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Nova University Public Safety Officer Sharon Wieczorek uses the radio/telephone to call for assistance at an auto accident. See story on page 5.

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Changing with the Times

Frank J. Ficko, Assistant Director Security Department, Fairfield University

Although the motto "Protection of Life and Property" is Fairfield University Security's prime objective, the Latin phrase "Salus - Servitum



- Securitas" (safety, service and security) has been incorporated to serve as guidelines under which the Department operates. Service-oriented, the full-time staff is composed of a director, one associate and one assistant director, four sergeants, twelve regular officers, two traffic officers and three dispatchers.

Established in 1942 by the Society of Jesus, Fairfield University was chartered in 1945 by the State of Connecticut and represents the 26th Jesuit institution of higher learning in the United States. Fairfield began as an all-male University, but changed its tradition with the admission of women in 1970. Endowed with exceptional natural beauty in America's "Academic Corridor" between Boston and New York, its 200+ acres command a broad view of Long Island Sound from an elevation of 200 feet. Over 68 percent of our full-time undergraduates are from out of state, and over 80 percent live in campus residence halls or townhouses.

A campus of three buildings and an initial class of 300 students in 1947, Fairfield today boasts an undergraduate enrollment of nearly 3000 students utilizing 30 buildings. Celebrating our 50th Anniversary in 1992, the role of Security has changed dramatically over this time span. The demand for a highly trained, professional staff is a universal priority for any organization expecting to keep up with the times.

Developing a security and safety program that supports the goals and objectives of a university's particular environment is essential. As time changes, the demands and overall complexity of these environments also change. At Fairfield University, Security's mission is not only to maintain, but update our programs so as to provide an equal balance of service to the University's everchanging needs. For example, in our effort to keep pace with these changing

d e m a n d s, Fairfield in 1991 saw the implementation of a residence hall card access system, a whistle defense program and the distribution of 2500

whistles, and an emergency call box phone system. Our vehicle registration and ticketing process was also changed to a computer opscan system in an attempt to improve filing of registered vehicles and the collection of fines.

We believe that community awareness of security-related concerns is half the battle in the fight against crime. Increased usage of security bulletins, brown bag luncheons and crime prevention seminars for students and employees all aid in achieving an increased awareness. For example, in May of 1992 security bulletins were distributed to faculty members regarding thefts of property from offices in an administrative building. Within one week following the distribution of these bulletins, a staff member notified Security of a suspicious person wandering around the building. When confronted by Security, it was discovered that the individual was in possession of a stolen wallet taken moments earlier from an unoccupied office in the building. He was subsequently arrested, closing the investigation on the case.

Thorough training programs must exist to insure professional competence and development. Today, these programs must include a study of human

Community awareness of

security-related concerns is

half the battle in the fight

against crime.

relations and sensitivity training, thorough orientation concerning procedures to be used in the event of emergencies, and familiarization with institu-

with institutional philosophy (e.g. Jesuit tradition), policies and regulations. At Fairfield, arrangements are made for security officers to attend police training programs workshops, and to utilize the resources of regional organizations.

In 1986, our training program was revised to include the services of outside agencies. All officers in our department are required to complete a "Certified Officer's Training Program" offered by R.E.B. Security Training, Inc. Adopted by numerous organizations as their standard basic training program, this 40-hour course meets the 1976 PSTF (Private Security Task Force) training standards mentioned as a prerequisite in the *Continued on page 18*

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Hallcrest Report, *Private Security and Police in America, 1986.* Other courses include the Management of Aggressive Behavior (M.O.A.B.), Investigative Techniques and Supervisory Instruction for Sergeants.

Fairfield's Security Department also provides in-service training programs which range from criminal and accident investigations, to elevator rescue and self-defense classes. All officers are instructed and certified in handcuffing techniques, oleoresin capsicum aerosol training and monadnock PR-24 baton. They are trained and expected to correct basic electrical problems which commonly arise so as to limit outside response and cost. The benefits of this training are easily appreciated as indicated by cost comparisons with years prior to its implementation.

During our 1992 annual firearms requalification at the Connecticut State Police Auxiliary range, F.U.S.D. was the first private organization in Connecticut to participate in the "Hogan's Alley" training maneuver. According to our instructor, only a handful of municipal departments across the state have been trained in this technique which is required academy training for the State Police. Fairfield University's security officers are also instructed in safety, handling and retention of weapons, and must qualify with a score higher than the State requirement. Furthermore, all officers must possess municipal, state and security firearm permits.

