

2016 Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN

ALABAMA
J. Kevin Dodd, Chief

TRAINING

All personnel completed training in new standardized Seated Field Sobriety Training. Despite our Marine Police Division having moved to the consolidated state law enforcement agency (ALEA), interagency cooperation among our field officers and Marine Troopers remains as it has in the past. Due to the increasing program dependence on electronic report submission, additional computer training was conducted as well. Future training plans are to transition officers from PPCT and SSGT to Vanguard defensive survival tactics.

FUNDING / STAFFING

A continued decline in our Division reserve funds merited a reduction in vehicle purchases and a freeze on filling vacancies. Current vacancies and projected retirements indicate 19 law enforcement vacancies in a staff of 132 by end of the 2015 calendar year.

We have reclassified entry level officer positions to create both Officer Trainee and a Senior Officer position. This will allow for a three year stair step progression in both training and salary as well as an extended 30 month probationary period during which performance can be better evaluated.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

The Law Enforcement Section implemented physical fitness evaluations as part of the annual officer appraisal. Officer's

performance in timed push-ups, sit-ups and 1.5 mile run /walk are graded according to age and incorporated as part of their overall annual appraisal.

We initiated electronic citations (Ecite) which promises to streamline field operations significantly and will allow officer vehicle tracking by communications dispatch. Additional equipment purchases to facilitate this tool will delay full rollout.

The law enforcement section initiated an internal review of some of our regulations addressing import or possession of potentially invasive species. The goal of this review is to establish a relevant list of species that pose threats to Alabama's public resources and identify methods of effective enforcement.

STATE ISSUES / LEGISLATION

The Alabama Department of Finance has mandated use of electronic time cards for all state employees. The internet based program requires electronic punch clocks which feed work hours and leave request data into central accounting for electronic payroll distribution. The program has created numerous challenges for field staff with mobile internet connectivity issues.

The third annual provisional commercial paddlefish harvest was expanded this past year with a total of 15 randomly selected fishermen among three zones encompassing approximately 150 miles along the Alabama River. A total of 4946 pounds of screened eggs were harvested from 1191 fish. Commercial interests from outside

the state continue to increase with some indications of questionable activities spanning several states.

Current law in Alabama prohibits trapping of designated game animals unless the game animal is designated as a furbearer also. Feral pigs have been designated as game animals for many years for purposes of requiring hunting licenses and protecting property rights from persons pursuing feral pigs without landowner permission. This game animal designation presented a conflict for landowners wishing to trap nuisance pigs. Faced with an uphill battle in the legislature to correct the issue we decided to list the feral pig as a furbearer to reconcile this legal conflict.

We continue to face political opposition in efforts to streamline accounting procedures for commercial deer breeders through implementation of a mandatory electronic inventory database. Political influence from the deer breeder industry remains strong and several legislators have expressed ideas of transferring oversight of the industry to the Department of Agriculture although no bills of that nature have been filed to date. We continue to follow similar actions in other states in hopes of avoiding such events.

Due to requests from the public, legal prohibitions on the use of firearm suppressors for hunting purposes were removed for the 2014 – 15 hunting season. Even though the move generated considerable media attention, we experienced no

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problems from the change.

ARKANSAS *Pat Fitts, Colonel*

After reading over the past bulletin on what Colonel Todd Callaway, retired, had to say, it seems as though some of the trends continue to this day and some unfortunately have even escalated as I'm sure each of you have noticed. Here in Arkansas we made it through our first year following a United States Supreme Court ruling on a case which affected our way of conducting checks. All legal challenges have been exhausted for appealing the Arkansas vs. Pickle ruling and although this was a game changer for how we conduct business, at the end of the day the sky did not fall. We have moved forward with officers focusing on reasonable suspicion, probable cause and utilization of preplanned check points and special operations. This appears for the time being to satisfy the courts with limiting officer's unbridled discretion regarding compliance checks. Review of cases show that while overall numbers of cases has suffered, quality of cases has improved.

TRAINING

We are finalizing our contract work with Fit Force. This work is being conducted to develop defensible criteria for entry level candidates for wildlife officers. We are also developing physical fitness standards for tenured officers. This process will be phased in over time to allow tenured officers time to improve their current level of fitness.

A very high emphasis continues to be placed on continuing training for all Arkansas Wildlife Officers. Officers are selected by their Captains for various advanced training given in and out of state. Listed below is a list of some of the training received by selected officers:

- Field Training Officer Training – 12 Officers / 4 Instructors
- School of Law Enforcement Supervisors / 5 Officers
- Glock Armorer's School – 4 Officers
- Remington Armorer's School – 3 Officers
- Arkansas Leader Program – 2 Officers
- Basic K-9 In Service Training – 6 Officers
- Force Science Investigators – 1 Officer
- Racial Profiling – 151 Officers
- Firearms Evaluations – 151 Officers / 28 Instructors
- Taser Instructor Training – 8 Instructors
- Exterior Response Active Shooter Event Training – 16 Officers / 4 Instructors
- National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs – 1 Officer
- Fit Force Coordinators – 15 Instructors
- Fit Force Training – 157 Officers

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

The Enforcement Division of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission continues to maintain specialized teams to assist Wildlife Officers in the performance of their duties. The teams also provide a unique beneficial service to other law enforcement agencies and the citizens of the State of Arkansas. The enforcement teams include a Full Time Statewide Dispatch Center, Dive Team, Disaster Response Team, K-9 Program, Chaplain Program, Scales of Justice Enforcement Education Trailer, Special Investigation Unit and Honor Guard.

The AGFC Dive Team currently consists of 7 members from across the state. The dive team not only works on conservation law enforcement issues; it is also available for call outs from other law enforcement agencies. All divers must be Master Diver Certified through PAD prior to making dives on the team. Each diver then completes the Underwater Criminal Investigators Course (UCI). This has been very beneficial across the state in locating and recovering critical evidence for law enforcement agencies, resulting in the arrest and conviction of suspects and all other valuable training the team deems necessary.

The AGFC Disaster Response Team consists of 28 members. This team is utilized during natural disasters to provide immediate law enforcement and search and rescue assistance within 24 hours of request. This team is equipped with two bunk trailers, a command staff trailer,

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communications trailer, and large power unit trailer for all energy needs for a deployment. The team is totally self-sufficient for 10 days.

The AGFC Honor Guard consists of 24 members statewide with duties that are twofold. One being, they always look professional and make the Enforcement Division extremely proud but in almost all cases they are not called into action until something dire has happened. This past year they were called upon for 11 Public Events and 7 Law Enforcement funerals. The past several years they picked a select number of members each year and traveled to Washington DC to take part in Law Enforcement Memorial week. This event is a somber realization of what our careers potentially face but this event is one in which every member of this team wants to take part in, honoring those officers across this nation which gave the ultimate sacrifice.

The AGFC K-9 program consists of 6 handlers with dogs located across the state. This program is not only used frequently by Wildlife Officers in course of their duties, they also meet a very important educational function for the agency. They are often requested by other law enforcement agencies to assist with the location of lost citizens or recovery of evidence. During 2014 the K-9 unit was activated on 88 search and rescues, manhunts, article finds and wildlife detection requests across the state. AGFC K-9's and handlers participated in the 2016 Southern Manhunt Field Trials.

The AGFC Special Investigation Unit consists of 21 officers. In addition to their normal enforcement duties, these officers focus on large cases that often extend into multiple jurisdictions. They routinely partner with other states and federal agencies. This unit is still in its infancy but has proven to be highly productive in making major cases which adversely affect the natural resources of the State of Arkansas. During the past twelve months this unit was responsible for 274 officer violator contacts. This figure does not take into account the 50 criminal arrests that were made as well.

The Scales of Justice program is a mobile display of confiscated evidence for viewing, to help educate the public about the Enforcement Division within the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. It also educates the public on the "Stop Poaching Hotline" and how the Enforcement Division supports programs throughout the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. There is scholarship information given for an application process to high school and college students regarding the Conservation License Plate Monies. Also addressed is information on how violator Fine Money is given back to each county's schools districts for environmental education. The numbers range from October to October. In 2014 the Scales of Justice Trailer attended 39 events and with an attendance of over 90,000 people. In 2015 the program attended 35 events and with an attendance of over 135,000 people.

I have 39 events on the calendar this year and I am expecting the numbers to be close to the 2015 numbers.

Our Radio Dispatch center has taken on an entirely new look as we moved from our radio based communication center to the new Computer Assisted Dispatch (CAD). We have contracted with Zurcher Corporation out of South Dakota to customize a CAD program that will not only serve our dispatching needs, but can house a custom citation program. This places all documents starting with the call for service down to the hunting/fishing license suspension hearing in one system. This new system should be up and running by the time this bulletin goes to print.

Our Chaplain Program consists of 12 current Chaplains and 6 which are going through backgrounds and certifications. Prior to assignment of duties as Law Enforcement Chaplains, they must complete CISM, (Critical Incident Stress Management Class) and Basic Police Chaplain Class. All Game and Fish Chaplains will be expected to be a member of the ICPC (International Conference of Police Chaplains) and pass an Arkansas Game and Fish Commission background check. In the past year our current chaplains rode 880.4 hours with officers, were called out to 57 situations, received 1020 hours of training, drove 15,748 miles (their own vehicles), contacted 1315 officers, 454 other division employees, sent 1227 text messages to officers, made 744 calls, and spent 236 hours at our Training Facility visiting with cadets. This is a very valuable asset Arkansas has.

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FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

This continues to be a constant struggle due to large numbers of retirements among Wildlife Officers. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission continues to attempt to fill positions left vacant by retiring Wildlife Officers. Although the positions can be filled, the amount of institutional knowledge is continuing to leave which will take years to recover from. Over the next 18 months we will replace a Director, Colonel, Major, and over half of our captains. Currently the Enforcement Division has 211 full time positions within the agency. Of this number, 185 positions are full time sworn law enforcement officers assigned throughout the state. Constant efforts are being employed to maintain our Wildlife Enforcement Officer levels at full strength. The Enforcement Training Center completed its 2015 cadet school placing 12 Officers and at the time of this print we had begun our 2016 cadet class with 14 cadets set to graduate September 23rd and then start the 8 week FTO Program. We started with over 500 applicants for the positions available.

Our current in-house statewide communications system was 3 decades old and has been very costly to maintain in recent years. Our state Department of Information Systems (DIS) manages the Arkansas Wireless Information Network (AWIN) of which we never were a member due to our radio system being reliable. Once we began having mounting issues we approached DIS to determine our

needs as well as their agreement to change over solely from a wired repeater system to theirs. We began our research as to what equipment which best be suited to our needs and made the decision to go with Motorola since they are contracted to maintain the inner workings of the AWIN system for the entire state. In June of 2016 our commission approved the contract with Motorola for 3.4 million to purchase new handhelds, mobiles and dispatch consoles. Both radios are GPS equipped which is a tremendous tool when needing to locate an officer if he or she were to fail to answer calls after checking out with a call or subject. We are also moving with the migration to AWIN to having a channel for each LE District, 2 statewide tactical channels and one channel for Wildlife and one for Fisheries. This will make maneuvering throughout the state and having to decide which repeater to use, much simpler. We should have all radios, training and personnel in place and operational by March of 2017.

MAJOR LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

Administrative Suspensions - We recently transitioned into a more streamlined process for violators who were facing administrative suspensions of their hunting and fishing license. These new guidelines will bring consistency to the program. We made the complete transition at the first of the year.

During routine testing conducted

during the 2015 elk gun season in North Arkansas a hunter harvested cow elk test positive for CWD. Once this positive test was confirmed, extensive sampling efforts were conducted to test for the prevalence rate in the area. The results of this testing indicated CWD were present in both our elk and whitetail herds in Northwest Arkansas. Due to the high numbers of positive tests, sampling efforts have been expanded statewide focusing on sick and road killed deer. The magnitude of this testing has called for an agency wide response regardless of division. The public has been very supportive of our efforts. As of now the focus remains on where the disease is at this time. The next phase will be how to slow the spread across the state. When all of the management decisions are made we will begin our efforts to educate the public while in the field.

It is a sad day in the world of Law Enforcement as far as public trust but our officers are working extremely hard at maintaining public relations and building new partnerships in communities across the state and as a result we are continuing to receive high levels of support from the public.

FLORIDA
Curtis Brown, Colonel

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Division of Law Enforcement's 853 sworn personnel operate in six regions throughout the state. FWC officers are responsible for uniformed patrol and investigative law

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enforcement services on more than 8,400 miles of coastline, 13,200 square miles of offshore waters, and over 34 million acres of land encompassing a variety of habitats including wildlife management areas, state parks and forests. FWC officers stand as sentinels for the protection of Florida's precious resources and the public who utilize these resources. FWC officers are highly trained, versatile law enforcement officers with full police powers and statewide jurisdiction. Cooperative agreements with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service cross-deputize FWC officers to enforce federal marine fisheries and wildlife laws, thus ensuring state and federal consistency in resource protection. FWC officers are an effective model of modern law enforcement multi-tasking – providing law enforcement services for: the protection and enforcement of laws relating to all wild animal and aquatic resources; public safety in Florida's state parks; boating safety enforcement; the protection of the public in rural, semi-wilderness, wilderness and offshore areas where no other law enforcement agencies routinely patrol; regulating commercial wildlife activities and inspecting personal and commercial native/exotic wildlife facilities; natural disaster and civil disturbance response; search and rescue missions; the prevention of illegal shipping of protected and regulated wildlife into Florida's ports; environmental crimes/protection; dignitary protection; mutual aid requests; and domestic security

initiatives.

TRAINING

FWC Academy

The FWC Training Center provided nearly 13,000 hours of law enforcement training focusing on use of force, leadership and core mission activities. Training related to boating accident investigations, covert operations and wildlife conflict response supported the FWC Investigations Section. The FWC Academy graduated two classes and provided situational leadership training to help develop new leaders in FWC. Each Academy class includes an eight week breakout training session focusing on the unique aspects of conservation law enforcement. Significant changes were made to the Academy's physical fitness program by incorporating functional movement. The FWC Functional Fitness Program has resulted in better performance in all aspects of training and job function while reducing injuries at the Training Academy. Three new K-9 handlers were trained and are now protecting Florida's natural resources and people in their roles.



FWC's Advanced and In-service Training Section provided over 10,000 hours of in-service training in direct support of operations. Training conducted in the regions focused on improving proficiency in firearms and non-lethal weapons including the Taser. Regional Training Lieutenants also helped facilitate testing around the state for the new

FWC-specific physical abilities test (PAT). The new PAT is specifically designed to ensure physical readiness of FWC applicants. Additionally, six recruiting positions were added to the Advanced and In-service Training Section to meet the demands of supplying the FWC workforce with highly qualified and diverse applicants.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Boating and Waterways

The Boating and Waterways Section consists of three operational units: Boating Safety, Boat Access, and Waterway Management.

The Boating Safety Unit (BSU) coordinates and administers Florida's Boating Safety Grant. The BSU manages Florida's boating accident report process which includes reviewing and approving all reportable boating accident reports before they are submitted to the USCG. These reports are compiled annually to create Florida's Boating Accident Statistical Report. The unit uses statistical data to create radio, television and print media outreach promoting boating safety and education. This data is also used to improve educational materials. The unit reviews and approves boating safety education courses, issues Boating Safety Education ID cards to students that have passed the approved courses, and manages Florida's statewide temporary certificate livery program. This program allows boaters to more quickly comply with Florida's boater



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education requirement.

