The beginning of the year was filled with reflection, excitement and uncertainty. After almost 29 years of faithful service to the citizens of Cumberland County, Sheriff R. Thomas Kline decided to retire. We discussed the retirement at length; the Sheriff consistently opposing any large event on his behalf. As a result, we totally ignored his wishes and planned a huge event to be held at Allenberry Resort and Playhouse in Boiling Springs! Invitations went out county-wide and the turnout was overwhelming. The event was attended by his staff, other county Sheriff’s, past and present county judges, magisterial district judges, elected officials, personal friends, family and many fellow law enforcement personnel. Many people spoke during a “roast” of the outgoing sheriff. The speaking culminated with a very touching speech given by Sheriff Kline’s solicitor and longtime friend Ed Schorpp; there wasn’t a dry eye in the house. Thanks for your service Sheriff Kline!

Sheriff Ronny R. Anderson

After the collective sigh of relief, we addressed what other staffing changes would be made. Jody Smith has been a faithful employee of the Sheriff’s Office for 20 years. Through those years, she had worked her way up through the ranks from Deputy to Civil Process Sergeant. Through her experience, she has an intimate knowledge of the inner
workings of almost every facet of our office. It was therefore a natural progression for the newly elected Sheriff Anderson to name her as his Chief Deputy; the first female to be named to that position in all of Cumberland County’s 260 year history. She has wasted no time tackling the additional responsibilities of her new position, in addition to staying on as a member of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency’s Deputy Sheriff’s Education and Training Board.

Chief Deputy Jody Smith

Chief Deputy Smith’s promotion created a challenge as she vacated her former position as Civil Process Sergeant. The meticulous nature of that position was very well suited to Chief Deputy Smith’s attention to detail and thoroughness; she was very good at her job. Fortunately for us, we had promoted Deputy Jason Vioral to Corporal in 2007. This allowed him to gain valuable experience to be able to fill the position of Civil Process Sergeant and make the transition almost seamless. Sergeant Vioral possesses personality traits like attention to detail, that will allow him to do well in his new position.

Sergeant Jason Vioral
As the positive ramifications of a new sheriff works its way through the ranks, another easy transition was the promotion of Deputy Bill Cline to Civil Process Corporal. Bill came to us five years ago after a fulfilling career in the Army as an EOD Technician. He wears many hats in the office and has his hand in training as well as his normal duties associated with his promotion.

Corporal William Cline

On September 13, 2010, we got back our newest full time addition to the office; Deputy Shawn Gutshall concluded his training at the Deputy Sheriff’s Training Academy on September 10th and wasted no time coming back to work. Like many other great staff we have, Shawn spent four years at the Cumberland County Jail before pursuing his interest in working for the Sheriff’s Office. His leadership is evident as he was elected class president of the 32nd class to train at Penn State; we are happy to have him back.

In addition to Shawn, we are anxious to get back our newest part time deputy, Sheldon Marshall. Sheldon comes to us as a decorated 27 year veteran of the Harrisburg City Police Department and as a long time citizen of Cumberland County. When his waiver training is complete he will return to us and seamlessly integrate with the rest of the staff.

“Office Highlights”

Over two years ago Deputy Ron Kerr and Deputy Shannon Shertzer were sworn in as Deputy US Marshalls. Similar to other counties, they work on a task force comprised of many other members in our local law enforcement community. They pull all their collective resources and concentrate on felony warrants, drug related warrants and warrants that have arisen from crimes against children. This past year despite the ever increasing workload, they still managed to devote 450 man-hours to the project with positive results.

Deputies Shannon Shertzer (forefront) and Ron Kerr
As many of you may know, Cumberland County was chosen by Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) to pilot the implementation of the new license to carry system. Five years ago legislation was enacted to allow five dollars of the fees collected for the processing of a license to carry application to go into an escrow account. The legislation spelled out that this money would later be used to design and implement a universal state-wide license to carry computer system. Late in July we took a few people from our office and administrative staff to PCCD in Harrisburg to work with the new software in a simulated environment. We were very pleased with the intuitiveness of the software and we quickly became acclimated to it. On August 11th 2010, the equipment was installed and we started using the new system. We have worked directly with PCCD and the software developer and have been very pleased with the results. When an application is processed, we still have to physically call the Pennsylvania Instant Check System (PICS), and this takes time. Hopefully the progress PCCD has achieved continues and we can accomplish this task at the swipe of a driver’s license at the time of application; this would allow instant issue and not require the applicant to come back a second time to pick up their permit as we do now.

