Agency Overview

• Cover over nine hundred square miles of territory and waterways – population-248,000

• 859 FTE’s (full time equivalents) in four budget areas:
  – Combined Communications Center
  – Law Enforcement
  – Department of the Jail
  – Court Security
COMBINED COMMUNICATIONS CENTER (CCC) HIGHLIGHTS
Combined Communications Center

• In 2013, the CCC processed almost 350,000 emergency and non-emergency calls.
• The CCC is staffed 24/7, 365 days a year
• TeleCommunicator Requirements:
  – certified in CPR and Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD);
  – Department of Education curriculum requirements (232 hours)
  – FEMA’s Incident Command System- ICS 100, 200 and 700 classes)
Accomplishments

• Of the approximately 250 PSAP Centers in Florida, our CCC is one of less than ten (10) in Florida which has received the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children designation.
Accreditations

• Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)’s elite “Flagship” Award multiple years in a row

• National Academies of Emergency Medical Dispatch (NAEMD) “Center of Excellence”
March 2014 – CCC

• Achieved Accreditation as **GOLD STANDARD IN PUBLIC SAFETY**

• Awarded by (CALEA) and the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials International (APCO)
Challenges

1. **Employee Retention** – 67% turnover rate
   - Requires unique skill set
   - Must achieve several certifications
   - Required to work holidays, weekends and midnights
   - High stress
   - Highly responsible work
2. **Constant technological advances**

- Radio system and Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) upgrades needed

- Text 911 – All major cell phone providers will have this capability by the end of 2014
Department of the Jail
Highlights and Challenges
Alachua County Jail
Monthly Average In-House Population
January 2009 - May 31, 2014
Jail Interlocal Agreement Accomplishments

InterLocal Agreement renewed 2012-2018:

- FY 14/15 is the 3rd and final year of staffing increases as outlined in this Agreement

Projects completed by Jan 2014 as stipulated:
- HVAC/Roof upgrade
- Kitchen renovation project
- Window replacement project
Highlights – Full Body Scanner

Hidden Handcuff Key
JAIL HIGHLIGHTS - PAWS ON PAROLE UNLEASHED

★ 100% Canine Adoption Rate

★ Almost 70% of inmates remain out of jail since their release
Paws on Parole Unleashed Success Stories

• Inmate had been arrested 20 times since 1999
• Had served almost 3 years in jail (998 days)
• Had been a chronic alcohol/drug abuser
• Following her completion of the Paws on Parole Unleashed program, she agreed to a substance abuse treatment program which she completed. She is now employed full time.
Inmate had been arrested 6 times since 1999

She participated and graduated from the Paws on Parole Unleased program

She has remained offense free for an entire year

Has full time employment and credits the program for her success.
Inmate Transition Program
January 2013

• Inmates who are determined to be at high risk to re-offend are selected to participate.
• Are provided classes in cognitive behavioral training, employability skills, release planning
• Thirty six (36) inmates have completed program.
• So far, the re-arrest rate of participants is 31% compared to a 41% re-arrest rate for general population inmates.
Inmate Transition Program
Success Stories- continued

• Enrolled inmate earned his GED in 3 months;
• Because of confidence gained in the program, upon his release he enrolled in Meridian’s Forensic Diversion program:
  – Participated in out-patient counseling for his mental health and substance abuse issues
  – Obtained a job
  – He now has a job and has his own apartment
Success stories continued

• After an inmate’s release, sent this email:
“...I am still employed, I actually have two jobs...just got a promotion with one...I am active in my children’s lives. I have my own place...I will have my CDL Class B license this week...I am thankful that the Transition Program really helped prepare me to reach and experience the level of success and rehabilitation I now witness in my life...the skills (from Transition Program) can change their lives...”
Challenges

- Inmate Medical costs – a consistent concern
- Inmates with mental illness and/or addictions:
  - Approximately 15-20% of inmates on any given day are prescribed psychotropic medication
  - Approximately 70 inmates are currently waiting for bed space at State hospital(s).
  - Not enough resources for elderly inmates and/or inmates with misdemeanor criminal charges who have mental health issues.
Challenges - continued

• Competitive pay and benefits are needed to recruit and retain good employees

• *Over 30 vacancies for Detention Officer*

• 17 Detention Officer Trainees in Academy will address some of the vacancies

• Step Plan for Certified Officers/Deputies and Sergeants
JAIL SECURITY STAFF – HIRING/RETENTION
Challenges - continued

• Legislative Change(s) - Unfunded mandates:

  – Jail staff will be required to provide notice to the Division of Children and Family and the State Attorney when a sexually violent predator (SVP) is in custody.