This last year, the BSU created new outreach messaging to deter Boating Under the Influence (BUI). This culminated with new graphics displayed around the state on billboards and gas pump toppers. FWC BUI trailers were also covered with the new logos and graphics. The BSU participated in the Miami International Boat Show, the Outdoor Expo Boat Show, the Florida Sportsman Outdoor and Boat Show, the International Boating & Water Safety Summit (IBWSS), as well as the 2015 International Convention of Allied Sport Fishing Trades (ICAST). Collectively, these events allowed FWC to reach thousands of boaters with safety messages.

The unit was directly involved in training new and current officers through boating accident investigation and reporting courses. Over 45,000 boating safety identification cards were issued to individuals and over 200,000 temporary certificate exams were sent to program vendors during 2015.



The Boat Access Unit (BAU) coordinates and administers Florida's Boat Access Program, which maintains 240 boat ramps statewide. The unit created the Florida Public Boat Ramp Finder, which is available to the public to improve their awareness of nearby boat ramps. The BAU coordinates and administers the Florida Boating Improvement Program (FBIP) and Florida's Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIGP). The FBIP provides grants to local governments for building facilities for boat access. Last year, 17 projects totaling \$3,005,255 were awarded through FBIP. The BIGP funds are used for projects with public and private entities for the construction of facilities for transient vessels 26' or longer, with transient being defined as a 15-day stay or less. Last year 3 projects totaling \$1,042,808 were awarded.



The Waterway Management Unit (WMU) oversees and coordinates statewide regulatory waterway markers to ensure compliance with the uniform marker system and to improve compliance of state boating and resource protection zones. The unit manages the promulgation of Boating Safety Restricted Areas on the waters of the state for any purpose deemed necessary to ensure the safety of the public. The WMU is responsible for properly marking the boating restricted areas and manatee protection zones implemented under its authority. The Derelict Vessel Removal Program is also managed by the WMU. Derelict and abandoned vessels littering the state pose an environmental hazard, as well as a hazard to navigation. These vessels cause the destruction of valuable seagrass resources and the marine life which exist within that habitat. Derelict vessels also threaten human life, safety and property as they drift beneath the surface of the water or block navigable waterways, posing a navigation hazard to the boating public.



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Search and Rescue

On July 24, 2015, Austin Stephanos and Perry Cohen left their homes and families in Tequesta, Florida for the last time. The nation rallied around their families in the days following their tragic disappearance at sea. Thousands of man-hours and hundreds of flights were used to attempt to find the two boys, as the nation waited for any good news. #FindAustinandPerry echoed around the world as the hours turned into days. After a week, the search for the boys was ended, but the FWC continued its investigation in the hopes of finding some information and perhaps closure for the two stricken families of the victims. On March 18, 2016, Multi-Purpose Supply Vessel Edda Fjord, while enroute to the Azores, discovered a capsized small craft approximately 100 miles off the coast of Bermuda. With the help of the images and information that was relayed by the captain, it was confirmed that the capsized vessel was the boat that belonged to Austin Stephanos. The freighter's crew recovered and shipped the vessel back to FWC investigators in a cargo container. Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) agents assisted with the examination of the vessel and its contents to try to determine

what occurred and provide some closure to the families. Although the boys were never found, their disappearance initiated a lot of discussion about boating safety issues and hopefully educated thousands of people on the hazards of foul weather voyages. Both families have set up foundations in their boy's name to assist in boating safety efforts.



Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park- Olustee Florida

The Olustee Battlefield Historic State Park, Florida's first state park, commemorated the 152nd anniversary of the Civil War battle that took place there in 1864. The FWC's Division of Law Enforcement provided public safety and law enforcement services during the 40th annual battle reenactment and

various associated events at the park. Throughout the weekend, more than 2,000 re-enactors camped and presented living history impressions of military and civilian life at the time of Florida's largest Civil War battle. The reenactment is attended by over 25,000 visitors each year.



Florida Folk Festival- White Springs Florida

The Florida Folk Festival is a three-day celebration of music, dance, stories, crafts and food that make Florida unique. Throughout the weekend, more than 300 performances give voice and meaning to Florida's heritage that have drawn campers, day visitors, musicians, craftsmen and artisans for the past 63 years. The FWC's Division of Law Enforcement provided public safety and law enforcement services during the festival annually held at the Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park in White Springs, Florida. Over 13,000 visitors attend the festival each year.

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MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

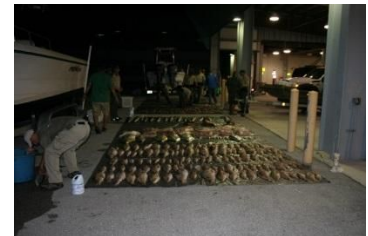
Guasa Casa

A long-term case was brought to a close in 2015. This case began in 2013 with information provided by confidential informants regarding the illegal harvest and sale of saltwater resources. Undercover officers conducted surveillance and made buys from two suspects over several months. The suspects were also stopped returning from offshore trips but evidence was cleverly concealed in hidden compartments built into their vessels and undetectable without the assistance of a K-9. The harvest and sale of prohibited/protected species such as sea turtles and goliath grouper were part of the suspects operation.

Warrants were secured for the subjects' vessels and homes and an operational plan was developed in order to make stops on the vessels and execute search warrants at the residences simultaneously. On July

18, 2015, the suspects were stopped as they were returning from offshore. Cell phones were secured and the vessels were searched with a K-9. Hidden under a false floor on one vessel was a goliath grouper, 86 undersize red grouper, an undersized amberjack, and undersized yellowtail snapper. The search of the second vessel revealed a compartment that was so cleverly concealed that officers commented they may not have been able to find it without it being identified by the suspect. When the false compartment was opened, the entire bow portion of the boat, from the stringers to the deck, was full of illegal catch. Officers seized a green sea turtle, 13 goliath grouper filets, 124 red grouper – 88 of which were undersized, 5 over the size limit permit, 13 barracuda, 6 undersized yellowtail snapper, 2 undersized lane snapper, an African pompano and a few grunts.

The suspects were arrested and both boats along with all of the gear and fish were seized as evidence. A search of the homes revealed a cooler of undersized grouper as well as numerous bags of goliath grouper filets. At the conclusion of the investigation, there were 4 felony charges, 346 misdemeanor violations, 4 people arrested, six individuals charged through the State Attorney's Office, and three businesses which were involved in the illegal operation



Offshore Patrol

The Offshore Patrol Vessel Gulf Sentry is located in St. Petersburg and the Offshore Patrol Vessel CT Randall is located in Marco Island. They conduct one- to- three day patrols offshore in the Gulf of Mexico covering hundreds of miles. The crews perform resource and boating safety inspections on commercial fishing vessels as well as recreational vessels. One of their key missions is search and rescue. Both patrol teams work very closely with NOAA on federal fishery cases and with USCG on search and rescue missions. This past year, both vessels were involved with several joint federal fishery investigations as well as search and rescue missions offshore. One search and rescue mission resulted in saving the life of a commercial fisherman who was experiencing a medical emergency approximately 45 miles offshore.

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FWC's law enforcement offshore platforms serve multiple missions for the State of Florida. FWC is currently in the planning stages of joint law enforcement patrols coupled with research missions. The FWC is utilizing interdisciplinary collaborative communication between law enforcement officers and research personnel. Multiple day missions are being planned that would conduct law enforcement patrols to a specific location in the Gulf of Mexico. When the vessel arrives at the particular location, the law enforcement patrol will end and the research team will assemble and conduct their scientific research. When the research mission is complete, a law enforcement patrol will then resume back to port. The goal of the pilot project is to effectively and efficiently utilize agency resources, including equipment, expertise, and personnel, to accomplish the objectives and mission of the FWC: "Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people."

Endangered Species Protection

A tip from an FWC biologist regarding the recent disturbance of several turtle egg nests initiated all-night surveillance details by Investigators and officers on a stretch of beach in Palm Beach

County. After several nights of observation, a suspect arrived and started harvesting eggs from a Loggerhead sea turtle as she was laying them. The suspect collected 107 eggs and was preparing for a quick exit when he was apprehended by FWC officers. Fifteen of the

eggs were held as evidence and the remaining 92 eggs were immediately buried by FWC biologists with hope that they will hatch later this summer. The suspect was transported to jail and held on third degree felony charges.



Investigations

The Statewide Investigations Section coordinates captive wildlife, environmental crimes and long-term undercover investigations statewide. Investigators in the specialized Internet Crimes Unit are responsible for tracking down persons who deal in fish and wildlife illegally online. This section includes a forensics lab that conducts morphological, biochemical, and DNA identification of animal remains; size determination from fish filets; cause of death and other determinations related to bullet wounds; matching parts of animals to carcasses; sex determinations and other classical forensic applications.

Captive Wildlife Update

During Fiscal Year 2014-15, FWC's Captive Wildlife Program conducted 6,007 captive wildlife inspections, responded to 393 complaints and seized 403 animals. There were 6,459 applications to possess captive wildlife processed during 2015. The Captive Wildlife Section has purchased nine Dan Inject chemical immobilization rifles to allow for faster response time if the need to immobilize wildlife occurs.



Captive Wildlife Law Enforcement

A traffic stop on a vehicle hauling a trailer with non-native hoof-stock led to a discovery of an unlicensed game farm. A search warrant was executed and FWC filed the following charges:

- Improper transport labeling (infraction).
- No Game Farm License (Misdemeanor).
- No source of acquisition documentation/records of acquisition (Misdemeanor).
- No Cervid Movement Permit.
- Constructive Possession of Firearm by Convicted

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Felon (Felony 3).



The defendant received a guilty verdict on all misdemeanors, 6 months' probation, \$600 fine, \$2000 donation to Wildlife Alert and all captive hoof-stock were forfeited to FWC.

Approximately 124 non-native hoof-stock (primarily blackbuck antelope and fallow deer) were forfeited and relocated to a licensed game farm. During the removal process approximately 45 axis deer and 8 sika deer were released from the farms primary enclosure.

Approximately 40 axis deer were depopulated and tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (all samples tested negative). The defendant was additionally charged with Resisting/Obstructing Officer Without Violence (Misdemeanor), and Violation of Probation with terms of ongoing probation. Defendant was incarcerated for 20 days in the Highlands County Jail.

Internet Crime Unit

FWC's Internet Crime Unit (ICU) is staffed by 14 Regional Investigators and coordinated by 1 Statewide Resource Investigations Lieutenant. For the Regional Investigators, ICU is a collateral responsibility conducted in addition to their normal investigative responsibilities. Investigators are trained to utilize intelligence generated from internet-based social media and

advertising sites such as Facebook, Craigslist and eBay. Over the past year, ICU Investigators received 158 tips generated from online activity. Of the 158 tips generated, 60 developed into ongoing investigations. This year, ICU Investigators have conducted 36 investigations resulting in a disposition. The dispositions include 25 misdemeanor arrests, 3 felony arrests, 10 written warnings and 5 resulting in no violation. Some notable cases for the year involved the harassment of a sea turtle, illegal sale of boat titles, unlicensed sale of saltwater products, unlicensed charter for hire, illegal possession and harvest of alligators, unlicensed sale of reptiles as well as the illegal possession and attempted sale of a live river otter.

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Intelligence

Over the past few years, the FWC Intelligence Section has expanded in accordance with established Intelligence Standard Operating Procedures. Specifically, Regional Intelligence Officers (RIOs) have been established within operations and are utilized as a bridge to federal, state and local partners. FWC has also embedded two lieutenants in key points of the Intelligence process: One lieutenant is embedded in the Coast Guard Maritime Intelligence Center in Miami and the other in the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) in Tampa. There are three Intelligence Analysts and one Analyst Supervisor at General Headquarters in Tallahassee that provide analytical support to the RIOs and field personnel. The Analysts also serve as Interagency Fusion Liaisons (IFLs) with the Florida Fusion Center

in Tallahassee. This has ensured the connectivity to key components of the intelligence community and timely sharing of information.

The FWC Intelligence Officers and Analysts team provides analysis and necessary data to identify organized crime groups or individuals, and effectively protect Florida's resources. Many of the RIOs have top secret clearances in order to access databases and information from the FBI JTTF, the United States Coast Guard Center for Interagency Maritime Intelligence (CIMI), and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) databases. With this access, analysts are able to disseminate information and intelligence obtained to FWC sworn personnel, greatly enhancing conservation law enforcement capabilities.

The FWC Intelligence Section assists Federal, State and Local partners with requests for information, statistical data and investigative assistance. These partnerships provide a shared responsibility between all levels of government to ensure that FWC remains broadly connected at all times in order to be prepared/proactive, rather than reactive once a threat arises. To promote the exchange of maritime criminal intelligence among other law enforcement agencies in Florida, FWC coordinates the Florida Marine Intelligence Unit (FMIU). FMIU is comprised of multiple Federal and State partners that focus on the needs of the marine law enforcement community by providing resource, boating safety and domestic security enforcement training.

During fiscal year 2014-2015, FWC analysts responded to 712 requests for information and disseminated 346

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officer safety/intelligence bulletins. Staff in this section also prepared 67 FWC bulletins and 69 intelligence products. During this fiscal year in Florida, 1,453 vessels and motors were reported as stolen. The Intelligence Section prepared weekly hot sheets and quarterly reports that were disseminated to law enforcement agencies around the state to facilitate awareness of these thefts and assist in recovery.

INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

Dive Team: Northwest

In the spring of 2013, FWC embarked upon a project to initiate an agency dive team program starting in the state's Northwest Region. Since its inception, the Northwest Region dive team has gained recognition as an effective and extremely capable tool for the citizens of the state as well as other partner agencies. With public safety as a primary focus, this team has routinely answered calls for search and recovery of both evidence and human remains as well as boating accident and derelict vessel investigations throughout their 16 county area of responsibility. Recently they fulfilled a request for assistance from a municipality in lower Alabama. This dedicated 9 person team trains extensively through a cooperative venture with the Florida State University Joint Agency In-Water Strike Team (JAWS) as well as with state and federal partner agencies.



Some of this



monthly training includes night diving, search and recovery, advanced technology training with underwater sonar, overhead environmental certification, lift bag training, entanglement and survival, and enriched air training and rescue diving. The team's dedication and organization has allowed them to be successful at times when other dive

teams were not. Team Leader, Officer Nick Price, credits this to a humble individual dedication to duty, knowledge of the water, and a high level of training and professionalism coupled with an ardent determination to accomplish

whatever mission is sent their way. This is exceptional when considering the less than glamorous nature of public safety diving conditions. To date, the team has responded to 46 calls for service since 2013 with 8 of those occurring in the first 5 months of 2016.

The agency benefits of the team go well beyond public safety as they have strived to work across division boundaries within the agency itself. As a part of these efforts, they have provided instrumental support in the deployment of oyster mats as a part of the agency's seagrass restoration efforts.

One of the team's shining moments



came when a military Blackhawk Helicopter crashed in the Santa Rosa Sound in Santa Rosa County. Eleven soldiers lost their lives during the crash. The team rapidly responded to the scene where local FWC units had located the aircraft wreckage. Working in extremely limited visibility and under great psychological stress, the team was successful in recovering the first 4 bodies and the remains of all that perished. They were instrumental in this effort shared by several local dive teams and Military Special Forces Divers.



Another significant response effort came when the team was called to recover the body of a missing girl from a vessel accident in Destin Pass. A vessel loaded with 11-12 occupants capsized on the rocks along the east jetty in the busy pass. While the search for the missing girl was unsuccessful, the team did recover the body of a white male that was not previously known to be missing but was confirmed as being on the crashed vessel. The missing girl was believed to have been swept out to sea as a result of strong ocean currents through the pass and the surrounding coastline.

The success of the Northwest Region dive team has paved the way

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for the startup of two more teams in the southern portion of the state. This was made possible by the allocation of funding from state legislators to purchase the equipment and training necessary for these teams through the JAWS partnership with Florida State University.



