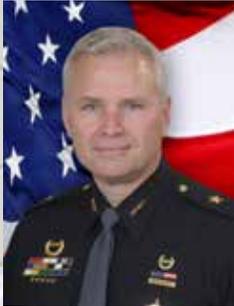


Franklin County Sheriff ZACH SCOTT COUNTY STAR



Sheriff Zach Scott
Franklin County Sheriff's Office

February 2015

Sgt. Aaron Heflin enjoys a moment with K9 partner Vando who specializes in explosives detection.

WHO WE ARE

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Columbus, Ohio, is a full-service law enforcement agency, an arm of the courts and the custodial keeper of those who break the law.



Project Lifesaver Works

At 6:30 a.m., Jan. 22, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office received its first call out to help bring home a Project Lifesaver client, an elderly man with dementia/Alzheimer's disease.

The man's wife called 911 after finding her husband had left the house. The info went to Columbus Police and our Communications Center, which contacted Cpl. Shawn Pak, who then called Sgt. Sam Byrd, who was closer to the client's home. Sgt. Byrd drove immediately to the client's home with the Project Lifesaver equipment. He was successfully tracking the client to within 25 feet when a Columbus Police officer in a cruiser made contact. The man was returned home safely.

"This was the first time we were called out, and it went smoothly," said Cpl. Pak. "The equipment worked exactly as it was supposed to do."

Since it was launched 15 years ago, Project Lifesaver has trained more than 1,300 agencies in the U.S., Canada and Australia, and has performed thousands of searches with no serious injuries or fatalities. The Franklin County Sheriff's Office enrolled its first clients in the program last summer.

Participants in Project Lifesaver have a qualifying condition such as Alzheimer's, dementia or autism that may lead to the life threatening behavior of wandering. Once enrolled, a client wears a tracking signal using a radio frequency.

For more information, contact Sgt. Byrd or Cpl. Pak at 614-525-4507.

<http://www.projectlifesaver.org/>

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<http://sheriff.franklincountyohio.gov>

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SWAT Team Builds on Success in Nabbing Felons

With all its armor and heavy equipment, the SWAT Team of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office values its intangible assets just as much. These include constant training, information gathered through surveillance and effective communications to reduce the need to use force.

As it enters its second year as a full-time unit, the FCSO SWAT Team has achieved many milestones in the past 12 months, including:

- Capturing 45 of 48 Monday's Most Wanted suspects, with the help of a valuable partnership with 10TV.
- Taking murder and rape suspects as well as sexual predators off the streets - several as suspects in Monday's Most Wanted.
- Working 1,679 warrants in 2014, with 291 warrant arrests made.
- Working 408 probate warrants, with 282 probate individuals in custody.
- Arresting 30 in fresh crimes.
- Responding to 88 call outs – search warrants: knock/no-knock carried out for Special Investigations Unit, FBI, DEA, ATF and Columbus Police.
- Providing 12 assists for Columbus Police SWAT.
- Achieving a 75 percent reduction in response to aggression in serving probate warrants, from 12 per year for the past few years to just three in 2014.
- Meeting with families and children in 10 community events throughout the year.
- Assisting Pickaway, Morrow, Licking, Fairfield and Delaware counties in search warrants and barricades upon request.
- Winning grants totaling about \$110,000 for surveillance cameras and other technology to track and capture wanted criminals.
- Aiding in the training of the CRASE program, new cadets, department training and outside training.

From 1994 until early last year, the SWAT Team focused on drug raids, barricade situations and community events as a part-time unit. Deputies on the team worked their regular shifts and moved to a SWAT call if needed. Upon taking office in 2011, Sheriff Zach Scott began plans to transition the unit to full time with new duties and responsibilities.

In January 2014, the long-held vision became reality. The team expanded its regular work to include making high-risk felony arrests and serving probate warrants, an often volatile task that had been carried out by patrol deputies. The transition to full-time status also allowed the team to greatly expand its surveillance of high-risk suspects and increase the training it offers throughout the Sheriff's Office and with other agencies.

The daily work of SWAT, which stands for Special Weapons And Tactics, typically occurs without use of force. "Most of the time, it's a show of force," said Lt. Michael Raven, who joined the SWAT team in 2000 and now leads it. "Suspects see what they're up against and usually give up."



