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# the CHRONICLE



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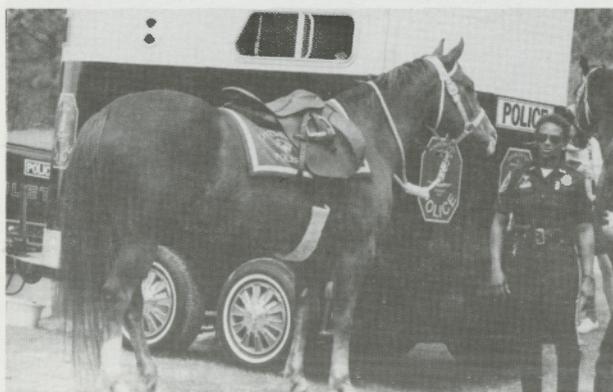
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The Newspaper of the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy

May 1992



## L.E. EXPO '92



## Legislation to monitor law enforcement profession



**RICK JOHNSON**  
*Executive Director*

It now is official. The Legislature has ratified the misconduct and the emergency vehicle operation regulations for South Carolina's police officers, and you'll read about them elsewhere in this issue.

Adoption of these regulations didn't happen without a lot of effort and energy by both Academy staff members and other law enforcement officers out in the field. We all knew that the time had come to deal with these troublesome issues that come up occasionally from time to time. Fortunately, complaints have not become a frequent event, and now hopefully we can move forward to implementation.

Each law enforcement officer in South Carolina should be congratulated for these efforts. No one wants to deal with unpleasant things such as officers who have displayed a pattern of mis-

conduct or liability issues surrounding the use of emergency vehicles during a pursuit or response. But, we did the right thing by dealing with these issues openly, directly, quickly.

All facets of public agencies are under intense scrutiny by both the citizenry and the media, as they should be. And as one sheriff put it, "We need to stand up under the heat."

The misconduct and emergency vehicle operation regulations have been carefully developed, and law enforcement input will always be sought as we implement them. Extra effort will be given to make sure that South Carolina's law enforcement officers are given a fair shake as we continue to try to effectively police ourselves properly. You are to be commended for your stance on these issues.

## L. E. Expo informs and entertains

Record-attending crowds of more than 3,500 people swarmed over the Academy's Driving Range facilities on April 11 to get a first-hand, up-close experience at the third annual Law Enforcement Exposition.

Beautiful weather and precision demonstrations offered by law enforcement agencies around the state brought spectators from all points in South Carolina. Sponsored by the Academy and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers' Association, the Expo also gained featured status in a number of news media publications and broadcasts.

The Expo featured a variety of law enforcement demonstrations and exhibits by agencies, including SWAT Teams, a Bomb Disposal Team, precision police driving, police helicopters and airplanes, and firearms presentations. The Expo also featured numerous law



enforcement agency exhibits and programs, including Crime Watch and child fingerprinting and photographing.

For the first time, the Expo also included a special parachute jump for this

year's Buckle Up program. Conley the Magician and Jeff Flanders with "Gertrud da Duk" provided entertainment for the children.

## Operation of emergency vehicles part of CJA curriculum

New Academy regulations governing training for law enforcement agency emergency vehicle operations have been ratified by the South Carolina General Assembly.

The new regulations, as mandated by S.C. Statute 56-5-760, require the Academy to provide law enforcement training and to assist agencies in developing policy and procedures for operating emergency vehicles. In short, the regulations now direct that the Academy must have a training program in place.

According to Bill Smith, the Academy's director of Legal Instruction, the state's law enforcement training facility already has done just that, by developing both training for basic classes and in-service courses. Smith said Academy

officials anticipated the need for emergency vehicle operation policies and training and began last summer offering the instruction to all basic classes.

Under the new regulations, in addition to basic training, annual in-service instruction also must be provided by the Academy to all law enforcement officers who operate emergency vehicles, whether on routine patrol or during response or pursuit, Smith said. He said the regulations cover very specific areas of liability that should be of concern for all law enforcement officials.

