WCSO Jailer Training Gets Underway
Completion means more personnel to help ease chronic overtime issues

(March 27, 2012) – For the first time since 2010, the Wayne County Sheriff's Office is conducting New Officer Correctional Training to help reduce high overtime costs at the three county jails.

Twenty-six new officers began the 160-hour, state-mandated training last week at the Downriver campus of Wayne County Community College. The course prepares officers to deal with the situations correctional personnel face in detainment, transportation and maintenance of inmates.

Minimum staffing levels in the county jails are mandated by Circuit Court order. A lack of funding for officers has fostered unacceptably high overtime costs.

"We know the jailer's training class will help reduce the overtime issue as more officers come on board," said Sheriff Benny N. Napoleon. "It won't solve the crisis overnight, but it certainly will ease the exorbitant costs the agency has been tackling for decades. I am committed to whittling away at these cost issues while maintaining the public's safety. Having more trained officers to work with will do that."

Sheriff Napoleon requested new jailer's training in 2011, when a court order required the county to send 27 additional officers to staff Circuit Court. Loss of personnel meant other officers would have to work overtime to fill those spots in the jails. Although the county did not approve training last year, it did approve this year's training.

The current class of 26 trainees is expected to graduate in mid-April as certified local correctional officers through the Michigan Sheriff's Coordinating & Training Counsel. Upon completion, 18 will join the WCSO as new hires assigned to work in one of the facilities. The other eight will be slated for the Temporary Pool, which comprises individuals who are on call to fill in for temporary absences at straight time.

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