  – Several additional reporting requirements for sexual offenders and predators which will impact the work load at the Jail and law enforcement including warrants.
Law Enforcement

Highlights and Challenges
Highlights

• Cold Case Investigations

• School Resource Deputy Program

• Intimate Partner Violence Initiative
Bureau Chief Linda Brown Hailed for Helping Solve Case
April 3, 2013 Gville Sun article on Cold Case File from 30 years ago involving Samuel Little
25 years later, cops name suspect in disappearance of Tiffany Sessions

Police believe Paul Eugene Rowles, a serial killer who died in prison last year, was responsible for the disappearance and murder of UF student Tiffany Sessions in 1989.

GAINESVILLE -- Twenty-five years of frustration, dead ends and pure heartbreak in the search for missing University of Florida student Tiffany Sessions are at an end, her father declared Wednesday as he announced that police believe she was murdered by a serial killer who died last year in a Miami-Dade prison.

"To me, the case is solved," Patrick Sessions said by telephone as he watched earth-moving equipment dig up a swampy, wooded field on the south side of Gainesville in search of his daughter’s remains. "I’m convinced this is the guy who did it."

The guy is Paul Eugene Rowles, who died of cancer last year in the prison hospital at the South Florida Reception Center.

Rowles, convicted of the murder of another young woman, died just as police were about to charge him with a second homicide, and was serving time for the abduction and sexual assault of a third one who escaped.

Before his death, Rowles denied any connection to the 1989 disappearance and presumed murder of Tiffany Sessions.

But he left behind an address book containing notes about the victims of the other three crimes — and what police and Tiffany’s father believe is a coded reference to Tiffany’s disappearance. Rowles lived in the Gainesville area at the time she vanished, and worked delivering scaffolding to a construction site along the route she regularly walked for exercise — a walk from which she vanished on Feb. 9, 1989.

Read more here: http://www.miamiherald.com/2014/02/05/3914313/25-years-later-cops-name-suspect.html#storylink=cpy
ALACHUA COUNTY, Fla. -- The cold case murder of 21-year-old Elizabeth Foster, which has been unsolved for 20 years, has been cleared.

A DNA match connected Paul Eugene Rowles, 64, as the suspect in the case, according to a release from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office. Detective Heather Phillips was notified of the match.

Rowles is currently serving a life sentence for first degree murder and is a registered sex predator. The State Attorney's Office will now determine how the case will be prosecuted, the release said.

Foster told her roommate on March 15, 1992 at around 12:30 p.m. that she was going to a park to read. She and her blue Honda CRX were reported missing the next day.

Her vehicle was found on March 18, 1992 in the parking lot of what was formerly the Brown Derby restaurant on U.S. 441. Her body was found on March 26, 1992 in a shallow grave east of U.S. 441.

The autopsy performed on her determined that she had died as a result of being beaten, and that she was sexually assaulted.
25 year old murder mystery getting new look
Accomplishments
School Resource Deputies
Deputies in School-Examples of Importance

• Howard Bishop Middle School – Victim of bullying, then suffered suicide death of a close cousin. Left a note telling one of the deans she was thinking of killing herself. She said goodbye to her friends who alerted the SRD of her statements. She attempted to leave campus before school started and was stopped by the SRD. She had to be Baker Acted but she ultimately returned to the school to thank the SRD.

• Kanapaha Middle School – Student approached SRD about an issue at her home that she wasn’t comfortable talking to another adult about, but comfortable enough to speak to the SRD. Student was victimized by a live in adult male. DCF was notified and after evaluation the student was sheltered with another family member.
Deputies in School-Examples of Importance

• Hawthorne Middle/High School – Possession of a firearm on school grounds, possession of a firearm by a minor and discharge of a firearm in public. After the SRD heard dispatch of a call of a person who shot a gun down the road from the school, he observed the vehicle pull into the school. SRD contacted the student who advised the gun was in his vehicle and arrested him for these charges.

