

Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office

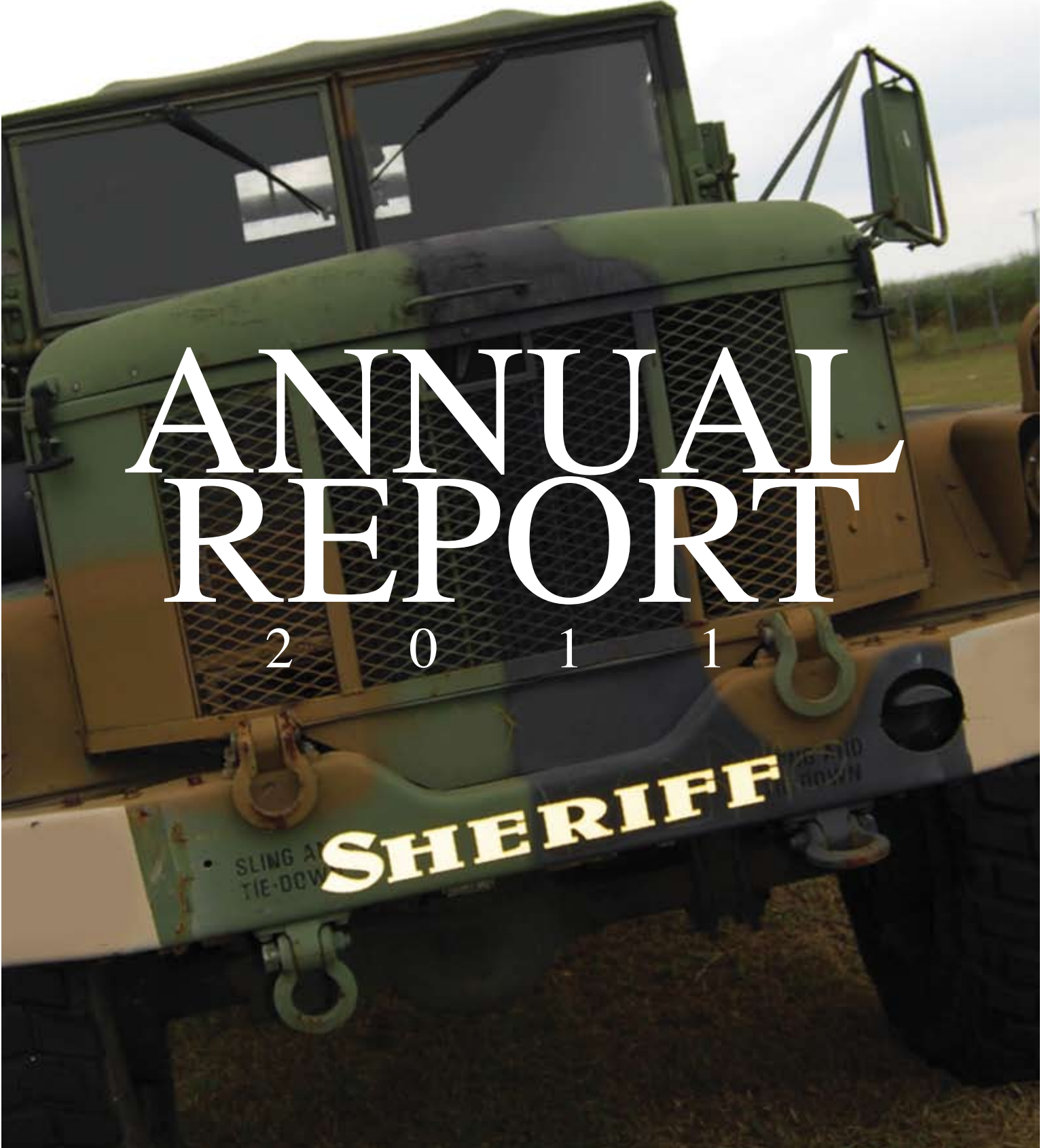
ANNUAL REPORT

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Dear fellow citizens,

Welcome again to the annual report of the Assumption Parish Sheriff's Office. Please allow me this opportunity to share with you information on just a few of the many programs and outreaches we undertake as part of our continuing effort to keep our parish safe.

