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THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY FEATURES A STUDENT AND A CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Newspaper in Education Presents  
**Inquizi**  
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SCHOOL Biz



Don McGowan is a 30-year retired Sergeant Major of the Third Marine Expeditionary Force who traveled and worked in 57 countries during his tour of duty with the Marines. During his distinguished career, Don taught firearms and more specifically combat shooting. After completing his last tour of duty in Okinawa, Japan Don found a home and successful career in Manatee County where he is a Deputy Corrections Officer with the Manatee Sheriffs Department and Certified Firearms Instructor at MTI. His love of firearms inspires his teaching of the safe and proper use of firearms in the execution of an officer's duties providing an important and necessary part to the curriculum and the program. He is enthusiastic about the program and sharing his knowledge and skills with his students helping make the community a safer place for its citizens. In his firearms class, he teaches students the critically important skills of safety and safe handling of firearms and target acquisition – how to identify and accurately shoot the target. The skills he teaches will keep students safe, saving their lives and the life of a colleague. According to Don, "I enjoy watching students grow from asking, 'can I do this?' to confidently stating, 'I can do this.'" Instructor McGowan's job is rewarding and involves much professional responsibility and personal satisfaction. He is a valuable asset to MTI's Criminal Justice Academy.

KIDZ Biz & Buzz



Born in Hungry Amarilla Z. Kovacs migrated with her family to Canada in 1984 when Hungry was still under Communist rule. She graduated high school in Ontario, Canada and studied biochemistry in college for four years. In 1985 she moved with her family to Bradenton and enrolled at MCC where she earned an A.A. in Criminology. Always interested in law enforcement she continued her studies and became a U.S. naturalized citizen so she could enroll in MTI's Criminal Justice Academy.

School in Hungary was much different from what she experienced in Canada and the United States. In Hungary, obedience is demanded and students must follow many strict rules and learn Russian. All classes are mandatory and students do not have choices or elective classes. Discipline is very strict and if a student misbehaves or does not study and make good grades, his or her behavior reflects badly on the family. According to Amarilla many Hungarians come to the US and Canada for freedom and a good education.

Amarilla always wanted to be in law enforcement and her dream will come June 14, 2007 when she graduates from the Criminal Justice Academy at Manatee Technical Institute. She is thankful she has had the opportunity to learn and study law enforcement at MTI. This would not have been possible in her home country of Hungary. Upon graduation she wants to work for the Manatee Sheriffs Department beginning in the road patrol division and ultimately advancing to homicide or detective work.

Family and friends are important to Amarilla. At MTI she has met many great instructors and colleagues. Her family has supported her in her quest to be a law enforcement officer. For Amarilla, "Family is most important and if you put your mind to it you can do anything you want. Those who you associate with make a big impact on your future. If they do not support your career choice it is much more difficult to be successful. You need the support of friends and family to push you forward or else they will drag you behind and you will not be successful." Amarilla will follow in the footsteps of her parents and achieve her goals. She looks forward to graduation and beginning her new career where every day is different and exciting and she looks forward to contributing to society in her new home of Bradenton, Florida - truly a land of opportunity for the Kovics family.

## InnoVators CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY

Law enforcement cadets in MTI's Criminal Justice Academy are trained in first responder skills, defensive tactics, firearm proficiency, defensive driving, and academic areas of criminal justice such as Florida and US Constitutional law. Applicants must be 19 years of age, a US citizen, hold a HS diploma or GED, be of good moral character, and have no felony convictions or misdemeanor convictions involving false statements or spousal battery. In addition, they must be in good physical condition and successfully complete the Florida Basic Abilities Test (F-BAT). Students who pass 13 exams with 80% mastery are eligible to take the State Certified Examination for Law Enforcement, the required test to become a certified law enforcement officer in the State of Florida. Additionally, candidates must pass a nine-panel drug screening and successfully pass a polygraph check. Full time students complete the 770-hour program in five months whereas, part-time students complete the program in 10 months attending four hours each evening Monday through Thursday. All classes are small and range between 12 to 22 students. Soon the adult program will move to its new location on the Lakewood Ranch MTI Campus, with the high school program remaining on the main campus.

