

CRAIG WEBRE, SHERIFF

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office response to hurricanes -page 2

Tardo named older worker of the year by Council on Aging -page 3

Going beyond the call of duty in the midst of a storm -page 2

Scuttlebutt.....-page 3
Blast from the Past.....-page 3
Employee Spotlight....-page 4
Bright Ideas.....-page 3



DETECTIVE BYRON ANDERSON

Spotlight on

video techniques and intelligence operations.

While working full-time, Byron graduated from Rets Electronics Training Center in New Orleans with a 4.0 in Basic Theory and Math. After four years in Narcotics, Byron transferred to Investigations where he has been ever since. He is also a member of the Crisis Management Unit and functions as one of the Technical/Logistics officers.

Some of Byron's tasks include maintaining our phones systems, two-way radios, and surveillance equipment; photographing all major crime scenes and autopsies; working as the alternate evidence custodian; and his favorite--creating new or repairing equipment for the Sheriff's Department at a fraction of the cost.

Byron's favorite creation was a Hostage Negotiation Phone Kit that allows CMU to deploy a throw phone as the form of communication in a hostage situation. With this system, Byron can monitor all incoming

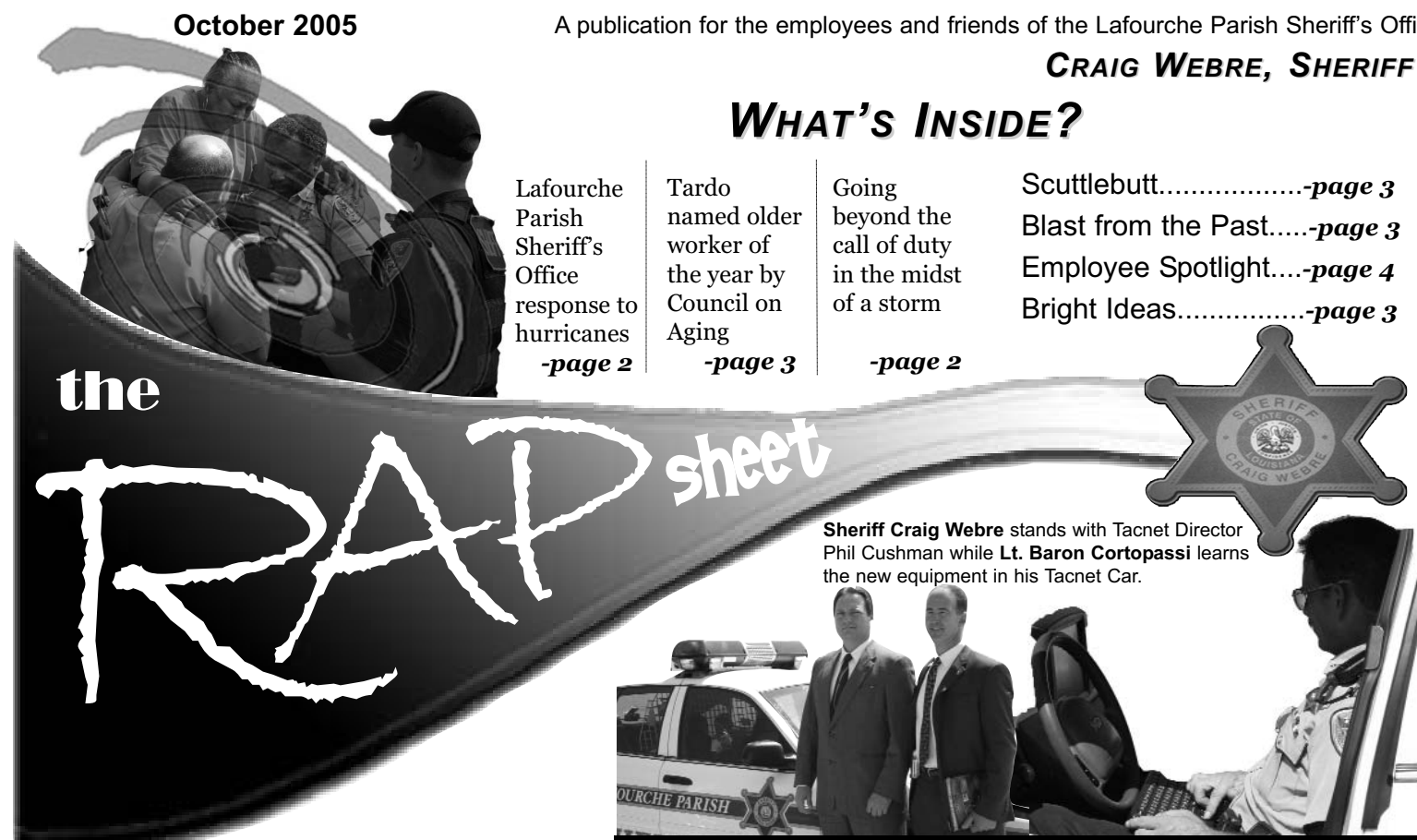
and outgoing calls, and the system has cellular capabilities. A similar system costs approximately \$20,000, but Bryon was able to create it in only three weeks for \$500!