K-9s

Officer Jonathon Wright and his K-9 partner “Zoey” trained for four weeks at the USDA’s National Detector Dog Training Center in Newnan, Georgia. They trained to detect wildlife in palletized boxes and on moving conveyer belts. Upon completing their training, Officer Wright & Zoey returned to Broward County where they will work to detect illegal shipments of wildlife. Their mission will be to frequent sea ports, local airports, shipping/receiving companies like UPS and FedEx – in an attempt to discover illegal activity which may include Lacey Act violations, improper packaging, unsanitary conditions, and unlawful transfer of ownership.

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Officer of the Year: Dustin Lightsey, NE Region

Dustin Lightsey was raised in the St. Augustine area and served in the U.S. Air Force from 1999-2003. He

began his law enforcement career in 2004, and joined the FWC family in 2012 by way of the DEP/FWC merger. Over the past year, Lieutenant Lightsey (recently promoted) has volunteered for several outreach events in the community as well as Brevard Marine Advisory Council meetings, building relationships with stakeholders and partners alike. He has shown initiative in increasing BUI enforcement in his region and developed training materials for other officers to ensure that our officers make solid cases. Lt. Lightsey works well with other agencies in local investigations and has been commended by outside agencies for his cooperative efforts. He was instrumental in rectifying the “ghost net” problem at Sebastian Inlet State Park, assisted in search and rescue operations, and resolved a potentially deadly situation with an armed vessel operator. Lt. Lightsey has made a tremendous impact not only in apprehending violators, but also mentoring officers on how to be in the right place at the right time, and how to make a quality case that has a high probability of successful prosecution. Lt. Lightsey’s impact on field operations over the past year can further be seen in his service as a Field Training Officer (FTO), water-safety survival instructor at the academy, and his continuous informal leadership with his fellow officers. Lt. Lightsey’s energetic attitude, attention to detail, and passion for the people he serves makes him a valuable asset to the FWC, as well to his fellow officers.



Investigator of the Year: Steve Wayne, Ne Region



Investigator Steve Wayne began his law enforcement career in 1991 and

has served the agency as a Field Training Officer, Man Tracking Instructor, Port Investigations Instructor, Boating Under the Influence Instructor, Airboat Operation Instructor and has attended and graduated from the Florida Leadership Academy. Investigator Wayne is active in the community and volunteers as a board member for the National Association of Chiefs of Police at the American Police Hall of Fame, which provides family support programs to officers permanently disabled in the line of duty. Investigator Wayne was the first Port Investigator assigned to the agency and was instrumental in FWC’s port investigations program success and expansion. Investigator Wayne has been instrumental in making a large number of important cases dealing with the illegal import/export of fish and wildlife, including a two-year, multi-agency effort that resulted in the largest fraud case in the history of FedEx,

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with damages over \$1 million. Two suspects were charged with more than 200 state wildlife violations and federal felony violations for Lacey Act (false labelling & wildlife trafficking), bank fraud, mail fraud, aggravated identity theft, and conspiracy.

Boating Officer of the Year: Jarrod Molnar, NW Region

Officer Jarrod Molnar is a coastal officer assigned to south Okaloosa County who began his career with FWC in October 2008. Molnar is admired among his peers because of his strong work ethic and his boating law knowledge. He has served as a mentor in developing younger officers' skills and confidence in BUI investigations. His success in boating enforcement is centered on his vast knowledge of Chapters 327 and 328, Florida Statutes. Examples include boating registration, titling, BUI, .02 violations, livery laws, marine sanitation device regulations, interference of navigation, water skiing, restricted zones and diver's down flag. He has established and maintained a close working relationship with partner agencies USCG, OCSO and Eglin AFB military police. Molnar has participated and assisted with numerous boating operational plans surrounding targeted enforcement details and events, and created and led an operational plan named "Destin Tea Party," which focused on identifying unregistered boats and taking appropriate enforcement action. Molnar is a certified breath test operator and made 13 BUI arrests in 2015 along with a number of other

alcohol-related operation violations.

Reserve Officer of the Year: David Stermen, South Region A



David Stermen was born in Bridgeton, New Jersey, grew up in Pinellas County, and has been a life-long resident of South Florida. Reserve Officer Stermen has been with the agency as a reservist and full-time officer since 1972. After working for 38 years as a full-time employee and retiring as a Major, he demonstrated his commitment to FWC's mission by staying on as a Reserve Officer and working more than 400 hours of reserve time. After approximately 44 years of combined service, FWC is proud to have Reserve Officer David Stermen recognized as Reserve Officer of the Year. As a former regional commander, David brings his expertise and knowledge of the other divisions within FWC and works with them when they have resource and/or environmental concerns. He seems to know everyone and volunteers to teach and assist whenever possible. Reserve Officer Stermen is a subject-matter expert in the knowledge and handling of alligators. Leadership from other agencies have sought him out to teach the Alligator Handling Classes to other

state law enforcement officers from around Florida. He realized there was a need to educate others to continue the alligator handling program and began teaching the "Train the Trainer" classes. These classes have had an amazing impact on FWC officers, especially the new academy graduates, and always receives positive feedback. He is truly a committed FWC Reserve Officer who strives to achieve excellence and has a professional work ethic admired by many.

Team of the Year: "Marion County Squad", Northeast Region

The Marion County "Scrub Crew" consists of: Lieutenant Herbert Frerking, Investigator Mike Fischer, and Officers Washburn Wear, Joe Simpson, John Wilke (now Lieutenant), Wayne Hargabus, Scott Sumpter, Mike Rice, Asa Dias and K-9 Moose. This squad has three firearms instructors, a K-9 officer, an investigator, two field training officers, a breathalyzer inspector, two SOG Team members and a RPS officer. Each officer brings a unique set of skills to the team and uses those skills to enhance the effectiveness of the team. They are a well versed squad that not only completes their normal patrol duties, but also contribute to the community through outreach events (more than 20 in 2015) and raising awareness for other local causes. Not only does the scrub crew have more than 400,000 acres in WMAs to patrol, but they also have two state parks: Rainbow Springs and Silver Springs, both of which are very busy. Every member of the squad received the

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highest evaluation rating possible. Their positive attitude, integrity, and willingness to help are the hallmarks of their personality and character.



Duty Officer of the Year: Jessica Williams, South Region B

An FWC employee since 2008, Williams attended USF and obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Due to her passion and knowledge of the outdoors, she joined the FWC dispatch team. In addition to being a full-time dispatcher, she is a full-time mother and takes great pride in her son, Danny. Last year, she became a Communications Training Officer (CTO) and earned the title as one of the first Lead Workers for MRCC. As a CTO, Williams is very knowledgeable in FWC policies and procedures as well as regulations. There is rarely a question that she can't answer for her trainees or other MRCC staff. Her squad was also the first to score 100% overall in CAD validations. As a lead worker and experienced duty officer, Williams is known throughout the region as being a knowledgeable "go-getter" who never shies away from a challenge.

Employee of the Year: David Broughton, South Region B

David Broughton has been in Monroe County since 1999. He came to the Keys as a trained marine mechanic but FWC had to wait until 2014 before this skilled, helpful, dedicated and hardworking person joined the FWC family. Broughton has earned numerous certifications from the various manufacturers of outboard engines, and has put that training to work for FWC. Broughton's greatest achievement has been what he has done through his diligence and hard work to improve the morale of officers and command staff. In a county comprised of islands, surrounded by water, boats, fishing, swimming, and diving – officers need to be on water patrol. When an officer is unable to be on the water due to prolonged mechanical problems, their ability to do their job and their morale is negatively affected. Broughton's efforts are singularly responsible for a significant improvement in morale along with an increase in efficiency, professionalism and activity all due to his ability to keep the fleet patrolling.



Prosecutor of the Year: Sherr Collins, South Region A



Sherr Collins is an Assistant State Attorney (ASA) for Palm Beach

County and is the Director for Training and ongoing legal education. She has set in motion a number of programs to help the newer Assistant States Attorneys understand and successfully prosecute FWC cases. In a large metropolitan county, she regularly puts resource and boating cases at the top of her priority list. Collins has spearheaded meetings with the FWC and her staff, to allow officers to come to her office and give presentations to her ASAs regarding FWC cases. She also made time to teach at one of FWC's investigation's meetings, tailoring the material for FWC case preparation. In order to educate her staff, she set up ride-alongs so her ASAs could go on water patrol and land patrol with an FWC Officer. In addition to assisting with prosecuting cases, she has been trying to help FWC with an Administrative Court order that would allow for pre-trial destruction of perishable items and controlled substances. She regularly assists in educating FWC Officers on case preparation. In the court room, she is prepared, enthusiastic and very thorough in her examinations and cross-examinations. She makes herself available for questions anytime of the day or night and encourages other ASAs to do the same.

GEORGIA

Eddie Henderson, Colonel

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement Division, currently has 185 peace officers with statewide authority and

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full arrest powers. The primary duties of these Conservation Rangers are enforcement of all laws and regulations pertaining to hunting, fishing, commercial fishing, environmental violations, and recreational boating.

The Law Enforcement Division operates with a straight-line chain of command. It consists of the Colonel, Lt. Colonel, three Majors (field operations, special operations and aviation), seven Region Supervisor (Captains), two "specialty" Captains (training, and administrative support), two pilot Captains, three Lieutenants (database management, investigations and special permits/captive wildlife and wild animals), and 166 field Conservation Rangers (Sergeants, Corporals, Ranger First Class, and Rangers).

TRAINING

Firearms

In the spring, Rangers completed Firearms Requalification with handgun, shotgun, and rifle within each Region. Use of Deadly Force training, Glock 43 familiarization, ankle holster concealed carry, and low light tactical rifle training were covered topics.

BUI/ALS/ARIDE (Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement)

This year's annual BUI (Boating under the Influence/Standardized Field Sobriety Testing) refresher course included a 16-hour block of instruction of Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE). This course is designed to enhance the law enforcement

officers' ability to recognize subjects operating vehicles and vessels under the influence. Officers are trained to recognize psychophysical and clinical indicators of impairment that are consistent with a subject who is under the influence of drugs alone, or in combination with alcohol, and to take appropriate action. A strong emphasis is placed on the proper administration of the NHTSA SFST battery and interpretation of the results.

Crisis Intervention or Critical Incident Training

Four Rangers continue to participate in the Crisis Intervention or Critical Incident training and are part of the Peer Support Team. The Peer Support Team (PST) consists of personnel who are specially trained as skilled listeners. The objective of the PST is to provide support for law enforcement personnel, and their immediate family, who have experienced a critical incident or traumatic event. A Critical Incident is defined as any incident, action, or event, which has the potential for producing significant emotional trauma that may adversely affect the psychological well-being of law enforcement personnel.

Tactical Combat Casualty Care

Through a grant from the Georgia Trauma Commission, all Law Enforcement personnel were issued trauma kits and received tactical combat casualty care training. This program is designed for law enforcement officers from the initial point and time of injury until the scene can be secured and the officer

transferred to a higher level of care.

Georgia State Patrol Driver Simulator Training

The Georgia State Patrol's Driving Simulator is a mobile piece of equipment that is housed in a large trailer that is transported from the Training Center in Forsyth, Ga. to various Patrol Posts throughout the state. Driving instructors from the GSP training staff transport the simulator to the troopers in the field. This helps to save time and money as troopers do not have to take the time and expense of driving to the Training Center in Forsyth. The mission of the Georgia State Patrol training staff is to reduce patrol car crashes by using simulated scenarios that focus on collision avoidance, proper use of due regard and sound defensive driving techniques. The training is designed to make you think, plan and react, also to teach and reinforce the practice of collision avoidance. All DNR LED personnel will attend this training as GSP moved the simulator around the state. The training began in February in Albany and continues throughout the state.

EXECUTIVE TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

GILEE

Captain Scott Klingel participated in the 23rd Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) program to Israel. This two-week training session that is coordinated through Georgia State University focuses on sharing homeland security techniques as well as the benefits and limitations of a national police system. During the program,

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19 Law Enforcement Executives from Georgia were briefed at multiple venues in the state of Israel.

Professional Management Program

Five Rangers graduated from Columbus State's PMP program this year. The 400-hour program is broken down into ten 40-hour blocks with topics such as budget, human resources and strategic planning. The program is designed as an advanced school for public safety personnel to better prepare them for their roles as supervisors.

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

CAD/MDT/IT/RMS

The transition from Dell to Panasonic Toughbooks was completed this year with all Field Rangers moved to Panasonic CF31's and Admin Staff to CF-53's. Entry into the Department's legacy citation RMS system has been discontinued and all citation data is now being entered into the current system throughout the Department. A pilot project has been started to investigate cloud storage options for body cam video and other data that would allow direct upload of files eliminating the need to files to pass through multiple hands.

K-9

The Division continues to use K-9s to enhance patrol efforts by Conservation Rangers and provide assistance to other agencies for man tracking and article searches. Our training this year included a refresher on Tactical Tracking for Felons/Dangerous Suspects as well as article searches and wildlife

detection. Currently the Division has eight K9/Handler teams deployed statewide.

Equipment

This year we made several significant upgrades to the weapon platforms that our Rangers carry statewide. Our issued M-16 patrol rifles were upgraded with Daniel Defense 14 inch barrel uppers and we added a light to the rifle. We issued all sworn officers a Model 43 Glock pistol and an ankle holster as a backup weapon. We had not issued backup weapons in the past. We are also doing a multi-year upgrade of our patrol shotguns. We are standardizing the shotgun to a Remington 870 Police Magnum with synthetic stock, +2 extender, and modified choke. Forty-one new patrol trucks were ordered during the FY16 year and these have been up-fitted and are now in service. We also received trauma kits thru a grant from the State Trauma Board for all officers and the training for this equipment was provided as well.

Investigative Unit

The Investigative Unit (IU) is comprised of two full-time investigators. The IU is responsible for undercover investigations, Special Permit Unit (SPU) inspections and violations, the administration of the Critical Incident Reconstruction Team (CIRT) and the Marine Theft Unit (MTU). The IU depends heavily on assistance from uniformed Rangers. Statewide, 14 Rangers perform a collateral duty called "Regional Investigator". Regional Investigators assist the IU with various duties.

Undercover Investigations

The Region Investigators are full-time Conservation Rangers who

have received training in undercover operations and equipment. They perform this collateral duty in addition to their everyday Conservation Ranger duties. The primary function of the Investigative Unit is to provide uniform Rangers with investigative support. The Investigative Unit is responsible for plain-clothes and long-term investigations.

Last year, the Investigative Unit conducted and managed over 250 investigations and calls for assistance from the field. These investigations were comprised of intelligence gathering, buy/bust, and both short and long-term investigations. The focus of many of these investigations included the sale or possession of wildlife and wild animals. These violations are difficult to address without the aid of undercover officers.

Critical Incident Reconstruction Team (CIRT)

Georgia has 16 CIRT investigators assigned throughout the state. CIRT investigates all fatality and serious injury boating and hunting incidents. Each investigator receives specialized training on investigating and presenting these cases. Last year, CIRT investigated 17 boating and 4 hunting incidents. These incidents resulted in 20 fatalities.

Marine Theft Unit (MTU)

The primary function of the MTU is to assist law enforcement officers in the field. The MTU conducts computer database and offline searches, locates hidden hull identification numbers, and assists with locating and recovering stolen vessels. The MTU also serves as the point of

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contact for customers as well as court systems related to the abandoned vessel process. Last year, the MTU received 71 abandoned vessel requests from the public and fielded numerous phone calls related to the abandoned vessel process.

Aviation

The Aviation Unit had a monumental year. The Governor's Office provided bond money to replace a 35-year-old Bell Jet Ranger with the new Bell 407 GX. The sale of the Jet Ranger allowed the purchase of a fixed wing Quest Kodiak 100 aircraft. These aircraft will greatly enhance the Aviation Units ability to support state agencies and all the DNR Divisions.

