

# Florida Highway Patrol Academy Expands Programs and Facilities



Jay Hall Building houses the Training Academy.

Immediately after the creation of the Florida Highway Patrol by the Florida Legislature in 1939, the first training program was implemented. The first school was conducted in November of 1939 at the Manavista Hotel in Bradenton with 38 men attending. Hotels were also used as training sites in Lakeland in 1941 and Panama City in early 1946. Later in 1946 arrangements were made to use the facilities of the U.S. Air Force Base in Kissimmee. From 1947 through 1951 schools were held at Eglin Air Force Base, where recruits were trained and housed as guests of the Air Police Squadron.

In the mid 1950's the Department purchased land from the City of Tallahassee. These grounds had wooden barracks which were turned into the first full scale FHP Academy facilities. This was the beginning of a training program as a full time operation with a permanent staff.

The construction of a new building began in 1965 and was completed in 1966 in time for the 29<sup>th</sup> Recruit Class to move from the old barracks into the new building. This building was named the J. L. Hall Building in honor of the Captain who was training officer at that time.

The present Academy building, costing over \$700,000, includes two 60 capacity classrooms. In addition to the classrooms, the main floor consists of administrative offices, a complete kitchen and dining hall, recreation room and TV room. The modern all brick, fireproof building also has a gymnasium and a full basement which houses a fully automated firing range and fallout shelter. The top two floors provide living quarters for 56 trainees, plus instructors.

Due to the diligent efforts of the Director, Colonel J. E. Beach, the Department is presently in the process of building a one million dollar addition to the Academy. The new facility will consist of additional office space for Academy staff, one 40 capacity classroom, library, recreation room and supply room. The top two floors will provide living quarters for 64 trainees.

Upon completion of the new facility, recruit schools and in-service training schools can be conducted simultaneously. This will enable the FHP to produce a more highly trained and efficient force of Troopers to protect the lives of the people on the highways and to enforce the laws of the State of Florida.

Captain C. W. Saunders is the present Chief Training Coordinator. Former Chief Training Coordinators were Captain J. L. Hall and Captain B. J. Barnett.

# Training Program Accelerates



Recruits put together tinker toys during this lesson in communication.

As the Academy facility grows, more in-service and career development training courses can be offered. The need for training has become greater as law enforcement becomes more complex.

More than 7,000 students have received in-service and specialized training in subjects such as: Instructor Techniques, Narcotics Identification, Police Officers Skills Development, Police Officers Procedures and Techniques, Introduction to Police Operation and Leadership, Tactical Police Driving, Traffic Homicide Investigation, Motor Vehicle Registration Procedures, Driver Licensing and Clerical Training.

In 1981 a new program for the training of troopers in the use of speed measuring devices was established by the Patrol as

The recruit training program today includes:

- Uniform Traffic Control
- Rules of Evidence
- Fire Fighting Auto Fires
- Police Public Relations
- Close Order Drill
- Narcotics Law
- Driver License Law
- Accident Investigation
- First Aid
- Human Relations
- Criminal Investigation
- Geography
- Defensive Tactics
- Radio Communications
- Criminal Law
- Firearms Training
- Public Speaking

mandated by the Florida Legislature.

The thorough recruit training program implemented by the Department as well as the specialized training received by troopers has enabled the Department to become the highly trained and efficient force of law enforcement personnel that it is today.

- Car Operation & Patrol Techniques
- Auto Theft
- Fleet Safety
- Physical Training
- Speed Measurement Devices
- Stress Awareness
- Court Procedures