



The CCPS All-Points Bulletin

Mission: To reduce crime, enhance public safety and assist victims throughout North Carolina.

March 2010

Message from the Secretary



Each month I am impressed with the progress this department makes, keeping abreast of the times and handling events as needed. One example of that progress is the Governor's Crime Commission's gang report that was released in March. The updated statistics were obtained through GCC's GangNet, a statewide Web-based database. North Carolina now has 898 validated gangs with more than 13,000 gang members. Those figures, along with the breakdown by county, gives law enforcement better access and understanding on the status of gang activity in our state.

Another example of our department's progress is the state-of-the-art evidence storage facility at Law Enforcement Support Services' warehouse. This central location will give courts and law enforcement agencies a place to archive evidence long-term. Local agencies have been inundated with evidence they can no longer store. This new arrangement through LESS will give them some relief while continuing to preserve the post conviction DNA evidence.

The Division of Emergency Management's help during the recent tornadoes that struck central North Carolina is yet another example of the service this agency provides. CCPS employees are at the forefront of public safety and crime control and each of you can feel good about the part you play. I thank all of you for your commitment and hard work.

Reuben Young

Congratulations!



The following employees were promoted:

Alcohol Law Enforcement: **Mark Senter**

Emergency Management: **Charles Edwards**

State Highway Patrol: **John Bobbitt, Everett Clendenin, Roger**

Frizzell, Michael Gilchrist, Eugene Golden, Kevin Shallington, Brandon Smith and William Stamey

The following employees celebrate significant service milestones in their state careers:

20 years

Administration: **Eric Meymandi**

Alcohol Law Enforcement: **Mark Senter**

National Guard: **Chadwick Blackmon**

Governor's Crime Commission: **Karen Jayson**

State Highway Patrol: **Howard Brim and Edward Melvin**



Comings and Goings



Welcome to our new employees:

Administration: **Beth Weber**

Butner Public Safety: **Curtis Matthews**

Emergency Management: **Patricia Dabbs**

State Capitol Police: **Malcolm Diggs, Daisy Hicks, Alex Green and Marcy Watson**

State Highway Patrol: **Richard Needham**

Best wishes to our recent retirees:

State Highway Patrol: **William Burgess, James Evans and Mark Rutledge**

CCPS Makes Honorable Mention in International IT Award

In an international competition, software giant Microsoft named the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety as one of 10 honorable mention award winners for customer relation management excellence. The honorable mention was part the annual Gartner CRM Excellence Awards made March 18.

CCPS was noted for developing alcohol and lottery permit review applications that increased agent productivity by 80 percent and reduced the new application process time from five days to one. CCPS employees who worked on the project were **Sarah Wray, Tony Schiro, Ed Bottum, Greg Jones, Kelton Brown and John Dudley.**

Spring 2010 CCPS logo clothing



Friday, April 19, is the deadline to order 2010 CCPS spring logo clothing.

You can order short-sleeved men's or women's polos, T-shirts, denim shirts, ladies' twill shirts, baseball caps and microfiber jackets. A variety of colors are available.

For an order form, go to the employee's page of the CCPS Web site, then, click on Employee Apparel or copy and paste this URL:

<http://www.nccrimecontrol.org/Index2.cfm?a=000002,001908>

For questions, call graphic designer Kathy Mason at (919) 733-5027, or e-mail her at kmason@nccrimecontrol.org.



2010 CCPS Employee Appreciation Day Friday, May 7 **Tickets on Sale Starting April 1**

The annual Employee Appreciation Day is Friday, May 7, beginning at 11 a.m. at the Harrill Center, State Fairgrounds, Raleigh. All employees and their families are welcome to attend.



“Tickets are only \$5 a person, which gets you lots of food and fun for the afternoon, plus a chance to win some great door prizes,” said Janice Turner, lead organizer of the event. “Tickets will be on sale until May 3rd, so you have plenty of time to purchase one. None will be sold at the door.”

Secretary Reuben Young will welcome employees at the start of the day. The Civil Air Patrol presents colors, then lunch begins. This year’s menu includes baked and fried chicken, fried fish, potato salad, cole slaw, three-bean salad, corn-on-the-cob, hushpuppies, rolls, homemade ice cream and pound cake, assorted fruits, tea and lemonade. “The food is always good at the employee picnics, and a bargain at \$5,” Turner said.

Following lunch employees can choose from among several activities including rock climbing, Segway rides, basketball, dancing, music, hula hoops, karaoke, volleyball, horseshoes, tug-of-war and the dunking booth (\$1 per throw).

“Proceeds from the dunking booth as well as profits from the CCPS clothing sales are used to finance the fabulous door prizes,” Turner said.

Turner said employees may purchase a ticket from one of the following members of the 2010 Employee Appreciation Committee:

Alcohol Law Enforcement – **Cheryl Teeters**
Butner Public Safety – **Chris Bracci**
Emergency Management – **Brenda Jones**
Governor’s Crime Commission – **Shirley Brinson**
Human Resources – **Chariss Jones**
N. C. National Guard – **Terry Barbour**

Public Affairs – **Ernie Seneca**
Redevelopment Center – **Donna Miller**
Secretary’s Office – **Janice Turner**
Secretary’s Office – **Teresa Vines**
State Capitol Police – **Christine Taylor**
State Highway Patrol – **First Sgt. Steven Green**
State Highway Patrol – **Sgt. Jorge Brewer**

Employee Spotlight



At the age of 19, **Jimmy Pierce** was the youngest police officer in the state when he began working for the Aulander Police Department in 1985.

“It was a rough little town,” said Pierce, now a special agent for the Division of Alcohol Law Enforcement. He handled a murder case and was assaulted several times during his tenure there. His early police training has served him well working in ALE District I, Elizabeth City, according to his boss, Special Agent in Charge Pat Forbis. Pierce joined ALE in 1993.

