



20 YEARS OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE TO STATE AND NATION

The Informer

The Tennessee National Guard Counterdrug Task Force



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Making a Difference in Tennessee

OCT 2008/JAN 2009

STAY ON TRACK '09

Exciting Times at Southside Elementary

By Sgt. Jacob Renfroe
Drug Demand Reduction

Students at Southside Elementary School show off their artwork and T-shirts. Sixty eight students graduated from the Stay On Track program at Southside Elementary School. The twelfth and final lesson involved creating new drug free slogans for their monster truck, race car, or speed boat. The Henderson County Sheriff's Dept. paid for the shirts the students received for completing the program. The partnership between the Sheriffs Department, the Henderson County School System and the Counterdrug Task Force is fostering a drug free community in this area.



Students at Southside Elementary prepare for their 'Stay On Track' Graduation



Graduation day at Southside Elementary School

Stay On Track is a nationally recognized evidence based program. The National Center for Prevention and Research Solutions (NCPRS) developed the Stay On Track program. Through each lesson, students are equipped to respond to more than just peer pressure to do drugs. Stay On Track is designed to provide them with knowledge about the harmful effects of drug use, positive decision making, goal setting skills and practical ways to deal with pressures facing this generation. NCPRS updates the curriculum annually based on feedback from instructors and students.

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Staff Sgt Ryan Burchfield teaches about 'meth' at the Tennessee Technological Center.

Drug Awareness Day

By Staff Sgt. Ryan Burchfield
Drug Demand Reduction

Tennessee Technology Center requested Staff Sgt. Ryan Burchfield to speak as part of the Drug Awareness Day program hosted on campus. Staff Sgt. Burchfield gave a presentation on the dangers of methamphetamine abuse while also on display was the Counterdrug Task Force poly-drug trailer. Students were able to walk through the covered trailer and see visual displays used for drug education in schools across the state of Tennessee.

DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION



Students at Cheatham Alternative attempt the 'Human Knot'

MOBILE TEAM CHALLENGE

FY 2009 stats

Tennesseans Reached
From Oct 08 to Jan 09

Elementary School.....	15,402
Middle School.....	75,697
High School.....	5,965
College/University.....	369
Adults.....	13,249
Total.....	110,682

Not as easy as it looks!

By Staff Sgt. Patrick Falkenburg
Drug Demand Reduction

Staff Sgt. Patrick Falkenburg has been working with students at Cheatham Central High School and Cheatham Alternative School to enhance their problem solving skills. These activities and many more are a part of the Mobile Team Challenge 'Low Ropes Kit'. The kit includes equipment that can be arranged in different ways to create activities that challenge both students and adults alike. Together the students learn the importance of teamwork, respect and finding alternative ways to deal with challenges they face. This is an exciting addition to classroom instruction. Students today face many obstacles, and this is one of the great tools that the Counterdrug Task Force is using to equip them for what they will be facing now and in the future.



Freshman at Cheatham Central attempt 'Levitation Pole'

In the pictures above we see students involved in two of the activities. It looks simple, however, students find it to be more of a challenge than they anticipated. The only way to complete the tasks is through teamwork and open communication.

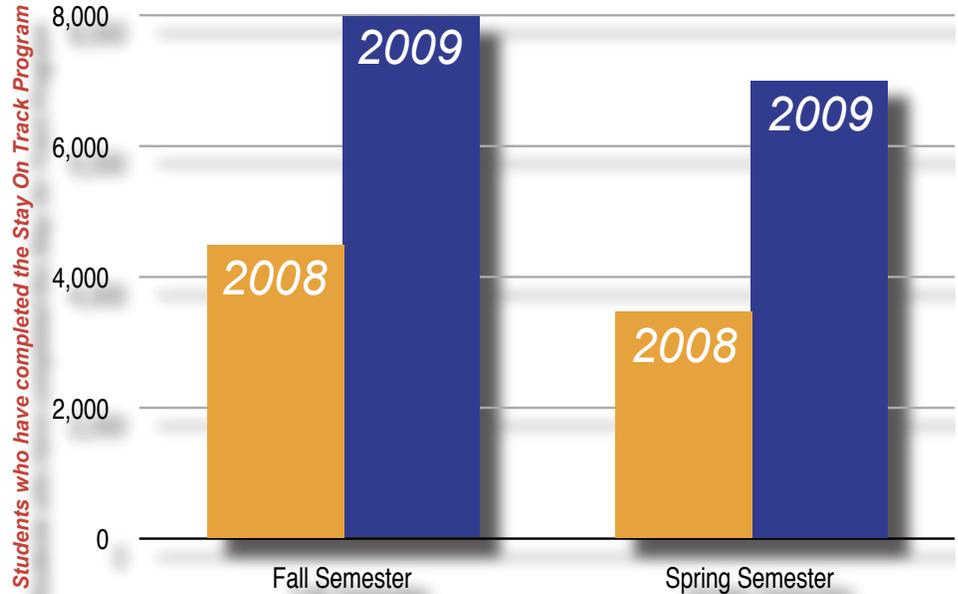
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STAY ON TRACK