SWAT Team members question family members of an individual who is wanted by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

The amount of force deployed or made visible depends on circumstances and information gained in surveillance. In one case last year, the SWAT Team nabbed a suspect after observing he had a habit of coming out of his house, looking around and then going back inside. SWAT had some of its members dress to blend in with the neighborhood and grabbed the suspect at one of these moments, completing the arrest without incident.

In other cases, armored vehicles and heavily armed deputies are needed to nab a dangerous felon. Change the quote to "Our Bear Cats can safely carry personnel and equipment," said Lt. Raven. "We had a case where a guy answered the door with his AK-47 (assault rifle) in hand. If we didn't have the Bear Cat with us, who knows how that would have turned out."

SWAT, continued

The work can be physically demanding. Deputies hoping to join the SWAT Team must be able to wear and carry heavy gear and sustain awkward positions such as crouching for long periods in order to clear a structure or work a barricade or hostage situation. In tryouts, candidates must complete a 1.5-mile run in 13 minutes, plus three dead-hang pull-ups, 40 sit-ups, 25 push-ups and an agility test in specified periods.



Sgt. Ray Debolt constructed a makeshift hallway so SWAT Team members could practice sweeps and searches.

Under Lt. Raven, the 16 deputies, two corporals and two sergeants on the SWAT Team bring experience from all parts of the Sheriff’s Office, including corrections, patrol, the courts and other assignments. Upon joining the team, deputies go through field training specific to SWAT responsibilities. Each month, SWAT deputies take 20 hours of in-service training to prepare members to operate as a team in various scenarios using the specialized weapons and equipment.

To enhance safety in serving probate warrants, all deputies have taken Crisis Intervention Training. “Talking helps,” Lt. Raven said. “We’re getting to that person’s level. Because of that training, our deputies show greater compassion to the situation.”

Lt. Raven is proud of the sharp reduction in response to aggression when serving probate warrants, from 12 per year for each of the past few years to just three in 2014. Unfortunately, one of the three responses came

in early December, when Deputy Sean Brady was shot while serving a probate warrant at a home in Far West Columbus. Deputy Brady is now back on duty and the man who shot him was taken into custody.

For 2015, SWAT will focus on assisting Patrol with saturation enforcement in problem areas and continue to assist in training within different Divisions of the Sheriff’s Office. Show of force, backed by constant training, makes a difference. “On the streets, it’s invaluable,” Lt. Raven said. “The criminals will just give up. It’s when you have one or two guys –that’s when they want to take off or resist.”

Lt. Raven says his goal for the team is that the criminal element will soon become aware that FCSO SWAT always gets its target.

“If someone knows the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office SWAT wants them, they know we’re not going to quit and the person will therefore turn himself in. That’s what we want.”

Lt. Raven commended past Commanders of the SWAT Team whose tireless work over the years helped the Team get ready for this transition - Major Tom Hanes, Major Earl Smith and Lt. Anthony Graves. “I couldn’t have had a better group over the years to help the Team and myself get to this point,” he said.



SWAT Team members assist a fellow deputy during a barricade situation where an individual chased his girlfriend with a knife before locking himself inside his home on May 14, 2014.

Monday's Most Wanted

Early last year, the FCSO SWAT team partnered with WBNS/10TV to create the Monday's Most Wanted program aimed at getting the public's help in finding criminals within their community.

"The effort has been hugely successful," says Sgt. Raymond Debolt, who developed and now manages the relationship with the station. "Since SWAT took over the list in January last year, 47 of the 48 Monday's Most Wanted suspects have been captured, and just three are still on the run."

Those featured usually are transient and harder to locate. Being on TV applies pressure on them to turn themselves in to authorities.



Sheriff Scott spoke to 10TV's Angela An about the success of Monday's Most Wanted in bringing criminals off the streets.



Tips from 10TV viewers led SWAT to Lamont Lewis, who had a large amount of drugs with him when he was picked up Dec. 2. Lewis told investigators he had been using fake IDs to avoid capture.

"On every person featured, SWAT is receiving phone calls from the public," Sgt. Debolt said.

