

**Board of County Commissioners
Agenda Request**

Date of Meeting: February 3, 2015

Date Submitted: January 20, 2015

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Morris A. Young, Sheriff
Major Shawn Wood, Emergency Management Director
Gadsden County Sheriff's Office

Subject: Approval to Utilize County Law Enforcement Funds to Conduct the 4th Annual Rural County Summit

Statement of Issue:

This agenda item seeks Board approval to utilize County Law Enforcement Training Funds to conduct the 4th Annual Rural County Summit, to be held April 15-17, 2015. The 4th Annual Rural County Summit will focus on sovereign citizen groups and extremism, providing first responder professionals with training needed when dealing with such groups.

Background:

This training will provide law enforcement officers and other first responder personnel information to better protect their communities and their own safety. Responders will learn how to recognize hate groups, extremist activity; the threat potential of specific activity and how to respond to such activity. The anticipated budget for this event is \$12,000.00. This cost will cover speakers' travel and fees to the Florida Public Safety Institute for utilization of the conference center.

Analysis:

The total amount requested of \$12,000 will cover speakers travel as well as the training venue cost. Funds utilized for speakers travel will be reimbursed to the County by the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

Fiscal Impact:

\$12, 000 of Law Enforcement Training Funds

Options:

Option 1: Approval to utilize County Law Enforcement Training Funds to conduct the 4th Annual Rural County Summit

Option 2: Board Direction

Recommendation:

Option 1

Attachment(s):

1. Tentative line-up of speakers for 4th Annual Rural County Summit

4th Annual Rural County Summit

Tentative Speakers Agenda

Dates of Event: April 15th-17th 2015

Proposed Presenters **Waco** Ret. FBI Agent Bryon Sage

The **Waco siege** was a siege of a compound belonging to the religious group [Branch Davidians](#) by American [federal](#) and [Texas](#) state law enforcement and military between February 28 and April 19, 1993.^[4] The Branch Davidians, a sect that separated in 1955 from the [Seventh-day Adventist Church](#), was led by [David Koresh](#) and lived at [Mount Carmel Center](#) ranch in the community of Elk, Texas,^{[5][6][7]} nine miles (14 kilometers) east-northeast of [Waco](#). The group was suspected of weapons violations and a search and arrest warrant was obtained by the [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms](#).

The incident began when the ATF attempted to raid the ranch. An intense gun battle erupted, resulting in the deaths of four agents and six Branch Davidians. Upon the ATF's failure to raid the compound, a siege was initiated by the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#) (FBI), the standoff lasting 51 days. Eventually, the FBI launched an assault and initiated a [tear gas](#) attack in an attempt to force the Branch Davidians out. During the attack, a fire engulfed Mount Carmel Center and 76 people,^{[8][9]} including David Koresh, died.

W Memphis

Ret. Chief Bob Paudert

Around 11:36 a.m. [CDT](#), West Memphis police officer Bill Evans initiated a traffic stop on a white [Plymouth Voyager](#) minivan that was travelling on [Interstate 40](#) eastbound toward Airport Road.^[2] According to a spokesperson for the [Arkansas State Police](#), Officer Evans was "running [drug interdiction](#)", and the vehicle had license plates from [Ohio](#). Sergeant Brandon Paudert provided backup for Evans. Upon Paudert's arrival at the scene, Evans attempted to frisk Jerry Kane.

Suddenly, Kane turned and attacked Evans in a scuffle down an embankment into a ditch. At that moment, Joe Kane emerged from the passenger door of the van and opened fire with an [AK-47 variant](#). Paudert ran to the rear of Evans' police cruiser and returned fire with three shots from his .40 caliber handgun through the windows and taillight of Evans' cruiser, in an attempt to hit Kane firing from the other side. He then took cover behind the hood of his cruiser which was parked directly behind Evans' cruiser. Kane then fired multiple shots from his AK-47 variant through the hood of the car, striking Paudert in the head with a [ricochet](#).^{[3][nb 1]}

Both officers were fatally wounded; Paudert, 39, died at the scene, and Evans, 38, died at the hospital. The suspects returned to their van and sped away.^[4] A [FedEx](#) driver from [Houston](#) witnessed the shooting and called 911; neither officer could make an "officer down" call.^[5]