New License to Carry System

In the beginning of August, our office was contacted by a long time local business Family Ford with a proposition. Despite the relatively short notice, Family Ford wanted to host, in conjunction with our office, a back to school family fun night. All of our staff scrambled to lock in vendors and activities so that advertising could begin. We had overwhelming support from other local businesses and on Thursday, August 26th, we had it all come together. Deputy Ron Hoover and his K-9 partner Voelz and Deputy Valerie Weary and her K-9 partner Zuza were on hand to perform both explosive detection as well as drug detection demonstrations. Our newly elected Sheriff Anderson still adamantly supports all the community events that we participate in to include Child ID events, safety seat installations, community fairs and assisting other local law enforcement agencies when requested.
Deputy Ron Hoover and Deputy Valerie Weary with her partner Zuza

Deputy Valerie Weary and partner Zuza during a drug detection demonstration.

Deputy Ron Hoover with his partner Voelz
In addition to the K-9 demonstrations, our office and staff also provided child identification cards, child safety seat checks and thanks to Family Ford of Carlisle and The Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office, we gave away free bike helmets with a proper fitting, all of which was very well received.

Whitni Williamson works on the child ID system with a smile.

Deputy Bitner and Deputy Cobaugh performing a safety seat check.

Deputy Tim Black fits a bicycle helmet.
We also solicited the help of our local Red Robin restaurant chain as well as PCCD to provide entertainment for the kids in the form of the Red Robin and McGruff the Crime Dog.

Deputy Dennis Fry entertains the kids as McGruff the Crime Dog.

进一步协助的是我们自己创建的卡姆登县公共安全移动指挥中心，市民消防公司36号“火屋”拖车，联合消防公司1号和卡姆登好意EMS与卡林斯克消防与救援。优秀的出席和我们的朋友的愿意帮助我们使我们渴望明年再做一次。
Training is one of the most important and misunderstood concepts that surrounds law enforcement. Some people are totally immersed in it, some people want no parts of it and some people use it as a cannon to fight legislative battles. Recently, the common law powers of the sheriff’s offices across Pennsylvania have slowly been whittled away with
court rulings and case law. The broad scope of the problem is that sheriff’s offices have always acted under common law; meaning there is really no statutory legislation that says specifically what we can and can’t do. Conversely, our law enforcement brothers and sisters that are municipal and state police officers do have such legislation. This situation has worked problem free for hundreds of years. Recently, this arrangement has been challenged in the court system and the courts have said that we as sheriff’s need to make efforts to legislate our powers; common law is suddenly, no longer sufficient.

The Pennsylvania Sheriff’s Association has stepped up to introduce legislation (PA House Bill 2585) that would spell out exactly what we as sheriff’s can do. This legislation has been met with predictable and illogical opposition from various associations that represent county commissioners, municipal police officers and state police officers. If this legislation is passed, the opponents say, it will lead to budgetary issues and turf wars. These so called turf wars are not based in reality, but are narrow-minded ideas fabricated in the minds of supervisors and department heads. On the street where it matters, when someone needs help, whether it is a fellow law enforcement officer or a citizen in distress, no one cares what color your uniform is or what hat you wear.

In addition, these voices of opposition claim that our training is substandard and that alone should be reason to not perpetuate the legislation. This claim has been made by clearly ignoring the facts that prove otherwise.

