

# ROCKLIN PD NEWS



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## Rocklin Police Department

### Message from the Chief by Mark Siemens

#### The Finish or the Beginning

Mayor Brett Storey and a contingent of staff made the journey to Atlanta last week to appear before the CALEA Commission in what was the final step of our initial accreditation. Saturday night, before the entire Commission, the Rocklin Police Department was awarded full law enforcement accreditation.

The Commission received the final report from the assessors who visited our agency during December. Five separate committees of Commissioners reviewed agencies from across the U.S. and Canada. We were scheduled to appear before Committee E, Saturday, just after lunch. Saturday morning we sat through the review of a number of other agencies. The first agency before our commission, a 400 sworn officer department, was up for re-accreditation. We watched as the Commissioners grilled that agency for 30 minutes and finally made a motion to suspend their accreditation with the threat of revocation pending further review. That first action caused most of our staff members to reach for their Tums waiting our turn before the Commissioners. But, that was not the first tense moment to wait out while at the Atlanta Conference.

Following dinner Friday evening, we went to a lounge atop our hotel on the 30th floor to see the lights of Atlanta. While there, we watched the lightening of a thunderstorm just to our west light up the city. The booms of thunder

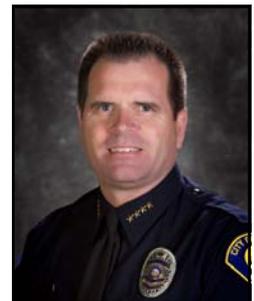
became louder and quicker as the storm moved closer. This was quite a show in a restaurant surrounded by glass so high in the sky. Suddenly, a very heavy rain blasted against the glass and we noticed large pieces of roofing flying by the 30th floor within a hundred feet of our windows. It was not until the wind and debris moved away from us toward the other tall hotels in the core of Atlanta's downtown, that we recognized the funnel cloud. The twister moved down between the Omni and Weston Hotels, where it paused to do its worst damage, then moved on to the east. We watched as the transformers blew in the night sky. It was not until the tornado moved away from our building that we realized we should get away from the windows. I believe that we were just hundreds of feet from offering up some exceptional upward mobility opportunity in our chain of command. Anyway, there is no room here for the rest of that story.

After days of preparation anticipating every possible question the Commission might ask, it was our turn. As it turns out, the Commissioners were very impressed that we took the time to break new ground with Lexipol to develop a CALEA compliant policy manual. They were also impressed with many of our programs, especially our crime prevention and volunteer programs. It seems all the worry was unnecessary, our preparation was sufficient, the commission moved to recommend us for full accreditation.

So some are asking did we finish the CALEA thing or do we have to

do it again. The initial accreditation is the opportunity for an agency to build the framework to operate an agency within the Standards - 387 of them in our case. After the initial accreditation, we have pledged to continue operating within those standards, and within our own policies and procedures, and have proof that we have done so in three years when the assessors come back. Some say the assessors are harder the second time because they expect more. Fortunately, many of our staff members are system thinkers. During our initial accreditation we built systems to assure we follow our own standards and develop proofs.

To use an analogy: We have spent the last three years building the ship, putting in compasses, pilot systems, gauges, bilge pumps and developing operating procedures. Last Saturday, we busted a bottle of champagne across her bow, now we just have to sail her straight.



## Captains Corner, by Captain Dan Ruden and Captain Ron Lawrence

### You're Changing the Future, by Captain Ruden

Last week, the *Every 15 Minutes* program was presented at Rocklin High School. Coordinated by CHP, school staff, and Rocklin PD's School Resource Officers, *Every 15 Minutes* is a two-day simulation of a DUI crash involving students at the school. For several hours, to accentuate the point, a participating student is pulled out of class and designated as "dead." These kids are kept from their parents overnight while police officers, chaplains, and coroners make death notifications to their families. The event ends with a full assembly where a video recreation of the crash, including the emergency room and morgue, is shown. The kids involved are then finally returned to their parents in an emotional reunion.