• Lofton Academy – Student contacted the SRD advising that her home placement needed to be changed. Her mother had been murdered and she had been placed with relatives. SRD contacted Children’s Home Society and was able to get the caseworker to respond to the school. The student was ultimately placed in a new home and the student is happy, thankful, and doing well in school.
Accomplishments
Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Initiative

Percentage of Selected Crime

Burglary
943 or 25.15%

Assault/Battery
604 or 16.11%

Stolen Vehicle
82 or 2.19%

Sexual Battery
60 or 1.60%

Robbery
46 or 1.23%

Attempted Murder
4 or 0.11%

Domestic Incident
2008 or 53.55%
Law Enforcement
Additional Challenges

- Individuals with mental illness
- Child Sexual victimization
- Economic Crime due to technology/Identity Theft, EBT cards, Increase in Scams, Credit Card skimmers
- Synthetic substances
- Amendment 2 – Marijuana
- Illegal Drug Trends
Online child-sex predators leave a long trail of victims

Law enforcement tries to put a dent in the problem with Internet stings to catch people preying on children.

Internet sex stings

The number of Internet sex sting operations conducted across 23 counties and major cities, public between 2010 and 2014:

- Central Florida: 31
- North Florida: 17
- South Florida: 5
- Broward, Dade, and Palm Beach counties: 9
- Tallahassee, Orlando, and Miami-Fort Lauderdale area

By Chris Allsman

Tallahassee, Alachua County

After the deputies knocked silently behind the front door, one poked the bed and another turned the boy over to the wall.

While sheets covered the window, leaving the deputies in the dark as they waited inside the Arboledo Farms house off Archer Road.

During the 68 miles from Lady Lake, Dylon was supposed to meet a 13-year-old girl for sex.

Days earlier, the 20-year-old Maryland resident had answered an advertisement for a dating website posted purportedly by the GITA guideline. After several phone calls, text messages, and several meetings again, arrested by agents in Gainesville, police said.

The video of an arrest during the Operation Tallahassee Internet sex sting conducted by the Alachua County Sheriff’s Office and Gainesville Police Department in 2012.
Those Sickened by Drug Now Up to 28; Shop is Raided

By Cindy Swirko, Gainesville Sun Staff writer Published: Saturday, May 31, 2014 at 5:11 p.m.

A North Main Street smoke shop was raided Saturday and pounds of the drug commonly known as spice were seized in connection with the hospitalization of a growing number of people in the past several days who have suffered seizures and other health issues.

Gainesville Police Lt. Jeff Blundell said the raid occurred after officers with a multi-agency drug task force got a search warrant based on information investigators have gotten recently about Land B4 Time at 604 N. Main St.

Meanwhile, Alachua County Health Department Director Paul Myers said Saturday that 28 people have now been hospitalized. Some have been released while others are still being treated.

At least one of those sickened by the drug linked it directly to the Land B4 Time shop, Blundell said.

“While they were searching the business, officers were notified that EMS responded to another spice seizure patient. One of our officers responded to that and learned that patient purchased the spice at Land B4 Time,” Blundell said, reading from an email written by another officer. “Drug Task Force members seized several pounds of spice, a shotgun, approximately $2,000 in cash, packaging materials and approximately 100 pipes.”

No arrests were made and charges are pending, Blundell told The Sun.

The shop was closed Saturday afternoon.

The Gainesville Police Department and the Alachua County Health Department put out warnings regarding spice Friday night after about a dozen people had been hospitalized Thursday and Friday after using the drug.
Additional Challenges

- Illegal Drug Trends:
  - Increase in heroin use
  - Increase in local methamphetamine labs and the purchase of manufacturing items
One-Pot Method – Recent Case Example

