



Volunteer



THE EYES AND EARS OF THE CLEARWATER
POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Chip Collins, Editor

Quick Response Team Formed

Volunteers Relieve Officers

The responsibilities of the Volunteer program have been broadened with a new program called **QRT** or Quick Response Team. Sergeant Gregory Stewart and Officer Carol Schmidt announced the new program at a specially called meeting on March 10.



Typical scene for QRT response

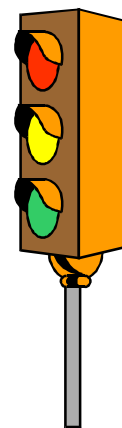
Sgt. Stewart outlined the program and called for members of the volunteer unit to sign up for the new project. He said the **QRT** group will be utilized to replace sworn officers in covering long term accident or crime scenes. He cited the recent plane crash at the Long Center which required around the clock protection of the crash scene. Rather than tie up an officer to watch the scene, the **QRT** volunteers would be called.

Prerequisites for members of the team are threefold: 1) Must be willing to respond to the scene if available, 2) members must be radio trained and 3) the member must have been trained in traffic control. He said if called, the team member would report to the scene in uniform with the necessary equipment such as a flashlight, whistle and in some cases a volunteer truck.



The initial call list was quickly filled at the meeting and within a week and a half, the first emergency requiring the **QRT** came on March 20 when US 19 was closed for about five hours during the investigation of a double fatal accident. Then two days later the team was called out twice in the same day to protect a fatal fire scene and a potentially fatal pedestrian accident on Northeast Cleveland Street.

Volunteers Assist Traffic Division



Traffic light, speed and seatbelt usage surveys are also some details that the Volunteers will be completing to assist the Traffic Division in finding problem areas in Clearwater. Lt. Steve Burch has called on the Volunteers to conduct some of the surveys from time to time in designated spots in the city. If the surveys indicate that there is a problem, then a team of traffic officers will move in and conduct a concentrated enforcement project.

Sand Key Patrol Has Busy Month

During February, the busy Sand Key Patrol tallied an outstanding number of activities. In addition to the regular patrols south of the Clearwater Pass Bridge, the patrol



Volunteer Paul Ingham on Sand Key "Mule"

assisted 206 citizens, reported three water craft on the beaches, reported 5 incidents of alcohol on the beach, assisted in 37 cases of special litter removal from the beach.

In addition, the patrol dealt with 51 cases of animals on the beach, 34 cases involving parking issues, 54 cases of glass on the beach, removed 11 fish carcasses from the area, five cases of trespassing, reported five speeders and handled traffic situations in four instances.

The dedicated Sand Key Team has been an integral part in the overall Volunteer program.



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

April will also be an active month for the Volunteer program as a number of service events are scheduled:

April 13 from 5 to 9 P.M., Project Sentinel will be held at Countryside High School. Volunteers needed to help direct traffic and security.

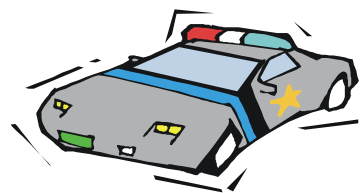
April 18 from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M., a fingerprinting project for the Haven House will be held at Crest Lake Park

April 24 from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M., an open house will be held at Clearwater Air Park. Help needed for traffic and security.

April 27 the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon will be held at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort on Clearwater Beach. Volunteers and a guest are invited.



Please contact Officer Schmidt to sign up for any of these activities



Happy Birthday!

HOW ARE WE DOING?

February 2004

Total Volunteers Hours	1,096
Park, Beach & Homeland Security	238 Hours
Administration	199 Hours
Sand Key Patrol	159 Hours
CID & In-house Admin	129 Hours
Trail Patrol	49 Hours
Training Programs	132 Hours
Special Events/Operations	190 Hours
Total Park Sites Visited	344
Total Homeland Security Sites Visited	673