Byron says that he loves his job. "I truly enjoy what I do. It's very satisfying when you are given a problem or complex task, and you can come up with a solution," he said. Born and raised in Raceland, Byron was a 1989 graduate of Central Lafourche. Byron is a member of the Lafourche Fire District #1 Volunteers, Woodmen of the World Lodge in Raceland and is licensed by National Registry and the State of Louisiana to practice as an EMT-Basic.

In his free time, Byron enjoys spending time with his godchild and nephew, going to his family camp in Panama City Beach, Fla. and of course, he often helps friends with wiring or fixing their electronics. He says it is okay though because, "I enjoy helping people."

While watching shows such as *Chips and Emergency*, Byron Anderson admits that he dreamed of growing up to be a police officer or a fire fighter--both of which he has accomplished already. Byron has been an asset to the Sheriff's Office for more than 13 years now. He began as a patrol officer and quickly transferred into the Narcotics Division where he discovered his gift and what would become the focus of his law enforcement career--electronics.

Before joining the Sheriff's Office, Byron worked with the Raceland Fire Department installing radios and lights as well as supervising their Communications Division. In the Narcotics Division, Byron explored the use of cameras, recorders, and body bugs for undercover purposes. He then began taking classes on surveillance, covert vehicle installation, investigative



Sheriff Craig Webre stands with Tacnet Director Phil Cushman while Lt. Baron Cortopassi learns the new equipment in his Tacnet Car.



Blue Force Joins Force Tracking officers made easier

Blue Force Tracking is the latest technology that will enable the Sheriff's Office to track all of its patrol vehicles in real time on a map. With this system, the Communications Division will have the capability of knowing at a glance who the closest unit to a complaint is without using a radio, officers will be able to get directions to a complaint location from their present location, and CMU will have assistance when entering buildings such as in a hostage case. In addition, Canine officers will be able to track their dogs that they may send into a building.

In the event that an officer does not answer his radio or is in danger, Communications can route the closest officer to his or her location. In the event of a pursuit, supervisors will be able to monitor the pursuit on a map and direct additional resources to assist.



Captain Terry Lyle and Major Bud Dill examine the Blue Force Tracking system.

Incidents can also be tracked on a map to determine the hot spots and then the units can be deployed to those areas. This will give us more efficiency in deploying our units, says Captain Terry Lyle, who has made this system possible and is currently assisting State Police with getting onto Blue Force.

First Sheriff's Office with Tacnet System to be installed in all patrol vehicles

TACNET is a new technology we will all get to know a great deal more about in the coming months. The LPSO is finalizing installation of this integrated first-responder emergency command and control system that may be able to solve some of the communication problems law enforcement had during and after Hurricane Katrina.

Sheriff Webre said the Sheriff's Office should have a fully functioning, interoperable system in place by January 2006. The technology is currently being installed in patrol cars and was used by CMU team members during search and rescue operations after Katrina.