For example, on Sept. 22, Kenneth Chivers was Monday's Most Wanted. He had been on the run for five years for aggravated robbery. 10TV featured him in the morning, and he was picked up by SWAT at 2:20 p.m. that afternoon.

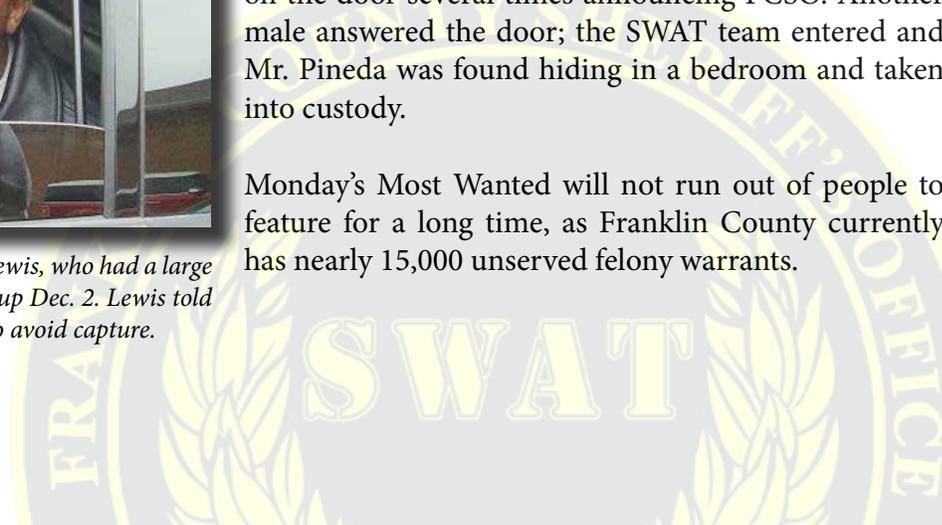
In another case, Jhonny Pineda was wanted for rape, attempted rape and two counts of unlawful sexual conduct with a minor. The day his mugshot aired, a member of the public called in a tip about Mr. Pineda's whereabouts. The SWAT team met with the individual, who gave info on approximately where the suspect was staying. The SWAT team then walked about 10 blocks to the residence to remain undetected. Once at the residence,



*Apprehended:
Jhonny Pineda*

the SWAT team saw the suspect through a large picture window. It was verified that he was inside the residence, and SWAT knocked on the door several times announcing FCSO. Another male answered the door; the SWAT team entered and Mr. Pineda was found hiding in a bedroom and taken into custody.

Monday's Most Wanted will not run out of people to feature for a long time, as Franklin County currently has nearly 15,000 unserved felony warrants.



Hazards of Marijuana Grow Operations

Whether outdoors or indoors, a marijuana grow operation can present significant dangers to health and safety.

Indoor operations often use hydroponics, or growing plants in pretty much anything besides soil. Mediums such as sand, gravel, pure liquid or even misted air are used to grow marijuana hydroponically. Soil grows, however, are typically easier than hydroponic methods.



INDOOR GROW OPERATIONS: ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH CONCERNS

Houses and apartments are designed for people – not for plants. When a grow operation turns a residential unit into a greenhouse, many things can go wrong for the property. For landlords, this could mean huge amounts of debris, highly unsafe electrical wiring, re-routed water lines, mold and mildew, floor coverings and subfloors ruined by water damage, holes cut in ceilings and walls to enhance air circulation to encourage plant growth and removal of interior walls to make larger growing space. Repairs and restoration are costly, and typically not covered by insurance.

Some hazards from indoor grow operations are particularly hard to detect and harder to address. Mold and fungi, for example, grow in conditions of high humidity, poor ventilation and heat. They do not always grow in obvious places and can prosper inside wall cavities and other hard-to-see places. What's more, they are highly resilient, and without property remediation, they are likely to return.

Given that mold has the potential to be allergenic, pathogenic or toxigenic, its presence within commercial or residential buildings creates a significant health concern for future occupants. In combination with chemicals such as pesticides and fertilizers, these microscopic organic particles can linger

for long periods after the source of the contaminant has been removed, significantly impacting the safety and quality of air indoors. Inappropriate use of commercial or residential buildings for agricultural purposes can also result in toxic residue contaminating the building materials and the soil surrounding the structure. This issue can persist even after the source of the contaminants has been removed as a result of spills, over-spraying and the absorbent properties of building materials. Inappropriate disposal of chemicals through the drains or onto the ground can also contaminate local ground water.