Every 15 minutes (in the real world) someone in this country is killed in an alcohol related crash. That's a statistic, and in this business you and I are very familiar with statistics. The thing about the *Every 15 Minutes* program is just a simulation, but the feelings and emotions experienced by the participants - those select students and their parents - are not

simulated at all. They are very real. For a few hours, they get a sense of what it would be like to lose everything on the heels of a bad decision.

So for the past 10 years or so I've been showing up at *Every 15 Minutes* assemblies. After the first time, I knew what I was in for the long haul. Each new time I went, I told myself that I'd just hang back and observe, and not get pulled into the emotions of it - the emotions that accompany the unthinkable tragedies that are being simulated by the students and emergency workers. Each time I failed.

As police officers, we spend our careers bearing witness to all kinds of human tragedy. We quickly learn how to isolate our personal emotions and insulate ourselves from much of the heart-break and loss we see. It's a defense mechanism. We tend to avoid getting too involved in the emotions of grieving families, we use humor, we avoid making comparisons with our own

families and asking, "what if..." We have to do this or we couldn't survive very long in this business.

So, as I once again I watched a gymnasium full of students and parents become overwhelmed by the simulated loss of their loved one, and as I witnessed a thousand-plus teenagers silenced by the gravity and solemnity in the room, I once again found myself right there with them. And as I looked around, I realized what a huge impact all this was having on them. I realized that *Every 15 Minutes* never fails to make its point.

I thought, as a police officer, a dispatcher, a CSO, what a gift it is to have the opportunity to change peoples' lives every day that we go to work. The impact and influence we have on others, especially young people, can have a profound and lasting effect on their behavior and maybe even their lives. A routine interaction can be so

significant to another that they remember it for the rest of their life. More importantly, they may remember at the very moment of a critical decision, a decision that could change their life forever.

Police work is a great calling. It takes special people to do this job day after day. It takes special skill to deflect the emotional and often the physical hazards that we encounter. But the rewards are great too, and the potential of our influence on others is limitless. Talking to a kid in a neighborhood, unknowingly deterring a crime, participating in an *Every 15 Minutes* program; who knows how your interaction might change someone's life, today or many years in the future. Just remember that you're making a difference.

***Thanks to Michael Nottoli, Officers Jay Newton, Chris Osborne and Jennifer Torres, the Rocklin Police Volunteers, Placer County chaplains, and the other participants for being part of the impact of Every 15 Minutes. You may never know how important this was to someone.***



## The Hard Hitting Rocklin Reserve Officers, By Officer Casey Finney

The reserves continued their monthly training this month as required by the Reserve Manual. This month's topic was Impact Weapons training. Since they patrol less frequent than a full time officer, the reserves are allowed this training and other perishable skills multiple times a year. Once a year, the reserves meet and set a training calendar

for the upcoming year. Range, Defensive Tactics, and Impact



Weapons are among the top skills. Our reserves choose to train multiple times a year, even though P.O.S.T. does not require this frequency. "These skills are the one's that will save my life", stated Reserve Officer Doug Vance.

Pictured here is the Endurance portion of the class where the reserves faced off with two

instructors for a three minute fight.



## Dispatcher of the Year, by Jennifer Collins



It is with great pleasure that I announce Angela Diehl as the 2007 Dispatcher of the Year! Nominations were received from both the Rocklin Police and Fire Departments.

Angie is known for her outstanding performance, exceptional customer service, positive attitude,

technical performance, and teamwork approach. This award is especially exceptional because Angela is fairly new to the dispatch profession starting with Rocklin Police and Fire dispatch in August 2006.

Angie is an excellent choice and is helping the communications center

reach its goal of excellence. The Dispatcher of the Year Award will be presented on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Regional Dispatcher of the Year banquet, hosted by the Organization of Public Safety Telecommunicators, OPST.



