

# THE GUARDIAN



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[www.parkpolice.net](http://www.parkpolice.net)

## Park Police Hold Awards Ceremony

In March, the Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division, held its Annual Awards Ceremony. Dignitaries such as Assistant Montgomery County Police Chief Bill O’Toole, Assistant State’s Attorney Thomas DeGonia II, Chairman of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Derick Berlage, and Director of Department of Park and Planning Charles Loehr attended the ceremony. Chief Nathaniel J. Barber presented awards to Division members to recognize their accomplishments during 2004.

Officers Levon Ellian and Gregory Worsley received Silver and Bronze Stars respectively for rescuing a drowning man at Clear Spring Park in Germantown, Maryland, on May 19, 2004. A Silver Star recognizes acts of courage that involve risk to one’s own life and a Bronze Star recognizes an act of valor intended to save a life. Officers Dennis Benden and Gregory Worsley also received Bronze Stars for their courage in dealing with a serious car accident that occurred in Wheaton on November 28, 2004.

Chief’s Commendations were given to Sergeant James Richards and Officers Thomas Mock, Keith Gentry, and Gregory Worsley for their exceptional actions and problem solving in 2004. Detective Mau Ly received a Field Citation for his outstanding actions as a member of the Montgomery County Firearms Task Force. Members of the Accreditation Team received a Teamwork Award.

Officer Keith Gentry received Patrol Officer of the Year and Officer Ernie Newman received Special Operations Officer of the Year. Officer Josh Scully was the Top Enforcer of the Year for 2004. Detective Jeffrey Price received Detective of the Year for 2004 and John Stinson received the Dispatcher Award. Margaret Kingsley was honored with the Civilian of the Year Award.

Park Police Volunteer David Hondowicz was recognized for his almost 600 hours of volunteer work. Air Services, Inc., of Gaithersburg, Maryland, received a Certificate of Appreciation for the company’s contributions to the community. Congratulations go to all who received awards! 



*Photo by Francine Bethea*

Captain Jake Bise and Chief Nathaniel J. Barber (L-R: outside) present Officers Gregory Worsley and Levon Ellian (L-R: inside) with Silver and Bronze Stars.





## Park Police Officers Honored at Public Safety Awards


Officer Keith Gentry was on routine patrol on September 30, 2004, when several distressed people flagged him down in a parking lot near Piney Branch Road in Takoma Park. A stabbing had just occurred and the suspect fled the scene upon seeing Officer Gentry and his cruiser.

Without hesitation or backup, Officer Gentry pursued the suspect and apprehended him to prevent him from escaping or harming others. Once the suspect was secured in his patrol car, Officer Gentry called for Fire and Rescue assistance, found the bloody weapon, and secured the scene until help arrived.

For his quick thinking and action, Officer Keith Gentry received an Honorable Mention of Valor at the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Public Safety Awards. More than 1,000 people attended the ceremony that was held at the new Montgomery County Conference Center in North

Bethesda on March 24, 2005. County Executive Douglas M. Duncan, U.S. Representative Christopher Van Hollen, Jr., and The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commissioner Allison Bryant, among others, thanked the 34 police officers and firefighters who were honored at the ceremony.

Officers Levon Ellian and Gregory Worsey also received recognition at the Awards Ceremony for the near drowning incident at Clear Spring Park in Germantown, Maryland (see story on Page 1). Officer Ellian received a Bronze Medal of Valor and Officer Greg Worsey received an Honorable Mention of Valor for their swift action in saving the distraught man from drowning in the pond.

Congratulations go to all who received awards and thanks for everything you do day in and day out to keep Montgomery County residents safe. 



*Photo by Officer Shibu Philipose*

L-R: Officer Levon Ellian, Officer Keith Gentry, Commissioner Allison Bryant, and Officer Gregory Worsey



# Park Police Earn Re-Accreditation

by Lt. David McClintock

On Saturday, March 19, 2005, Park Police Chief Nathaniel J. Barber was awarded the Certificate of Re-accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) on behalf of the Maryland-National Capital Park Police - Montgomery County Division. The certificate was presented at the CALEA conference in Birmingham, Alabama, which was attended by more than 1,000 law enforcement practitioners from across the United States and Canada.

CALEA is a voluntary, non-governmental agency formed in 1979 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriff's Association, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, and the Police Executive Research Forum to create a body of standards that further the professional level of service provided by law enforcement agencies.

When presented with the Re-accreditation Certificate, Chief Barber stated, "The CALEA accreditation process has served to demonstrate the exceptional nature of the Park Police and to provide a mechanism for helping ensure the agency is in line with law enforcement practices."

Only a small percentage of police departments internationally are accredited and the Park Police are one of 28 accredited law enforcement agencies in Maryland. The re-accreditation process involved submitting annual reports to the Commission attesting to continued compliance with 446 standards and an on-site evaluation that occurred in December 2004.

Chief Barber added, "CALEA re-accreditation was not an easy task. Every policy and procedure throughout our organization was reviewed and compared to CALEA's professional standards. To meet each standard, we compiled documented proof to demonstrate compliance for each of the previous three years (2002, 2003, and 2004). This third re-accreditation truly speaks volumes about the quality of our officers, civilians, citizen volunteer program, and the professionalism they display daily."

