

# GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION OFFICE OF PHYSICAL SECURITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

In 1971 President Richard Nixon signed an Executive Order formally establishing a permanent physical security and law enforcement organization within the General Services Administration known as the Federal Protective Service (FPS) to handle the increasing need for protection on federal property.

FPS' mission includes the overall protection of the federal workplace, preventing disruptions of agency operations, and ensuring the safety of employees and visitors nationwide. The FPS also provides client and tenant federal agencies with a total security package which consists of law enforcement, criminal investigations, physical security, access control, and crime prevention presentations. FPS provides tenant agencies with a variety of security consulting and advisory services for handling natural disasters and other types of emergency situations. FPS also deployed Federal Protective Officers (FPOs) during Desert Storm operations and the 1990 Goodwill Games.

For the past 20 years, FPS has been in the forefront in meeting the needs of a changing society and workforce. We have an enhanced recruitment program and actively seek to hire more women as officers and investigators in the uniformed force and as physical security specialists. FPS has quickly taken advantage of the changing workforce and has been filling its ranks with the new talents needed to carry our organization through the 1990s and beyond. We currently have 67 women in law enforcement nationwide.

As examples of this tradition of service and progress, biographies follow of four women in our organization whose expertise in law enforcement continue to make out-

standing contributions to the success of our program.

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## Jeanette Dankworth



Jeanette Dankworth was born in Los Angeles on April 20, 1950. She graduated from Warren High School in Downey, CA, and earned an Associate of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from Austin Community College. She began her FPS career in 1978 in Austin, TX. She moved up the ranks quickly. Ms. Dankworth made sergeant in 1981 and lieutenant in 1983. She transferred back to Los Angeles in 1986 and within two years became Deputy District Commander of the FPS Division in the Los Angeles District Office.

Jeanette's talents have not gone unnoticed. She has been nominated as Supervisor/Manager of the Year by the Federal Executive Board in both Austin and Los Angeles.

Jeanette is the mother of two boys, ages 19 and 9, is a member of the Los Angeles Police Pistol team, and participates in firearms matches. She is top shooter in her class. She has also been a member of the California Combat Association since

1987. Some of her favorite pastimes are reading and painting at her residence in Downey, CA.

Recently, Jeanette earned another title. On August 23, 1991, she became Region 9's very first woman police captain. She attributes her success to her enjoyment of competition. This enthusiasm has certainly placed her among an elite group of women in federal law enforcement. When asked how she handles working with 21 officers, she admits it is not the easiest thing in the world, but she keeps up her stamina and does not give in to pressure.

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## Mary Burnette



Mary F. Burnette is a native of Littleton, NC. She received her elementary and high school education in the Halifax County, NC, public school system, where she received many honor awards.

Ms. Burnette moved to Washington, DC, in 1965 and began working at the Hecht Company. She married John H. Burnette in 1966. By 1969 she was the mother of three daughters. Ms. Burnette worked in private industry at intervals, and in 1968 enrolled in the Investigations

Training Academy, Washington, DC. She completed her studies at the Academy in 1970 and accepted a position with GEM Stores, International, as a special agent.

In 1973 Ms. Burnette left employment with GEM and enrolled in a clerical course at the Opportunity Industrialization Center, Washington, DC, which she successfully completed in early 1974.

Ms. Burnette entered on duty with the federal government in March 1974 at the Federal Protective Service Division (FPSD), Regional Office Building, Washington, DC. She was hired as a clerk-typist, GS-3, in the FPSD Field Investigations Office. In November 1974 she was promoted to GS-4. In 1976 the FPSD Field Investigations Office functions were transferred to GSA Central Office, where Ms. Burnette was promoted to an Investigative Clerk, GS-5, in 1977.

In 1978 under the Inspector General Act, the Office of Investigations became the GSA-OIG and Ms. Burnette was promoted to an Investigative Aide, GS-6. In November 1982 Ms. Burnette accepted a position as a criminal investigator with FPSD, a position she currently holds as a GS-1811-11/4.

During Ms. Burnette's tenure at GSA, she has participated in numerous organizational tasks. During her administrative years, she was always willing to undertake any project, and through tireless efforts, complete it with excellent results. She has brought those same tireless efforts to her law enforcement career, where she has received commendation awards for investigative work with other federal and local law enforcement agencies. An investigation of theft of government property she conducted with the Fairfax County, VA, Police Department resulted in the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator. Recovery of the government property and the personal property of a

local bank was valued at approximately \$6,000.

Ms. Burnette's latest highlighted accomplishment was a commendation letter from the Director, Office of Physical Security and Law Enforcement, GSA Central Office, for her professional contributions to the Criminal Investigations Program of FPSD nationwide while detailed to that office.

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### Sandy Gemeinhardt



Officer Sandy Gemeinhardt is a uniformed officer with the FPSD, Region 4, District II, Miami, FL. Officer Gemeinhardt has over ten years of law enforcement background with the FPS. Her duty stations have included Denver and Chicago, as well as Miami.

Officer Gemeinhardt is presently a uniformed mobile patrol officer. Her assigned patrol functions include Metro Miami and Ft. Lauderdale on a weekly basis and all of southern Florida on an as required basis.

Her daily functions consist mainly of mobile security patrols, mobile responses to federally owned and leased space incidents/offenses (both civil and criminal in nature), and preliminary investigations involving burglary, theft, and other criminal activity at federal facilities in southern Florida.

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### Christine Norris



Chris Norris's career with GSA began in 1984 as a police officer trainee. Her first accomplishment was graduating from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center with Distinguished Graduate Honors, thus promoting her to police officer.

Chris recognized the need for certain organizational measures pertinent to the uniformed force in the field. Developmental research resulted in the presentations of several final products which were successfully implemented at the Zone and District levels. Regional recognition via certificates, awards, and letters of commendation reflect her dedication to team work, quality, and professionalism.

Chris has expanded her knowledge and practices of law enforcement through 4 years in a police officer/reserve unit where she volunteered her time for the Child Find Program sponsored by a local police department; 2 years of active police/investigative experience with another local police department; and 2 years of law enforcement/physical security experience in a high security facility with the Department of Justice.

Chris has since returned to the GSA-FPS. Her diverse background of law enforcement and physical security give her the knowledge and her dedication gives her the spirit to never call it quits.