In Cumberland County any recently hired person for the position of Deputy Sheriff starts with the sheriff’s office usually a week prior to the commencement of their academy date. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency’s Deputy Sheriff’s Training Academy (referred to as Act 2 referencing the Act that created it) is a 19 week long program consisting of numerous training modules to total 760 hours of training. Conversely, the training that our municipal police officers get (referred to as Act 120 for similar reasons) consists of multiple modules for a total of 754 hours. When they return from the academy, they along with every other Deputy Sheriff and Supervisor are exposed to continuous training throughout the course of the calendar year.

Our training program is overseen by Sgt. Bryan Ward and he has numerous deputies that are all certified instructors in their areas of responsibility at his disposal. We structure our training around two key elements; defend ability and survivability. To accomplish this we take advantage of as much training as we can whether it is “in house” or taught by someone else. The following is a review of the in-house training we have exposed our deputies to in 2010 to ensure defendability and survivability:

February  We performed 2 days of active Shooter training with all deputies that included a presentation on active shooter tactics and the psychology and types of active shooters followed by dynamic situational based training to include the use of simunitions, role players and distractions to heighten stimulus response. All deputies were required to respond to various active shooter scenarios of varying complexity.

March “In-service” training consisted of 8 hours of training to review hazardous materials training, an ASP baton training refresher, a protection from abuse law refresher to include the procedures for an arrest of indirect criminal contempt, and a civil service refresher to include explanations for a Complaint in Ejectment, Writ of Possession for real property, Writ of Possession for personal
property, Writ of Seizure, Personal Property Judgments and Bankruptcy.

April

Spring qualification with our Sig Sauer p229 pistols, our Mossberg 12 gauge shotguns and our AR platform .223/5.56 patrol rifles.

September

We spent 8 hours on the shooting range to include another round of pistol qualification using the new PCCD pistol qualification course from Penn State. We then transitioned into various “tactical” drills and training that were designed with the “crawl, walk, run” approach to training that creates muscle memory and good habits. These drills included training and instruction on incapacitated officer training, shooting from vehicle under ambush training, speed reload and malfunctions clearing drills, shooting with movement drills, target acquisition/decision making while moving and using cover and concealment and dim light fire.

The following summarizes training that our deputies received that was not performed “in house”:

Fort Indiantown Gap Northeast Counter Drug Training Center

These classes were all provided free of charge and all of them were at a minimum of 16 hours of instruction with the Basic Warrants being 24 hours. The classes included:

1) Basic Warrants Class
2) The Complete Traffic Stop
3) Domestic Terrorism
4) Drug Identification
5) Identifying Deceptive behavior
6) Interview and interrogation
7) Street Gangs
Caliber Press Street Survival Course

A world renowned course that teaches its students what it truly takes to ensure that you go home at the end of the night.

South Central Task Force, Operation Wide Vigilance III

Cumberland County has 12 deputies that serve as members of the South Central Task Force’s Mobile Field Force. The task force is comprised of members of local law enforcement (sheriffs, municipal and state) from 8 counties in the region. They are a law enforcement asset that has been organized and trained to handle potential large scale police events. On September 23, 2010 a large scale simulated training event occurred at Hershey park that called on all available members of the Mobile Field Force to activate, rally to muster zones and deploy to the scene of the event and deal with the simulated problems that presented themselves to the members.

MG Tactical Advance Patrol Rifle

Cumberland County sent 3 deputies to this school. It focuses on advanced techniques that bridge the gap between basic rifle fighting and advanced techniques with the patrol rifle platform.

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Train the Trainer Program

We have had 3 Deputies complete the PCCD program “Train the Trainer”. The program is designed to empower interested individuals with the necessary tools and mind-set to teach to ensure they will be effective instructors. Deputy Dennis Fry, Corporal Bill Cline and Sgt. Bryan Ward have successfully completed this training.

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Firearms Instructor Course

Deputy Dennis Fry and Corporal Bill Cline have successfully completed this week long training at Penn State that teaches them a more real world approach towards weapons qualification and tactical training.

As you can see, this is a summary of the training we have conducted in the past year. We repeat this year in and out, building on the foundation of instinctive good habits that are instilled from the beginning ensuring defendability and survivability and negating any argument that we are not trained well enough to support any type of legislation that would define our powers!