

RHEA COUNTY

HOMELAND SECURITY

February

NEWSLETTER

2005

From the Editor

(If you don't read anything else in this newsletter, please take the time to read this article. No matter how painful it is to try and sort through my ramblings, there is information in here that we all need.)

With that out of the way, let me begin.

There still seems to be some confusion as to what our purpose is and what our duties consist of and I'll attempt once more to clear this up as best as I can.

We were invited by the Sheriff to attend a joint meeting with his Department and Agencies from TVA to try and establish a group of volunteers that could support both the Sheriff and TVA in the event something happened at either the Nuclear Plant or the Watts Bar Dam.

This was to be The **Fast Action Response Team**. The name sounded better than it looked on paper, but the Sheriff saw what a wonderful resource we could be to help out in all types of emergencies and disasters that he decided to call us Rhea County Homeland Security.

This is where we actually got our start. The original group started with about 80 people and we had a session at the Watts Bar Firing range with M-16's, then everything kinda stalled out.

Again, the Sheriff was worried that the group would lose interest and contacted Jim Conner, Don Hutchins and myself Tom Mize and ask if we would organize this group and see if we could come up with ideals to get the thing off the ground. As you can see, it's off the ground. Thanks to a lot of very good people who have stepped up and taken various positions and offered excellent resources.

This is a big undertaking and most of you don't realize how much planning and meetings go on in the background before something can happen.

Sheriff Neal realized this would be the case at the beginning and he was already spread much to thin to dedicate the time it would take to do this program justice, so he did what any good leader does and that's delegate.

Mike still comes to as many meetings and events as he can and we should all commend him for that. He has to approve all of our training, equipment and qualifying as well as field all the questions that we come up with and try to find ways to help get us training, supplies and

equipment and in the middle of all of that he has managed to acquire and equip a van and trailer to support our group. As you can see he is busy. His Deputies are busy as well.

This is why we were formed. Pay close attention here, we are here to provide support for The Sheriff's Department.

We are not a SWAT or Assault Team, we are not a Rescue Squad, we are not a Haz-Mat Team, we are not Fire Fighters. We are a group of Volunteers, who have formed to assist with whatever the Sheriff needs to make his job and his Deputies jobs more effective.

Security would be one of the front runners in our duties. We have a large number of people that can man road blocks and set up perimeters and this would free up Deputies to do more important things. This is a big help to the Sheriff and the community. His office can be more effective and not cost the county any more money.

So what's the deal with the guns you ask. Well let me sort this out. We are part of the Sheriff's department, we wear uniforms with badges on them. Let's say you're out in the middle of nowhere, standing in the middle of the road warning motorist of something ahead. You're standing there, in uniform and minding your own business.

You see a car come around a curve, you throw your hand up in a motion that you want them to stop so you can do your thing and give them the information, but what you didn't know was that the driver just got out of prison, had a car load of illegal drugs and was high and just decided that he wasn't going back to jail. As the famous TV line says, "What you gonna do now Willis?"

Here's why you carry a Gun, self preservation. If you go out in uniform you better be ready to protect yourself and your fellow officers.

Why so much training with guns you ask, well once again, a gun is a tool. You need to know how to use it, when to use it and where to use it.

Let me give you another example. The other night I watched something on TV and this was a real life situation, the victim was interviewed at the end, but it seems the victim owned a jewelry store and had been robbed 3 or 4 times. He was fed up so he went out and bought, you guessed it, a handgun. He assumed that he could surprise any bad guy now and have the advantage and foil

Any attempt of a hold up.

Boy was he ever wrong. The bad guy enters the store, pulls his weapon and demands money. The owner fumbles around and when the bad guy looks away the owner reaches around his back and under his shirt and pulls out his weapon, points it at the bad guy just as he is turning around and then, nothing. It looked like he just froze up, unfortunately the bad guy didn't he popped 3 rounds in the owners chest. The owner lived and in the interview he explained that when he drew he pulled the trigger and nothing happened. He had forgot to take off the safety. (That wouldn't have happened with a Glock)

The moral of this story is, if you carry a gun, learn how to use it. Just having one won't help. Another reason to have training and not just for handguns but any of the tools we carry, ie; pepper spray, extendable baton or whatever you use, is liability. Just about every class we've had, they have mentioned that if you ever use a weapon, you will be ask about training and certification when you go to court and the odds are that you will go to court. This is why we require certification on any weapon you carry when you go out as a Homeland Security Officer. If you don't have the certification, you don't take it.

