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New Sheriff’s School benefits from CTAS instruction

The University of Tennessee (UT) County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) recently helped the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy (TLETA) teach the New Sheriff’s School, a 40-hour school for sheriffs, chief deputies and jail administrators.

The New Sheriff’s School provides an overview and orientation to the duties of the office of sheriff in Tennessee. Under T.C.A. § 8-8-102(c), persons elected to the office of sheriff after Aug. 1, 2006, must successfully complete the New Sheriff’s School, regardless of previous law enforcement experience. The academy has opened the school to chief deputies and jail administrators.

TLETA offered the school Sept. 10 – 14, and Steve Austin, CTAS legal consultant, taught the six-hour Office of Sheriff – Duties and Responsibilities class. Libby McCroskey, CTAS legal consultant, taught a two-hour class on personnel law. Terry Hazard, CTAS criminal justice consultant, helped set up and moderate the training.

Eighteen students participated, including three new sheriffs, 13 chief deputies and two jail administrators. The new sheriffs were Ron Seals (Sevier County), Brian Duke (Henderson County), and J.J. Jones (Knox County). State Rep. Eric Watson, a lieutenant with the Bradley County Sheriff’s Office, also attended.

Selmer Mayor Boosts EOA Participation

Mayor David Robinson of Selmer, Tenn., is leading the way in promoting the Elected Officials Academy Nov. 2 – 3 at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Working with Ronnie Neill, management consultant for the University of Tennessee (UT) Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), and the McNairy County Mayors Association, Robinson sent letters to all city officials in McNairy County inviting them to participate. He told city officials how the academy would not only provide them with a better understanding of municipal government in Tennessee, but how it could also lead to better cooperation between city officials in the county.

Robinson has promoted community cooperation since his election two years ago and believes the academy will help in that effort.

Several municipal officials from the 10 cities in McNairy County have registered, and MTAS is expecting several municipal officials from the surrounding counties to participate.

The Elected Officials Academy (EOA) is a program designed exclusively for municipal elected officials and covers various aspects of municipal leadership.
Frank McKee Receives GNRC Award for Regional Leadership

Frank McKee of the University of Tennessee (UT) County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) received the Maynard F. Pate Award for Leadership in Regional Cooperation at the Greater Nashville Regional Council (GNRC) annual meeting Sept. 27 in Nashville. Jimmy Scurlong, city manager of Dover, also received the award.

The recognition honored McKee and Scurlong for their work to promote the welfare of cities and counties in this region. Their professional affiliations with organizations have led to strong regional partnerships and better understanding as they have shared their expertise and experience with the entire region.

“The Council and all local officials in the GNRC area have benefited for many years from the presence of Mr. McKee and Mr. Scurlong in the region. Their legacy will be the improvements and professionalism they brought to the region,” said Sam Edwards, executive director of GNRC.

The award is named for Maynard Pate, who served as the executive director of GNRC from 1986 to 2004. Throughout his 42-year career in urban and regional planning and economic development, especially during his service with GNRC, Pate provided professional guidance, expertise and leadership to cities and counties on a range of needs, issues, benefits, and opportunities regarding regional planning and coordination.

Congrats TO SPOT

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has approved the Transit Oriented Screening of Passengers by Observational Techniques (TO SPOT) course for delivery. TO SPOT is the latest course at the University of Tennessee (UT) Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC), which was highlighted in last month’s Exchange. Congratulations to LEIC’s Homeland Security staff for a job well done!

LEIC Presents Law Enforcement Leader Course

The University of Tennessee (UT) Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC) recently completed The Law Enforcement Leader training course for new chiefs and command staff at the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville.

The course gives law enforcement executives a “mini-command college” to prepare them for senior responsibilities within their organizations. Topics included leadership and management, strategic planning, diversity, community policing strategies, team building, and other key administrative functions.

The course also included an open forum discussion with four law enforcement executives: Willie Williams, course facilitator and retired chief of the Wilson (North Carolina) Police Department; Sheriff Jim Berrong, Blount County Sheriff’s Office; Chief Tony Crisp, Maryville Police Department; and Chief Kim Wallace of Dover, Tenn., and president of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police (TACP). Panel members discussed their first days after being appointed chief or sheriff and the challenges they faced then as top administrators. The discussion gave participants an opportunity to share ideas and opinions of law enforcement leadership and management with peers and colleagues.

