



Articles & Features

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Police Week Honors America's Fallen Law Enforcement Officers *Provides Glimpse into Police Capabilities for MVAMC Staff*

By Kevin L. McIver — Public Affairs Officer

MARTINSBURG, W.Va. — The Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center (MVAMC) staff honored America's courageous law enforcement who faithfully serve our country during the 2010 Police Week Activities held May 10-14.

"It was important to acknowledge the efforts, sacrifices, and professionalism of the persons in the law enforcement profession," remarked Police Service Chief Richard A. Love II.

At the time of publication, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, 18,983 officers have been killed since the first recorded police death in 1792. In 2009 alone, 116 officers were killed in the line of duty.

Highlights of the MVAMC Police Week Activities included a staff Top Gun Service Team Competition using the Police Service firearms simulator; an Impaired Driving Awareness Course; a Canine Demonstration; a Police Service Open House; and a National Peace Officers Memorial Day observance.

The importance of Police Week was not lost upon MVAMC Mentoring Coordinator Neville Leonard. "It is very important to recognize the work accomplished by our Police Services, while at the same time building staff cohesion and teamwork through healthy competition," said Leonard, who participated in the Top Gun competition.

The Medical Center's Bio Medical "Regulators" team earned the coveted "Top Gun" first place title this year with a winning time of 62.121 seconds. Team members included Steve Gorman, George Willingham and Stacey Miller.

With a time of 64.245, second place honors went to the MVAMC Fire Department team comprised of team members Mark Morrison, Chuck Longley and Adrienne Gray.

In third place with a time 67.027 seconds was the Pharmacy "Marksman" team with Brad Heishman, Scott Fisher and Julia Gatton.

Another highlight of the week was the technology showcase where staff saw first-hand some of the Police Service's state-of-the-art law enforcement equipment, including wireless video cameras.

A resounding success that paid tribute to America's police, the activities were also important in helping staff better understand the mission of the Police Service.

"It was beneficial for Medical Center staff to meet the personnel whose duty it is to provide for their safety and security. Through the officers' efforts, our staff are better able to focus on their jobs of providing quality health care to Veterans," said Love.

Through all the recognition and staff participation, Love emphasized what is perhaps the

most important information to take away from the week.

"I encourage all staff, patients, and visitors to our facilities to be involved," said Love. "If you recognize something unusual or suspicious, report it to Police Services by calling extension 4100 or informing any officer. Two thousand pair of eyes are better than 20."



VA Police Service Lieutenant Nate Payton demonstrating the latest in law enforcement technology during National Police Week held May 10-14. Photo: VA / Kevin L. McIver