Why do we take other types of training? Remember when we first started and I made the comment "Knowledge is power", that's an old saying, but it's still true. Any thing that you can learn will only make you better at what you do. First-aid, CPR, Haz-Mat Classes or any other training we will offer is something that you will potentially have need of. We never know what we will face out in the field, so be as prepared as you can be and come home safe.

Chain of Command

The old Chain of Command. For those of you with prior military service, you're familiar with this term. Many agencies and businesses call it a flow chart. But they both accomplish the same task.

The chain of command provides the control and communications necessary to accomplish the mission. Each level in the chain is responsible for a lower level and accountable to all higher levels. The chain cannot work without loyalty to every level. With loyalty up and down the chain, it is a highly efficient and effective system for getting things done. The key principle is to resolve problems and seek answers at the lowest

possible level.

This is why we have Squad Leaders, Team Leaders and Resource Officers and a Director.

If everyone goes straight to the top when they have a question or problem, in our case the Sheriff, then the Top person gets overloaded. When he gets overloaded, we start becoming a liability instead of an asset. So, here is our Homeland Security Chain of Command:

Sheriff
Homeland Security Director
Resource Officers
Team Leaders
Squad Leaders
Squad Members

Look at this list, note what group you are in. If you ever have a problem or question you should go to the person that is in the group directly above you. Example: I'm a resource Officer, I want to know something from the Sheriff. The correct way to go about it would be to contact the Director and tell him that I want to speak with the Sheriff. I should tell the Director what it is that I need, he may already have the info and it not only would save time, but lessen the work load on the Sheriff. Same goes if I'm a Squad Member, I'd go to my Squad Leader and he would go up the chain until he got the answer.

Ever heard the term that stuff flows downhill? This is where it comes from. Not only does information go up the chain it comes down as well. Another example, If the Director has a problem with a Squad Member, his reaction should be, contact a Resource Officer who goes to the Team Leader who goes to the Squad Leader and the Squad leader talks to the Squad Member.

This has been an effective way to manage any organization for many many years and if we want to remain an asset we will have to learn and practice this Chain of Command.

On the next page is a list of Officers in the different positions. Learn who your Go To guy is and stay in contact with them. This is how information is shared within the group.

CHAIN of COMMAND**Sheriff—Mike Neal**

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Homeland Security Director -*Jim Conner*

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Resource Officers –*Don Hutchins, Tom Mize*

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Team Leaders**Alpha—Bill Frazier****Bravo—Gary Roddy****Charlie—Doug McDaniel****Delta—Bill Newman**

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Squad Leaders**Alpha 1—Willie Hughes****Alpha 2—Ron McCabe****Bravo 1—Bill Green****Bravo 2—John Blount****Charlie 1—Tim Wilson****Charlie 2—Tim Morgan****Delta 1—Bill Newman****Delta 2—David McSpadden**

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Squad Members*All Homeland Security Members*

If you **Do Not** know which Team you are on or what Squad you are with, contact the Director Jim Conner and ask where you belong. Squad Members should communicate with their Squad Leaders. This is the most efficient way to convey information. As questions or request travel up and down the chain of command, everyone is kept in the loop and everyone knows what is going on with any particular situation. Breakdowns occur and Staff become overloaded when you break this chain, and eventually confusion takes over.

Homeland Security Establishes Bank Account for Donations

Director Jim Conner and several Homeland Security Officers met recently at First Bank to sign papers to create a special account to accept donations and to deposit any money earned from special events and fund raisers for our Homeland Security Team. All monies placed in the account will be used to provide either equipment or training for the group.

LA-Z-Boy Donates First-Aid Kits to Homeland Security

Director Jim Conner recently received A donation from David Brown, Vice-President of LA-Z-Boy, to purchase 4 First-Aid Kits for The Rhea County Homeland Security Team. The kits will be available whenever we are deployed and will probably be stored in the new trailer supplied by The Sheriff's Department.

CPR and AED Training

As of this writing there have been 16 Team Members trained in CPR and AED. The training has been conducted by Gary Roddy through The American Heart Association. A special Thanks to Gary for providing this training and for all of the time he has donated to provide this valuable service.

**NEXT HOMELAND SECURITY
MEETING FEBRUARY 24TH
6 PM CIVIL AIR PATROL COMPLEX
This meeting will be the
Annual Weather Spotter
Training conducted by The
National Weather Service
From Morristown, TN**