The current accreditation expires in 2008 at which time the Park Police expect to seek compliance for a fourth time to remain accredited. Thanks go to all the Accreditation Team members who made this happen and to those who participated in the panel presentations and on-site review. **G**

*Photo by Dana Brassell*



L-R: CALEA Program Manager Karen Shepard, Chief Nathaniel J. Barber, Captain Jake Bise



## Park Police Say Goodbye to Three Members

Congratulations and good luck go to Sergeant Joe Parsons, Officer Marshall Drecchio, and Officer Dean Smith who retired in November 2004, January 2005, and February 2005 respectively. Retiring with more than 66 years of combined service, the Division held a farewell celebration for the three retirees in February. Lt. Dan McNickle presided over the ceremony and former retired employees Sergeant Bill Collins and Captain Mike Wynnyk roasted the guests of honor.

Sergeant Parsons served his entire career of more than 21 years with the Montgomery County Division in the Patrol, Special Operations, Investigative Services, and Special Services Sections. Joe was the Division's Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinator, Public Information Officer, and 1996 Investigator of the Year.

Officer Marshall Drecchio served the public for more than 30 years with more than 23 years with the Maryland-National Capital Park Police. Best known as the Property and Evidence Officer, Marshall was a Patrol, Mounted, and Motor Officer as well. One of the longest-serving Park Police members, Marshall was involved in the first managed deer hunt and was a member of the Special Operations Drill Team. *(Continued on Page 5.)*



Retired Sgt. Bill Collins (right) presents Sgt. Joe Parsons with Park and Planning Resolution.



Retired Captain Mike Wynnyk (right) presents Officer Marshall Drecchio with Presidential Proclamation.



## Park Police Say Goodbye to Three Members (Continued from Page 4)

With more than 22 years of service, Officer Dean Smith also served his entire career with the Montgomery County Division. Recognized as an expert in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), Dean received numerous awards including a Governor's Award for his work in designing safe parks, business districts, and recreation facilities. Dean also was known for his excellent speaking skills and was in demand as a speaker at many conferences and meetings.

Having already started new careers, all the retirees are excited to start a new phase of their lives. They did, however, express their nostalgia for the Park Police family they're leaving behind. Best wishes go to all the retirees and may you and your families enjoy a future filled with good health and happiness. **G**

*Photos by Det. Mau Ly*



Captain Jake Bise (right) presents County Council Proclamation to Officer Dean Smith.



L-R: Officer Marshall Drecchio, Officer Dean Smith, and Sergeant Joe Parsons



## Park Police Hold Leadership Retreat

**P**ark Police leaders from both Montgomery County and Prince Georgeís Divisions attended a Leadership Retreat in Riverdale, Maryland, on April 5 and 6, 2005. All supervisors, Sergeants, Lieutenants, Captains, and both Chiefs attended the two-day event.

Topics such as workers compensation, performance appraisals, and legal issues were covered on the first day. On the second day, world-renowned speaker, Mr. Jack Harris, spoke on how to retain good people in the organization. This was the first time leaders from both Divisions joined together for a retreat. Participants appreciated the opportunity to meet their counterparts and look forward to more such events in the future. **G**



Chiefs Larry M. Brownlee, Jr. (Prince Georgeís) and Nathaniel J. Barber (Montgomery County) welcome managers to first joint Leadership Retreat.

World-renowned speaker Jack Harris discusses what makes employees want to stay in an organization.



*Photos by Lt. Stanley Johnson*




# Dan McNickle Promoted to Assistant Chief

**C**ongratulations go to Lt. Daniel McNickle on his promotion to Captain/Assistant Chief on March 10, 2005. Dan has served with the Maryland-National Capital Park Police for more than 22 years. Twenty of those years were with the Prince George's Division until transferring to the Montgomery County Division in 2003.

Captain McNickle began his career in Prince George's County after graduating from the University of Maryland in 1982. He has been assigned to various positions throughout his tenure. He has served in Patrol Services,

Special Operations, Horse Mounted, Criminal Investigations, Records, Communications, Property, Special Services, and Professional Standards. He has held supervisory and managerial positions in all of these areas.

Captain McNickle will oversee the Field Operations Section of the Division. This includes all of Patrol, Special Operations, Investigative Services, and Special Services. Best wishes go to Assistant Chief McNickle in his new position! 



Captain Daniel McNickle  
Assistant Chief  
Field Operations

*Photo by Officer Ed Rivera*





# The Latest Scoop

## Congratulations Go to New Lead Communications Technicians

by Dispatch Supervisor Deborah Hagberg

Congratulations go to Dispatchers Charles Nash, Jr. and Monica Warren on their recent promotion to Lead Park Police Communications Technician. Filling these newly created positions, Chuck and Monica are responsible for leading, coordinating, and monitoring the work of other dispatchers.

Both Lead Technicians will be assisting with on-call 24-hour coverage of the unit and will also be responsible for the daily operations of the Communications Center. Chuck (also known as "James") has been with The Commission for 27 years. Monica just celebrated her 10th year with Park Police.

These positions are a much needed addition to the Communications Section. Please join me in wishing Monica and Chuck the best in their new positions.

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## Welcome to New Park Police Member

Please welcome Kathryn Johnson to the Information Technology Section of Park Police. Kathryn joins Clyde DiMonte in providing computer support to the Division. With over five years experience with The Commission, we welcome Kathryn to the Park Police.



Kathryn Johnson

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## Birth Announcements

Congratulations go to Sergeant Rick Pelicano on the birth of his grandson, Liam Dominic Cauble. Rick's daughter gave birth to Liam on March 26, 2005. Best wishes go to Rick and his family!