Smith said the Academy already has developed a four-hour teleconference for all officers who have not received instruction during their basic training in Columbia. The course will be offered at

all teleconference sites around the state and will include presentations by Bill Smith on various legal aspects of emergency vehicle operations. The course also will include hands-on instruction by Academy Instructor Jimmy Dixon, who helped develop the training for basic students.

Smith added that for this year **only**, the emergency vehicle operations teleconference will be a Core course.

Simply put, Smith said, the law mandates that this critical area of law enforcement procedure must receive specific and direct instruction on both legal ramifications and on the physical aspects, including use of equipment and when to initiate and conclude pursuits and response.

## *New courses scheduled for 1992-93*

### **Officer Survival & Handling the Mentally Ill**

Catalogs detailing advanced and specialized courses beginning July 1 have been sent to the state's sheriffs, chiefs, and training officers, and announcement of slot allocations also is forthcoming.

Sam Jerideau, director of in-service and specialized training, said the Academy tries to rotate Core courses every six months, by adding several new courses and deleting others when possible.

"Several new courses have been added and have been listed in the catalog," Jerideau said. The new courses include:

- Officer Survival -  
beginning January, 1993.
- Handling the Mentally Ill -  
beginning January, 1993.

## **Officer misconduct faces new regulation**

Misconduct regulations affecting certification of law enforcement officers in South Carolina has been ratified by the S.C. General Assembly.

Supported by all the major law enforcement associations in the state, the regulations which moved through both the House and Senate with very little discussion were ratified in mid-May.

Nearly two years in the planning and implementation, Johnson said the Academy's official governing board, the Training Council, took the lead in developing and supporting the regulations.

Johnson said the new regulations allow the Training Council to weed out troublesome law enforcement officers who, in the past, had hopped from department to department.

The regulations will require chiefs and sheriffs to inform the S.C. Criminal

Justice Academy when an officer separates from an agency no matter what the reason. The law enforcement agency directors also are required to follow guidelines when conducting background checks on those officers, Johnson said.

"The Academy's staff plans to begin writing guidelines for background checks within the next few weeks, subject to the Council's approval. Input from all the major law enforcement associations will be sought before the final guidelines are adopted," Johnson said.

Johnson said that safeguards are being initiated for protection of all officers, whereby chiefs and sheriffs must be able to back up their allegations. He said the Academy joins several other states, including Florida and Georgia, where officers can now be decertified for misconduct.

Jerideau said a third course, **EXECUTIVE LEVEL CORE**, will start in July, 1992, but announcement is not in the catalog. He said a special mailout announcement of the course has been mailed to law enforcement agencies.

Jerideau also said announce-

ments are underway to sheriffs' and police departments, detailing the number of slots that are allocated to each agency. He said additional information on the number of standby slots being offered also is being included in the announcements.

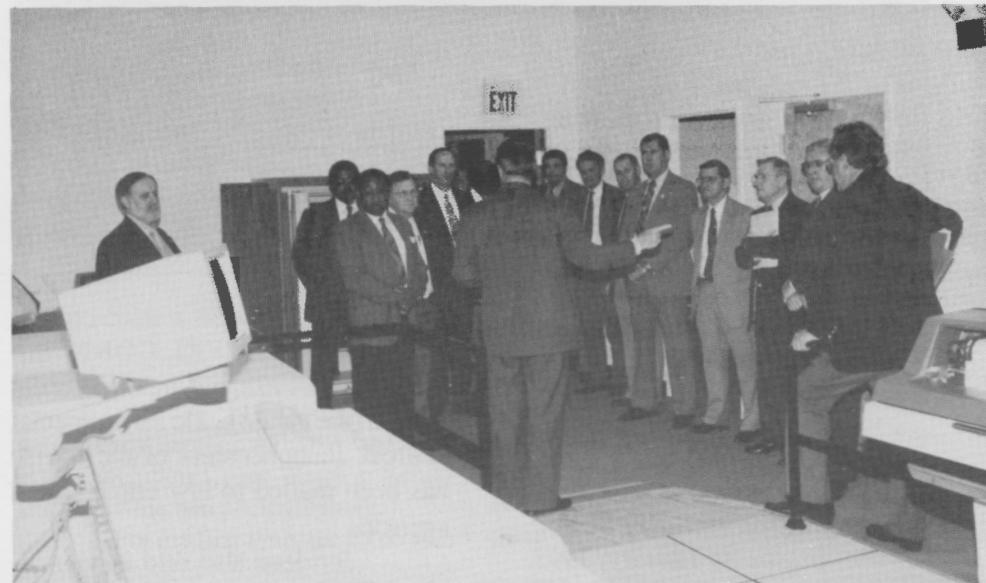
## Training Council members tour academy facilities

