

PAT THOMAS LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY NEWS OF IMPORTANCE - ACADEMY NEWS

Academy Housing Opens

In November 2005 Public Safety Academy Housing, Inc. opened the Academy Housing facility on the site of the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy, providing 200 sleeping rooms for use by state and local agencies in direct support of their training needs. Each room is single occupancy with a private bath and boasts a variety of amenities to include a refrigerator, color television with cable service, private telephone number with voice mail, and internet connectivity. Most significant is the room rate of \$20.00 per night, thus providing value to the agencies housing their officers on site for training or in the area for agency sponsored meetings.

The Move is Complete!

On December, 1, 2005 the Florida Highway Patrol Academy relocated to the Pat Thomas Academy site, thus completing the goal of collocating state law enforcement agency training at one site. This effort is designed to provide savings to the law enforcement agencies as well as the taxpayers of Florida by allowing the agencies to focus on their core missions and managing the training and learning of their officers, while the Tallahassee Community College manages the learning environment. This arrangement provides agencies the opportunity to work with each other in a cooperative atmosphere to enhance the quality of their training, yet allows each agency to operate independently to train its officers to its unique mission.

Department of Corrections Centralizes CPO Training

The Florida Department of Corrections, in an effort to improve the consistency and focus of its training for Correctional Probation Officers (CPOs) while achieving cost savings has centralized its training for CPOs at the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy. This effort has resulted in dramatic and immediate improvements to the overall training. For the first time, instructors from the field are brought in from around the state to assure the finest instruction is available. This standardizes the instruction as well as elevates the quality by pulling the top CPO subject matter experts into the training. While at the Academy recruits are provided the opportunity to hear from a wide range of "distinguished lecturers" to supplement their classroom and skills instruction. These guest lecturers provide rich insight into the field not otherwise available from the program of study and have included a former Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court, State Senators, State Attorneys, private prison officials, and a host of senior Department of Corrections officials.