The most common danger for grow rooms is overloading the circuitry. Poorly wired or overloaded circuits can result in fire, shock or damage to electronic equipment. If the wires overheat a fire can result.

OUTDOOR GROW OPERATIONS: BOOBY-TRAPS AND MORE

Dangers from outdoor grow operations include the potential presence of criminals, weapons and ammunition. Sometimes these sites have booby-traps, rigged by the criminals growing the plants to defend their illegal crops from pirates. All of those factors could lead to dangerous confrontations for unsuspecting, innocent people - including children - who just happen to be in the area of these grow operations.

Another risk is environmental, as criminal marijuana crops usually involve the unregulated use of many chemicals and other environmentally-damaging products.

SAFETY TIPS FOR DEALING WITH OUTDOOR MARIJUANA CROPS

If you happen to discover an outdoor grow operation:

- Do not enter the area. In some cases, outdoor marijuana grows are guarded or protected by booby-traps. For personal safety, turn around and immediately leave the area the same way you came in.
- Do not touch the marijuana plants due to potential chemical residue on the plants.
- If confronted by a marijuana grower, leave the area immediately and contact police.
- If possible and safe to do so, record any license plate or GPS information and notify police.

Anyone with information regarding illegal marijuana grow operations should contact their local law enforcement agency.

-by Lieutenant Bryan Bachelder

Patrol Division to Add 11 Deputies in 2015

To respond to a growing number of calls for service, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office will add 11 deputies to its Road Patrol unit this year.

The new deputies will be added in stages – with three positions posted in March, another three each in May and June and the final two in August. Those selected will face 16 weeks of training before being assigned to regular duty and a cruiser.



Cpl. Brian Toth demonstrates how to stop a vehicle with stop-sticks.

By early next year, the additional staffing will allow the Sheriff's Office to engage in more focused efforts to fight crime, said Patrol Division Chief James Gilbert. "Right now, we have just enough staffing to respond to calls," said Chief Gilbert. "We don't have any extra bodies. The new deputies will allow us to be more pro-active. If we have a specific area with an uptick in crime, we will have the resources to respond and patrol in that area. We need these extra deputies to do that."

With demand for service growing in the last few years, Sheriff Zach Scott has made it a priority to expand coverage of law enforcement in Franklin County communities. Last year, calls for service rose to 325,455, or 5.5 percent more than the previous year, and total runs grew by nearly 15 percent to 241,834 for the year, or an average of 663 runs per day.

In December, the Franklin County Commissioners approved the additional Road Patrol deputies, allowing the Sheriff's Office to recruit from within its ranks, generally from the Corrections Division, where all

deputies begin their careers with the Sheriff's Office. Deputies who bid on the jobs must have peace officer certification through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy. Upon selection, they will go through about four months of training, starting with three weeks of classroom instruction. They will then join a Field Training Officer for 12 weeks of on-the-job training, divided among each of the three shifts and in different zones of the county. Two additional weeks involve training in the use of radar and laser equipment and in field sobriety testing.

The first group of newly trained Road Patrol deputies will be assigned to third shift, with the remaining eight assigned to various shifts. All 11 will join a Road Patrol force of 74 deputies, six corporals, nine sergeants and three lieutenants working in conjunction with another 31 deputies whose positions are funded by contract with municipalities. The Road Patrol efforts are supported with a seven-member K9 unit, 3-member Traffic Bureau and 11-member Community Relations team.

"Any extra help with more patrol officers is vitally essential," said Chief Michael Jones of Clinton Township Police. "With our aging population in Franklin County, we're getting more calls for assistance."



Deputy Jessie Hatfield simulates a chase during patrol field training.

Older people, often retired and at home, see and report criminal activity at higher rates than younger people, Chief Jones explained. "We get more information from elderly people than any other group," he said.

Patrol, continued



Deputy John Thompson working on a report on third shift patrol.

