



Promising Partnerships

A Newsletter from the
MARYLAND POLICE & CORRECTIONAL TRAINING COMMISSIONS

Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

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“We simply must work together as public safety professionals in collaboration with our community partners. This is the most effective strategy to reduce crime, protect our communities and make our neighborhoods safer places to live, work and raise families.” Pat Bradley, Executive Director, MPCTC

The Problem with Boundaries

By Glen Plutschak, Administrator, Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

Maintaining public safety within the established boundaries of Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement (CSAFE) areas frequently provides unique challenges. Imagine for a moment that you are a law enforcement officer in a CSAFE area that borders the District of Columbia. Consider the frustration of interacting with an individual in Maryland and wanting to know if he/she is under community supervision in the District and not having immediate access to that information.

The Mt. Rainier Heightened Enforcement Accountability and Treatment (HEAT) team has agents and officers who understand that frustration of working in an area where offenders under District supervision come and go. In an effort to confront the problems posed by their proximity to DC, representatives from Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) for the District are partnering with the entire Mt. Rainier HEAT team.

Charles Kirkland of CSOSA attends HEAT team meetings, provides digital photos and offender profile sheets and participates in the

team meeting process by exchanging critical information. While this partnership is still in its infancy, it is already improving public safety. Future plans include joint ride-alongs, joint office visits, and agency computer information integration.



Mt. Rainier HEAT team members Annette Morris (DPP), LaShawn Jefferson (DJS), Officer Dexter Baxter (Mt. Rainier PD), and Charles Kirkland (CSOSA) share offender information during their regular HEAT team meeting.

Sex Offender Violates Parole

By Michael Hill, Agent Senior, Division of Parole and Probation

On January 5, 2005, Agent Michael Hill of the Lexington Park CSAFE area received a phone call from a concerned church administrator about an individual she had observed. On several occasions, the administrator had seen the individual watching children at play. She had checked the State of Maryland Sex Offender Registry and determined that the individual was a convicted child sex offender.

Agent Hill advised the administrator to obtain a “No Trespass Warning” while he also obtained a Parole Retake Warrant because a condition of the individual’s parole was to have no contact with any child under 18. Being on church property when children were present put him in violation of parole. Because collaborative supervision can take on many roles including a partnership with the faith-based community, a serious offense was potentially averted. As the Lexington Park CSAFE residents found, building partnerships among public safety and community representatives pays off in safer neighborhoods.

Crime Mapping in Woodmoor

By Karen Fortune, Community Liaison, Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

In the Woodmoor CSAFE area, law enforcement representatives have been using Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics to create maps with locations, types, patterns and trends in crime. The maps are so specific that they can show if a burglary problem involves kicking in front doors or entering through windows. They can also show the type of property being taken.

Crime maps provide community members a true assessment of problems and allows participants in programs such as Citizens on Patrol (COP) to focus prevention efforts. The information available from the maps provides citizen patrol groups with information about how they should focus their efforts when patrolling their communities.

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work. – Thomas A. Edison



An additional benefit of crime mapping is that it allows COP participants to enter areas of high crime and conduct needs assessments. For example, if a high crime area has poor lighting, the community members can work with the lighting company to request to have lights installed. Woodmoor CSAFE team members have found their mapping efforts to have significantly improved their community safety and welcome other CSAFE areas to contact them to learn more about the model.

Lt. Governor Michael Steele Recognizes the International Corridor CSAFE Area

By Jennifer A. Beskid, Regional Coordinator, Advanced and Specialized Training Unit

On Monday, February 14, 2005, Mayor Kathy Porter received a very special valentine. Lt. Governor Michael S. Steele awarded Mayor Porter and the City of Takoma Park a Governor’s Citation. This award recognized the hard work of the International Corridor HEAT team and its work toward decreasing crime in the CSAFE area.

The uniqueness of the International Corridor CSAFE area is that it combines state, county and local government agencies from both Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties. The team also includes representatives from the Montgomery and Prince George’s County State’s Attorney’s Offices.

