



June Highlights

2008

New Castle County Police Department

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Welcome Home Officers Bruce Ashby and Glen Davis

NEW CASTLE— For the previous 370 days, Officers Bruce Ashby and Glenn Davis lived in what they described as “decent” housing while deployed overseas as each served as military police sergeants in the Army National Guard. They, along with many others, were honored during a “welcome home” ceremony hosted by Governor Ruth Ann Minner, Adjunct General Francis Valvala and other dignitaries on June 4th. Their duties during their one year deployment were similar, but they each were stationed at very different camps in Bagdad. Officer Davis was housed in “Camp Liberty” in what he described as a camp ground setting. “I lived the good life for living in Iraq,” said Davis. “It wasn’t like living at home, but it was better living than most. Our trailers had air conditioning, cable television, access to the



New Castle County Officers greet and welcome back officers who were serving overseas

Internet (when it worked) and a nicely equipped gym.” Officer Ashby was not so fortunate. For the first couple of months, he and his platoon lived in tents with few amenities. His accommodations were upgraded when they transitioned into shipping containers (similar to what a tractor trailer looks like) that were modified into two separate housing units. “Our housing did not compare to Glenn’s, but our location was newer so we had fewer facilities which made it challenging to get some gear,” said Officer Ashby— “still not bad for living in Iraq.” Both officers were assigned to security details, training of police officers (Iraq Police or IP) and training for the Sons of Iraq (SOI). They were also tasked with providing security for US and Iraq “Big Wigs” who were traveling along secured roadways from one location to another. For the Iraq police officers, they provided training in topics such as: rules of engagement, searches, hand-to-hand combat, first aid and traffic control. The Sons of Iraq were essentially an organized “beefed-up” neighborhood watch program whose participants were not the typical concerned citizens like found here in the United States. Instead, they carried AK-47’s and patrolled their own neighborhoods through organized roadblocks. According to Officer Davis, “Most of the Sons of Iraq were happy to have US military officers there to provide training. They took pride in their job—they had a lot more at stake and more to lose than the Iraqi Police. They will play a vital role in securing Iraq.” Most of the Sons of Iraq were much less corrupt than some of the police officers. Even though their salaries were much lower than police officers they were very committed to securing their communities. Even though they provided essential police training for the real officers, some appeared to be untrusting of the military officer and were continually watching and evaluating the US military officers.

On a more positive note, both officers and their platoons returned to the United States unscathed. They did, however, have at least one near miss. Officer Ashby’s platoon was engaged by an improvised explosive device (IED) while traveling on one of the major supply routes in Bagdad. The vehicle sustained minor damage, but no one was injured. (see page 4)



Bud Davis sits on Saddam’s “Throne”

Suspects Charged with Homicide, Weapon Offenses

New Castle County Detectives have arrested two suspects for the murder and attempted murder that occurred on June 2, 2008, in the Home Properties of Newark Apartments. Both suspects have been charged with murder in the first degree, two counts of attempted murder in the first degree, conspiracy and three counts of possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony.

On Monday (6/2) at 12:13 a.m., County Police and Paramedics responded to the Home Properties of Newark Apartments (formerly Chestnut Crossing Apartments) for a report of a male subject who had just been shot. Officer John Kopanski arrived at the complex within moments of the shooting and located witnesses who reported three men wearing all dark clothing were just seen running toward the back of the apartment complex. While searching the area, Kopanski found two men who were walking in the area who fit the description provided by the witnesses. Those two men, Fabian Cesear and Kenneth Jones were taken into custody and turned over to detectives.



Officer John Kopanski

As the investigation progressed, detectives learned the suspects had possibly discarded the murder weapon in a water retention pond behind the complex. Detectives Anthony Dinardo and William Lenhart searched the eight foot deep pond for approximately one and a half hours with a small water craft before finding the handgun.

The investigation has revealed Jones, Cesear and a third male had engaged in a dispute with the three victims stemming from a fight that had occurred earlier in the day. Detectives have concluded the disagreement was over an alleged debt between two of the combatants.



Detective Anthony Dinardo



Detective William Lenhart

Canine Unit Hosts Regional Training

The New Castle County Police Canine Unit hosted a regional training opportunity for police canines and handlers over a four day period in June. The training, which was provided by the National Police Canine Association, offered nationally accepted certifications for each of the more than two dozen canine officers. In total, 26 canines and handlers from the northeast region “embarked” on field training at the Delaware Technical and Community College in Stanton, Delaware. Out of 78 certifications, only one canine had difficulty with one small aspect of the certification. The National Police Canine Association (NPCA) provided “street-realistic” certifications in patrol, narcotics detection, explosive detection, tracking and trailing, and contraband. Each canine and handler who completed the training received nationally accepted certifications upon graduation from the seminar.



Officer Ed Mousley conducts training while videoed by media

Police Discover “Gaboon Viper” inside an Apartment

Anthony Conway was arrested for offensive touching and menacing his girlfriend during a domestic dispute. Inside the home, police found a “Gaboon Viper” inside a cage which is one of the 10 deadliest snakes in the world.