- March 2014, a vehicle occupied by suspects involved in a mobile one-pot method was located at a business on Newberry Road
- Typically, this method uses a plastic bottle to permit expansion of fumes (burping)
- Basic level of manufacturing methamphetamine has the potential to explode.
  - 1st complication – Suspect(s) chose to use a glass vodka bottle
  - 2nd complication – Suspect(s) chose to stop at a gas station
- Fortunately, Deputies recognized the extreme risk
  - Called out a deputy with meth lab expertise and equipment
  - Had the fuel pumps shut down and cleared the area
  - Responding ACFT advised of the hazard and asked to remove the driver’s side door
  - Deflated tires to minimize risk of jarring the bottle
  - Using appropriate safety equipment and training, the bottle was removed safely
  - Search of suspects vehicle revealed syringes, bottles of lye, a digital scale, etc.
LAW ENFORCEMENT WORKFORCE CHALLENGE
EMPLOYEE RAISES – PRIORITY NEED

• My priority is for employees to receive raises.
• Much needed after so many years without, now with a slight economic up-turn this needs to be the focus
• Needed to address pay equity, compression issues and turnover
Workforce Challenge
Recruit and Retain Certified/Sworn Employees

• In a State which consistently leads the nation in line of duty deaths

• In a profession which has:
  – High divorce rate
  – High suicide rate
  – High mortality: age 62 (FL) vs. 74 years of age*
  – Frequent exposure to infectious diseases
  – Required to work weekends, holidays and midnights
  – Frequent criticism
  – Constant vigilance, on and off duty
2 Cops Killed in Las Vegas 'Ambush'; Three Others Dead

Investigators searched an apartment overnight believed to be related to the shooting, trying to uncover clues about the midday attack. Police are looking into the couple’s links to the white supremacy movement after finding swastika symbols during their initial investigation, according to the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

The first shots were fired at 11:22 a.m. Sunday – the start of a “revolution,” the pair reportedly told witnesses. Investigators say the man and woman, armed with guns and ammunition, walked into a CiCi’s Pizza Restaurant, where they opened fire on officers Alyn Beck, 41, and Igor Soldo, 31.

Police say one officer fired back, but both died from their injuries.
Agency Wide Highlights

- Critical Incident Training – over 50% of employees have completed (ongoing process)

- Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) finished FIRST in the International SWAT Competition

- Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) - since 2008, 21 successful AED applications

DEPUTY SAVES UNCONSCIOUS MAN AT SPORTS COMPLEX
By Monivette Cordeiro Gainesville Sun Staff writer Published: Thursday, June 5, 2014
A LaCrosse man who stopped breathing Wednesday night at a Newberry sports complex....
A LaCrosse man who stopped breathing Wednesday night at a Newberry sports complex apparently was saved after an Alachua County sheriff’s deputy passing by stopped to help him.

Deputy Thomas Thueson was patrolling the area and decided to check the Easton Newberry Sports Complex on Northwest 16th Avenue in Newberry around 8:22 p.m., said sheriff’s spokeswoman Sgt. Becky Butscher. When he arrived, Thueson was immediately flagged down by a group of people who said 25-year-old Jerry Alexander was unconscious.

Alexander was playing football when, for an unknown reason, he fell to the ground unconscious and stopped breathing. Thueson performed CPR and used an automated external defibrillator (AED) on Alexander until Alexander regained a pulse and took a breath, Butscher said.

Deputies said Alexander was then treated by Newberry Fire Rescue officials and taken to North Florida Regional Medical Center, where he remained in stable condition, she said.

“The AEDs have proven time and time again that they are useful,” Butscher said. “When a heart stops, timing is everything. He was there within the first couple minutes and able to save that man’s life.”
Additional Highlights—continued

- Fiscal Audit – 15th Year of *No Findings*

- Ms. Reshone Flanders selected by the Florida Sheriff’s Association (FSA) as the Association’s *Risk Coordinator of the Year*

- Canine Unit - 1st Place Finish for *Florida’s Fastest Dog Competition*  
  *(Deputy Tommy Wilcox and K9 Partner Robbie)*
Additional Highlights - continued

- Smart 911 program introduced allowing citizens to register personal info to be made available to 911 in the event of an emergency - www.Smart911.com

- Announcement of new statewide iWatch program designed to help citizens become more comfortable reporting suspicious behaviors which may be linked to terrorist activity to law enforcement via their phone or internet – www.iwatchalachua.com
Questions?

The Alachua County Sheriff’s Office
Protect, Serve and Support Our Community With Integrity