This year the Unit flew 819 mishap-free flight hours initiating the Units recognition and acceptance of the Helicopter Association International (HAI) 2016 Aviation Safety Award. Multi Agency fire suppression training was conducted with the Georgia Forestry Commission in November, which prepared the Unit for the wildfire season. Major Watson and Captain Turner dropped 52,500 gallons of water in support of the GFC fighting three separate fires in Walker and Whitfield Counties.

The Aviation Unit flew 226 hours supporting the Division's Rangers across the state. The year began during the July 4th weekend with Major Watson and Captain Turner flying day and night boating patrols on Lake Lanier and Lake Sinclair with Aerial Observer Crump flying Lake Lanier and Sgt. Kelly flying Lake Sinclair.

The Aerial Observer program has proven to be very successful. The

additional trained aerial crewmembers in northern Georgia have expedited the response time for search and rescue (SAR) requests in some cases. The aerial observers have also proven their value during searches for missing persons and drowning victims.

The Aviation Unit supported the Law Enforcement Division Rangers throughout the hunting season from early fall through early spring. Rangers were flown on county surveys looking for baited food plots, duck ponds and illegal shrimping along the Georgia coast. Flight support was also provided for Operation Dry Water, night deer poaching/spotlighting patrols, and searches for missing person and drowning victims across the state.

Special Permits

The Law Enforcement Division of our agency administers the Special Permits Unit. This unit is responsible for permitting captive wildlife and wild animals in addition to some specialty-take permits such as Scientific Collection Permits. The Unit was involved in the drafting of legislation and regulations to create a new permit that will allow the use of native wildlife in the film production industry. The Unit also coordinated inspections on all permitted wild animal facilities throughout the state.

UNIQUE LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Ranger Hotline

The Ranger Hotline program, which provides a way for citizens to report anonymously potentially illegal wildlife and other conservation law violations, continues to be successful. If the information leads to

an arrest, the tipster receives a cash reward funded by the Georgia Natural Resource Foundation, whose mission is to protect wildlife by increasing public support for wildlife law enforcement. In 2015, 344 tips were received by email for various violations.

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

DNR Re-Organization Period Continues

The Georgia DNR Law Enforcement Division completed the third year of a five-year transition that will consolidate all Law Enforcement functions under the umbrella of the Law Enforcement Division, to include State Parks enforcement. In 2013, the Board of Natural Resources approved the internal reorganization of its operational Divisions that elevated the Law Enforcement Section to Division Status, removing it as a sub-program in the Wildlife Resources Division. The changes to the DNR structure were made to more accurately reflect the working structure of the department, streamline operations, clarify chain of command, standardize training, equipment and operational guidance for law enforcement services and to reduce liability.

KENTUCKY

Rodney Coffey, Colonel, Director of Law Enforcement

STAFFING

The Division of Law Enforcement currently is staffed with 122 sworn officers and three civilian employees, with the intentions of adding twenty Recruit Conservation Officers in

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August of 2016. A reorganization of the Division was completed with promotions of Captains, Lieutenants, and Sergeants during the past year. The goal was to return supervisory responsibilities in the nine districts to the local community level.

Conservation Officers were heavily involved in youth fishing and hunting events as well as lending support to activities involving Wounded Warriors, special needs individuals, and other veteran and civic groups.

TRAINING

An in-house training section was formed to oversee in-service training opportunities, statute and regulation updates, and identify specialized training for all personnel. The training section provides proficiency training on all issued equipment. It is the intent to eventually provide state certified required 40 hour in-service instruction tailored to the needs of the division.

A Recruit Conservation Officer Training Class of twenty is scheduled to begin in August 2016. The hiring process began in January with recruits starting division training by the second week of August.

Mountain Lion and Bear Awareness Training was provided to all officers and wildlife biologist in a partnership with the Wildlife Division. Protocols and response to these incidents were discussed by the attendees.

Mandated professionalism training is ongoing and the training staff responds to the identification of training issues being discussed

nation-wide.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

The use of on-body video cameras by conservation officers has been a huge success. The cameras provided a level of safety for officers as well as documenting evidence of officer's activity and interaction with the public for court presentation or review by supervisors when needed.

As in the past, the division continues its focus on illegal commercial/sporting fishing and wildlife activities and the illicit trade or possession of exotic species.

Kentucky had approximately 172,700 motorized boats registered in Kentucky in 2015. There were 20 boating-related deaths on Kentucky waterways last year showing an upward trend compared to the nine reported deaths in 2014 and five reported deaths in 2013. In addition there were 38 reported injured boater passengers or operators and 11 vessels lost during 2015.

NEW INNOVATIONS

Updated equipment acquisition has been a top priority for the division for the past two years. In addition to the acquisition of body cameras, the division has procured new tablets for use by all officers. In addition, 45 patrol vehicles and two SUVs, and 18 patrol boats have been purchased during the past two years. Also two kayaks were acquired to patrol those waterways not accessible by motorized vessels. New pistols and shotguns were issued to update the officer's

personal protection needs.

The Boating Education Coordinator for Kentucky was name NASBLA Boater Educator of the Year which was a great honor for him and the division. He was lauded for his extensive work with the young people of the state as well as contributing to the development of a 'Boat Safe Kentucky' app for users of smart phones.

LOUISIANA

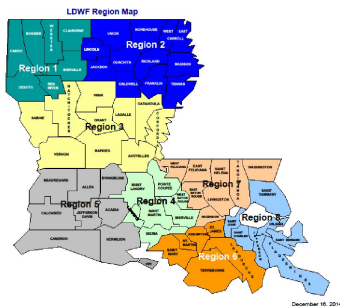
Joey Broussard, Colonel

The LDWF Law Enforcement Division's (LDWF-LED) operating budget for fiscal year 2015/16 was approximately \$36 million. Enforcement Division funding is derived from the Conservation Fund (LDWF self-generated revenue), Federal Boating Safety Funds, United States Coast Guard Grant funding, Homeland Security Grant funding, and the LDWF Enforcement Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) with NOAA for Federal Fisheries and various local grants. LDWF-LED conducted 287,557 patrol hours in FY 2015-2016: 216,738 on land and 70,819 on water. Agents made 719,112 contacts with the public, the majority of whom were in compliance with state and federal wildlife and fisheries regulations. LDWF-LED agents issued 11,385 criminal citations and 5,625 warnings during this period. The most common types of citations were fishing without a license, failure to comply with personal flotation device requirements, not abiding by rules and regulations on wildlife management areas, and failure to comply with deer tagging or harvest record regulations.

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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE & PERSONNEL



LDWF-LED is organized in a paramilitary structure to assure the efficient use of resources, consistent statewide enforcement policy, and an effective, coordinated response to urgent needs (Figure 1). LDWF-LED is commanded by one colonel, the Chief of Enforcement, who reports directly to LDWF's Secretary and oversees administration of the division. Reporting to the colonel is two Lieutenant Colonels. One Lieutenant Colonel who serves as assistant chief of administration which includes state boating law administrator, statewide strikeforce, covert, public information and aviation sections supervisor. The other Lieutenant Colonel serves as the assistant chief of patrol and supervises all state regional field operations. There are three majors: one over the even-numbered enforcement regions of the state and serves as policy and procedure administrator; one over the odd-numbered regions and safety coordinator; and one over the emergency services, training,

support and budget sections.

The LDWF Enforcement Division headquarters staff works out of Baton Rouge headed by Col. Joey Broussard who was promoted to the head position in July of 2014. Col. Broussard, a native of Pointe Coupee Parish, graduated from the LDWF cadet academy in 1991, receiving his POST certification from LSU, and has been an agent for over 25 years.

The Enforcement Division is divided into eight enforcement regions (Figure 2) and one statewide strikeforce region. Each numbered enforcement region is composed of two or three multi-parish districts. Each region is managed by a captain who supervises two or three district supervisors of the lieutenant rank. Regions have between 16-25 agents, depending on regional size, resident population and participant population. Current funding provides a field enforcement staff of two to four agents per parish, according to the nature of wildlife-based activities in the area, the number of people participating, the frequency of their participation and other factors.

Total division head count is 257 positions including 235 enforcement agents, 24 administrative staff, six communications officers and two pilots. The actual number of filled positions (as of January of 2016) is 235.

REGIONAL ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS

Most of the law enforcement activity performed by LDWF-LED is conducted by regional agents. Regional agents work a schedule assigned by their supervisors to address seasonal needs, reported violations, weather conditions and

predominant activities. Agents are on-call 24 hours per day and must be willing to change their work hours and locations as circumstances require. Schedules are often changed due to weather and reported violations, and agents are often called out to respond to violations in progress, boating and hunting accidents, and calls for search and rescue.

Agents use a variety of vehicles during land patrols, primarily four-wheel drive trucks and all-terrain vehicles. The primary patrol vessels used during water patrols are outboard bay boats and 19-to-40-foot marine patrol vessels. LDWF-LED also deploys go-devils, airboats, surface river mudboats, bass boats and flatboats.

Specialized Units

LDWF-LED contains four specialized units with selected missions or purposes: the Special Operations Section; the Statewide Strike Force; the Maritime Special Response Team; and the Aviation Section. Agents in specialized units have developed specific skills, expertise and knowledge appropriate for their particular operational fields. Agents in specialized units operate in relatively broad geographic areas and may work alongside regional enforcement agents when appropriate.

Special Operations Section

The Special Operations Section houses covert operations in which undercover agents work to stem the illegal sale of fish and wildlife, develop information about ongoing criminal enterprises, and address major violations of state and federal law.

Statewide Strike Force

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The Statewide Strike Force is assigned to work problem areas statewide. They devote attention to commercial fisheries operations, license fraud and white collar crimes. Violations include smuggling, interstate commerce violations and false reporting, and under-reporting of commercial fish harvests. These agents provide regional patrol with additional manpower on wildlife management area (WMAs) and places of high seasonal utilization, such as Grand Isle and other locations throughout the state. Strike Force agents also assist regional agents with oyster harvest enforcement, which primarily addresses harvesting oysters in closed waters, stealing from oyster leases and state grounds, and oyster size regulations.

Maritime Special Response Team

The Maritime Special Response Team cooperative endeavor by LDWF-LED and the Louisiana State Police SWAT team addresses maritime security threats within the state of Louisiana. The team provides a maritime tactical response capability at the state level in order to effectively provide public safety, officer safety, Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-yield Explosives (CBRNE) prevention, and response and tactical support for LDWF's federal, state and local partners.

Aviation Section

The Aviation Section contains two pilots and four total planes which include one Kodiak, once Cessna 210, and two Cessna 206 amphibians. The Aviation Section's aircraft provide a valuable platform for detecting illegal hunting and fishing activities and frequently play a vital life-saving role in search and rescue operations. The Aviation Section also contributes its services

to other divisions for biological missions, such as waterfowl counts and the monitoring of commercial fisheries.

Boating Safety Program



With 15,000 miles of tidal coastline, 5,000 miles of navigable waterways, three of the busiest ports in the country, a thriving shipping industry, a large commercial fishing fleet, and over 320,000 registered boats, Louisiana contains many geographic, demographic and economic features that pose special challenges for boating safety enforcement. LDWF-LED agents made 211,190 public contacts during the course of 56,718 patrol hours dedicated to boating enforcement, education and accident investigation in FY 2015-2016. Of those hours, 41,936 patrol hours were performed in vessels on the water.

The adoption of "Rules of the Road" regulations for boaters has enhanced the enforcement of boating safety regulations and boating under the influence laws. These regulations provide the boating public with clear rules for the manner in which boats are operated and are an important tool in determining fault in boating

accidents. The "Rules of the Road" also enhance the ability of agents to address reckless and careless operation of motorboats. In FY 2015-2016, LDWF-LED agents issued 39 citations for careless and reckless operation of a vessel and 75 citations for operating a vessel while intoxicated.



The statewide LDWF-LED boater education course teaches safe, legal and responsible boat operation and is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. This program provides a vital outreach to the community and has greatly improved the awareness of and compliance with boating safety practices and regulations in Louisiana. Agents hold monthly classes in each region for anyone who wishes or is required by Louisiana law to take them. In FY 2015-2016, 10,585 citizens were certified in classroom and online classes. LDWF-LED continues to recruit and train additional volunteer instructors to complement and enhance the efforts of its own agents. Since the inception of the boating safety education course in 2003, LDWF has certified 94,413 students.

LDWF-LED remained committed in marketing and promotion of boating education courses by creating special events and activities for students attending courses.

LDWF participated in "Safe Boating Week" in Louisiana from May 21-27.

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LDWF Enforcement Division agents were out in full force as always during the week to perform boating safety checks and driving or operating a vessel while intoxicated (DWI) patrols.

LDWF sponsored two summer day camps for children 11 to 16 years old at the Waddill Outdoor Education Center in Baton Rouge this summer. The camps were held from July 20-24 in 2015 and again from June 6-10 in 2016. Each camp was completely free of charge and allowed participants to receive their official boater and hunter education certifications. A total of 23 children received their boating and hunting education certificates during the camps.



LDWF certified 179 boaters statewide after their sixth "Boating Education Lagniappe Day" on April 23. Boating Education Lagniappe Day was a part of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) "Spring Aboard" national marketing campaign to promote opportunities for boaters to enroll in a boating education course. Lagniappe Day ran from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at nine locations across the state and consisted of the National Association of Safe Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) boating education course, food and drinks, giveaways and door prizes all free of charge to the public. LDWF once again participated in NASBLA's Operation Dry Water from June 24-26, 2016. During Operation

Dry Water, agents stepped up patrols looking for operators of vessels who were impaired or under the influence of alcohol or drugs. During the weekend, agents made one boating under the influence cases and issued 116 safe boating citations.

Search & Rescue Operations

LDWF-LED is responsible for providing and coordinating search and rescue response and maritime security activities for the state. This activity supports the state's goal of hurricane recovery and emergency preparedness by planning, training and coordinating local, state and federal response for search and rescue associated with natural or manmade disasters. Preparedness and efficient execution of search and rescue response events is essential to saving lives and swift recovery efforts. Providing maritime security on our state's waterways is essential to protection of critical infrastructure located in maritime environments throughout Louisiana.

Emergency Support Function Annual Support Plan for our search and rescue partners has been completed. LDWF/LED completed its 5 year update of the Search and Rescue Emergency Support Function Annex Plan to the State Emergency Operations Plan.



LDWF/ENF agents rescued a total of 805 people and 148 animals during a statewide flooding event that occurred from March 8 to March 16. During this time the state experienced a strong storm system that brought heavy rainfall, flash flooding, river flooding and damaging winds across the state. The event resulted in a state declaration of emergency in all parishes and a federal declaration in 37 parishes. The role of LDWF/LED for this event primarily focused on providing public safety protection, maritime security, search and rescue, crime prevention and detection throughout the impacted and surrounding areas. After the initial response effort, LDWF/LED continued to provide the parishes with support through the enforcement of waterway restrictions and providing public safety throughout the impacted area until May 23.



A LDWF agent rescued eight people from the Gulf of Mexico on Sept. 6 in Vermilion Parish.

LDWF agents rescued 23 people

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from a flooded trailer park in Tangipahoa Parish on Oct. 26.

LDWF TRAINING

LDWF/LED completed construction on a swimming pool that is located at the training academy.

Academy

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Law Enforcement Academy on November 24, 2015 graduated its 29th class and on June 29, 2016 graduated its 30th class of cadets into the ranks of LDWF Law Enforcement Division (LED) Agents. A ceremony for each graduating class was held in Baton Rouge.