Training Council members received an extra treat following their April 8 meeting, when they were given a "red carpet" tour of the Academy's facility. Council members meet quarterly at the Academy to attend to duties governing the state's training needs; but as in most cases, the members are very busy running their own agencies or businesses and frequently don't have the opportunity to view many changes that go on at the Academy.

In addition to the main building, council members also were given firsthand tours of the Academy's renovated print shop, the driving range, the recently added new firing range, and the new high-tech energy and data processing facilities.

*Training Council members who are pictured here touring Academy facilities with Director Johnson are: W. C. Bain, Jr., Robert L. Grooms, Parker Evatt, Robert M. Stewart, Dr. James A. Timmerman, Jr. and Albert Williams. Representing other members were: Major Larry Mixon, Lew Jernigan, Carl B. Stokes and James F. Denton, III*

*Various sites pictured include: (clockwise from top of right page) the indoor firing range, the site for the computer lab classroom, Highway Patrol classroom, data processing facility, the teleconference studio, and the control tower of the new outdoor firing range.*





## CJA recycles paper to protect environment

Joining a number of other "environmentally conscious" state agencies, the Academy has implemented an energetic paper recycling program.

Bill Leath, the Academy's purchasing supervisor, said the agency-wide program has been underway for about a month, as employees begin the process of redirecting their disposed paper back to paper dealers.

"As of May 24th, a total of 384 cubic feet of paper has been picked up," Leath said. "That amounts to more than 3,000 pounds of paper."

Leath said paper used for the recycling program comes from all departments within the main campus, including the main building, Highway Patrol Training facility, Building Services, and the Print Shop. He said that a 4 foot by 4 foot by 4 foot cardboard box is being used to store the collected paper until it can then be sorted. Leath said that paper dealers require that white paper be separated from other mixed colors.

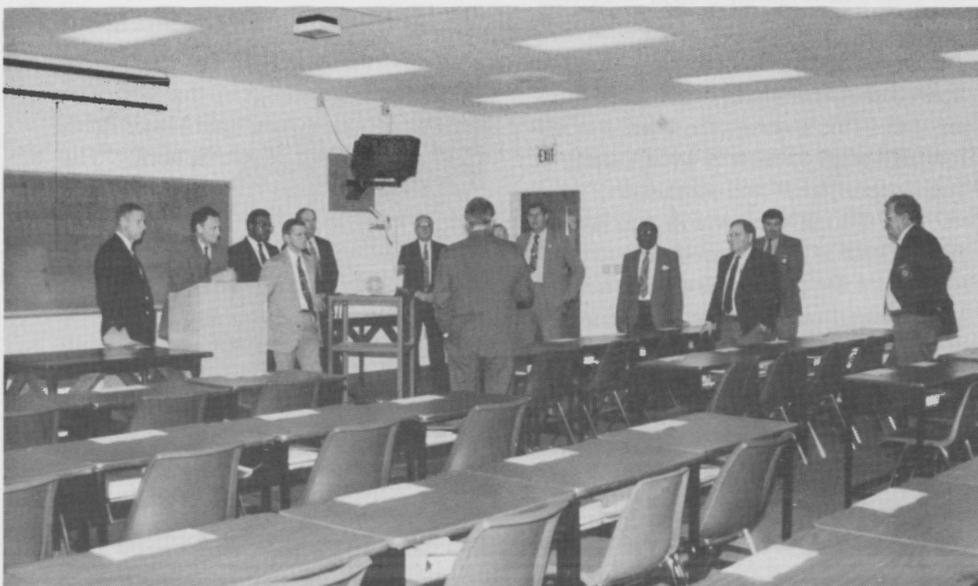
"Our objective is not to make money," Leath said. "Simply put, it's good for the environment, and we ought to be doing it," he said.