The Florida Criminal Justice Standards Commission, comprised of 19 members, appointed by the governor, regulate the industry's training and standards and govern the 41 approved programs in the state including MTI's Criminal Justice Academy. The Commission's curriculum staff is responsible for the design, implementation, maintenance, evaluation, and revision of job-related curricula for the their approved Basic Recruit, Advanced, and Career Development Training Programs for law enforcement, correctional, and correctional probation officers throughout the state.

With representation from all the law enforcement agencies in Manatee County, MTI's Criminal Justice Academy's Advisory Council plays a key role in the success of the program. Currently Longboat Key Chief of Police Hogle serves as Chair of the Advisory Council and Manatee Sheriff Steube serves as Vice-Chair. The council reviews all applicants to the academy helping determine their eligibility for the program. In addition, they work with Academy Director Mike Rushing recommending advanced training skills and curriculum content needed in the program.

### Tech Prep Career Pathways

MTI is the only school in Manatee that offers this program.

### Professional Organizations

International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors  
 Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association  
 National Association of School Resource Officers  
 National Crime Prevention Council  
 National Sheriffs Association  
 International Association of Chiefs of Police

Explore IT

## Activity

School safety is the responsibility of everyone – staff, students, parents, and the community. An audit is one tool that, if used effectively, can provide a snapshot of the school's level of safety and identify those areas that need improvement. This proactive process will help ensure that students can maximize their learning potential within a safe and secure environment. School safety encompasses multiple domains within the school environment that must be reviewed altogether when assessing the level of safety for students and staff. Review the ten minimum components of the audit process that should be assessed. Does your school meet these ten minimum components?

1. Development and Enforcement of Policies
2. Procedures for Data Collection
3. Development of Intervention and Prevention Plans
4. Level of Staff Development
5. Opportunities for Student involvement
6. Level of Parent and Community Involvement
7. Role of Law Enforcement
  - a. Incidents of crime that occur on school property or at school-related events are reported to law enforcement.
  - b. Law enforcement is consulted on matters that may fall below

the threshold of criminal activity.

- c. Law enforcement personnel are an integral part of the school's safety planning process.
- d. The school has developed an effective partnership with local law enforcement.
- e. The school and local law enforcement have developed an agreement of understanding, defining the roles and responsibilities of both.
- f. Local law enforcement provides after hours patrols of the school site.
- g. Law enforcement personnel provide a visible presence on campus during school hours and at school-related events
8. Standards for Safety and Security Personnel
9. Safety and Security of Buildings and Grounds
10. Development of Emergency Response Plans

DISCOVER the Future



### Career Pathways in Manatee County

Today's Career Focus – Law Enforcement

Experience Level	Entry	Average
Police & Sheriff deputy (per hour)	\$15.99	\$26.10
Police corporal (annual)	\$41,793	\$51,661
Police lieutenant (annual)	\$49,895	\$59,454
Police lieutenant (annual)	\$56,115	\$67,580
Police captain (annual)	\$60,908	\$75,497
Deputy chief (annual)	\$61,110	\$76,994
Police chief (annual)	\$72,924	\$92,983

This industry comprises government establishments primarily engaged in criminal and civil law enforcement, police, traffic safety, and other activities related to the enforcement of the law and preservation of order. Combined police and fire departments are included in this industry (<http://fred.labormarketinfo.com>)

Uniformed officers, detectives, agents, and inspectors are usually scheduled to work 40-hour weeks, but paid overtime is common. Shift work is necessary because protection must be provided around the clock. Junior officers frequently work weekends, holidays, and nights. Police officers and detectives are required to work at any time their services are needed and may work long hours during investigations. In most jurisdictions, on or off duty, officers are expected to be armed and to exercise their authority whenever necessary (<http://www.bls.gov>) Competition should remain keen for higher paying jobs with State and Federal agencies and police departments in more affluent areas. Opportunities will be better in local and special police departments, especially in departments that offer relatively low salaries, or in urban communities where the crime rate is relatively high (<http://www.bls.gov>)

\*Other Manatee schools may offer similar programs. Listed schools are related to today's issue.

WEB Wise

Check out the following websites:

- www.ialefi.com
- www.iacp.org
- http://www.cjpf.org
- www.nasro.org



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