On Thursday (6/26) at 7:22 p.m., County Police responded to the Fieldcrest Apartments for a report of a physical domestic dispute. Police arrested Conway for the dispute. While inside the home, Officer Steven Burse noticed several glass tanks which were housing snakes. Burse, an avid Animal Planet and National Geographic fan, identified one of the snakes as a Gaboon Viper and was aware that the snake was one of the deadliest snakes in the world. Additionally, the other tanks contained one Venezuelan rattlesnake and one Pygmy rattlesnake, both of which are poisonous. After discovering Conway did not have the proper permits for the dangerous vipers, police notified an animal control officer who cited him for not having permits for poisonous snakes and removed them from the residence. Conway was arraigned and released on \$500 unsecured bail for the county charges stemming from the domestic. The other charges are pending.

Suspicious Vehicle Stop Leads to Drug Bust

New Castle County Police have arrested **Paul A. Norris**, a 47 year old male who resides in the 200 block of N. Patrice Road in Newark, DE. He has been charged with felony drug violations after an officer stopped his vehicle parked in an industrial complex in front of a closed business and later recovered drugs.

On Sunday (6/8) at 11:00 a.m., Officer William Yeldell was patrolling the area of the Porter Industrial Park complex, located at 400 Carson Drive, when he observed a suspicious vehicle. As the officer approached the car, he observed the occupant moving about the interior of the vehicle. He then exited the car and nervously told the officer he had just stopped to relieve himself.



After the officer confronted him about the lack of a wet spot on the pavement, the operator slumped his shoulders and voluntarily stated he had drugs on his person. Officer Yeldell then searched him and found he was in possession of four bags of cocaine and \$538 in suspected drug proceeds. While searching the vehicle, he also found drug paraphernalia.

Norris has been charged with possession with the intent to deliver cocaine, maintaining a vehicle for keeping a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia. He has been arraigned and committed to the Howard Young Prison after failing to post \$10,000 secured bail.

Mom Arrested, Charged with Shooting 13 Year Old Son

New Castle County Police arrested **Desiree Hogan**, a 38 year old female who resides in the unit block of Grosbeak Lane in Newark. She is accused of shooting her 13 year old son with a handgun.

On Thursday (6/12) at 7:19 p.m., County Police and Paramedics responded to the Pike Creek Shopping Center for a report of a shooting that just occurred. When police arrived, they located a 13 year old male victim who was bleeding from an apparent gunshot wound to the left shoulder. The victim was transported to the Christiana Hospital where he is listed in stable condition.

The investigation has revealed the shooting occurred at the victim's home in Pike Creek. Police learned the victim's mother has an active PFA and was not permitted to be at the residence. Just prior to the shooting, the victim was inside the home alone when he discovered his mother at the back door. The victim refused to answer when he looked out the kitchen window and observed his mother armed with a handgun. The mother then fired a single round through the window striking the victim in the shoulder.

The victim ran out the front door and flagged down a passing motorist who allowed him to get inside. The motorist then drove the victim to a safe distance away from the home and called 911.

Hogan fled the home in a gold colored Dodge Caravan. Over the next hour, negotiators had cell phone contact with Hogan who repeatedly threatened suicide. Ultimately, the phone calls led the officers to an address in the community of Midvale.

At 8:36 p.m., officers located Hogan sitting outside of the home armed with a handgun. During the negotiations, she placed the gun inside her mouth and against her head while pleading for the officers to shoot her. While negotiating, a family member exited the home and grabbed Hogan as the weapon discharged. Police moved in and arrested Hogan as the weapon discharged into the home. No one was injured. Hogan was transported to the Wilmington Hospital for an evaluation and will be charged when released.

Soccer Player Arrested for Biting Sports Official

County Police arrested **Rannord A. Jones**, a 28 year old male who resides in New Castle. He has been charged with felony assault after he intentionally bit a sports official who had given him a "red card" for unsportsmanlike conduct. On Thursday (6/19) at 7:56 p.m., County Police responded to the Weiss Parkland (located at 150 Aspen Drive) for a report of an assault on a sports official that occurred during a soccer game. When the officer arrived, he contacted the 38 year old male victim who was holding a blood soaked cloth towel over his chin. The officer then observed the victim had sustained very deep and severe lacerations. The victim reported he was officiating a soccer game between two teams named "Fulhundred" and "Pizza by Elizabeth." During the games, he gave a player a "red card" from the Fulhundred team for unsportsmanlike conduct. The player, who was wearing the jersey #5, disagreed with the official's decision to eject him from the game, so he immediately approached him with his fists clenched. The official attempted to back away from the player at which time he (player) grabbed the victim's shoulders and pulled him toward his face with his mouth wide open. The player then bit the official's face just below his lower lip and underneath his chin causing very deep and severe lacerations. The player then took off his shirt and ran off into the community. Police were able to identify the assailant using the team roster and by showing the victim his driver's license photograph from the police lap top computer. Officers later responded to Jones' home to arrest him for the assault, but he was not at home. He later contacted police by phone and agreed to turn himself in at police headquarters Friday morning. As agreed, Jones turned himself in and was charged with felony assault, abuse of a sports official, terroristic threatening, and harassment.