Leath said the collected paper is being sold back to paper stock dealers who in turn sell it to processing plants. The paper collected from the Academy involves nearly all types, including computer printer paper, newsprint, white bond paper, and all types of mixed-color paper.

"Eventually, the Academy's recycling program may be expanded to include corrugated paper, and then who knows what other programs can be initiated," Leath said. Leath said response from Academy staff members has been very positive and supportive.

"Actually, staff members don't have to exert a lot of effort, because we actually take care of much of the paper pickup and sorting," Leath said.

"Imagine what can be recycled in a year, if more than 3,000 pounds have been picked up in just one month," Leath said.



## Employee Spotlight



*Katherine Gunter*

## Katherine Gunter monitors officer certification renewals

Academy staffer Katherine Gunter works in one of the more demanding positions here as a key person who helps handle certification renewals for all law enforcement officers.

Katherine is a native of Columbia but traveled around the country with her family before settling down again in South Carolina. She resettled here eight years ago and joined the Academy five years ago.

Katherine first worked as a part-time employee with the Academy, han-

dling data entry of new officers and the number of classes and hours they took.

"At that time, I worked four and a half hours a day as a part-timer, but it all kept me busy," Katherine said. In fact, she said she also worked in a part-time capacity prior to joining SCCJA in 1987.

Katherine said the new work keeps her moving, as officers constantly check their certification status. But, she said, the work is satisfying and interesting.

## Employee Spotlight



*Kyle Sorell*

## Former Texan finds new "home on the range"

Academy firearms instructor, Kyle Sorell, is a native Texan who came to South Carolina for a visit and ended up staying here.

That visit for Sorell was in 1978 while attending Baylor University. Some time later, Kyle enrolled at the University of South Carolina, majoring in Criminal Justice. Several years later, Kyle also completed the Master program in Criminal Justice at USC.

Sorell joined the Academy four years ago, after serving with the Forest Acres Police Department for more than

eight years. While at Forest Acres, Sorell worked his way up to Sergeant and Training Officer, a natural step toward law enforcement training at the Academy.

Assigned to the Firearms Range, Sorell provides mostly shooting instruction, including classroom teaching in the Academy's "Shoot, Don't Shoot" course. He also assists in conducting a number of in-service firearms and driving range instruction.

A native of Abilene, Texas, Sorell is married to the former Rhonda Doggett.

## CJA co-sponsors alcohol/drug school at Clemson in July

The 19th annual South Carolina School of Alcohol and Other Drug Studies will offer a comprehensive curriculum designed to meet a wide variety of educational needs and interests.

The School, which will be held July 26-31 at Clemson University co-sponsored by the Academy, is a week long educational/training event for persons interested in learning more about alcohol and other drug related problems, issues and programs. It is designed for professionals who work in the field of addictions as well as the general public, teachers, criminal justice personnel and professionals from other health and human service agencies.

"This year, we feel we've put together a diverse program that will offer something for everyone," said Moses Rabb, Jr., Ph.D., director of the School. "The structure of the School has allowed us to offer several different types of educational activities appropriate for a wide range of participants, from the novice to the experienced professional."

Specifically, the School will consist of four separate components including the basic school, the advanced school, the Management Institute and four special workshops.

A highlight of the week will be a presentation by Carl Eller, formerly with the Minnesota Vikings.

# Academy addresses problem of scheduling proficiency tests for 800 instructors - CJA seeks input from law enforcement community

The South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy has begun a painstaking process of re-defining accreditation requirements and procedures for the more than 800 training instructors working with various law enforcement agencies statewide.

Under current procedures, these law enforcement instructors are accredited under one or more of the following categories: Basic Level, Firearms Levels 1 and 2, Driving Instructor, Defensive Tactics, PR24, and Radar Instructor.

Academy procedures require that, once instructors are accredited, they must maintain their proficiency in the following manner:

1. The instructor must provide 12 hours annually of instruction in his or her area of expertise and is responsible for reporting the information to the Academy.