The people who developed TACNET say the system enables emergency vehicles to direct and control communication among first responders who are operating otherwise incompatible radios. This is significant in the event these safety forces have to overcome the failure of radio towers, repeaters and base stations as was the case during the two recent hurricanes.

"We spent several years looking for a technology that would give us not only the vital level of interoperability, but also improved officer safety within the vehicle," said Sheriff Webre. "We were lucky enough to find a solution that has

been tested and is ready for application." TACNET is described as a cost effective solution that dramatically reduces the number of electronic devices within an emergency vehicle. It integrates multiple radios, lights, sirens, radar, patrol video, mobile data computers, and other functions into three main interfaces...voice control, in-dash touch screen, and an efficient, easy to use control pod. "This technology will enhance the effectiveness of our officers not only in natural disasters and other extreme situations, but in virtually all emergency response conditions," Webre said.



Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office
P.O. Box 5608
Thibodaux, LA 70302

Place
Stamp
Here

While we felt minor ramifications of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, for the most part, we dodged two deadly and destructive bullets, which gave us the opportunity to serve our neighbors. The Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office has done a remarkable job in its service.

While everyone has stories upon stories of events they have witnessed or heard through survivors, we have taken photos during the storm—photos that tell stories of destruction and devastation but also of hope and service to our neighbors.

Tragedies often bring out the best and worst in people. Overall, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita brought out the best qualities in our department. Many of the men and women of the Sheriff's Office worked double shifts, stood for hours at checkpoints, and maintained order throughout the parish at food, water, ice distribution sites, and shelters. Good job everyone!

A photo DVD is currently being worked on and will be made available to employees soon. Here are just SOME of the photos that demonstrate the service of the Sheriff's Office during the storm.



Gerard Lotz, D.L. Mosely, and Robert Mason help one of almost 100 survivors that the LPSO found stranded on Highway 90 in a furniture truck and Kentwood truck.



Todd Charlet patrols Grand Isle with a deputy from Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office.



Dave Thibodaux helps a survivor at the Convention Center before loading onto a Lafourche Parish Bus driven by Sheriff Webre headed to the Thibodaux shelter.



Dale Savoie makes I.D. tags for residents, business and camp owners, and service workers to gain entrance into Grand Isle.



Sheriff Webre and Sheriff Hinkle with members of Hennepin County, who set up a temporary communication center in Plaquemines.



Members of the OCC hard at work. One Captain describes this team as "grace under fire" and "the backbone of the operation."



CMU Team assisting with recovery efforts in St. Bernard.

Beyond the Call of Duty

If not us, then who?

"The government has abandoned us," said Plaquemine's Parish Sheriff Jiff Hinkle to Sheriff Webre shortly after Hurricane Katrina. Sheriff Webre grew equally as frustrated because he knew that help was available, but due to bureaucracy, assistance was being stalled or denied. That is when Sheriff Webre decided to drive to the Baton Rouge EOC and demand that outside agencies be granted access into South Louisiana.

Sheriff Webre had every operator at the Lafourche Parish OCC on the phone trying to locate the Governor, Senator, State Police Colonel, and Congressmen. Call it the hand of God or mere coincidence, but when he walked into the Baton Rouge EOC, he ran straight into Senator David Vitter.

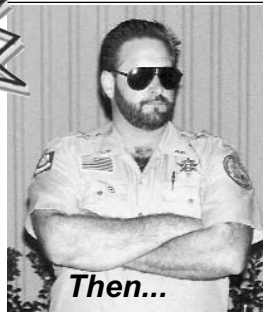
Shortly thereafter, he was directed to Colonel Whitehorn of the State Police who designated one of his employees not to leave the Sheriff's side until all the paperwork was complete for outside agencies to come assist. In addition, Sheriff Webre determined to stay at the EOC until the information was granted.

Consequently, he did not return until the next day, but he did have the access code that he needed and finally, our neighboring parishes would get the help they needed to save lives.

As well as housing outside agencies in our parish and deploying them to neighboring parishes, our CMU team made themselves available in almost ten parishes during the storm. Excellent job team!