After completing over 6 months of intensive physical and academic training at the academy, the 16 newly commissioned agents are ready to begin enforcing hunting, fishing and boating regulations that govern the use of the state's natural resources. Agents are also trained to provide emergency services as the state's lead agency for SAR and maritime security.

At the academy, cadets train to enforce the state's recreational boating laws, the state and federal wildlife and fisheries laws and general law enforcement work on the state's many wildlife management areas. The academy also covers general law enforcement training equal to that of other state law enforcement officers.

In-Service

At the end of 2015, agents completed their annual and fall in-service training requirements which consisted of the following:

Annual:

- Active Shooter Training (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training)
- First Aid/Blood Borne Pathogens/CPR for the Professional Rescuer
- Defensive Tactics/Officer Survival/Use of Force
- Firearms

- DWI (Intox. 5000, Intox 9000, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), Boating Under the Influence (BUI) Seated Test Battery, LA Drive)

Fall:

- Firearms



Firearms

LDWF added 2 agents to its cadre of firearms instructors. These agents completed the selection, qualification and training process to become certified LDWF and Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) firearms instructors. They will be able to provide the other instructors with assistance in providing the required firearms training to all agents and cadets throughout the enforcement division.

LDWF added two agents to its cadre of Advance Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT)

instructors.

LDWF currently has three agents that are certified as simulation instructors. This certification will enable the division to enhance firearms/officer survival/use of force training through more "force on force" training.

DWI:

One agent was certified as a Drug Recognition Experts (DRE), bringing our total to 11 DRE's.

One agent was certified as a DRE Instructor. LDWF/LED now has two DRE instructors to bolster the LDWF DRE program.

Marine Law Enforcement Training Program:

At the end of 2015, all agents had completed their annual recertification as Boat Operators for Search and Rescue (BOSAR) in the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA), Boat Operations and Training Program (BOAT).

CRISIS INTERVENTION Or CRITICAL INCIDENT TRAINING

LDWF selected four agents to complete training in Crisis Intervention and Critical Incident as part of the Agents Crisis Team (ACT). The ACT team consists of agents who are specially trained as skilled listeners. The objective of ACT is to provide support for law enforcement personnel, and their immediate family, who have experienced a critical incident or traumatic event. A Critical Incident is defined as any incident, action, or event, which has the potential for producing significant emotional trauma that may adversely affect the psychological well-being of law enforcement personnel.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

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Maritime Special Response Team

The LDWF/LED Maritime Special Response Team (MSRT) partners with the Louisiana State Police SWAT team to address maritime security threats within the state of Louisiana. The team provides a maritime tactical response capability at the state level in order to effectively provide public safety, officer safety, and tactical support for LDWF/LEDs federal, state and local partners.

During this period the LDWF/LED MSRT team completed their annual training which consists of:

- Close Quarter Battle Techniques (CQB)
- Firearms Training
- Security Zone Enforcement Procedures
- Underway Training
- Hostage scenarios
- Large Vessel Training
- Rural Operations and Tactical Tracking
- Water Survival

At the end of 2015, MSRT members had completed their annual recertification as Tactical Operators Course (TOC) in the NASBLA BOAT Program.

Preventative Radiological and Nuclear Detection (PRND)

LDWF continues to work with key local, state and federal partners to implement a PRND program in the state of Louisiana. Through our partnership with the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), the state has developed a statewide concept of operations plan (CONOPS), as well as standard operating procedures (SOPs) for individual agency partners. The state recently completed a table top exercises which is an important piece to the statewide

implementation of the PRND program.

ACQUISITIONS FOR 2015-16

Equipment

- Six search and rescue vessels
- 14 replacement outboard motors
- 41 (4x4) patrol trucks
- Three administration SUVs
- One ATV
- 60 replacement Ipads
- Seven chart plotters
- 84 replacement personal ballistic vests
- Six body cams

Operation Game Thief

Louisiana Operation Game Thief (OGT), Inc. is a program which provides cash rewards to those providing information leading to the apprehension of wildlife violators. Violations can be reported anonymously by calling a 24-hour toll-free telephone number (1-800-442-2511) or by using LDWF's tip411 program. To use the tip411 program, citizens can text LADWF and their tip to 847411 or download the "LADWF Tips" iPhone or Android apps from the Apple App Store and Google Play free of charge. The hotline and the tip411 program are monitored 24 hours a day by the LDWF Communications Center. Reports are immediately referred to agents for action.

During the 2015 year, OGT paid out \$16,800 in rewards. The OGT board reviewed a total of 43 cases with a total of 72 subjects apprehended and a total of 385 offenses/violations. The total amount of rewards paid by OGT since its inception 29 years ago is \$375,700.

Joint Enforcement Agreement

LDWF-LED again entered into a Joint Enforcement Agreement with the National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration's Office for Enforcement. LDWF-LED received approximately \$834,466 in FY 2015-2016 to patrol for compliance with federal commercial and recreational fisheries regulations, primarily in the Gulf of Mexico.

Public Information

The LDWF-LED Public Information section does various media and public information related tasks. The public information section handles public emails, Facebook questions, media requests including setting up interviews, and gathering enforcement related information. The public information section also provides footage and photos to media outlets both in-state and nationally.

LDWF-LED issued 133 enforcement related press releases during FY 2015-2016. These press releases were issued to a media contact list via email both state and nationwide. They were also posted on the LDWF website. The press releases ranged from rewards for information on current cases, conviction results, announcements of event and upcoming cadet academies, highlighting important and unusual cases, enforcement division and agent achievements and awards won, and boating safety information.

LDWF-LED public information also produces videos for both external and internal use. The videos range from public service announcements, cadet recruitment, hunting and boating safety and cadet training.

MISSISSIPPI
Steve Adcock, Colonel

AGENCY OVERVIEW

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LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN**

Are officers 100% Wildlife Law Enforcement or Mixed?

Officers are mixed between Wildlife, Fisheries & Law Enforcement Bureau's
Straight Line Reporting Structure:
Yes

Number of Officers: 181. Officers are full time Law Enforcement
TRAINING

This past year we have secured funding to construct a 40x60 metal building at our training academy. This building will be used as a defensive tactics training area and weight training facility. This will assist in Cadet Classes as well as annual in-service training for current officers. We implemented a Physical Fitness assessment portion to our annual training for all officers. We experienced nearly 100% participation by current staff. Our officers again competed in the National LawFit Competition. In the past three years, Team MDWFP has finished as National Runner-Up or Champion. This year we finished as National Runner-up. One of our officers, Marcus Christon, won the event as top overall individual. This marks the second year in a row that Officer Christon has won the Top Overall Individual award, giving Mississippi the fittest Law Enforcement officer in back to back years.

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

The total appropriated budget for the Law Enforcement Bureau is \$14,500,000.00; this includes federal funds and salary dollars. Funding allowed us to have one cadet class. The cadet class will produce 15

Conservation Officers. The addition of the 15 Conservation Officers will put us right at the 200 mark. Maintaining adequate numbers in the workforce continues to be a challenge due to retirements. The future is bright for FY 17. The passing of HB 1151 will provide funding to help us hire and retain more Conservation Officers.

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

Officers are focusing on the importation and exportation of whitetail deer. The concern for CWD reaching Mississippi has increased with the disease being found in Arkansas. With the presence of High Fenced properties in Mississippi, the importation and exportation of whitetail deer has been a major concern for wildlife officers. Officers are making every effort to deter this illegal activity and prevent any disease being introduced to our State.

STATE, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL ISSUES, LEGISLATION, LEGAL CHALLENGES AND COURT DECISIONS IMPACTING NATURAL RESOURCES LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Mississippi Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks has adopted a number of regulatory changes over the past year.

- HB 487 Wild hogs; extend repealer on provisions relating to the importation, release and transportation of.
- HB 1151 Hunting and fishing licenses; revise fees for.

- HB 1157 Outdoor magazine; authorize commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks to set subscription fee and publish digital version.
- SB 2150 Mississippi Wildlife Heritage Museum in Leland; designate as the official state wildlife heritage museum.
- SB 2313 Silencers on firearms; revise prohibition.

INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

Dell tablets were issued to all officers. The new tablets provide officers with a virtual office that has World wide connectivity. The officer in the field will be able to disseminate information faster and more accurately. Customized mapping, license checks, and life size cloud are just a few applications provided with the tablet. The life size cloud application allows officers to have a face to face virtual meeting. The Dell tablet is another tool that will help the officer become more efficient in performance of his or her duties.

MISSOURI
Larry Yamnitz, Chief

Training Issues

For the fourth consecutive year, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is conducting a training academy. The academy is Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified and consists of conservation law, boating operations, waterfowl school, firearms training, land management practices, trapping, fish kills, defensive tactics, etc. Pending

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successful completion of the academy, eleven conservation agent trainees will graduate at the end of September.

Recent changes in POST reporting requirements have led to changes in our training programs. Missouri conservation agents now maintain annual minimum Continuing Education Hours (CEHs) in the subjects of Legal Studies, Interpersonal Perspectives, Technical Studies, and Skill Development, as opposed to three-year minimum CEH requirements. We have also standardized our defensive tactics training into five “blocks” of instruction. This format is designed to spread our training throughout the year, simplify lesson plans, and make it easier for agents to meet training requirements if they miss a block of instruction in their region.

Conservation agents from across the state attended a four-day Wildlife Human Interaction Training (WHIT) program. This training prepared staff for incidents involving wildlife-human encounters including; securing the scene, assisting victims, collecting evidence, handling the media, and capturing the animal.

Protection Division held a statewide conference for all Division personnel in 2016. Training and discussion took place on a variety of topics including; *The Wildlife Code of Missouri*, Non-Bias Policing, Understanding the Threat (Sovereign Citizens), The Spirit of Leadership, and Law Enforcement Trauma and Wellness.

Protection Division also graduated three supervisors from the National Conservation Law Enforcement Leadership Academy (NCLELA) in

September. All three graduates rated the program as excellent. Two additional supervisors are attending the 2016 NCLELA. As part of our ongoing efforts to promote diversity amongst the ranks, MDC sent seven female conservation agents to the IACP Women in Law Enforcement Leadership Training in 2015. Protection Division also hosted the 2015 AMFGLEO Investigators Conference in June.

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

The Department’s budget has remained stable over the last few years. Protection Division currently has 200 FTEs and while we haven’t been able to add new positions, we have reallocated existing positions to better accomplish our mission. For example, the Confined Wildlife Enforcement Unit, formed in 2014, has been effective in providing firm, fair, and consistent enforcement of confined wildlife and commercial permit regulations, with special emphasis on captive cervid regulations.

Salary continues to be an issue with all Department staff. Protection Division recently lost four conservation agents to better paying jobs with outside agencies. Department Administration is working with the Conservation Commission to address this important issue.

Diversity in employment continues to be a priority for the Department and our Discover Nature Girls Camp programs are helping us connect with a more diverse audience. Due to their popularity, Protection expanded these camps to all eight regions in 2015, with an additional urban Discover Nature Girls Camp scheduled for St. Louis in 2016.

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

In 2015, Missouri’s Operation Game Thief (OGT) program received 992 violation reports which resulted in 193 arrests and \$9,100 in rewards paid. The OGT trailer was utilized at eleven special events throughout the state.

During the 2015 deer season, 4,530 hunters donated 228,306 pounds of venison to Missouri’s Share the Harvest program. This represents an increase from 2013 and 2014 donations. Conservation staff, in addition to our program partner, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, are continually working on securing funding for this valuable program. The Governor of Missouri continues his active interest in Share the Harvest and has assisted in bringing more public awareness to the program.

Conservation agents have been increasingly called to respond to swift-water rescue emergencies. Agents from across the state have participated in swift-water rescue training and have put that training to use on several occasions. Recently, three agents were recognized for their heroic efforts during a flash flooding emergency in late 2014. Conservation Agents Anthony Maupin, Jade presented with the Governor’s Medal of Valor Award for their efforts to rescue Missouri citizens trapped by dangerous floodwaters. Governor Jay Nixon presented the awards himself at the Capital with the agents’ family and friends in attendance.

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE, ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Missouri continues to work with our

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partners in the USFWS and the US Attorney's Office to wrap up federal cases against eight individuals indicted on the Operation Roadhouse paddlefish poaching investigation. Despite this significant accomplishment, illegal harvest and transportation of paddlefish roe is ongoing and our Special Investigations Unit continues to work with field agents to address this serious issue. Other investigations involving illegal commercialization of wildlife resources and unlawful movement of captive wildlife are ongoing.

NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT



Protection Division continues to embrace technology to better protect Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife resources. The "Agent Mobile" application is currently in its second phase of implementation. This new app combines our S3 permits system, arrest record, written warning, and Telecheck databases into one format that conservation agents can access via their iPhones. As with any new technology, bugs are still being worked out, but initial reports from field staff have been positive.

The Department continues to promote electronic hunting and fishing permits, with electronic deer and turkey permits available for the first time last fall. Electronic "signatures" have been addressed through a mandatory checkbox when

purchasing an electronic permit. In addition, our MO Hunting app allows for electronic invalidation (notching) of deer and turkey permits and the ability to telecheck deer and turkey directly from your mobile device. Paper permits are still available and can be printed from a home computer. The Department is also considering a "hard card" refillable licensing format for most hunting/fishing licenses, but challenges regarding invalidation still remain for deer and turkey permits.

Agents continue utilizing Telecheck spot checks to verify the accuracy of the Department's electronic big game reporting system. Specifically, agents saturate a county on a given day and pay a personal visit to each hunter who checks their deer/turkey harvest. Honest hunters are happy we're following up on the self-reported Telecheck system, and unscrupulous hunters are somewhat surprised when an agent shows up at their door within an hour of their check. Violations for permit fraud, over-limits, and fail to properly tag/check are not uncommon.

STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ISSUES, LEGISLATION, LEGAL CHALLENGES AND COURT DECISIONS IMPACTING NATURAL RESOURCES LAW ENFORCEMENT

On January 30, 2015, new comprehensive captive cervid regulations, passed by the Conservation Commission, went into effect. The new regulations banned the importation of live white-tailed deer, mule deer, and their hybrids from other states; improved fencing standards for all facilities holding captive cervids; and improved record keeping requirements. However, a lawsuit filed by the captive cervid

industry led to an injunction on these new regulations. The court battle is ongoing. In the meantime, Protection Division continues to diligently enforce the previous captive cervid regulations still in effect.

The 2015-2016 Legislative Session has been comparatively mild in regards to legislation targeting the Department. Of interest this year is Senate Joint Resolution 19 which attempts to increase the Conservation Commission membership from four to six, with no more than three Commissioners from the same political party. The Department continues to monitor this legislation closely.

As everyone is well aware, coverage of the events in Ferguson, MO over the past year contributed to negative public perceptions towards law enforcement across the nation. As a result, Conservation Agents Lexis Riter and Kevin Powell took it upon themselves to do something about it. They engaged the citizens of Ferguson with a Kid's Fishing Clinic sponsored by the Department. The event was an important early step in rebuilding trust and support between area residents and local law enforcement. Agents Riter and Powell received the Department's Workforce Diversity Award as a result. The smiles on the faces of the participants tell the rest of the story...

COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES

Protection Division currently has approximately 120 Protection Volunteers who assist conservation agents and other Department staff with projects including; enforcement patrols, outreach and education programs, training scenarios and

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wildlife surveys. The volunteer program continues to be a valuable recruitment tool.

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Protection Division continues to work diligently with Wildlife Division and other partners on feral hog eradication efforts in Missouri. Cage trapping and aerial gunning continue to be effective control measures. The Conservation Commission recently passed regulations prohibiting the taking of feral hogs on all lands owned, leased or managed by the Department in an effort to further reduce the incentive to transport and release feral hogs on Department areas.