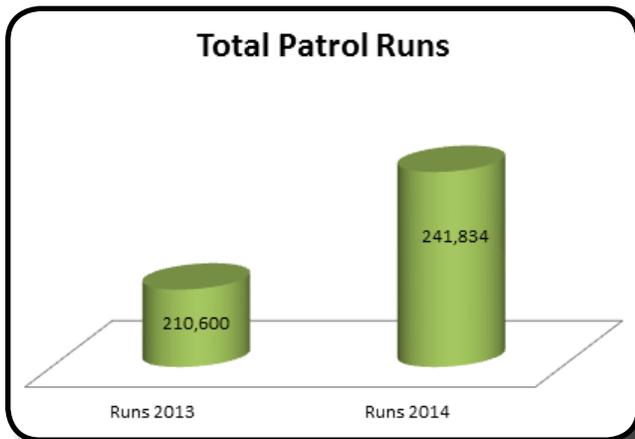
Chief Jones said Clinton Township, which borders the Ohio State University campus and Linden areas of Columbus, has been hit hard by illegal drugs, particularly heroin. Calls for service grew about 28 percent last year to about 6,700 calls, and township police assist with calls to Mifflin Township. “Sometimes we require assistance for backup,” he said. “We depend a lot on each other. The extra deputies will greatly help.”

In growing and changing communities such as Prairie Township on the West Side, the new deputies are needed to address crime issues that hamper economic development, said Tracy Hatmaker, township administrator. These include not just serious crimes such as robberies and drug trafficking, but also vandalism, graffiti and speeding that are highly visible to residents and business people.

“We don’t want to have to tell them we’re too busy to enforce traffic laws,” Hatmaker said. “A holistic approach is needed. Things work out better when you coordinate and are not just doing things in a vacuum. You can’t coordinate activities of deputies if the deputies are stretched too thin.”

Chief Gilbert said the new deputies will help the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office respond in a concerted effort to areas where crime levels are rising. Much of the expanded enforcement activity, including saturation patrols and plain clothes policing, will be directed by crime analytics and predictive modeling.

“With the added deputies, we can move resources to the areas in Franklin County where crime is being committed,” Chief Gilbert said.



Franklin County deputies averaged 663 runs per day.



Right: Deputy Laura Stahr serves on the Community Relations team.

HIGHLIGHTED AWARD

Detective Matthew Reed

In honor of his unforgettable legacy to the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Detective Matthew J. Reed was presented a Commendation Award, posthumously, at our 2014 Awards Banquet on Jan. 15. His father, James Reed, accepted the award as hundreds in the FSCO family gave a standing ovation.

Detective Reed was assigned to the FCSO Detective Bureau in December 2007. He always attempted to bring some kind of closure or justice for the victims, regardless of the degree of crime he investigated.

In 2012, Detective Reed was assigned to the newly formed Stalking Unit that partnered with the Columbus City Prosecutor's Office. The Unit was the first full-time unit in Ohio dedicated to investigating stalking cases. Matt and his partner conducted numerous high profile and high lethality stalking cases in both the City of Columbus and Franklin County. As always, he remained persistent in his work, bringing swift justice to offenders, while displaying compassion for victims.

In early 2014, Detective Reed was diagnosed with Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Facing an incurable disease, he delayed his inevitable retirement, electing to continue working and training



Sheriff Scott, James Reed and Chief Miner at the Sheriff's Award Ceremony.



his future replacement. During this time, he worked selflessly to bring resolution to his cases. Over the next few months, ALS gave Det. Reed devastating obstacles that he ignored in his quest to serve others.

In August 2014, Det. Reed was forced to retire after 22 years with the FCSO. He died Nov. 2. His efforts and work accomplishments will continue to be instrumental in the success of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office for years to come.

We thank Detective Matt Reed for his passionate work in behalf of stalking victims in Franklin County.



Check Out All the Amazing Job Opportunities at the Franklin County Sheriff's Office

We want the Franklin County Sheriff's Office to continue to reflect the community we serve and encourage minorities to apply.

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We're Hiring!



Last year, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office partnered with Nextdoor.com, the private social network for neighborhoods.

Those interested in joining their neighborhood's Nextdoor website can visit www.nextdoor.com and enter their address.