Through a private organization, F.U.S.D.'s reputation as a law enforcement agency is seen through the acceptance of accident reports and investigations by motor vehicle departments and insurance companies nationwide. Since the basic role of the security officer is to observe, identify and report, emphasis is placed in the instruction of good report writing, proper procedures for interrogations and fundamentals of good investigative techniques.



Aside from the basic duties and responsibilities associated with the job requirements, the department also places strong emphasis in providing the community with medically trained officers equipped to handle emergencies of this nature. Each shift currently consists of two state-certified Emergency Medical Technicians on duty 24 hours a day. All officers are instructed in basic life support with annual in-service training seminars as well as C.P.R. recertification.

The importance of the University's geographical location is believed to be one of the attractions for the numerous visits of both prominent and internationally recognized figures. Entertainers such as Billy Joel, the Eurythmics, INXS and Jay Leno provide security concerns similar to those experienced by large, inner-city agencies. During the 1980s, Fairfield has also hosted such political figures as Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan (who arrived by helicopter) and Elie Wiesel. Our Department faced special concern for picketers and demonstrations when President George Bush, Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Geraldine Ferrarro spoke on campus. Obviously, the role of Security both prior to and during such events is complex and demanding. The opportunity to work in coalition with national organizations such as the United States Secret Service and White House Communications provides a beneficial learning experience of how these agencies operate. Fairfield University Security has been able to implement and utilize certain methods of operation as demonstrated by these agencies to specific University functions.

In "changing" or "keeping up with the times", 1992 saw a new and progressive aspect of campus security with the implementation of a bicycle patrol program. Studies have proven that bike patrol officers are able to speed into areas a car cannot reach and surprise suspects, reducing resistance and potential loss of evidence. Unlike a foot patrol officer, an officer on bike will have quicker response times, unpredictable silent patrol, and increase the overall versatility of our department. Though *Continued on page 40*

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Fairfield Security has the distinction of being one of the first universities in Connecticut to initiate this program, it follows in the success enjoyed by numerous colleges across the country, including the University of Kansas, Ohio State and U.S.C., to mention a few. Most important, the program will help encourage one-on-one officer/citizen interaction. It is hoped that it will promote an image that allows students to interact with Security in a positive manner.

Fairfield's concern for positive public relations is continuously emphasized. Community understanding of a department's purpose and functions must not be restricted to the "unpopular duties" of law enforcement. Fairfield's frequent news and letter updates of Security relevance has provided a clearer insight demonstrating a genuine concern for one's well-being. Furthermore, we must keep in mind that cruisers, though necessary, are intimidating. Our department prohibits officers from riding double (except in emergency situations), and instead encourages field contact through foot patrol. In dealing

with the media, Security works directly with campus Public Relations which issues statements in coordination with the Director of Se-

curity.

Fairfield University, unlike most campuses across the country, also contains a prestigious and reputable college preparatory high school nationally recognized for excellence in both sports

and academics. This additional enrollment of over 900 students broadens the on-campus age gap to include 15- to 22- year-olds. Because of this challenging and often sensitive age bracket, campus security performs many services that a municipal police force is not expected to provide. Since the Security Department represents the institution and takes



part in its functions, it too has a role in educating members of the community both by example and by service. It must

Because of this challenging and often sensitive age bracket, campus security performs many services that a municipal police force is not expected to provide. be responsive to the needs of a young, intelligent and progressive community.

To achieve success, the Security Department must gain and retain the confidence and respect of the community it serves. This can only be accom-

plished by a constant and earnest endeavor by all members of the department to perform their duties in an honest and professional manner. These standards are more demanding than those which apply to the general public in their work. The strict demand for integrity is a function of the extraordinary responsibilities entrusted to no other group of individuals in the University community. Given that the powers provided to members of the department are correspondingly unique, it is not unexpected that more is demanded of a security officer in his/her conduct, and in the faithful execution of official duties.

Community trust is essential in creating a healthy relationship between the various groups existing within that community. Through training, along with an emphasis on the concept of teamwork, Fairfield University's Security has established this trust so vitally important to our department's operation.

About the Author

Frank Ficko is Assistant Director of Security at Fairfield University. He bas been employed as an officer for Fairfield University since 1984 and was promoted to rank of Sergeant in 1986. A officer for the Town of Fairfield before bis retirement in 1987. He graduated from Fairfield University where be received a B.A. Degree in Englisb in 1982.