As officers of other Arkansas law enforcement agencies — including the State Police and Fish and Game Commission — began searching for the suspects, [Crittenden County](#) Sheriff Dick Busby and Chief Enforcement Officer W. A. Wren stopped a minivan believed to be the suspects' at a [Wal-Mart Supercenter](#).^[2] Authorities also searched many vehicles on I-40 for the suspects.^[4] Busby and Wren were then allegedly shot by one or more of the suspects, leading to a shootout.^[2] Dozens of other officers surrounded the van, and the Kanes were shot to death. Busby was shot in the arm, and Wren in the abdomen; both were taken to The Regional Medical Center (in [Memphis, Tennessee](#)) and survived.^[4]

Southern Poverty Law Center Lori Wood

The **Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)** is an American nonprofit civil rights organization noted for its legal victories against [white supremacist](#) groups, its legal representation for victims of [hate groups](#), its classification of [militias](#) and extremist organizations, and its educational programs that promote tolerance.^{[2][3][4]} The SPLC also classifies and lists hate groups—organizations that in its opinion "attack or malign an entire class of people, typically for their immutable characteristics."^[5] The SPLC's hate group list has been the source of some controversy.^{[6][7]}

In 1971, [Morris Dees](#) and Joseph J. Levin Jr. founded the SPLC as a civil rights law firm based in Montgomery, Alabama.^[8] Civil rights leader [Julian Bond](#) joined Dees and Levin and served as president of the board between 1971 and 1979.^[9] The SPLC's litigating strategy involves filing civil suits for damages on behalf of the victims of hate group harassment, threats, and violence with the goal of financially depleting the responsible groups and individuals. While it originally focused on damages done by the [Ku Klux Klan](#) and other white supremacist groups, throughout the years the SPLC has become involved in other civil rights causes, among them, cases concerned with institutional racial segregation and discrimination, the mistreatment of [aliens](#), and the [separation of church and state](#). Along with civil rights organizations such as the [Anti-Defamation League](#), the SPLC has provided information about hate groups to the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#) (FBI).^[10] The SPLC has been criticized by conservative politicians and media, and by organizations that have been listed as hate groups in their reports.^{[11][12][13][14]}

The SPLC does not accept government funds, nor does it charge its clients legal fees or share in their court-awarded judgments. Most of its funds come from [direct mail campaigns](#)^[15] which have helped it to build substantial monetary reserves. Its fundraising appeals and accumulation of reserves have been the subject of some criticism.^[16]

Fort Hood

FBI Agent Colvin

Lt. Don Adams Bell County Sheriff's Office

Shooting (1) On November 5, 2009, a mass murder took place at [Fort Hood](#), near [Killeen, Texas](#).^[1] [Nidal Malik Hasan](#), a [U.S. Army major](#) and [psychiatrist](#), fatally shot 13 people and injured more than 30 others.^{[2][3]} The [shooting](#) produced more casualties than any other on an American military base.^{[4][5]} Several individuals, including Senator [Joe Lieberman](#),^[6] General [Barry McCaffrey](#),^[7] and others have called the event a [terrorist](#) attack.^{[8][9]} The [United States Department of Defense](#) and federal law enforcement agencies have classified the shootings as an act of [workplace violence](#).^[10]

Hasan was shot and as a result is [paralyzed](#) from the waist down.^[11] Hasan was arraigned by a military court on July 20, 2011 and was charged with 13 counts of [premeditated murder](#) and 32 counts of attempted murder under the [Uniform Code of Military Justice](#). His [court-martial](#) began on August 7, 2013. Due to the nature of the charges (more than one premeditated, or first-degree, murder case, in a single crime), Hasan faced either the death penalty or life in prison without parole upon conviction.^{[12][13]} Hasan was found guilty on all 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder on August 23, 2013, and was sentenced to death on August 28, 2013.

Days after the shooting, reports in the media revealed that a Joint Terrorism Task Force had been aware of a series of e-mails between Hasan and the Yemen-based [imam Anwar al-Awlaki](#), who had been monitored by the NSA as a security threat, and that Hasan's colleagues had been aware of his increasing radicalization for several years. The failure to prevent the shootings led the Defense Department and the FBI to commission investigations, and Congress to hold hearings.