“He probably is one of the most well-versed agents in the division as far as job knowledge,” Forbis said. “He is extremely knowledgeable about the criminal law process, with the ability to investigate any kind of complaint. If you need to know something about criminal law – not just 18B, he knows the law. He’s the one agents turn to when they have a question about how to proceed. It’s scary how much he knows.”

“I’ve been accused of having a memory like an elephant,” Pierce laughed. “I’m bad with names, but I won’t forget a face. I try to read case law a lot – it has a direct correlation with our job. I don’t want to bring charges that will be lost in court. It’s better to have a strong case. A judge will take it more seriously.”

Pierce said his friends tease him that he could go into a bathroom and come out with a felony arrest because he seems to be always falling into cases. He said once he was checking on one of the local bars in Nags Head when he found 12 members of a Reggae band in a van smoking marijuana and in possession of cocaine and the hallucinogenic drug, Ecstasy.

This time of year, Pierce is busy with new businesses at the beach applying for or renewing ABC alcohol permit applications. He also spent part of the weekend doing surveillance work on a drug case, but he told his boss that it was hard to see through the binoculars with the rain dripping down his face.

“This district is different from others mostly because it’s rural, covering 17 counties. There are a lot of officers at the beach which has a bigger tax base, but the other areas have small police departments and sheriffs offices so they tend to call on us a lot more, especially with drug problems because they don’t have the resources to work it.”

“Our job is so broad. One day could be totally administrative, doing applicant backgrounds and ABC permits, then the next day investigating drug or non-tax paid

liquor cases,” Pierce said. “I’ve also worked with ATF, FBI, DEA and US Customs on drug and gun cases and some corruption cases involving law enforcement or local officials.

“I try to bend over backwards to get along with other agencies. You get a lot more done as far as information sharing, making it a lot easier to make arrests.”

When a Nags Head police officer made a drug seizure and saw it could be a larger case, he called Pierce who started working the case that night with another agent. Later, Pierce worked with the Nags Head Police Department, the Dare County Sheriff’s Office and other ALE agents where surveillance was done along the shores of the Pamlico Sound and the Atlantic Ocean. The investigation lasted a year and resulted in the arrest of 15 people, the seizure of \$150,000 in cash and two new vehicles.

“Some of those who were arrested are still in federal prison,” Pierce said.

The arrests in Dare County led agents to Pitt County. The U.S. Attorney gave Pierce his blessing to work the case as a federal drug case. ALE agents found two major drug sources out of Pitt County. One was a pilot who had flown to Florida to pick up several kilos of cocaine. The other was buying cocaine from the Wilmington area.

Other cases involve old-fashioned moonshine stills that can be found along the rivers. Pierce is the district’s water operations coordinator for the only district in the state with a surveillance boat.

In addition to the dangers of dealing with drug dealers and moonshiners, ALE agents are more and more uncovering illegal international activity. Pierce said the mom and pop convenience stores that dot northeastern North Carolina have changed hands during the past 10 years and some are now fronts for terrorist-support organizations. As proof, cases of illegally-purchased beer from one store are stacked ceiling-high in an ALE office, being marked as evidence.

Pierce was born in Windsor and graduated from Bertie High School in 1984. He attended Roanoke-Chowan Community College for one year, but he couldn’t wait to be a police officer. He received his Basic Law Enforcement Training from Pitt Community College in 1985.

When he was sworn in as a police officer for the town of Aulander, Pierce began on-the-job training by himself that very night.

In 1987, Pierce became a deputy sheriff in Hertford County. Late one night, a robber broke into a Murfeesboro restaurant and gunfire was exchanged with local police. A 50-mile chase in and out of the county began with several law enforcement agencies in pursuit. At one point officers lost him. Pierce was alone on a different road, having stopped to put on his bullet proof vest when the suspect came flying around the corner, came to a stop and rolled down his window.

“When I saw that window come down, I dove behind the car,” Pierce said.

He chased the car with bullets flying past him. Pierce said he was shot at 30 or 40 times. Finally, the thief lost control of his car in a sharp curve and was taken into custody.

“Both the driver and passenger were former military from Tidewater, Va., They were using a 9mm Glock,” Pierce said. “It was the first time I’d ever seen a Glock.”

From Hertford County, Pierce moved to the Dare County Sheriff’s Office and worked there from 1988 until 1993 when he left to become an agent with ALE. Nine ALE agents work in District I, with a total staff of 12 people.

“The guys in this district are a good bunch. Everyone wants to be here and to work. We all get along. A lot of us hunt and fish together. We’re a close-knit group, all local to this district – that makes a difference. We know every sheriff and police chief in the district and they feel free to call us if they need advice. It makes it better for us and the locals,” Pierce said.

“He’s a natural leader,” Forbis said. “He is a really good firearms instructor, and he knows other law enforcement and judicial officials throughout the district.”

Pierce understands the risks that come with being in law enforcement, having lost two friends in the past year, one a Martin County sheriff’s deputy killed by gunfire in the line of duty, and the other a Nags Head police officer who was killed in a car accident while on duty – he had been Pierce’s partner when he worked in Dare County.

Pierce loves to fish at the beach and to hunt turkey, deer, rabbits and ducks. He and his wife, Connie, have two children, 5-year-old Browning and 2-year-old Parker. He takes them fishing or horseback riding. “Being from Bertie, we always had horses until four or five years ago.” He has a dream of one day owning a farm back home in Bertie County.

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The *All-Points Bulletin* is your newsletter! If you have information you would like included, please contact the Public Affairs Office at (919) 733-5027 or send e-mail to pmcquillan@nccrimecontrol.org before the end of the month.