We've been busy!

Illegal drugs continue to destroy far too many lives in our nation and community. As part of our effort to rid the parish of this scourge, we undertook one of the largest and most successful drug sweeps in parish history earlier this year. Look inside for more details on "Operation Get a Real Job."

Also in this issue are details on a new agreement between the APSO and Lafourche Sheriff's Office that enacts the Bayou Region Crime Stoppers. There's also an article about our Elderly Check program and how it continues to serve senior citizens in Assumption.

Read how a new, 80 bed addition to the parish jail will save taxpayer money, solve overcrowding issues, enhance our public safety efforts and allow numerous, ongoing rehabilitation efforts for prisoners to continue.

Our personnel continue to receive the best training available with more deputies achieving P.O.S.T. (Peace Officer Standards and Training) certification than at any time in this department's history. A photo of the most recent graduates is inside.

In 2010, we responded to 10,856 calls for assistance and all of them were significant. The most important call we will receive today may be from you.

Although we try, the APSO can't be everywhere at all times. We need your help to fight crime. If something looks even the least bit out of the ordinary, dial 9-1-1 immediately. We will respond and take the appropriate action.

Please let me know if there is ever anything I or this office can do to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Waguespack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

MICHAEL J. WAGUESPACK
Sheriff, Assumption Parish
mwag@assumptionsheriff.com

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Flooding Threat

When record-breaking high water on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers threatened Assumption Parish in 2011, the APSO responded, providing resources to protect property.

“We prepared for the worst,” Sheriff Waguespack said. “Trustees from the parish detention center joined local citizens to fill and deploy sand bags and portable dams in several areas. Thankfully, we did not have many serious high water issues, but we were ready.”

The APSO has acquired a military personnel carrier which can be used for high water situations, among other things. The 2.5 ton vehicle, purchased from US government surplus, is equipped to travel through three or four feet of water, allowing the APSO to bring personnel and/or equipment into a flood situation or get people out.



Inmate trustees fill sandbags to prepare for the high water threat



Operation “Get a Real Job”

One of the largest and most successful drug sweeps in the history of Assumption Parish was carried out in January, 2011, with 64 arrests for drug violations.

“Our personnel worked undercover with other law enforcement agencies for nine months, building solid cases against these individuals,” Sheriff Waguespack said. “We arrested distributors and street level dealers, confiscated the drugs and put these people in jail.”

Many of the arrests were made for the illegal sale of various prescription medicines, including oxycodone, endocet, Xanax and amphetamines. Other cases involved marijuana, cocaine and crack cocaine.

“We will continue to diligently pursue drug dealers and work to get them off our streets,” Sheriff Waguespack said. “If you suspect drug activity in your neighborhood, do not hesitate to contact us or dial 9-1-1.”

(L-R) Deputy Jinell Sawyer, Detention Center Assistant Warden David Bailey and Deputy Tyler Cavalier with the APSO personnel carrier



Detention Center Expansion

The Assumption Parish Detention Center is expanding to add 80 beds to the present 108 bed facility. The new section will be completed in 2012.

“By working closely with the Assumption Police Jury, we secured \$1.7 million in federal funding for this addition,” Sheriff Waguespack said. “Overcrowding issues will be eliminated and we will save taxpayer money as we will no longer have to pay to hold Assumption inmates outside the parish.”

Inside the present detention center, many programs for inmate rehabilitation continue. Drug and alcohol abuse counseling as well as high school GED (General Equivalency Diploma) classes are offered. Inmates may also work to become automobile mechanics, electricians, plumbers and air conditioning technicians, among other vocations.

