

From the Office of the Sheriff:

Over the past several weeks, I have written about the roles and responsibilities of each division within the Sheriff's Department. My intent was to share insight into each division and the employees whom are the back bone of the department. Over the past seven years we have asked them to do so much and make major adjustments in how they conduct business. They have responded very well, we have come a long way. There is still work to be done.

We are proud of the forty or so changes we have made, yet there are still a few things we need to do. Highlighting the list is a uniform Records Management System (RMS) or centralized records. I have written about the RMS initiative before, one data base shared by the 21 law enforcement agencies, improving efficiency and making all of us more effective. We have made some initial strides but are far from complete. Funding for software and equipment to make this initiative complete is the major speed bump but we remain committed to working with our law enforcement partners to continue to lean forward. It's the right thing to do.

The means by which we will facilitate this is through our Mobile Data Computer (MDC) program. Several agencies have begun the migration and more will as they gain access to grants and other forms of funding. The next step, in 3-4 yrs, will be to work with our first responder community to field MDC's within EMS and fire command units so those in the field have immediate and direct access to important safety information and data via a wireless system when they respond to calls. This ability will greatly enhance the emergency response and the safety of responders.

These decisions require leadership and the ability to form a team that can reach consensus, a team with a vision of the future as well as what success looks like. I argued many of these same points when I fought for centralized communications. Far from an alleged power play, that effort has proven very efficient, contrary to the views of many when I proposed it. Often accused of being a politician (by definition I guess I am), I also consider myself a leader who is not afraid of making the tough decisions. Seven years ago I shared with you a set of goals and priorities for the Sheriff's Department. These goals were based upon my own values, beliefs, and experiences. As we have seen recently, many politicians are blamed for saying one thing and doing another after election. Politicians do what is popular, leaders do what is right. Leaders make decisions based on what is best, politicians make decisions based on the least number of people they will upset. I am more leader than politician. My agenda is based upon what is right, not what's popular.

My weakness is my passion and drive for the change and resources we need to ensure the most efficient, effective, and professional law enforcement agency in the state. Recognizing that the county board provides necessary oversight and funding control, I do set my agenda based upon your requirements and will fight to fulfill them. At times these efforts and my tactics are not well received. I do remain determined to make the changes which I feel are important to the operations of the department. There are two types of people, those that get it done and those that have an excuse why they can not. At the Dodge County Sheriff's Department, we are not afraid of making the tough decisions; we get it done, done right, no excuses.

On the National War College front, the economy, federal budget process, and a little sprinkle of trade relations. Coffee filter count at 108. Thanks for listening, tnehls@co.dodge.wi.us