Pictured is **Bud Dill** before and after he made it MAJOR!



Then...



...Now

Tardo Older Worker of the Year

Honored by the Lafourche Council on Aging

On September 21, Records Clerk Rosemary Tardo received an award from the Lafourche Council on Aging for being their Older Worker of the Year. Ms. Tardo has worked part-time for the Sheriff's Office for the last 13 years.

Ms. Tardo's duties consist of copying all arrest reports to send to the District Attorney's Office daily, tallying the Uniform Crime Reports, looking up reports when requested by the public, and conducting background checks as well as finger printing.

In attendance at the banquet was her daughter Debbie, daughter-in-law Pam and supervisor Kathy LaGraize. Congratulations.



SCUTTLEBUTT...

Babies, babies, and more babies!!! **Deputy Brandon Percle** and his wife are expecting to have a baby any time soon and COC is home to a future grandfather. **Lt. Danny Eschete** recently found out that he will be a grandfather in the near future. In an email to his coworkers, Eschete writes, "I have never had the feeling like I have just knowing I'm going to be a grandparent. It is a wonderful feeling. It is almost like finding out when you are going to a parent for the first time." He plans for his grandchild to call him PAPA "D". **Main Office Clerk Jill Guidry** gave birth to Gabryelle Rose on September 22. The baby weighed in at 4lbs, and mother and baby are doing fine.

Capt. Scott Silverii, Lt. Doug Foreman, Gary Plaisance, and Sgt. Chad Shelby all participated in the Race for a Cure Saturday, October 8.

Det. Lorenza Savage made it big time! After Hurricane Rita hit, she was featured on the front cover of the New York Times.

Lafourche Parish **K-9 officers** recently donated three large dog crates to Harahan P.D. K-9 Officers who suffered a loss during hurricane Katrina. They very much appreciated the donation.

Bright Ideas

Gas Prices: what you can do to conserve

Double the price, double the responsibility, by double the Gary!

Gary Price has the bottom line on what we have been spending on gas, and Gary Plaisance has tips on what we can do to conserve. According to Price's records, gas prices have nearly doubled in only two years. In July of 2003, the Sheriff's Office paid \$1.30 for a gallon of gas using Fuel Man.

In September of this year, a gallon of gas costs the Sheriff's Office \$2.54. Price confirms that gas prices are steadily increasing. What can Sheriff's Office employees do to conserve?

Plaisance offers five simple tips:

- 1-Awareness
Limit fuel consumption amounts during unnecessary engine running times such as report writing in units.
- 2-Common sense
Shut engines off when not in use, if possible.
- 3-Guidance from supervisors
Supervisors must enforce procedure.
- 4-Mechanical checks
Check air filters, tire pressure, and fuel filters as well as changing oil in a timely manner.
- 5-WILLINGNESS TO CONSERVE
Without this, it's wishful thinking!

Congratulations to **Major Bud Bill** and his new wife Joyce who FINALLY tied the knot on October 7th!

Deputy Jonathan Boudreaux is home from Fort Polk. Welcome home soldier, and thanks for your heroic service.

The **Rodco Gators**, a Softball Team composed of mostly Sheriff's Office Members, are currently in the middle of their winter league. Come out and support this winning team! Soon, the ladies team will begin their season.

10/19 6:30 Gators vs. Team Viagra
11/01 8:30 Gators vs. Cajuns
11/02 7:30 Sand Gnats vs.

Gators
11/08 8:30 Gators vs. Blackfin
11/15 7:30 Khaos vs. Gators
11/16 8:30 Ram Rods vs.

Gators
*Games are played at the Houma Airbase Field in the evening.



Huddle before a recent game where the Gators won 16-11.

Before transferring to patrol as **Sgt. Walter Tenney**, Walter spoke to Nicholls students for a candlelight vigil in honor of Domestic Violence Month.

Welcome aboard New September Hires: **Deputy Jeff Bordelon** and **Correctional Officers John Martin and John D. Martin**.