



Allen County Sheriff's Regional Training Facility

PROPOSAL



Allen County Sheriff Interview

Name: Ken Fries

Date: December 10, 2007

Topic: Regional Training Facility Overview and Necessity

INTERVIEWER: First of all, thank you for your time.

FRIES: My pleasure.

INTERVIEWER: What is the basic purpose behind a new Allen County Sheriff's Regional Training Facility?

FRIES: That makes it sound as if we're building a new one. This is a resource neither we nor the community has ever had. Even with the new Public Safety Academy this facility provides capabilities not available in this area.

INTERVIEWER: So the community can use the facility as well?

FRIES: Yes, but let me answer your first question. The idea behind the training center is to provide a multi-functional facility that will serve to enhance the skills and experience of the individuals who are at the forefront of keeping Allen County, and other areas and communities, safe.

INTERVIEWER: Which includes?

FRIES: All law enforcement agencies, first responders and community organizations with an interest in safety will be able to use the center.

INTERVIEWER: What are the basic components of the training facility?

FRIES: The centerpiece of the facility will be a two-mile driving course and skid pad. Additionally, there will be a firing range, diving ponds, K-9 training facility and search and rescue area, educational building, tactical training facility and support/service building.

INTERVIEWER: And why is all this necessary?

FRIES: The top two causes of injury to law enforcement and first responders are motor vehicle collisions and incidents involving firearms. With high quality training and a facility to practice those skills our goal is to reduce the likelihood of injury to our public servants. I believe that the public has the right to travel our roadways safely and educating all drivers, not just public safety personnel, is a priority.

INTERVIEWER: Isn't there already a similar facility in Allen County?

FRIES: It's true that there is a Public Safety Academy of Northeast Indiana, but these two facilities will complement rather than overlap one another. Our facility will primarily be devoted to outdoor training while the Public Safety Academy will focus on classroom and indoor training activities. Efforts between the two facilities may even be coordinated.

INTERVIEWER: What is the projected total cost of this project?

FRIES: We're still working to put together a realistic cost estimate as the scope of the facility will depend, in large part, on the funds we have available. But if we were able to build this training center with all the bells and whistles, probably \$22 million.

INTERVIEWER: And where will the money be coming from?

FRIES: We're relying entirely on private and corporate donations, as well as grant money. No tax money will be requested to complete this project.

INTERVIEWER: It's obvious how the community benefits indirectly, but how can they benefit directly from the facility?

FRIES: The driving course and firing range will be made available to the public for safety training and events, and it's our intent that a wide variety of classes be offered as well.

INTERVIEWER: And what can the community do to help?


FRIES: The simplest way to get involved is by making a donation. The more funds we have at our disposal, the more we can build. Filling out a reply card and giving as much as you can is really what we need from people the most at this stage in the process.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you for your time.

FRIES: Thank you.

Ken Fries





Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC)

Lisa Christen Medic
American Medical Response

Description & Discussion

The centerpiece of the Allen County Sheriff's Regional Training Facility is a proposed two-mile EVOC course and skid pad to be used for driver safety training. All law enforcement agencies including city, county, state and federal agencies, as well as first responders, will have access to the course.

At present, there are no local EVOC training courses available for use by law enforcement officers and first responders, who are forced to train in less-than-ideal locations such as empty parking lots. The two-mile course would feature an actual road and will be able to simulate all weather conditions.

By improving driver safety, for emergency responders and the public at large, traffic accidents and fatalities can be decreased dramatically in Allen County.



Commitment to safety

Shawn Lawhorn SWAT
Allen County Police Department



The facility will include a number of safety training areas:

Firearms Safety Range

Firearms training for all types of situations including shoot houses, entry training and Scenario City, just to name a few

K-9 Academy

State-of-the-art police dog training area

Diving Ponds

Water-based search, rescue and recovery training

SWAT Facility

Special Weapons And Tactics training for high-risk operations such as hostages, terrorists or heavily-armed criminals

Classrooms

Multiple classroom settings for both emergency response training and community function



Adam Griffith Officer
Allen County Police Department

A community resource



The Allen County Sheriff's Regional Training Facility will benefit the community, not just through better trained emergency response personnel, but directly through community use of the various training areas.

The EVOC course will be available for motorcycle safety training, defensive driving courses, car club rallies, disabled driver training, and teen and senior driver training.

Pursuant to firearms training, the general public will be able to access outdoor firing ranges as will competitive shooting clubs. The Dive Pond will also be made available for SCUBA instruction.

To date, the WANE-TV and Parkview Teen Driving Program, AAA Chicago, Memorial Hospital of South Bend, the Midwest Spring Series and the National Antique Car Road Racers have already expressed great interest in making use of this new resource.

Finally, the economic impact of the training facility is expected to be significant, as the facility will draw agencies and organizations from the Midwest and beyond.

You can make Allen County safer

Matt Brokaw Firefighter
Fort Wayne Fire Department



Two years and \$20 million. That's what it's going to take to bring a new level of safety and preparedness to this community.

There are more than 2,300 emergency vehicles, more than 6,400 volunteer firemen, many hospitals, and 67 municipal and county police departments in Allen County and the surrounding area – all would make use of this facility. But it starts with you.

There are many ways you can contribute, from a straight donation to sponsoring a classroom. Simply fill out the attached reply card and we'll get in touch with you just as quickly as possible. Or, if you'd simply like more information you can call (260) 449-7535.

The cost of making Allen County safer is significant. But the cost of doing nothing is even greater.



Allen County Sheriff's Regional Training Facility

Date: _____

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone number: _____

E-mail: _____

We want to show our corporate support for the Allen County Sheriff's Regional Training Facility by pledging

\$ _____

Please make checks payable to:

Allen County Sheriff's Training Facility
715 S. Calhoun St
Room 101 Courthouse
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802
Phone: (260) 449-7535