During the 2009 school year the Counterdrug Task Force is conducting the Stay On Track program in 116 middle schools. 15,000 students will be impacted by the soldiers and airmen teaching in classrooms from Memphis to Mountain City. Stay On Track was introduced in Tennessee during 2007 as a pilot program and has continued to grow. The chart on the right shows the growth from school year 2008 to school year 2009. Stay On Track has been a huge success in Tennessee schools. The program continues to grow year to year as Counterdrug receives additional requests while proceeding to the next level of Stay On Track with existing schools. The program is conducted in every state, however, Tennessee leads the nation in growth and success of the Stay On Track program.



Staff Sgt. Kenneth Johnson teaches 'Stay On Track' in Greene County.

'Stay On Track' a success in Greene County

By Staff Sgt. Kenneth Johnson
Drug Demand Reduction

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Johnson teaches the Stay On Track program to students at Chuckey Doak Middle School and Mosheim Middle School in Greene County. There are approximately 300 students between the two schools who are participating. The Stay On Track curriculum has twelve lessons and three levels. One level for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade accordingly. Staff Sgt. Johnson is beginning his second year teaching the program in the Greene County school system. He received several letters from students who wanted to share what they enjoyed about their experience with Stay On Track.

'A portion of a letter from a student at Mosheim Middle School...'
 ...SOT taught me a numerous amount of things. One of the things is it taught us not to do drugs. It taught us to never give up and keep chasing our goals. We learned about advertisements and about how they impact our lives. I am glad to be a part of this program. (written by Erin Smith)



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Making a difference

By Sgt. First Class Brian Goode
Drug Demand Reduction

Community organizations gathered in Shelby county to give the area a face lift in order to promote community pride and give local families and businesses a feeling of safety and hope. The event was made possible through the efforts of the F.F.U.N. (Freedom From Unnecessary Negatives), the Memphis Police Department, the Shelby County Department of Corrections, and many other community volunteers. The Tennessee National Guard Counterdrug Task Force participated by bringing the Drug Education Trailer for public awareness. F.F.U.N. brings attention to gun violence in relationship to drug use and unnecessary deaths related to both. the Mayor of Shelby County, the honorable A.C. Wharton, Jr., was also present in support of the event.



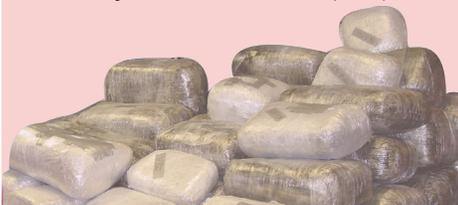
Pictured above from left to right: SPC Derrick Saulsberry, Steve Moore (founder of F.F.U.N.), A.C. Wharton, Jr. (Mayor of Shelby County), Sgt First Class Brian Goode.

FY 2009 seizures

From Oct 2008 to Jan 2009

** Seizure information is from drug cases that were supported by the Counterdrug Task Force through Criminal Analysis, Ground or Aerial Reconnaissance.

Cocaine (lbs.).....	196.31
Crack Cocaine (lbs.)	1.55
Meth (lbs.).....	7.35
Meth Labs.....	143
Heroin (lbs.).....	7.21
Arrests.....	532
Vehicles.....	124
Weapons.....	108
Proc. Marijuana (lbs.).....	2742.35
Marijuana (Plants).....	984.4
Currency.....	\$3,026,712



Pictured above from left to right: Holly Janzen with the Governor's Highway Safety Program, Principal Susie Woodard, Ollie the Otter, Trooper Darel Winningham, and Staff Sgt. Ryan Burchfield.

Giving kids a 'boost'

By Staff Sgt. Ryan Burchfield
Drug Demand Reduction

The Tennessee Highway Patrol and the Counterdrug Task Force teamed up for 'Safety Day' at New Middleton Elementary School in Smith County. The days activities included classes such as the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol, seat belt safety, and good decision making skills. For the younger students, 'Ollie' the otter helped to drive the message home in a fun and memorable way.

