


**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY POLICE**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
 Volume 1, Issue 2, April 1986

### President Reagan Meets Sgt. Paul Tucker



*Sgt. Paul Tucker, former member of the Department's Emergency Services Team, met with President Reagan at the White House on February 12, 1986. As an EST member, Sgt. Tucker had worked with Secret Service Agents at Andrews Air Force Base when the President or Vice President would travel by plane to or from the base. According to Sgt. Tucker, "President Reagan had tried to call me when I was first injured and taken to the shock/trauma unit". Being unable to speak with Sgt. Tucker at the time of his injury, and subsequently going into the hospital himself for surgery, the President took this opportunity to meet with Sgt. Tucker, his wife Shirley and sons John (not pictured) and Joseph. Also pictured is Lt. Richard Welsh, SOD. Photo by Terry Arthur, the White House.*

### Department Creates New Unit

An innovative unit has been created by the Prince George's County Police Department to reduce serious crime evolving from domestic violence.

In 1985 alone, street officers responded to more than 20,000 calls related to domestic violence/spousal abuse and approximately 2,600 calls related to missing persons. Investigations by the then five-person Child Abuse Unit worked 411 cases of child abuse by the end of the past year.

In response to this volume and the recent change in the laws regarding missing children and vulnerable adults, the Department has doubled the size of the Child Abuse Unit thus creating a new section in the Criminal Investigations Division called the "Domestic

Investigation Unit". Established in January, this unit is the first of its kind in the Washington metropolitan area. This new unit is now handling vulnerable adult abuse, spouse abuse, child abuse and missing children cases. The unit's goal is to identify critical cases in these areas and take pro-active steps toward remedying the problems involved.

Investigators in this new unit review cases of spouse abuse, contact victims and provide advice on available assistance through other agencies; they notify agencies responsible for family violence intervention to alert them of potentially serious situations; and, they provide guidance to patrol officers on different aspects of spouse abuse. The new

unit has joined forces with federal and state agencies to locate missing children who are not classified as runaways and is coordinating all criminal investigations involving vulnerable adults and the elderly. All investigations are coordinated with the Department of Social Services and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

With the eventual computerization of the unit's records, responding street officers will be alerted to habitual domestic violence cases and those which present potential problems and dangers. Because statistics indicate that when police intervene in domestic situations assaults decrease, not only should the safety of officers be improved but violent crime should also be reduced.