



# Protect and Serve



Recruit Duffy takes notes during a lecture on how to properly use a radar to trap speeders on the streets.



Recruits do sets of jumping jacks during their tri weekly workout session that includes calisthenics, running and weight training.

## Photos and story by Aldo Blanco Photography Editor

The college is home to the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy. "The academy opened its doors to its first recruits on Oct. 10, 1994 and gets more request for placement than they can accommodate," Dan Maloney Program Manger said.

In order to be part of the academy one must first get hired by an employing police agency. The hiring police agency is responsible for the cost of the 400 to 480 hour-long program, the curriculum is based on the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board.

This board is responsible for the certification examination given on the last day of class. The recruits must pass this test to take the police oath to serve and protect.

"Police work is a demanding job. It requires a great deal of educational and physical ability," Maloney said.

As well as the physical and educational aspect to becoming a police officer, mental stability is essential. Out in the field an officer is faced with split second decisions. If he or she is not in a healthy state of mind the decision could be one proves fatal for the officer or the offender.

This is why the training that the recruits receive at SLEA is vital to their success when they reach the field. Yet at times a recruit may struggle with the 10 to 12 hour-long days, plus the studying they must do on their own.

The long hours in training may cause some recruits to have trouble, but most hiring police agencies thorough process of elimination guarantees individuals "who are pre-

pared for and committed to completing the training" Maloney said.

Occasionally a recruit will know the job is not for him or her and will voluntarily withdraw from the program, thus terminating their position from the hiring police agency.

The training is purposefully difficult. The class work entails learning many different types of codes. In emergencies, codes can cut the time it takes for officers to respond.

Other difficult codes are the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting codes. These codes consist of all different types of crimes that can be committed by offenders.

To become a police officer one must be physically fit and know close combat defense and offensive moves. In order to pass the physical part of the training a recruit must be able to run a half miles in a standardized allotted time. Physical tests also include standardized body percent ratio depending on age and gender. All of the standards are officiated by the ILETSB. In order to pass such difficult tests, SLEA has mandatory work out days.

"Police work is a service occupation and citizens depend greatly on their (the officers') ability to be impartial, help in a crisis and solve problems most people are unprepared to handle," Maloney said.

In order to be successful police officers graduates of the program must be able to perform individually and as a team.

They must be able to communicate with different cultures as well as a variety of backgrounds.



Trainer Bretz explains the importance of being squared away when it comes to proper uniform code to the recruits.