Representatives of the Division of Parole and Probation, Prince George’s County State’s Attorney’s Office and Takoma Park Police Department shared success stories with the attendees. Through collaborative efforts, HEAT team members were able to work with federal public safety officials to arrest a known suspect on gun charges and to have him held without bond. Congratulations are extended to all participants in the International Corridor CSAFE area.



Residents from the Barclay Community (Baltimore City) assist in a neighborhood cleanup. This is one of many community cleanups that CSAFE areas host throughout the year.

Internet Resources

*By William Welsh, Community Liaison,
Advanced and Specialized Training Unit*

The advent of the Internet has opened a world of possibilities. One of these is the ability to use search engines to provide immediate information about a topic of interest, linking us to additional information about that subject.

A recent search of the Internet resulted in the identification of three links to websites that provide valuable resources for offenders and the people who work with them. By going to www.careeronestop.org, Internet users can select the State of Maryland and receive information about training programs that are available through the Workforce Investment Act. Visiting www.hirenetwork.org will provide facts about services that are available to assist clients with criminal records and/or prepare them for employment. Additionally, www.doleta.gov/etainfo/ provides knowledge about careers in Maryland.

As our agencies and employers become more active users of the Internet, AST staff encourages our readers to access these services

on behalf of their clients. We also welcome any success stories you may have as the result of this technology to us.

Roper Victim Assistance Academy of Maryland

By Dr. Debra L. Stanley, Professor, University of Baltimore

The University of Baltimore will host the Roper Victim Assistance Academy of MD (RVAAM), a training academy for criminal justice professionals, victim advocates and service providers in victims' rights and services. The Roper Academy, one of only 14 in the nation chosen for funding and recognition by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime, will conduct its second training for public safety professionals June 6-10.

Administered by Dr. Debra L. Stanley, Associate Professor in the University's criminal justice program, the 40-hour academically-based education and training program is designed to help the State establish standards for the advocacy of victims and the articulation of their rights. The curriculum addresses over 25 primary topics in the area of crime victimization, victim rights, advocacy and services.

The Academy's intensive training lays the foundation for professional service providers who will be better able to serve and assist crime victims and their families in their journey through the criminal justice process.

Applications are available online at <http://rvaam.ubalt.edu/> or by contacting University of Baltimore at 410-837-6082 or dstanley@ubalt.edu. Fifty students will be selected for the program, which charges a \$300 all-inclusive fee.

Notable Accomplishments:

- On January 29, 2005 current and former representatives of HEAT teams braved very cold temperatures to “swim” in the Chesapeake Bay in Polar Bear Plunge. Sgt. Craig Stillwell, DFC Patrick Hood, DPP agent Jill Duncan and AST Regional Coordinator Jennifer Beskid all jumped in the bay in support of Special Olympics. Will you be there next year?
- In calendar year 2004, HEAT teams held 1,099 team meetings, made 13,443 joint home contacts, staffed 5,510 cases, and captured 2,099 digital photographs.
- The staff of AST is pleased to welcome Richard Bingham, Community Liaison, and Sarah Myers, Research Specialist to the Unit.

In the event of inclement weather, any decision to reschedule a class will be made by 6:00 a.m. on the day of the class. Updated information is available by calling (410) 875-3783.

Please Help Us

Do you have a promising practice or notable accomplishment you would like to share with our readers? You may email your comments to Jennifer Beskid, Regional Coordinator, at jabeskid@dpscs.state.md.us

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TRAINING

Continuing Education Classes

MPCTC certified classes are offered throughout the state. The schedule is as follows:

April/May/June

Coming Soon to A Neighborhood Near You - Reentry

April 26, 2005 – Easton Firehouse, Easton

May 13, 2005 – National Guard Armory, Cheltenham

June 10, 2005 – Gaithersburg Division of Parole & Probation, Gaithersburg

June 24, 2005 – Frederick County Law Center, Frederick

June 30, 2005 – Bel Air Firehouse, Bel Air
Inservice classes will be held from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.

CSAFE Academy

May 17 – 19, 2005, Public Safety Education & Training Center, Sykesville



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AST remains committed to saving trees; therefore, all editions of Promising Partnerships are available at <http://www.mdle.net/astnewsletter.htm>