The 30 attendees represented 19 law enforcement agencies in the Tennessee cities of Elizabethton, Charlotte, Crossville, Dandridge, Decaturville, Dover, Hendersonville, Knoxville, Memphis, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Newport, and Sparta, as well as the Vanderbilt Police Department and Middle Tennessee State University Police Department (MTSU PD).

Participants included newly-appointed police chiefs John Bailey, Elizabethton Police Department, and Carl Feaster, MTSU PD, and newly-elected sheriffs Claude Strange, Cocke County Sheriff’s Office, and Roy Wyatt, Decatur County Sheriff’s Office.

Course instructors were Don Green, deputy chief for the Knoxville Police Department; Rex Barton, Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) police management consultant; J.D. Sanders, deputy chief, Franklin Police Department; Bobby Spangler, chief deputy, Knox County Sheriff’s Office; and Willie Williams.

The course is fully funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). The three-day training was co-sponsored by TACP and coincided with the regular bi-monthly meeting of TACP and the Tennessee Sheriffs’ Association (TSA).

For more information, contact Mike Hill via telephone at (865) 946-3222 or e-mail at mike.hill@tennessee.edu.
Honoring Billy Rodgers

At the Tennessee County Commissioners Association (TCCA) annual regional meeting in September, state Rep. Charles Curtiss presented a resolution honoring Billy Rodgers as a public servant.

Rodgers passed away June 14, 2006, and was a county government consultant for the University of Tennessee (UT) County Technical Assistance Center (CTAS). Curtiss presented the resolution to his wife, Cheryl Rodgers.

The resolution, approved by the Tennessee General Assembly, recognizes and commends Rodgers’ long and distinguished career as a public servant to Putnam County as a commissioner, as a TCCA board member and former president, and as a CTAS government consultant.

Curtiss and state Sen. Charlotte Burkes co-sponsored the resolution.

“Billy set the standard for professionalism in county government. He left a strong impression on so many people not only for his knowledge and expertise, but also for his character and demeanor,” said David Connor, TCCA executive director.

MTAS Provides Programming for Tenn. Personnel Association

For years, the University of Tennessee (UT) Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) has provided professional development support to Tennessee associations.

Bonnie Curran, MTAS human resources consultant, is now providing workshop sessions at regional meetings of the Tennessee Chapter of the International Public Management Association for Human Resources (also known as the Tennessee Personnel Management Association or TPMA).

Curran presented “Employee Benefits: Do You Hear What I Hear?” in July in Millington, Tenn., and in October in Knoxville. A third presentation is planned for Middle Tennessee Jan. 18 at the Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency Training Center in Nashville.

The workshop addresses how to more effectively communicate benefit information to employees and explores best practices used by other organizations.

MTAS staff will also provide support and programming for the association’s 2008 annual conference.

For information, contact Richard L. Stokes, MTAS human resources consultant and TPMA executive director, via e-mail at richard.stokes@tennessee.edu or telephone at (615) 532-6827.
Staff Applause

To: Amanda Watts, LEIC  
From: Jonathan Campbell, DCS

I wanted to express my gratitude and accolades for an excellent week of training. I had a lot of fun and feel that I can be better aware of what might be going around about me as I work with delinquent youth. Thank you for all the effort and time put into the Gang Familiarization course.

To: Don Darden, MTAS  
From: Jackie Axt, Alderwoman, Estill Springs

I would like to say “thanks” for your gentle assistance unraveling the board’s tight line of communications. So many people have given you strong accolades and I must join in. With confidence I make the following statement, you will hear from Estill Springs again soon!

To: Bob Schwartz, MTAS  
From: Rose Kaiser, Treasurer, Dogwood Heights Baptist Church

Dogwood Heights Baptist Church thanks you so much for allowing Gary West, MTAS fire consultant, to be a part of our Emergency Workers’ Appreciation Dinner. He did a wonderful presentation for all departments. Many said it was our best Appreciation Service yet. You do so much for our county and cities with little recognition.

To: Mike Garland, CTAS  
From: John Tanner, M.C., 8th Congressional District, U.S. House of Representatives

Thank you for the very important and conclusive economic impact study you did relating to Reelfoot Lake and the economy of Northwest Tennessee. Your work was very comprehensive. The study will be important to the leadership, both locally and at the state level, as we push to have a new Spillway to replace the present one that is antiquated. Obviously, without an adequate Spillway, there will be no Reelfoot Lake.

