



Commonwealth of Kentucky
Department of Criminal Justice Training

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 20, 2011

THREE EMPLOYEES RETIRE FROM DOCJT

RICHMOND, Ky. – Three Department of Criminal Justice Training employees have retired. Each was honored at a retirement ceremony July 20 for their years of outstanding service to DOCJT and the commonwealth. Joe Gilliland and Mike Leaverton are leaving the DUI Enforcement Section and Jerry Belcher is leaving the Staff Services Office. Gilliland officially retired May 31 and Leaverton and Belcher on July 31.

Belcher

Before coming to DOCJT, Jerry Belcher served as an officer with Lexington Division of Police from 1969 to 1996. Except for a temporary assignment to LPD's Training Unit in 1978, he spent his first 18 years as a street officer, including a two-year assignment with the Tactical Unit. In 1987, he was transferred to the Bureau of Community Services and was responsible for crime prevention, traffic safety education, drug abuse prevention and juvenile delinquency prevention. He served as a DARE officer for nine years and taught the program in elementary and middle schools on a part-time basis. He also worked with the Police Athletic League program, which he considers one of the hardest jobs he ever had as a police officer, but yet one of the most rewarding. He retired from LPD after 27 years of service.

Jerry came to DOCJT in 1996 and served five years as a training instructor in the Basic Training Section. He was a major factor in the success of the transition to facilitator training. In December 2000 he transferred to Staff Services and Planning Section as a planning and research advisor. His primary function is policy coordinator and formation, analyzing and maintaining Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agency accreditation files to make sure DOCJT is in compliance with the standards.

When DOCJT began its accreditation efforts in CALEA's Public Safety Training Academy Accreditation program, there was no tracking software available from CALEA, as it was for the communications and law enforcement accreditation programs. The tracking software assists the accreditation team in maintaining up to date documentation in the accreditation files. The PSTAA program was so new that the software had not yet been developed. Jerry, utilizing his knowledge of and skills with Microsoft Access, created an excellent tracking program that not only enabled the DOCJT to be initially

accredited, but was approved by CALEA to be used for subsequent accreditations even after its tracking software was released . He was instrumental in the accreditation process, the two re-accreditations, as well as DOCJT being named as a flagship agency – twice. He is married to his wife, Mary Ann, and they have one daughter, Kim, and three grandchildren Zack, J-Bug and Sarah. He plans to take up golfing once he retires and golf with his grandson.

Gilliland

Before coming to DOCJT, Joe served the city of Junction City, but most of his career was spent with Danville Police Department where he retired. He joined DOCJT in March 2001 in the Breath Test Section. He is a 2007 Certified Public Manager graduate. He has the ability to be flexible, meet challenges head on and be instrumental in the implementation of necessary steps to accomplish the task in the interest of the students. He was committed to the students, and he would go beyond what was expected to help students understand subjects taught in DUI. He was instrumental in making instructors available in the evenings so students could practice the standardized field sobriety tests. He had a willingness to do what it took to get the job done, whether it was prepping the road trip, classroom, lab or drinkers lounge, you didn't need to go looking for him when there was work to be done.

He was the driving force and very instrumental in spearheading and maintaining the Blue Knights Kentucky XI, Stanford, Ky. region chapter that was chartered in August 2001.

Because of his leadership, this will be the ninth annual Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation benefit ride "*A Ride 2 Remember*".

Joe is married to his wife, Bridget, and he has grown children and grandchildren.

Leaverton

Before coming to DOCJT in May 1996, Mike served in the U.S. Marine Corps for more than 14 years and his unit was re-designated military police and that's where he fell in love with law enforcement. After serving in the military, he returned to, at the time, his hometown, Georgetown and joined the Scott County Sheriff's Office as a road deputy. He moved through the ranks to become sheriff.

Mike began his DOCJT career in 1996 in the Basic Training Section when DOCJT only had two branches, Basic and In-Service. In 2003, Mike was appointed supervisor of the newly created Vehicle Operations Section, building the foundation for what it is today. He then took over as the supervisor of the DUI Section.

Mike is married, and he looks forward to spending time and relaxing with his wife, children and grandchildren in retirement. He is also devoted and involved in his church and the Marine Corps League in Richmond.

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