2. The instructor must perform a proficiency test in his or her area of expertise at the Academy.

Barbara Bloom, director of management services for the Academy, said scheduling the more than 800 ac-

credited instructors for the proficiency tests has been an often-frustrating experience for both instructors and Academy staff.

Actually, it has become a near-physical impossibility to schedule that many instructors (800 plus), within the time frame that current procedures direct, Bloom said. She said basic instructors at the Practical Problems range must perform proficiency tests every three years, while firearms instructors must receive theirs every two years.

Additionally, driving and PR24 instructors must undergo proficiency tests every year, she said. Needless to say, the problem is compounded further, because many of the instructors must be re-accredited in several areas of expertise. Some instructors are accredited in all areas, she said.

To further complicate the problem, Bloom said, instructors from various law enforcement agencies around the state frequently must re-schedule their time at the Academy because of court appearances and other conflicts in their work.

"Frequently, instructors will call in at 4 p.m. on Friday to tell us they can't be here on Monday, and that really throws us into a problem," Bloom said, adding

that replacements are hard to find late in the week. "We're not complaining, just stating a fact and we need to find some way of dealing with the problem," Bloom said.

Bloom said that with more than 800 instructors, the Academy is finding itself becoming less flexible. That means the Academy must make sure the instructor understands that it is mandatory for him to retain accreditation.

"That means we are going to have to make adjustments and to seek ways to accommodate all law enforcement agency instructors who genuinely seek re-accreditation. A number of suggestions are being considered," Bloom said.

The problem is being taken out to the law enforcement community, Bloom said. Discussions hopefully will be initiated at the upcoming meetings of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers' Association and the S.C. Training Officers' Association.

"We will be discussing and seeking a variety of solutions and hopefully will have some recommendations for Director Rick Johnson in the early summer," Bloom said.

## Harris schedules air time for Academy teleconferences



**Charlotte Harris**  
SCE TV

The S.C. Criminal Justice Academy now beams its teleconference signals to law enforcement officers around the state, and it takes a lot of dedicated people here and at other locations to get the job done.

One of those un-sung heroes is Charlotte Harris, a teleconference coordinator for South Carolina ETV in Columbia. Charlotte's job might sound simple, but it isn't always. Her job is to assist criminal justice agencies with putting their training on the air by helping schedule air time.

Charlotte is a native of Gadsden and has worked at ETV for 15 years. Through her dedicated service, the Academy is able to schedule the appropriate time for ETV to broadcast a television signal to various tech colleges and law

enforcement agencies for in-service and specialized training. In short, she helps the Academy to fit all the training into those small television sets statewide.

That's not all there is to her job, either. Charlotte also assists with agency needs for visual aids or other requirements, and she's been doing it a long time.

"When I started, we didn't have a name for it," Charlotte said. "We called it 'Talk Back' instead of teleconference." She said she began by working on various projects with higher education, but as things grew, she found that her "greatest joy" came from working with teleconferencing programs. She said she selected teleconference when given a choice in 1985, and she's glad she stayed with it.

The Academy is glad she is there, too.

## Recent J. P. Strom Award Winners



Basic #262 Graduation, March 13, 1992, l. to r. - W. J. "Rick" Johnson, Jr., Executive Director; James S. Crawford, Greenville County SO; Capt. Eddie Kandler, Greenville County Sheriff's Office.



Basic #263 Graduation, April 3, 1992 - l. to r. - W. J. "Rick" Johnson, Jr., Executive Director; Daniel Jacko, Forest Acres PD; Chief J. C. Rowe, Forest Acres Police Department.

### THE CHRONICLE

W. J. Johnson, Jr.....Executive Director & Publisher  
Hugh E. Munn.....Managing Editor  
Cary Yates.....Graphic Design & Layout  
Frances Reynolds & Richard Shealy.....Photographers

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Basic #264 Graduation, April 24, 1992 - l. to r. - W. J. "Rick" Johnson, Jr., Executive Director; Matthew R. Pierce, N. Myrtle Beach DPS; and Johnny Causey, Director of Public Safety for N. Myrtle Beach DPS.

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