To: Deidra Phillips, LEIC  
From: Clarence Brathwaite, Captain, DART Administrative Bureau

I along with the DART Police Chief want to thank you for the service that you provided to our agency Aug. 27-29 instructing the T4 class. It is not often that an organization is fortunate enough to boast of the services and support of the instructors that exude above and beyond their responsibilities. However, we at DART Police found that support in you and the rest of your instructors.

To: Mike Garland, CTAS  
From: Troy Beets, Chair, Roane County Commission

Just a quick note to tell you how much that Roane County appreciates having Ron Woody as our first-line CTAS representative. I invited Ron to appear at an open workshop of our full commission to help explain and educate our commissioners on the subjects of Senior Property Tax Freeze and Ethics. He led us through both sessions, answering commissioners’ questions in a way that everyone easily understood. Even more impressive were the comments made by citizens as they left. They were saying “Now, we finally understand what we voted for” and other statements about the tax freeze. Ron always responds promptly and with a lot of energy to any request we have. His professionalism puts him in very high regard with all of us here in Roane County.

Locks of Love

Scott Gordy, IPS central office IT administrator, recently donated 12 inches of his “mane” to Locks of Love, a non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children under age 18 suffering from long-term medical hair loss.
Morrisey Inducted Into ROTC Hall of Fame

Romeo Morrisey, program manager for the Center for Homeland Security Training at the University of Tennessee (UT) Law Enforcement Innovation Center (LEIC), was inducted into the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Hall of Fame on Sept. 21 on the campus of his alma mater, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University (NC A&T) in Greensboro, N.C.

Army ROTC prepares students to become commissioned officers in the U.S. Army upon college graduation. The Hall of Fame recognizes those Army ROTC alumni who have had distinguished military and civilian careers. Morrisey, a retired U.S. Army colonel, entered ROTC at NC A&T in 1972, received his commission in 1976, then began his military career in Fort Benning, Ga., as an infantry officer.

“The program taught me discipline, how to motivate others to do what you asked of them when you are not looking, and mainly how to manage my time and conduct responsibly,” Morrisey said.

“The ROTC program is a great way to begin life as a young adult and secure a job with great responsibility — a place where you are sure of contributing to something important. You get to shape lives and routinely see positive results.”

That preparation led to a 27-year military career for Morrisey. He served in numerous theaters and operations, including 13 months as a mortar platoon and rifle platoon leader in the Republic of Korea. During his distinguished military career, Morrisey received the NATO Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medals and Army Commendation Medals, among other decorations.

Morrisey’s last assignment was as chief of the Army’s Operations and Fielding Division at the Pentagon. His division developed, coordinated and implemented strategic plans and programs that executed unit set fielding concepts. This included assisting in determining equipment availability based on mission requirements, defining fielding timelines and analyzing affordability.

At UT, Morrisey manages programs that train response teams and law enforcement officers nationwide to detect, prevent, mitigate and react to the threat of terrorist attacks.

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Veteran’s Day
Nov. 11

IPS staff who are veterans of the United States military or who are currently in the Reserves or National Guard or on full-time active duty include the following:

Steve Austin _________________ CTAS
Doug Bodary __________________ CTAS
John Chlarson _________________ MTAS
Don Darden __________________ MTAS
Ron Darden ___________________ MTAS
Thaddeus Grace _______________ IPS CO
David Hall ______________________ CIS
Sid Hensley ___________________ MTAS
Al Major _____________________ MTAS
Frank McKee __________________ CTAS
Romeo Morrisey ______________ LEIC
Ronnie Neill __________________ MTAS
Bill Nusbaum ____________________ CIS
Gary Petree ___________________ MTAS
Deidra Phillips ________________ LEIC
Bob Schentler __________________ CTAS
Bob Schwartz ________________ MTAS
Mike Simmons_______________ CIS
Jim Slizewski _______________ CIS
Mike Stooksberry ______________ CTAS
Russell Toone ________________ CIS
Johnny Winstead _______________ CIS

Family members (spouses or children) who have served or are currently serving include the following:

Capt. Gregory Darden
Son of Don Darden __________ MTAS
Capt. Eric Stooksberry
Son of Mike Stooksberry _______ CTAS
Capt. Walter Jackson
Son of Romeo Morrisey __________ LEIC
Keith Fly
Son-in-law of Beverly Erwin ______ CIS
Gary Gage
Husband of Tammy Gage _______ CIS
Spc. Wes Groves and Sgt. Robert Groves
Sons of Keith Groves ___________ CIS
Cpl. Joshua Holley
Husband of Sarah Holley _______ MTAS
Tom Bowers
Husband of Pam Peters ________ MTAS
Ben Slizewski
Son of Jim Slizewski ______________ CIS
Jarman Watts
Son of Cordonnia Watts ________ LEIC
Sgt. Matthew Winstead
Son of Johnny Winstead ________ CIS
GET TO KNOW...