## Officer Mike Hurrianko Catches Car Thief on the Freeway, by Sgt Tom Dwyer

On Thursday morning at approximately 6:40 am, a Rocklin resident called the police department to report that her car had been stolen from her apartment complex. The victim had started her car at around 6:30 am to warm it up and had left her vehicle unattended for approximately five minutes. Upon returning to the parking lot, she discovered

her vehicle missing. Rocklin officers were immediately notified of the stolen vehicle and area checks for the vehicle were conducted. Officer Hurrianko positioned his patrol unit on Westbound I80 at Highway 65. A few minutes later a vehicle matching the description of the stolen vehicle passed Officer Hurrianko's

location. A registration check of the vehicle returned to the reporting victim. Officer Hurrianko followed the vehicle until additional units arrived and upon the arrival of CHP and Rocklin police units, a high risk vehicle stop was conducted. The female suspect yielded to the right roadway edge and was taken into custody

without incident for vehicle theft and a warrant out of Placer County. If not for the quick response to the freeway by Officer Hurrianko, the suspect would have gotten away with the crime. Officer Hurrianko should be commended for his diligent police work, which led to the arrest and recovery of a Rocklin citizens vehicle. Great job!

## Police Unity Tour, by Officer Pat O'Brien



This May, I will be riding my bicycle over 300 miles, from New Jersey to Washington DC, along with over 1000 Law Enforcement Officers from around the country. We will be riding to Honor our

brother's and sister's who have died in the line of duty and to raise money and awareness for the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial and Museum in Washington

DC. Last year we were able to raise 1.15 million dollars and this year we want to raise more. We need everyone's help to do that. If you would like to

make a tax deductible donation, please feel free to contact me. If anyone is interested in becoming a rider, motor, or support please let me know as well. Thank you!

## VFW Awards Sgt. Trent Jewell with Officer of the Year, By Mike Nottoli

On March 12, 2008 at 7:00 p.m., Sergeant Trent Jewell received the "Officer of the Year" award from the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization. The award was presented at a special ceremony in the Police Department Emergency Operations Center by VFW Commanders Eugene Freeland and Loren

Barton, as well as VFW member Jerry Van Wagner. Captain Dan Ruden and Crime Prevention/Volunteer Coordinator Mike Nottoli were on hand to receive the award on behalf of Sergeant Jewell, who could not attend because he was recuperating from a recent surgery.



Inscribed on Sergeant Jewell's beautiful award certificate are the following words: "In grateful recognition of unyielding adherence to the highest ideals of law enforcement in maintaining, preserving and protecting the lawful rights of all citizens."

Congratulations to Sergeant Jewell for his award.

During the same ceremony, Fire Department Captain Tim O'Brien was recognized by the VFW as the "Firefighter of the Year." Congratulations also to Captain O'Brien.

## Welcome New Employees! By Captain Lawrence



Please welcome two new part-time Records Clerks to the department, Julia Runyan and Karon Bowers. Both began work on March 10, and are assigned to the Records Unit, working 964 hours a year. Julia joins us from the private legal field. Karon has experience in law enforcement records and dispatch from Yolo County Sheriff Department, Davis, and West Sacramento Police Departments. We are excited about getting them on board and look forward to their contributions to our organization.



## "ORANGE IS THE HAPPIEST COLOR- Frank Sinatra" By Lt. Milka

The Rocklin Police Department, Citrus Division, recently unveiled its "City of Rocklin's Largest Orange, Ever" - standing in at around 12" (using the "how do I actually measure this thing, anyway?" standard) and weighing in at a heavy "Code 8.3 ERROR" (too heavy for the scale!) and holding untold gallons of orange juice.

So immense was the weight of the 1 lb behemoth that the scale in the gym needed to be used to capture its exact ponderosity.

Property and Evidence Technician Sharon Whitaker donated the monster orange to the astonishment of everyone who laid eyes on it. An "unknown" officer shows that the orange and its sibling could not thwart the efforts of the department's finest juggler.

