs Jeff McLane and Pamela McKay, and committee members Erin Shoemaker and Mary Ann Thompson.

"Employee communication, education and staff development is paramount in the success of an organization. Unfortunately in the public safety profession a great emphasis is placed on reoccurring training for law enforcement and correctional officers but civilian training is sometimes limited or overlooked all together. It is my goal to provide as much information and job related training to all employees of the Sheriff's Office." (Sheriff Timothy K. Cameron)

The training day began with a welcome from Mr. Brian Eley, Civilian Administrator and Assistant Sheriff, Major John Horne. Major Horne explained the goals for the day's training and the importance of making all employees familiar with the various agency functions. Major Horne also reiterated the significant contributions the civilian staff makes to public safety.

Captain Edward Willenborg, Commander of Patrol, provided a presentation on "COMPSTAT – Agency Concept and Your Role as a Civilian". The training was a detailed explanation of COMPSTAT, how technology is used to map crime statistic, trends and what contributions the civilian staff makes in aiding the timely flow of information throughout the process.

Deputy Jim O'Neill of the Southern Maryland Information Center and Mr. Jeff Kreps, Gang Intelligence Coordinator from the St. Mary's County Detention Center provided instruction on "Gang Recognition and Awareness". Sheriff's Office staff was instructed in gang customs and norms displayed by various gang members who network throughout the nation and in our local communities. Deputy O'Neill and Mr. Kreps explained the importance of gathering gang information and how the information is shared throughout the public safety community.

Joe Young, Staff Instructor with the Southern Maryland Criminal Justice Academy, instructed the civilian staff in "Effective Response to People with Mental Health Issues" and "Ethics – Doing the Right Thing". These blocks of instruction are extremely important as the civilian staff assists all members of the community and maintaining an ethical standard of conduct at all levels in public safety is paramount to sustaining public trust.

Mr. Bob Kelly, St. Mary's County Director of Information Technology, presented "Information Technology", an overview of the Information Technology Department of the St. Mary's County

Government and the practical points of hardware and software technology used by county employees daily. At the end of presentation Mr. Kelly answered the staff's specific issues and questions.

The final block of instruction for the day was entitled "Organizational Development" and was presented by Karen Smith-Hupp, the Corporate Center at the College of Southern Maryland. Ms. Smith-Hupp instructed staff members on the importance of continuing education and leadership development. She also provided information on how to research training opportunities on a limited budget.

The day concluded with Mr. Eley thanking the staff for their interest, participation in the training and continued hard work and dedication to the Sheriff's Office and the citizen's of St. Mary's County.



St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Civilian Staff