Interested in learning more about your colleagues? This section highlights IPS employees and provides information on their background and interests.

Marty Spears
CTAS

Marty Spears, finance and budget consultant, joined CTAS in September.

Spears serves counties in northern Middle Tennessee (Region 5). He has 11 years experience in local and state government and has served as Hohenwald’s city recorder and as a fiscal consultant for the Department of Education. He is also a county commissioner in Lewis County and is chairman of its budget committee. Spears has a degree in accounting from Tennessee State University.

Spears accepted the position with CTAS because he wants to help counties with their budgets and accounting problems. Based on his background, he believes he will be able to provide assistance and also have a good understanding of the financial problems counties face.

He is a lifelong resident of Hohenwald. He and his wife, Debbie, have been married for 21 years and have a 15-year-old son, Neyland Paxson. Spears enjoys golfing and any UT sport. He is also a big supporter of Lewis County High School panther football (his son plays on the team).

John Collier
CIS

John Collier, manufacturing consultant, recently joined CIS. Collier has more than 30 years of experience in management of manufacturing operations.

Most recently, Collier was manager of operations and engineering at The Robert Bosch Corporation plant in Gallatin, Tenn. At Bosch, Collier held a variety of jobs including continuous improvement coordinator and Bosch production system leader. In these capacities, he facilitated a wide range of Lean improvement events.

Prior to Bosch, Collier was the manufacturing manager at Aladdin Industries, LLC. In this position, he and his team transformed the plastics plant, combining three departments into one continuous flow operation.

Collier has a bachelor’s degree in business management from Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville. He also has completed the University of Tennessee’s (UT) executive development program.

His wife, Robin, is the director of membership at Associated Builders and Contractors. They have two children, Ben, 26, and Lauren, 23. Ben is pursuing a career in sales and is a graduate of Cumberland University. Lauren is a teacher at Mount Juliet High School and has bachelor’s and master’s degrees from UT.

Collier is an avid UT football fan. He also enjoys playing golf, exercising, and reading history when he is away from work.

MTAS guides first-time city manager through first days in Norris

In July 1949, the city of Norris was the first to call upon the University of Tennessee (UT) Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) for assistance. Now, 58 years later, MTAS Management Consultant Margaret Norris is helping the town’s new city manager, Eric Brackins, learn the ropes of municipal management.

Brackins is originally from East Tennessee and had worked most recently in Kentucky.

Before Brackins’ first day as city manager, Norris contacted him to explain MTAS and its resources and suggested reading materials that would prepare him for his first month of work. After a few weeks, Norris introduced Brackins to colleagues in neighboring cities, helping him establish a network of professional contacts in the area.
What do they do?

Here’s another look at the day-to-day responsibilities of staff in the IPS central office in Knoxville. These staff members support all IPS personnel statewide and are employees of the systemwide Institute for Public Service, which is separate from the Knoxville academic campus.

Thaddeus Grace is business manager for the University of Tennessee (UT) Institute for Public Service (IPS) central office. In this position, Grace serves as IRIS user coordinator and manages sponsored projects accounting for IPS.

As business manager, Grace is responsible for IPS central office operations, including budgeting and accounting, and operations in IPS regional offices in Johnson City, Chattanooga, Cookeville, Jackson, Memphis and Martin. He plays an active role in developing IPS business policies and procedures. During 2007, Grace helped manage the Law Enforcement Innovation Center’s budgeting and operations in the absence of an LEIC business manager.

As IRIS user coordinator, Grace reviews user requests, handles user maintenance, provides IRIS training, develops best practices, and maintains the integrity of IPS data in IRIS. He also plays an active role in the university’s ongoing efforts to further develop and improve IRIS, serving on university-wide committees and project teams.