The U.S. Government has declined requests from survivors and family members of the slain to categorize the Fort Hood shooting as act of terrorism, or motivated by militant [Islamic](#) religious convictions.

Shooting (2) In November 2011, a group of survivors and family members filed a lawsuit against the government for negligence in preventing the attack, and to force the government to classify the shootings as terrorism. The Pentagon has argued that charging Hasan with terrorism is not possible within military justice and that even having the government classify the shootings as terrorism would harm the ability of the military prosecutors to sustain a guilty verdict against Hasan.^[10]

Immediately prior to the shooting, Spc. Lopez went to the 49th Transportation Battalion administrative office, where he tried to seek a leave form so he could attend to "family matters", but was informed that he would have to come back later to retrieve it, sparking a verbal

altercation between him and several other soldiers. He then left, and at approximately 4:00 p.m., he returned and opened fire with a .45-caliber [Smith & Wesson M&P pistol](#) inside the same building, injuring ten soldiers, including Sgt. Jonathan Westbrook, who was one of the soldiers involved in the altercation with Lopez; he was hit four times, being one of the first to be shot during the shooting. Lopez also killed Sgt. First Class Daniel Ferguson, another soldier involved in the altercation, while the latter was barricading a door that couldn't be locked.

He then got into his car and drove slowly to a motor pool building to which he had been assigned, firing at two soldiers and wounding one of them along the way on 73rd Street. Upon reaching the building, Lopez continued firing inside the office, killing Sgt. Timothy Owens when he approached him and tried to talk him down.^[10] He then moved on to the building's vehicle bay area, where he injured two soldiers, and then proceeded to the First Medical Brigade headquarters in his car. Along the way, he shot into a car occupied by two soldiers, wounding the passenger. Reaching the medical building, Lopez injured a soldier walking outside. He then entered the building and fatally shot a soldier at the main entrance desk, Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazaney-Rodriguez; he also wounded another soldier inside.

Approximately eight minutes after the shooting first started, Lopez went to the parking lot of another building, Building 39002, where he was confronted by an unidentified female military police officer, with whom he had a verbal exchange. When he brandished his weapon, the officer fired a shot at him that missed; Lopez responded by committing suicide, shooting himself in the head with his own pistol. At least 35 rounds were fired during the shooting spree, three of which were fired from inside his car. It was later revealed that Lopez, who was in uniform at the time of the shooting, wasn't authorized to carry a concealed firearm.

Nevada: Bundy standoff

Tentative

FDLE

The **Bundy standoff** is a 20-year legal dispute between the [United States Bureau of Land Management](#) (BLM) and cattle rancher Cliven Bundy in southeastern [Nevada](#) over unpaid [grazing fees](#) that developed into an armed confrontation between protesters and law enforcement.

The ongoing dispute began in 1993, when, in protest against changes to grazing rules, Bundy declined to renew his permit for cattle grazing on BLM-administered lands near [Bunkerville, Nevada](#).^[2] In 1998, Bundy was prohibited by the [United States District Court for the District of Nevada](#) from grazing his cattle on an area of land later called the Bunkerville Allotment.^[2] In July 2013, the BLM complaint was supplemented when federal judge [Lloyd D. George](#) ordered that Bundy refrain from trespassing on federally administered land in the [Gold Butte](#) area of [Clark County](#).^[3]

On March 27, 2014, 145,604 acres of federal land in Clark County were temporarily closed for the "capture, impound, and removal of trespass cattle".^[4] BLM officials and law enforcement rangers began a roundup of such livestock on April 5, and an arrest was made the next day. On April 12, a group of protesters, some of them armed,^[5] advanced on what the BLM described as a "cattle gather."^[6] Sheriff Doug Gillespie negotiated with Bundy and newly confirmed BLM director [Neil Kornze](#),^[7] who elected to release the cattle and de-escalate the situation.^{[8][9]}

After making remarks to the effect that 'the negro' would be better off as slaves than under government subsidies, Bundy was widely condemned, and was repudiated by conservative politicians and talk-show hosts who had previously supported him, many of whom forcefully condemned his remarks as racist