“Our first job is to get the criminal off the street,” Sheriff Waguespack said. “But it doesn’t stop there. We will continue to give prisoners the opportunity to turn their lives around and become productive citizens when released.”



Police Jury President Marty Triche (L) and Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness John Boudreaux (R) review plans for the jail expansion with Sheriff Waguespack.



A teacher in Assumption Parish schools for nine years and a GED class teacher for five, Nicole Mabile-Pipsair instructs an adult education class at the parish jail.



An artist's rendering of the jail addition

At A Glance

Calls for Assistance

2010.....	10,856
2009.....	10,950
2008.....	10,227

Arrests

2010.....	1,865
2009.....	1,987
2008.....	2,323

DWI Arrests

2010.....	98
2009.....	146
2008.....	146

Drug Arrests

2010.....	125
2009.....	177
2008.....	240

Traffic Accidents Worked

2010.....	722
2009.....	557
2008.....	799

Sheriff Waguespack Joins Leadership Team of LA Sheriffs' Association

Assumption Parish Sheriff Mike Waguespack has been elected secretary/treasurer of the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, putting him in line to serve as president of the organization in 2014.

Established in 1938, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association is comprised of the state's 64 sheriffs and nearly 14,000 deputies. Its purpose is to maintain the powers of the sheriff as peace officer, ensure the delivery of first-rate services by sponsoring legislation to promote the administration of criminal justice and to serve as a clearinghouse for law enforcement information.

P.O.S.T. Certified

Two APSO deputies have joined the ranks of 51 other APSO personnel who have achieved P.O.S.T. or Peace Officer Standards and Training certification.

Deputies Gary Ellis and Patrick Sons of the patrol division have completed the 17-week, nightly training course held at the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office Regional POST Academy in Thibodaux. Instruction consists of field as well as class work in law enforcement techniques and guidelines including interrogations, traffic and criminal law, composing reports, conducting investigations, firearm use and physical fitness.



P.O.S.T. Certified Deputies Gary Ellis (L) and Patrick Sons (R) with Sheriff Waguespack



Jane Washington welcomes Deputy Gail Richard to her home as part of the APSO Elderly Check program.

Elderly Check

The senior citizens of Assumption Parish deserve our gratitude and respect. An outreach program of the APSO, Elderly Check, ensures the safety of these older residents.

"Mostly during the summer months, a deputy goes throughout the parish and visits residents that need checking up on," Sheriff Waguespack said. "Many of these senior citizens live alone and don't have anyone to

make sure they are doing all right. It's a service we're happy to provide."

The Assumption Council on Aging helps the APSO identify seniors who need periodic checks. Deputies evaluate each person during the visit, checking on medications and addressing any safety concerns.

If you know someone who may benefit from Elderly Check, please contact us to get enrolled in the program.



Bayou Region Crime Stoppers

A recently enacted agreement between the APSO and Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office has created Bayou Region Crime Stoppers, an organization devoted to assisting law enforcement in solving crimes and keeping both parishes safe.

Modeled after the national, highly successful Crime Stoppers program, the Bayou Region chapter also offers rewards to citizens who provide crime-solving tips. Information is submitted anonymously with tipsters being given a private code to claim cash rewards of up to \$1,000.

Tips can also be sent by dialing 800-743-7433, texting GIVEATIP and your message to 274637 or by visiting crimestoppersbr.org.

assumptionsheriff.com

The APSO website, assumptionsheriff.com, is continually updated with the latest news and information from our department. Visit frequently and while there, sign up to receive text and/or E-mail notifications in the event of an emergency. Click on the "Assumption Emergency Notification Self Registration Portal," on the lower left side of the home page and follow the simple instructions.



Another free service available through our website is OffenderWatch, where citizens may sign up confidentially to be notified if a registered sex offender establishes a residence within one mile of any address you provide. Please contact us if you would like more information on this free service.