CWD has now been found in northeast, central, and east-central Missouri. The first cases of CWD in Missouri were detected in 2010 and 2011 in captive deer at private big-game hunting preserves in Linn and Macon counties. A total of 11 cases were confirmed in captive deer at the facilities. The total number of Missouri free-ranging deer that have tested positive for CWD is 33 with 21 found in Macon County, 9 in Adair, one in Cole, one in Franklin, and one in Linn. Protection Division continues to be very active in CWD containment efforts serving on landowner contact and shooting teams.



Missouri's reintroduced elk population continues to do well in the Ozark Region. Current population estimates have the herd at approximately 120 animals.

Unfortunately, one of our mature bulls was poached in January and the antlers sawed off using a chainsaw. Conservation agents have interviewed dozens of people and followed up on over 200 leads but have yet to find the person(s) responsible. Agents have been relentless in conducting their investigation and we are hoping it's just a matter of time before an arrest is made.



NORTH CAROLINA

Jon Evans, Colonel

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission -- Wildlife Enforcement Officers play a special role in both enforcement and conservation. Along with enforcing laws that involve hunting, fishing, trapping and boating on North Carolina waterways, wildlife enforcement officers are involved in public safety and education. Their Hunter Education and Boating Safety courses and Pre--Launch Boating Safety Checks not only save life and limb but also help to prevent costly fines and penalties. Each encounter with the public is an opportunity to help sports and outdoor enthusiasts become more aware of the need to conserve and enjoy North Carolina's wildlife resources.

TRAINING ISSUES

The Law Enforcement Division continues to implement the Police

Officer's Physical Abilities Test (POPAT). Currently officers receive an additional weekend off for successfully passing the POPAT in accordance with N.C. Basic Law Enforcement Training Standards. The implementation of this program continues to motivate officers to improve their level of physical fitness and the changes in some individuals physical condition is inspiring.

Our Division acquired TASER suits in past training year. These suits can be used with non-conductive TASER cartridges to train in dynamic scenarios that involve all uses of force including controlled electronic weapons and simunitions.

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Law Enforcement Division provided scenario based simunitions law enforcement training at the SEAFWA spring Director's conference in western North Carolina. Several Directors participated in this training and expressed an interest in bringing this type of scenario based law enforcement training back to their states.

North Carolina completed training on the change in our inspection authority. All officers received training on the applications of the general statute changes in our inspection authority. This change essentially allows an individual to refuse to allow a wildlife officer to inspect weapons and equipment unless the officer has a reasonable suspicion of a violation of the law. This statute also state that a wildlife officer cannot inspect weapons,

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equipment, fish or wildlife in the absence of the person in apparent control of the items. There is an exception for equipment that is left unattended in the normal operation of the equipment such as crab pots, traps, trot lines, etc.

Lieutenant Mark Rich and Lieutenant Philip Lucas graduated from the N.C. Justice Academy's Management Development Program this year. This program last for a year and focuses on developing future leaders among a varied group of law enforcement agencies throughout North Carolina.

The L.E.D. also has nine Wildlife Officers that have achieved the certification Drug Recognition Experts. As Drug Recognition Experts, they evaluate impaired individuals to determine if the impairment is due to a medical condition or an impairing substance. If the impairment is due to an impairing substance, they determine the category (or categories) of drug that is the likely cause of impairment. DREs are court recognized experts in the field of impaired driving detection and enforcement both on the road and on the water.

We have 167 officers that are certified chemical analysts by N.C. Forensic Tests for Alcohol Branch. These analysts are trained in the laws and procedures of administering blood and breath tests to determine impairment in individuals suspected of operating vessels or motor vehicles while impaired.

All Law Enforcement Division supervisors attend leadership training after assuming a leadership position within the agency. At a minimum, new supervisors receive the new sergeant's course or first line supervisors training through the N.C. Justice Academy. In addition, these supervisors attend Leadership for Law Enforcement Managers Course at the N.C. Justice Academy. The Law Enforcement Division currently has five graduates of the Management Development Program through the N.C. Justice Academy, two graduates of the F.B.I. National Academy and one graduate from the National Conservation Leadership Institute.

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

The appropriated funds for the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission were reduced from the previous year. There have been very significant cuts in the agency's appropriated funds in recent years.

The Division continues to provide our officers with the best equipment to perform their duties. Some examples of equipment purchased for our Law Enforcement Division this year include:

- New Mustang automatic inflatable life vests with badge and Wildlife Officer logo for all officers.
- 120 Armasight PVS -14 generation 3A night vision monoculars. All field officers now have PVS-14 3A night vision.
- Five 21' Parker Marine Deep-V fiberglass boat, motor, and trailer

packages. Each has 300HP Yamaha OB, T-top, and radar.

- One 20' 2060 Ken Craft BayRider flat bottom fiberglass boat for SIU unit.
- Four 20' 2060 Ken Craft BayRider flat bottom fiberglass boat, motor, and trailer packages.
- Two 22' 2260 Ken Craft BayRider flat bottom fiberglass boat, motor, and trailer packages. Each has T-top and radar.
- Three 18' G3 Aluminum boat, motor, and trailer packages.
- One 14' G3 aluminum boat, motor, and trailer package for mountain region waters.
- Six one man kayaks of various sizes to fit water being worked.
- Spiewak outer and inner jacket system for all officers.
- Forum Direct rain suite for all officers.

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

The Division implemented an anonymous system for the public to report poaching violations. This system is call "NCWILD TIP." This system allows individuals to anonymously submit reports to our officers for follow-up investigations. The software also allows the officers to put informants in for our Poacher Reward Fund and we recently paid our first reward of \$1,000.00.

North Carolina also had the privilege of hosting the 2015 SEAFWA

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conference in Asheville, North Carolina. The Law Enforcement officers in attendance were given the opportunity to attend a demonstration session of SIG arms products at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville.

The North Carolina General Assembly passed "Sheyenne's Law" during the 2016 legislative session. This law makes it a felony if you operate a motorboat that is involved in an incident causing death or serious bodily injury while impaired. We are currently preparing training for all N.C. Wildlife Officers on the enforcement of this new law.

North Carolina participated in Operation Dry Water once again this summer. We checked 496 vessels, contacted 1,371 boaters, issued 220 written warnings, issued 128 citations and arrested 7 impaired operators over the weekend.

In addition, our Division also partners with the N.C. State Highway Patrol in our annual "On the Road, On the Water, Don't Drink and Drive Campaign." This campaign is a multi-agency campaign throughout the summer holiday weekends of Memorial Day, July Fourth and Labor Day. So far, this campaign has resulted in 1,859 boats checked, 5,897 boaters contacted, 928 written warnings, 476 citations and the arrest of 48 impaired boat operators during this campaign.

North Carolina has unfortunately had 17 deaths that have resulted from 16 fatal boat incidents across our state. The most common cause of death

this summer is boaters deciding to swim without wearing a P.F.D. Alcohol is only known to have been involved in two of these deaths this year.

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

The North Carolina Special Investigations Unit continues working in many non-traditional roles. They are very active in investigating crimes on N.C. Wildlife owned and managed game lands. They have apprehended many individuals that would have never been investigated if not for these covert investigations.

Public safety is always on the forefront of our minds as we perform our duties. Educating the public also helps to prevent the costly experiences of fines and court costs or imprisonment. Hunter Education and Boating Safety courses and Pre-Launch Boating Safety Checks not only save life and limb but also help to prevent costly fines and penalties. Each encounter with the public is an opportunity to help outdoor enthusiasts become more aware of the need to conserve and enjoy North Carolina's wildlife resources. As part of our Public Safety emphasis, we provide.

The NCWRC is tasked with Emergency Mobilization when an event or problem threatens the public or property that requires a greater response than normal operations can provide. The NCWRC supports our state, counties or cities with requests from our EOC partners. On January 12, 2015 the North Carolina Emergency Operations Center activated the Special Emergency Response Team

for 72 hour staffing at the EOC to assist in emergency operations during the winter storm. 135 officers were activated for 12 hour shifts for a total 1,620 hours worked and 27,000 miles driven for patrol and assisting NC Highway Patrol with keeping the public safe during this winter storm event.

COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES

We experimented with our first "short school" in 2016. We hired 8 new recruits to attend advanced wildlife law enforcement training for 14 weeks at the N.C. Justice Academy. This is the first time our agency has hired applicants were already certified law enforcement officers in North Carolina and accepted their current certification. Our normal academy is 26 weeks. This "short school" consisted of 14 weeks of wildlife specific training. Seven of the recruits graduated the academy in June and have moved on to field training with veteran N.C. Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers.

We are currently accepting applications for the 2017 recruit school. We anticipate hiring at least 20 officers in 2017. This will be a full Basic Law Enforcement Training academy.

OKLAHOMA *Bill Hale, Colonel*

The following report covers the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 (FY2016) for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Law Enforcement Division.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Lt. Col. Bill Hale has assumed the

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position of Chief of Law Enforcement Division with the retirement of Col. Robert Fleenor. Fourth District Supervisor Nathan Erdman has been promoted to the position of Assistant Chief of the Law Enforcement Division. Seventh District Supervisor Bryan Wilkerson has been promoted to fill the position of Operations Manager upon the retirement of Capt. David Deckard.

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Law Enforcement Division game warden's primary responsibility is to enforce the State's wildlife laws. Game wardens also participate and assist in all phases of the Wildlife Department's operations and programs.

The division consists of 118 employees, with a field force of 90 game wardens, 16 game warden supervisors and 8 district chiefs. Central office staff includes the chief, assistant chief, operations manager and one secretary.

In addition, the agency has a reserve force consisting of 42 reserve officers who are agency employees assigned to various divisions whose primary duties are other than law enforcement.

The division operates with a straight-line chain of command.

TRAINING ISSUES

All new game wardens undergo a five to six week division academy and ten weeks in the Field Training and Evaluation Program with a Field Training Officer. In addition, they

also attend the 600-hour Oklahoma Basic Law Enforcement Academy, all totaling nearly 30 weeks of training prior to solo assignment.

All game wardens are now required by state mandate to complete twenty-five hours of law enforcement training and two hours of mental health training each year. In addition, all supervisors are also required to attend twelve hours of supervisory training each year. New supervisors are required to attend 24 hours within one year after promotion.

Game Wardens are also required to train and qualify annually with their pistols, shotguns and carbines. In addition, game wardens must also attend an annual 8 hour defensive tactics refresher course.

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

Funding remains basically unchanged from the previous year. We are fortunate that we are a revenue based agency and not experiencing any funding shortfalls.

Funding remains basically unchanged from the previous year.

Three new game wardens were hired during FY 2016. We are currently in the process to fill eight game warden positions; the open positions are a result of retirements from the agency.

We were able to purchase 21 Chevrolet Silverado four-wheel drive extended cab pickups and 2 crew cab pickups. Seventeen of the trucks have been converted to use CNG. The state now has a

mandatory Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) requirement for most state vehicles. The CNG requirement cost the Division \$10,200 per vehicle for each aftermarket conversion for a total \$173,400 additional cost for vehicles. The fuel savings fluctuates as the price of CNG to gasoline changes. Compressed natural gas continues to be a more economical option to gasoline. The equipment installed on this year's trucks include LED light bars, tool boxes, locking double gun racks, and grill guards.

We also were able to purchase a two patrol boats, one a standard 21' equipped with an outboard motor the second an 18' with a jet drive for working shallow waters and rivers. We leased one John Deere Gator UTV with an hourly agreement, and purchased one ATV for use in south central Oklahoma.

We have received shipment and are issuing new Remington 870 pump shotguns equipped with extended magazines, side saddles, speed feed stocks and slings to replace aging shotguns for all game wardens. We have added nine Smith & Wesson carbines chambered in 5.56 x 45mm NATO to the inventory to replace stolen and damaged firearms. We are currently researching body worn cameras to document contacts with the public and critical incidents. We are continuing to replace self-inflating PFD's with new hydrostatic inflatable models, 25 new PFD's were purchased this year.

Other equipment purchased includes trauma kits which were paid for by our Information and Education

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division.

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

Wardens are increasingly using social media to detect wildlife violations, with the proliferation social web sites and services in combination with a younger generation of wardens; we expect this trend to continue. The cases tend to fall in to two distinct types, the first being a posting to sell wildlife or wildlife parts and the second a posting which shares an illegal activity with friends or other online contacts.

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

The division continues to cooperate with every state in efforts to combat fraudulent license applications and interstate wildlife violations.

We continue to work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in enforcing the federal laws occurring in our state.

NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

We implemented a law enforcement Facebook page edited by selected game wardens. The page continues to be instrumental in developing leads in wildlife cases from the public, and serves as a method to provide feedback from the public on our law enforcement efforts. The benefit of social media is the low cost to the agency and the ability to disseminate focused information to

interested constituents.

The Department continues to conduct the hunter education course on-line this has decreased the demand for traditional classroom courses taught by game wardens.

STATE, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL ISSUES, LEGISLATION, LEGAL CHALLENGES AND COURT DECISIONS IMPACTING NATURAL RESOURCES

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Oklahoma Legislature started its session in early February and it was a contentious session from day one. No less than three bills were filed limiting game warden access to private property. After much wrangling and hard feelings on both sides the offending language was removed, only to be replaced with 365/24/7 feral hog hunting on private/public lands with owner permission. This legislation may prove problematic to our game wardens, especially during fall hunting seasons. We had an Agency request bill that dealt with making the wanton waste statute easier to use, but it ran into negative issues in the Senate. Let's hope that next year goes better!

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

We have formed a committee to update the Law Enforcement Division's Procedure Manual. The committee assigns sections of the procedure to members who then meet once per month to evaluate the procedure. We plan to complete this

work sometime in 2016.

Enforcement of the illegal harvest and sale of paddlefish eggs for caviar continues to be a major enforcement issue. Game wardens maintain an increased enforcement emphasis during the annual spring spawn to help curtail the illegal activities associated with the illegal caviar trade.

Game wardens are involved in several Department programs that involve the recruitment and retention of anglers and hunters. The programs include an annual Wildlife Expo held each September in Guthrie, Oklahoma, and regional and annual Archery in the Schools statewide tournaments. Both programs require an enormous amount of manpower and associated costs in these popular and worthwhile projects. Other programs include the annual Wildlife Youth Camp, STEP programs and Aquatic Education. The recruitment and retention of fishermen and hunters and the sale of licenses to them is vital to our agency.

COST SAVING INITIATIVES

Fuel costs continue to be a concern in Oklahoma. Game wardens are encouraged to use time management and to work wisely while conducting their patrols. Fuels saving initiatives have been implemented to help offset costs, including the installation of CNG conversions, which will greatly impact our fuel bill

SOUTH CAROLINA
Chisolm Frampton, Colonel

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INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Division handled 13,238 calls for service this year. S.C. is 8th in the country in registered Vessels and field staff worked inspected over 92000 boats .

The Division coordinated 6 boating forums across the state to obtain input from the public on what their concerns were regarding boating in SC.

The Division has completed work with Citizen Observer to develop a mobile application that allows for public reporting of hunting, fishing, boating, and littering violations through the use of smartphone applications, SMS texting, and links from our website. The Division continues to pursue technological solutions to improve service delivery and processes.

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Department was successful in getting historic Deer Legislation passed which will take effect on January 1, 2017. This legislation established a limit on antlered bucks and requires the tagging of all harvested deer. It also began an establishment of antler restrictions on bucks being harvested with optional harvest tags.

PUBLIC OUTREACH IMPACT

The Division overall has impacted over 180,000 youth through our Hunter, Boater, Take One Make One, and Shooting Sports outreach initiatives. Over 3360 public presentations with 112 media events where conducted by field operations in conjunction with 19 fishing rodeos .

