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**Norfolk Sheriff's Office
Launches SWAT Training Program**

Look Right – Look Left

THERE ARE HEROES AMONG US

LIEUTENANT KATHLEEN CAREY, PIO

I am writing this piece two days before Veterans Day (11/11/06). It won't be published for several months. But it is the best way I know how to offer gratitude to those who serve their country and their communities.

—Lieutenant Carey

Sergeant Fredrick Hubbard opened his cell phone to a photo of a delightful baby. “This is my son, Brandon,” he beamed with pride. It is a picture of Brandon how he looks now, at a year old. Dad and son are just now getting fully acquainted.

“The most important thing I missed when deployed?” Hubbard repeated the question asked of him. “The birth of my son,” he responded plainly. “I missed the first four months of his life. I can't get it back. All the pictures you look at ... you can't get it back.”

Those are the sacrifices that soldiers make—and have made—over generations. Veterans Day is a time to honor past and present members of the United States Armed Forces for their service at home and in foreign lands on our behalf.

Those of us who work at the Newport News Sheriff's Office are especially close to the intent of the national holiday because many of our law enforcement brothers and sisters are veterans. We

played a little game to figure out just how many of our Deputies have prior military experience.

“I bet 85 percent of our Deputies are veterans,” guessed Sergeant Brian Murray, himself a Navy veteran. “I say 25 percent,” chimed another Deputy from across the cellblock.

The actual percentage is 34—and it starts at the top. Sheriff Gabe Morgan served more than two decades in the U.S. Army. His son, Gabe, Jr., is currently serving in Iraq as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps.

In addition to our veterans at the Sheriff's Office, we have Reservists and a member of the National Guard. Each recently returned from active duty.

Sergeant Hubbard was 18 when he enlisted in the U.S. Army. He went through boot camp at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He has been in the Reserves since retiring from active duty in 1987. Now a Drill Sergeant for the Army, Hubbard said the training for young soldiers has intensified now that we are a nation at war against terrorism. “I feel responsible for



SFC Fredrick Hubbard, Drill Sergeant, appears in the Fort Leonard Wood yearbook, 2006; Corporal Beverly Britt outside Mozul, Iraq, in 2004; Corporal Carl Jones spends his second Christmas away from home in Al Asad, Iraq, in 2005.



Sergeant Fredrick Hubbard, Deputy Beverly Britt and Deputy Carl Jones



SFC Fredrick Hubbard, Drill Sergeant, with his platoon in Missouri in 2006.

them. Something I taught them, or didn't teach them, could save their lives or get them killed."

Hubbard was called up for active duty in May of 2005. Coincidentally, he was sent to Fort Leonard Wood—the very spot where he started his career 23 years earlier. Hubbard returned to inactive status one year later in May 2006.

"After a while, it became normal," said Deputy Carl Jones of the mortar attacks that surrounded him in Al Asad, Iraq. "You know, like an alarm clock. It became normal noise." Jones, a Corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps, did back-to-back deployments and missed every holiday—two Thanksgivings, two Christmases, two New Years'. He got deactivated July 2006.

Deputy Beverly Britt has experienced more as a member of the Virginia Army National Guard than she ever expected. In October 2006, Britt returned to the Sheriff's Office after working several months of border patrol at the Arizona/Mexico line. Not only did they stop people from illegally entering the states, they stopped illegal drugs from crossing the border. Drug trafficking operations are sophisticated. "They have intel (intelligence) just like us. It's a fine line between intel and America. You're up on a mountaintop looking eyeball to eyeball," explained Britt.

But it was Britt's tour of Mozul, Iraq, that impressed upon her most what it means to be a soldier. "I still wear my memory band," Britt pointed to a bracelet. "Had two of my friends killed. They were packing to come home." That was December 21, 2004. An

insurgent disguised himself as a U.S. soldier, walked into the dining tent and blew himself up with an IED (Improvised Explosive Device). Britt said she returned home three months later a stronger person.

And isn't that what we need in law enforcement? Strength. Discipline. Leadership. The Newport News Sheriff's Office has a proud tradition of hiring people out of the military because of those qualities. The training and experience gained in the military often translates into outstanding work ethics. Pursuing a career as a Deputy Sheriff is a logical transition for many service members.

"You get to know the people you are working with. That's the best experience," said Jones of being a Marine. "I love my shift. We work really well together," he continued about his fellow comrades at the Sheriff's Office. Teamwork and a sense of duty come naturally to those who have military experience.

It is clear just from the stories of these three individuals that we have a lot to be grateful for at the Newport News Sheriff's Office. Similar tales are echoed by other colleagues. More than a third of the Deputies who serve at our agency have also served our country. It is comforting to know that we have heroes watching our backs.

So thank you. Thank you to every person working for the Newport News Sheriff's Office who has stood watch for America's peace in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard or National Guard.