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Newport News Sheriff's Office

224 26th Street; Newport News, VA 23607 • 757.926.8535 • fax: 757.926.8429



MEDIA RELEASE

Contact:
Kathleen Carey, PIO
Newport News Sheriff's Office
Office: 757.926.8747
Cell: 757.813.6139
E-mail: kcarey@nngov.com

FOR RELEASE: **City Scope**

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Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Brings Home Project Lifesaver Trophy

The 10th Annual Project Lifesaver International Conference was held July 13-17, 2009 in Indianapolis, IN. Representatives from approximately 200 agencies attended. Lieutenants Maria Moore and Shonda Whitfield attended on behalf of the Newport News Sheriff's Office.

Even with 200 organizations at the conference, only 16 individuals had the courage to sign-up for a timed search and rescue competition. "I did it because I'm good," laughed Lt. Moore. "But seriously, I felt confident in my ability. I figured the equipment is so accurate that I knew I could find the him (the decoy). No one else used the headphones. I chose to use them because I knew they'd help me. I'd take a turn in one direction and the signal would get weak. I'd turn in the other direction, and it would get stronger," Moore explained.

First place finished in 4:21. Moore came in second with a time of 6:09, followed by third place in 6:15.

"When I saw so many men competing, I was nervous about their athleticism," admitted Moore. She shouldn't have been concerned. She took home the 2nd place trophy and the only other female to compete placed 3rd.

The lively competition was only a small part of the conference. There were plenty of training and workshop opportunities. Moore and Whitfield were certified at the conference to be Project Lifesaver instructors.

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PHOTO CAPTION:

Lt. Maria Moore proudly hoists her 2nd place trophy from the "2009 Project Lifesaver International Electronic Search Specialist Competition."