The Take One Make One (TOMO) Program coordinated 71 youth hunts with 337 youth participating. The Law Enforcement and Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Divisions continued their partnership to increase youth hunting through the TOMO Program. Law enforcement officers across the state coordinated over 96 separate events using outreach trailers to impact over 44,000 youth across the state .

SC Scholastic Clay Target Sports continued to grow in success and popularity. This program promotes all three regiments of clay target shooting: Sporting Clays, Trap, and Skeet. The Department partnered with Clemson 4H Shooting Sports to sponsor a youth skeet and trap event. 157 youth participated in this event, making it the largest youth skeet and trap competition held to date in South Carolina. The Division held the first annual Youth Sporting Clay Open with 430 youth shooters from 28 school teams and 17 club teams participating. A total of \$23,500 in college scholarships and 10 Chromebooks were presented to graduating seniors who participated, in addition to other prizes. By placing an emphasis on schools, the Youth Open was successful in creating 10 new school teams and opened the door for more schools to consider participation in shooting sports.

The SC Archery in Schools Program continued to see growth as well. South Carolina currently has 323 active schools that participate in the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). Over 1020 teachers have been trained in the

NASP curriculum. 46,800 students participated in the National Archery in the Schools Program. 1,935 students participated in 5 regional archery events held across the state. These expanded regional events allowed more schools to be able to participate in a competitive event. 1,078 finalists from the Regionals attended the three-day State Event. \$7,000 in college scholarships were given to graduating seniors at the state archery event.

COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES

The Division continued cooperative efforts with the SC Department of Public Safety on BUI and DUI enforcement by initiating a new campaign, the "100 Deadliest Days of Summer". Stepped up enforcement efforts beginning on Memorial Day and running through the summer are the focus of this campaign. These efforts include joint public service announcements on TV and radio representing the enforcement focus of both Divisions, and joint use of aircraft and mobile breath testing vans at saturations and check points.

The Division continues to play an important role in homeland security and emergency management by working cooperatively with State, Local, and Federal agencies on security missions, natural disaster response, port security, and patrolling sensitive sites. This year the Division spent 7,338 hours conducting search and rescue mission, the most prevalent was the 100 year flood response. The Division assisted for 9 days or search and rescue mission involving over 158 officers resulting in over 930 rescues. The Division also worked a 3 week security detail involving 60 officers at the

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Statehouse during the demonstrations over the Confederate Flag. The Division also sent 92 officers to assist at the Memorial Day Weekend Bike Week in Myrtle Beach providing assistance to 4 local agencies, as well as deploying 30 officers to the 5 day Darlington Bike Rally to assist local agencies.

In an effort to enhance the working relationships with the US Coast Guard (USCG) and to provide a stronger partnership in Operation Seahawk, the Division promoted a First Sergeant to be an intelligence analyst within the Seahawk program. In addition to working with Operation Seahawk, DNR Officers spent over 6,508 hours on homeland security missions during the year. In another continued partnership South Carolina continued its long standing NOAA OLE agreement for offshore fisheries enforcement.

The Division and Wendy's Corporation continued joint promotions aimed at boating safety awareness. The Division continued issuing free frosty coupons in the form of citations for having been "caught wearing a life jacket". The Division continued use of the "Zippit" boating safety promotional program which has proven to be a successful program. The Division also participated in a joint BUI / DUI safety campaign airing television commercials on the hazards of BUI / DUI in conjunction with the SC Department of Public Safety.

FUNDING AND STAFFING INITIATIVES

The Division instituted two additional 5% career path steps at 15 and 20 year anniversaries for officers at the

rank of Major and below. It is a recruitment and retention step the Division feels will not only help attract the best possible candidates, but allow it to retain the experienced officers within the division.

TRAINING

The training section continues to implement a new training database using Southern Software to maintain training records and coordinate training annually.

The Division also provided the following advanced training to senior staff:

- Hosted Jack Enter to conduct 2 days of leadership training for all LE supervisors;
- Six officers completed FBI Command College;
- Two senior officers completed the three week NACLEC Leadership Training in Shepardstown, WV;
- Three officers are currently in the 18 month Certified Public Managers Training conducted through the state Office of Human Resources;
- Two Instructors completed NASBLA Marine Live Fire Firearms and Tactical Boating Course in Wichita, KS
- Additional training in riot control, active shooter and officer survival in both water and land based conditions was also continued.

Training initiatives are a critical focus of the Division because we believe a well-trained force leads to increased

moral, and more professionalism within the Division. These are attributes the public expects of today's law enforcement professionals.

TENNESSEE

Darren Rider, Colonel

TRAINING

Five new officers were hired and trained in firearms, ATVs, defensive tactics, EVOC, BUI, and boating accident investigation.

All officers were trained in Boating Under the Influence detection and apprehension, including a live alcohol workshop.

All enforcement districts were trained on Hummingbird side scan sonar equipment.

During annual In-service training all commissioned officers were able to train shooting from a moving boat, in addition how to effectively respond to an active shooter scenario.

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

Agency employees in a wildlife class position in which wildlife officers are included were given a 5.3% pay raise, in addition if that employee was not topped out in their pay grade they were awarded an additional 4.5% for a cost of living adjustment.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

In June 2016, TWRA partnered with state and local law enforcement agencies across the state in Operation Dry Water (ODW) from June 24-26. These joint operations identified impaired operators on Tennessee waters. ODW resulted in 130 officers participating; 1,633 total officer hours; 4,162 total vessels

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checked; 142 citations written; 119 warnings written; 11 BUI arrests and 104 boaters were assisted.

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

The Agency passed a new rule that authorizes the Agency to take reciprocal actions in conjunction with other participating states in the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact (IWVC). The rule establishes a due process procedure for the Agency to notify a Tennessee resident who has failed to comply with the terms of a wildlife citation issued from another participating state, suspending their Tennessee license privileges until proof of compliance is provided from the other state.

Officers with TWRA's Special Investigations Unit have been working jointly with the USFWS on investigations dealing with illegal hunting, commercialization of wildlife and Lacey Act violations.

INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Agency has approved funding for a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system that will provide officer location in addition to providing incident reporting, dispatching records along with record and data management.

The Agency implemented a compliment/complaint system that allows the public a formal process in which to compliment an employee or complain against an employee.

The Agency purchased and is utilizing a 3-D digital laser scanner to assist in documenting boating

incident crash scenes and court preparation.

STATE ISSUES/LEGISLATION AFFECTING LAW ENFORCEMENT

Legislation was passed this year that included – allowing firearms in vehicles at all times in all places including our Wildlife Management Areas.

The law was changed to allow the Agency to accept ten years of work experience in lieu of the requirement of a bachelor degree to hire as a wildlife officer.

Legislation was passed to allow PWC (personal watercraft) model's that were not manufactured with a kill switch to operate without a kill switch.

COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES

The Agency partnered with the Tennessee Advanced Communications Network which includes: Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP); Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC) and Tennessee Valley Regional Communications System (TVRCS) that allowed the installation of a radio repeater that will enhance the Agency's digital 800 MHz communication abilities with other state agencies.

SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Law enforcement is discussing the issues of CWD and what the best direction the Agency needs to take to prevent this disease from entering Tennessee.

TEXAS

Craig Hunter, Colonel

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Are officers 100% Wildlife Law

Enforcement or Mixed: 100% Enforcement

Straight Line Reporting Structure: Y

Number of Officers: 551 Full Time Employee (FTE's) Game Warden positions from Colonel to Game Warden Cadet.

TRAINING

– The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department – Law Enforcement Division (TPWD-LE) continues to encourage and promote relevant training to ensure game wardens are prepared to meet the demands of their job. Some highlights from the past year include:

- The Game Warden Training Center (GWTC) is in the process of rolling out a Use of Force Update to all game wardens. This training block will be given in two parts with an initial on-line 2 hour section, followed by a classroom section with group discussion and writing exercises. The Law Enforcement Division General Order governing the use of force is also going through an editing process to make sure it addresses the current issues and tactics of force. Body worn camera training will follow with a similar on-line format.

- The GWTC will be choosing a new sight system for the M-4 rifles to replace the recalled EoTech sights. While waiting for the replacement sights game

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wardens have been directed to practice/qualify with the traditional iron sight in different lighting conditions.

- At the direction of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Executive Director, the Game Warden Training Center has created an Advisory Board that meets annually and is comprised of ranking game wardens and members of the general public. The board discusses all aspects of hiring and training new cadets, they advise the training center staff on specific training needs, and provide guidance on curriculum and all matters related to effective operations of the GWTC.

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

TPWD-LE continues to maintain a substantial force of over 500 game wardens statewide. As with many agencies TPWD-LE has had to work with senior management, legislators, and constituents to ensure the strong tradition of Texas Game Wardens endures during difficult economic times. While there are still Law Enforcement Division concerns, such as the aircraft fleet and the vehicle fleet, the division as a whole has fared well. Some highlights include:

- The 60th Game Warden Cadet class reported to duty January 11, 2016 and after successfully completing the course of training they will graduate August 2, 2016. There are currently 42 game warden cadets and 6 park police

officer cadets attending the 7 month long academy. This cadet class marks the second joint academy incorporating State Park Police cadets with the Game Warden cadets. All cadets will attend the NASBLA Officer Water Survival training that is also being administered to the field in regional segments.

- The 84th Session of the Texas Legislature approved funding for nineteen border game wardens. These nineteen additional positions increase the total Law Enforcement commissioned number to 551 Full Time Employee's.
- The Law Enforcement Division has hired two new Sergeant Game Warden positions to assist with ongoing operations by the division along the Texas/Mexico border.
- The Law Enforcement division continues development of the specialized teams by incorporating additional training and deployments as required. Teams include: Texas Maritime Tactical Operations Group, K-9 Team, Scout Team, Search and Rescue Team, Dive Team, Forensics Reconstruction and Mapping Team, and Marine Theft Unit. Additionally, four new Captain Game Wardens are now place supervising the Dive Team, the K-9

Team, the SCOUT Team and the MTOG Team.

- The GWTC working through the Bobwhite Brigade organization has developed a new Game Warden Brigade program targeting conservation minded youth leaders. The first pilot class will be held in August of 2016 at the GWTC. This joint venture hopes to draw future conservation professionals from diverse backgrounds to complement our on-going recruitment mission.

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

Significant advances have been made by TPWD-LE in support of major conservation law enforcement trends. Whether working traditional conservation law enforcement efforts in federal waters or being the lead agency on border operations game wardens continue to adapt and excel as their job duties change and expand. A few examples of TPWD-LE involvement in these trends include:

- In FY 16 the Law Enforcement Forensic Laboratory received formal accreditation from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board. The accreditation signifies that the LE Forensic Laboratory conforms to ISO-IEC 17025:2005 and ASCLD/LAB-*International* standards and is accredited in the areas of non-human nuclear DNA

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and protein analysis. The TPWD LE Forensic Laboratory is the only state government wildlife forensic laboratory in the country to have accomplished this feat to date.

- Border operations continue to be an enforcement effort game wardens are involved with along the Texas/Mexico border and in the Gulf of Mexico. TPWD-LE game wardens fill a vital niche with their expertise of navigating the waterways and back country of rural Texas. Some of the most challenging areas for game wardens to patrol are the remote mountains and canyons in the Big Bend region of west Texas. While maintaining these patrols game wardens are constantly in search of illegal drug and human smuggling activity in addition to their enforcement efforts of the Texas Parks and Wildlife and Penal Code. These operations serve a dual purpose by allowing game wardens to practice conservation law enforcement while serving as a force multiplier providing security along the border.

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE, ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

TPWD-LE continues its involvement with several cooperative enforcement efforts with federal and

state partners which include:

- In January of 2016 game wardens in southeast Texas received a phone call from a local landowner advising them that two Whooping Cranes had been killed. An individual had flagged down the landowner and advised him he was chasing some individuals in a grey pick-up truck that had shot and killed the Whooping Cranes. Upon arrival at the crime scene game wardens began the collection of evidence of the suspected killing of the Cranes as well as gathering statements from the community. Local TPWD Supervisors were notified of the situation and were in route to assist in the investigation along with a Special Agent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Whooping Crane carcasses were analyzed by X-Ray Technology and it was the veterinarian's professional opinion that the birds were in fact shot and killed by a small caliber, similar to a .22 or a .17 caliber type rifle. This case was investigated jointly by TPWD game wardens and a Special Agent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the matter was resolved, with charges filed, in a very timely manner due to this cooperative effort and overwhelming support from the community.

- In March of 2016 game wardens in Brazoria County were notified by the U.S. Coast Guard about a vessel that was suspected of being involved with possible recreational fishing violations. Game wardens made contact with the vessel, under U.S. Coast Guard escort, at a local marina. Upon inspection of the vessel, three recreational fisherman were found to be in possession of 488 Red Snapper, 154 Vermillion Snapper, 1 Gag Grouper, and 1 Warsaw Grouper for a total of 1,910 lbs. of fish. This case was clearly a blatant disregard of fisheries regulations considering the recreational red snapper season was closed in Federal Waters, and only 4 red snapper per person are allowed in State Waters. Game wardens contacted agents with NOAA – National Marine Fisheries Service to assist with prosecution of the case and confiscation of the fish which were sold to the highest bidder. Total values of the fish sold, include, \$9,500 (Wholesale value) and \$30,000 (Retail Value.) This was a Joint State/Federal Enforcement effort with several State and Federal violations pending.
- TPWD-LE has partnered with NOAA – Office of Law Enforcement, National

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Marine Fisheries Service since 2001 by maintaining a Joint Enforcement Agreement that provides federal funds for state game wardens to patrol coastal waters and points-of-entry for enforcement of recreational and commercial fisheries violations. This successful partnership has provided equipment and operational funds which have allowed for increased officer presence in the bays and Gulf of Mexico.

NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Game wardens patrolling 367 miles of Texas' coastline and 16 deep water ports will be utilizing newly-acquired advanced radiological and nuclear detection equipment that will help keep the state, its maritime ports and international borders, and the nation safe from a potential threat of a dirty bomb. Through a federal funded port security grant, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Law Enforcement Division was able to secure 1.1 million dollars in equipment and training on deployment and detection of this new threat. Beginning in late 2015 and early 2016 over 100 devices were assigned to Wardens along the coast and they were trained to use them by the National

Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) course on Small Vessel Radiological and Nuclear Detection (SVRND). This course was developed in coordination with the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) and is designed to elevate and enhance the RND capabilities of officers to conduct steady state, enhanced steady state and search operations on the waters of the United States. The training and equipment acquisition has been in the works for some time as the States Boating Law Administrator Cody Jones has been working with DNDO and Oakridge National Laboratory to develop the states program and concept of operations as part of the National Maritime Security Strategy and the Department of Homeland Security Small Vessel Security Strategy.

- The Law Enforcement (LE) Division continues development of effective communication processes and tools by utilizing a highly successful social media program. The LE Division has become a leader in outreach via Facebook and Twitter by proactively telling the "world" what game wardens do and using these media outlets to

detect and gather tips on potential resource violations. The LE Division has also been successful in rapidly creating videos, having virtual ride-a-longs, and sharing these successes with dozens of other states' conservation law enforcement professionals through conferences and seminars.

- The Law Enforcement (LE) Division has continuously improved business management systems, and business practices and technology by working in collaboration with the Information Technology Division. More specifically, the LE Division has now created several internal mobile apps. These apps place relevant, timely information directly into the hands of the game warden, enabling them to do their jobs more safely and in the best interest of the constituent. For example, the License Verify mobile app allows game wardens to see the last five years of a constituent's TPWD license holdings. This mobile app was recognized as Best in Texas by the Center for Digital Government in 2015.

STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ISSUES, LEGISLATION, LEGAL CHALLENGES AND COURT DECISIONS IMPACTING NATURAL RESOURCES LAW

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ENFORCEMENT

- The 84th Legislature enacted several new laws directly impacting Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and a partial list of these laws is provided below.
- **House Bill 158** relating to the allocation and use of the proceeds from taxes imposed on the sale, storage, or use of sporting goods amended the Tax Code to authorize TPWD to receive 94% of the proceeds from the Sporting Goods Sales Tax (SGST). Since 2007, the Tax Code has contained language stating that TPWD is entitled to 94% of the total tax proceeds from the sales of sporting goods. However, the actual amount given to the agency has been dependent on the legislative appropriation of these proceeds in the General Appropriations Act. As a result, TPWD has consistently received significantly less than 94% of the SGST in from 2007 to the present. With this law, 94% of SGST proceeds are deposited into TPWD accounts without any future legislative action necessary. However, these funds still must be legislatively appropriated before they are spent.
- **House Bill 593** would require all peace officers - except officers employed in a county with a

population of less than 125,000 - to attend animal encounter training. The training is required to be conducted with an emphasis on canine-related incidents and the utilization of nonlethal methods in handling the encounter. This version relaxes a previous requirement that would not allow the initial training to be conducted online. It also relaxes original wording that would require the training to be conducted at a minimum of every 2 years. It appears with this version, that once the training requirement has been met, future training in this area is not required.

House Bill 721 relating to the hunting or fishing license fee waiver for certain disabled veterans amended Parks and Wildlife Code to change the qualification for disabled veteran status. This law lowers the qualification from 60% disability to 50% disability, as defined by the federal Department of Veteran's Affairs. Resident and non-resident disabled veterans are entitled to free super combo licenses. This distinction also reduces fees associated with other hunting, fishing and combination licenses.

- **House Bill 1466** relating to Parks and Wildlife Department procedures for the transfer of ownership

of boats or outboard motors; providing penalties; creating a criminal offense amended the Parks and Wildlife Code to require a vessel owner to notify the department within twenty days of transferring vessel ownership, or removing the vessel from the state or country. The new owner is required to apply for a new application for the vessel within twenty days.

- **House Bill 1579** removes allowance for removal of a shark's tail prior to final destination but allows possession of fins by commercial and recreational anglers. The bill gives TPWD authority over cooked, uncooked, or otherwise processed shark fins. Provides for Class B penalty for sale, possession for sale, transport for sale, or shipment for sale of shark fins which shall be pursued as a Class A if previously convicted within 5 years of trial date. (Effective date July 1, 2016)
- **House Bill 1584** relating to a voluntary donation to the fund for veteran's assistance when applying for a hunting or fishing license amended the Parks and Wildlife Code to allow hunting and fishing license customers to make voluntary contributions to the veteran's fund, both online and in person.

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- **Senate Bill 158** would require certain law enforcement agencies to provide body worn cameras to all officers. The bill does provide for some grant money to offset the cost of the body cameras to the agencies.
- **Senate Bill 381** relating to tort liability arising from a volunteer's operation of a Parks and Wildlife Department motor-driven vehicle or motor-driven equipment amended the Parks and Wildlife Code to exempt volunteers from civil liability for any act or omission made in operating a department vehicle, not including intentional, negligent or disregarding acts. The department shall compensate resultant injuries or damages caused in such circumstances by volunteers using department vehicles.
- **Senate Bill 1366** relating to the allocation to the Parks and Wildlife Department of the proceeds from taxes imposed on the sale, storage, or use of sporting goods amended the Parks and Wildlife Code to remove a statutory percent-based allocation of the Sporting Goods Sales Tax. In the past, a formula dictated that each account credited by SGST would receive a specific percentage of SGST transfers to TPWD: State

Parks Account- 74%; Texas Recreation and Parks Account- 15%; Large County and Municipal Recreation and Parks Account- 10%, and Capital and Conservation Account- 1%. These percentages resulted in backlogs of state park and construction activities, since funds were not always appropriated where they could best fill agency needs. Striking this formula gives the legislature increased flexibility in appropriating SGST funds to these accounts.

Senate Joint Resolution 22 (proposing a constitutional amendment relating to the right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife) amended the Texas Constitution to add language indicating that Texans have the right to use traditional methods to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife to conserve and manage wildlife, subject to laws and regulations. It also states that hunting and fishing are preferred methods of managing and controlling wildlife. This constitutional amendment was passed by Texas voters as a ballot proposition on November 3, 2015, by a 62% margin.

- **House Resolution 937** encouraging safe boating practices and paying tribute to the life of Kali Gorzell of San Antonio. This resolution points to

the "Flats Boat" issue address by the United States Coast Guard in their Fall 2014 Boating Safety Circular (Please click on the link below for a pdf version) #88: <http://www.uscgboating.org/assets/1/AssetManager/Fall%202014%20BSC%20rev%203.pdf>

- Additionally, legislation was enacted creating several memorial highways across the state honoring game wardens that have been killed in the line of duty. The four game wardens honored with Memorial Highways include Game Warden James E. Daughtrey, Game Warden Joseph Marshall Evans, Game Warden Michael C. Pauling and Game Warden Wesley W. Wagstaff
- **House Bill 219** amends the Transportation Code, by adding Section 225.105 which designates a portion of Farm-To-Market Road 1293 in Hardin County as the Texas Game Warden Wesley W. Wagstaff Memorial Highway.
- **House Bill 1963** amends the Transportation Code, by adding Section 225.107 which designates a portion of State Highway 87 in Jefferson County as the Texas Game Warden Michael C. Pauling Memorial Highway.

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- **Senate Bill 227** amends the Transportation Code, by adding Section 225.105 which designates a portion of Farm-to-Market Road 624 in McMullen County as the Texas Game Warden James E. Daughtrey Memorial Highway.
- **Senate Bill 288** amends the Transportation Code, by adding Section 225.106 which designates a portion of State Highway 16 in Young County as Texas Game Warden Joseph Marshall Evans Memorial Highway.
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation promulgates specific rules for law enforcement agencies that utilize its databases. As part of that, there is a security protocol referred to as the Criminal Justice Information Systems. This 186-page set of rules (currently called version 5.2) which dictates how Information Technology (IT) devices transmit and store information requires IT, purchasing, and LE personnel to all work together to ensure there is compliance. TPWD receives audits every three years in each of its two dispatch centers. The La Porte Communications Center was last audited in the summer of 2013 and the Austin Communications Center received an audit in early 2014. In addition to the

communications centers, game wardens now have the capability to run registrations checks, background checks, and license verification information on their handheld devices.

COST SAVINGS INITIATIVES

- TPWD-LE continues to move forward with embracing new technology and incorporating new ideas and concepts into the traditional methods of accomplishing the agency and division missions. E-documents and interactive conference calls are replacing massive mailings and face-to-face meetings which were once the standard. As a result TPWD-LE disseminates information in a more timely and efficient manner at an overall cost savings to the Law Enforcement Division.

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- In 2015, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was detected inside a captive cervid (deer) facility in Texas. In response to this detection, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Commission adopted rules designed to provide confidence in preventing the spread of the disease into other facilities or other areas of the state. As is with all new rules, education of the public in an effort to gain understanding and

compliance has been a top priority for the Law Enforcement Division. Game Wardens have been provided training in the new rules, and have been working extensively with industry and the public to ensure understanding by all.

- In the state's ongoing effort to combat the spread of invasive zebra mussels in freshwater lakes rules require that all boats operating on public freshwater anywhere in Texas be drained after use. Persons leaving or approaching public freshwater are required to drain all water from their vessels and on-board receptacles (includes live wells, bilges, motors and any other receptacles or water-intake systems coming into contact with public waters). This rule applies at all sites where boats can be launched and includes all types and sizes of boats whether powered or not, personal watercraft, sailboats, kayaks/canoes, or any other vessel used to travel on public waters.

VIRGINIA

Clark Green, Captain, Acting Chief

STAFFING

The Law Enforcement Division is currently staffed with 142 sworn Conservation Police Officers and 10 civilian employees. The Agency is currently in process of adding 40

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Conservation Police Officers in the September 2016 Training Academy. After 4 years of being on hold, we have completed the Lieutenants promotion process and currently completing the Majors and Sergeants promotion process.

This past year Virginia Conservation Police Officers have been involved in many outdoor events, such as, hunts and fishing trips for Wounded Warriors, Kids Fishing Days, and Youth Hunts.

Agency Headquarters Dispatch has completed the hiring process and is now at full staff of 10 Dispatchers.

As the result of a recent relocation by DGIF, the opportunity to greatly upgrade and enhance its 24/7 CPO Communications Center presented itself. New state-of-the-art equipment was procured and implemented. By design, the new Law Enforcement Training Academy was located next door to the dispatch facility and is configured to serve as an Agency Command Center in the event of an emergency. Built in dual redundancy for phone, radio, and power to the center greatly enhances agency continuity and also aids in the Commonwealth's ongoing emergency preparedness efforts.

This year we expanded our recruitment efforts to diversify our Law Enforcement Division. We recruited at numerous colleges, universities, high schools, middle schools, military facilities, civic groups, hunt clubs, churches and other organizations seeking good

quality applicants. Contacts were made by telephone and email, and recruitment brochures were sent to individuals on a mailing list. We have also partnered with a marketing and communication firm that specializes in diversity recruiting. We are currently hiring 5 females, and one African American from our last recruitment process. We continue to seek ways to improve, and put strong emphasis on diversity recruiting and hiring.

TRAINING

In-Service training was provided to 120 Officers in March of this year. Those completing the training met the state mandated requirement of 40 hours of training every two years. A training session with a concentration on stress and mental health issues that Officers face on a day to day basis was also provided.

Mandated legal update training was completed.

This fall, all Conservation Police Officers are to schedule and complete mandatory Off Road Drivers Training at our Fort Pickett Off-Road Driving Course.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

Virginia Conservation Police 24/7 dispatch recorded 41,375 CAD calls in 2016. A 15.8% increase over 2015. There were 4,857 Crime Line calls (Hunt, Fish, Boat and Trap) in 2016.

Conservation Police Officers initiated calls increased by 20% with a total of 19,837. This includes 2,355 boat patrols. A 9% increase over 2015.

Despite a decrease in the number of sworn CPOs from 154 in 2015 to 142 in 2016, officers recorded and increase of average arrests per officer (13.4%) and average summonses issued per officer (14.4%). In 2016 officers made 8875 arrests resulting in 11,830 summonses.

The two new developing trends in Virginia are illegal ginseng harvest (due to the cable TV show "Appalachian Outlaws") and poaching of Elk. Virginia Officers made 23 closed season ginseng harvest cases. Sixty one charges were placed against 32 individuals that included closed season harvest/possession of ginseng, harvest/possession of underage ginseng, trespass, larceny, and unlawful possession of a threatened plant. 1109 unlawfully harvested ginseng roots with an estimated value of \$3800 were seized.

With the reintroduction of Elk in Virginia, Conservation Officers investigated five cases involving the poaching of elk. 144 misdemeanor and five felony charges were placed against five individuals for violations related to the unlawful killing or possession of elk.

Our new trend in enforcement is concentrated on large local events. This past summer we deployed 26 Conservation Officers to work scheduled boat patrols totaling 624 man hours to work the Annual Hell's Angel USA Run. Over 400 members attended the Hell's Angel Event. The strong presence Virginia Conservation Police Officers on

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Buggs Island Lake deterred any issues during the entire event.

28 Virginia Conservation Police Officers were also present deploying 12 patrol boats to work a water event At Chippokes State Park. During the event 39 individuals were tested for alcohol, officers made 5 OUI arrests, 1 DIP arrest, and 2 possession of alcohol by minor arrests. The number of designated operators was up significantly from last year where officers arrested 13 intoxicated boat operators during the same event.

NEW INNOVATIONS

It has been a priority for the Law Enforcement Division to update as much equipment as possible. We have purchased 25 new Tahoe SUVs, all to be equipped with standard lights and gun racks, and installed with new all metal gun/evidence vaults to support our national accreditation efforts. We also installed new Panasonic "Tuff book" laptops for all new Law Enforcement Tahoe's.

The Law Enforcement Division also purchased 5 new 22ft patrol boats, along with 5 large river boats. We have also purchased John Deer "Gators" to support our K9 Units.

We recently purchased 200 LEUPOLD Red Dot Sights to replace old sights on our Colt M4 Patrol Rifles. This comes in the wake of concerns of the old EO Tech sights shifting their point of aim when exposed to extreme high or low temperatures.

WEST VIRGINIA

Jerry B. Jenkins, Colonel

OFFICER TRAINING

Officers received training in Cyber Investigations, Defensive Driving Courses, boat accident investigation, defensive tactics/water survival, search and seizure, swift water rescue, search/rescue, man tracking, and basic land navigation. Some of the courses were instructor based and will enable us to continually update officers in the respective fields of instruction.

DNR officers received training utilizing the seated battery for BUI and DUI apprehension.

The Section Honor Guard attends opening ceremonies, special events and funerals. Feedback from this program has been overwhelmingly positive. We are working towards increasing the members to cover the activities.

FUNDING & STAFFING

The WV DNR Law Enforcement Section normally has a staffing level of 123 Natural Resources Police Officers (NRPO) and 11 support personnel. During FY2016, one officer retired, three officers and two civilians resigned and seven new officers and four civilians were hired.

During FY 2016, two officers were promoted to NRP Captain, four officers were promoted to NRP Lieutenant, and five officers were promoted to NRP Sergeants.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

DNR officers participated in the nationwide program, *Operation Dry Water*, June 24, 2016 thru June 26,

2016 The Section renewed efforts towards water safety and increased lifejacket usage by the public thru our Wear It Campaign..

The public and media are following the work done by officers on the WV Natural Resources Police Officer Facebook page. There has been an increase in contact during FY16 by the media, local and national, asking for additional information for media stories. The Facebook page has resulted in an increase in the reporting of wildlife law violations and the email reporting system.

The Section launched a new records management system for tracking citations, warnings, complaints, officer reports, and for use as a hunting and fishing license revocation program. The purchase of an online event manager for the hunter education program is in the planning stages.

We are continuing to move reports to a computer-based process since we purchased the laptop computers for the officers. The officers can now log their activity directly into the payroll system and the supervisors can electronically approve the time and activity. This change has resulted in less administrative time and travel.

The Section has spent a lot of time filling positions in administrative and officer positions this past year. With the current budget cuts, it has been difficult retaining or hiring qualified people.

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR

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COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

In accordance with the 2015 Legislature, three officers were assigned to work the Hatfield-McCoy Regional Authority effective July 1, 2015. Due to the expansion of the trail system and an increase in the number of riders, the Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority has requested the Section assign a NRP Sergeant to the area. The Authority reimburses the Section for salaries, benefits, and associated equipment expenses.

The Natural Resources Police Officers assisted state, county, and local police and emergency personnel in rescuing and delivering food and supplies to the victims of the flood that devastated many WV counties during the end of FY16.

COST SAVING INITIATIVES

The agency continues to conduct a vehicle/boat accident review board semi-annually to identify incident types and causes. Thereby, allowing the Section to focus on needed training to reduce accidents, thus reducing our insurance rates.

We have moved many of our reporting forms into electronic form to allow for internet transfer and approvals. The Section continually utilizes technology to reduce travel costs. Cell phones, computers, radios, and the internet are used to transmit reports, complaints, and information.

We have been cycling out older equipment such as radios, boats, and vehicles in attempts to avoid

costly repair bills that often found to be short term and repetitive.

We continue to work with federal and state agencies to procure grants to assist with equipment purchases. We have been monitoring our hunter education and boating grants to maximize returns from our expenditures of time and resources.

The Section has been conducting more conference calls to cut down on in-state travel as we conduct meetings, boards, or planning sessions.

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