In addition to these responsibilities, Grace handles accounting for IPS sponsored projects and leads all aspects of post-award grant and contract administration for IPS. Grace also assists Ron Loewen, IPS chief business officer, on a variety of projects including annual reports, budget reports and analysis.

CIS Hosts NCMA Meeting

On Oct. 7, the University of Tennessee (UT) Center for Industrial Services (CIS) hosted the National Contracts Management Association (NCMA) Music City chapter’s inaugural meeting. The NCMA offers contracts management and procurement professionals an opportunity to network and obtain continuing education credits.

CIS’ Debbie Barber is vice president of NCMA, and Deborah Powers, executive recruiter for Nelson Family of Companies, is president of NCMA.
November Events

CIS
Nov. 5  40-Hour Site Worker, Gatlinburg
Nov. 6  Certifex Hazardous Materials Manager, Nashville
Nov. 6  Safety Committee Strategies, Knoxville
Nov. 7  Manufacturing Solutions Conference, Nashville
Nov. 13  CSI1000-10-Hour General Industry, Jackson
Nov. 13  8-Hour Hazardous Competent Person, Murfreesboro
Nov. 14  Mammal Operations & Safety Training, Murfreesboro
Nov. 28  Clandestine Meth Lab Decontamination, Nashville

CTAS
Nov. 6  Understanding Work Styles, Jackson
Nov. 7 – 9  Local Government Leadership Program, Knoxville
Nov. 12 – 15  COAT Conference, Knoxville
Nov. 20  Understanding Work Styles, Knoxville
Nov. 27 – 29  Association of County Mayors Conference, Nashville

IPS
Nov. 7  L&P, Knoxville
Nov. 14  TELA, Nashville

LEIC
Oct. 29 – Nov. 2  Project Facilitator Training, Galatia
Oct. 30 – Nov. 1  Transit Terrorist Tools & Tactics Training, Sacramento, Calif.
Nov. 5 – 7  First Line Supervision and Management, Hendersonville
Nov. 6  Meth-Free Education in TN Schools, Johnson City
Nov. 6  Meth-Free Education in TN Schools, Knoxville
Nov. 7 – 9  Police Leadership Training, Alcoa
Nov. 7  Lifeskills Training, Claiborne County
Nov. 7  Meth-Free Education in TN Schools, Chattanooga
Nov. 12 – 16  SECUL Session VII, Week 5, UT Chattanooga
Nov. 13  Meth-Free Education in TN Schools, Jackson
Nov. 14 – 16  Community Policing Problem Solving, Kingsport
Nov. 14  Meth-Free Education in TN Schools, Nashville
Nov. 15 – 16  First Line Supervision and Management, UT-Knoxville Police Department
Nov. 15  Meth-Free Education in TN Schools, Cookeville
Nov. 26 – 30  Crime Scene Management in Correctional Facilities, New Jersey
Nov. 27 – 29  Transit Terrorist Tools & Tactics Training, New York

MTAS
Nov. 2  Risk Management and Safe Workplace Environment, Livingston
Nov. 2  Human Resource Overview, White House
Nov. 5  City Council at Work and My Part in It, Cookeville
Nov. 7  City Council at Work and My Part in It, Johnson City
Nov. 7  Motivating Your Workforce, Kingsport
Nov. 8  Risk Management and Safe Workplace Environment, Johnson City
Nov. 8  City Council at Work and My Part in It, Knoxville
Nov. 12  Risk Management and Safe Workplace Environment, Portland
Nov. 13  City Council at Work and My Part in It, Collegedale
Nov. 15  City Council at Work and My Part in It, Franklin
Nov. 26  City Council at Work and My Part in It, Bartlett
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Staff Departures

LEIC
Amy Welch, Knoxville

IPS
Recruitments
2 Economic Development Specialists, Nashville and Martin

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Service Anniversaries
Doug Brown, MTAS 1 year
Kasey Craney, IPS CO 5 years
Chris Gaskovich, CTAS 14 years
Hannah Kosner, MTAS 1 year
Jadie Martin, IPS CO 3 years
Alison Ross, UT VP 5 years
Bob Schettler, CTAS 22 years
Amanda Watts, LEIC 2 years

November Events

The university observes the following days of scheduled closings:

Thanksgiving • Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22 – 23
Winter Break • Monday – Friday, Dec. 24 – 28
New Year’s Day • Tuesday, Jan. 1