FROM PAGE 1 For both officers, the most difficult challenge was being away from their family, friends, and “all the comforts of home.” Both agreed it was very hot as ‘advertised” but not humid like the summer months in Delaware. They each combated the heat by drinking plenty of water and staying out of the sun as much as possible.

At the welcome home ceremony, Colonel Gregory personally spoke with both officers and welcomed them back. He has asked that we all keep the other New Castle County employees who are serving overseas in our thoughts and prayers. Presently, the police department has the following officers who are protecting our freedom: Officer Ronald Breitigan, Officer Karen Camp, Officer Ruel Falkenburg, Officer Michael Murphy, Corporal Jeffrey Steinberg, and Corporal Matthew Tower.



Bruce Ashby in Bagdad

Congratulations to New Castle County Police Sergeant Teresa Williams, varsity cheerleading coach for St. John the Beloved. She has had been selected as the 2008 winner of the Leadership in Catholic Youth Sport Award at the elementary level by Neumann College for the Camden and Wilmington dioceses and the archdioceses of Philadelphia. This coaching award acknowledges people who model behavior reflective of Catholic teachings and encourages the youth athletic

experience to include opportunities for learning character development, good sportsmanship and spiritual formation.



Canine Haito was laid to rest on Tuesday, June 24, 2008, after suffering from a courageous battle with cancer. He was a tremendous asset to the police department who specialized in narcotics detection and tracking. Even during his last hours, he was eager to play and excited about “working” with his handler Corporal Joseph “Crackers” Krajewski. Joe described Haito as a social, yet independent canine that didn’t need much attention or praise. Before his illness, he had gotten to the point in his career where he was on “auto-pilot” with respect to tracking and narcotics detection. One of his fondest memories of Haito was when the duo apprehended shooting suspects who had just fired 13 rounds toward and into two victims in Christiana. Crackers recalled as he was patting down one of the suspects, he suddenly turned and elbowed him (the officer) about the face and ran off with a loaded gun on his person. Haito bravely chased the suspect across Route 40 for nearly 200 yards before biting him near the Walmart parking lot. The suspect would have probably gotten away as there were two other suspects who remained in the car. Police later recovered the weapon (which was used in the shooting) after discovering the suspect had tossed it while running from the officers. On another occasion, Crackers stopped a car with eight suspects inside. At least one of the occupants had just shot and killed a man in the Hidden Valley Apartments. All eight of the suspects, who were originally contemplating running off on foot, were convinced to stay in the car by Haito. According to canine coordinator, Corporal Mark Tobin, “I had the pleasure to work with the tandem for their entire career together on D Squad. The police department could not have found a more suited team. They were both hard working, dedicated to duty, and most eager to capture the bad guys.” Haito was constantly seeking his handler’s guidance—even though he was strong willed, he was eager to please and do a great job. “Haito will be sorely missed, they had the potential to be the best ever.”

Significant Crime Recap June 2008

Gwinhurst

Sunday 6/1/08 0000

District 8-Cartier

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) Three teenage victims reportedly were walking to the Wawa near Lincoln Avenue and Clayton Avenue when they were approached by four male subjects who inquired about purchasing marijuana. One of the subjects then punched one of the victims about the face and attempted to rob them, but they (victims) ran off. The suspects fled in a gold colored Buick with partial tag 74181.

Chestnut Crossing Apts

Monday 6/2/08 0005

District 5-McClellan

Synopsis: (Homicide Investigation) Officers responded to the area of 146 Chestnut Crossing Drive for a report of a shooting that just occurred. When Officer John Kopanski arrived, he observed two male subjects fleeing the area and was able to take them both into custody. Assisting officers located a male victim who had sustained several gunshot wounds to the upper torso with first aid being administered by neighbors. This subject was transported to the Christiana Hospital where he was listed in critical but stable condition. Officers continued to search the area and located another male deceased in front of building 201. He had sustained several apparent gunshot wounds to the torso. A third victim was transported by private car to Christiana Hospital where he was treated for a gunshot wound to the upper left arm causing a fracture to same. Detectives later linked both men to the murder and recovered the weapon in a storm retention pond.

Greenbank Road

Monday 6/2/08 1256

District 9-Sheldon

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A male subject entered the Kam Po Garden Restaurant, located at 117 Greenbank Road, armed with a black handgun and demanded money from the 43 year old female victim who was working the register. The victim relinquished an undisclosed amount of cash before the suspect fled on foot. He was last seen getting into an awaiting vehicle, a silver small sedan, which was parked in the Driftwood Apartments.

Woodland Trails

Tuesday 6/3/08 1205

District 7-Smiley

Synopsis: (Reported home invasion style robbery) Police responded to a home in the unit block of Defoe Circle for a report of a home invasion style robbery. The investigation has revealed four suspects knocked on the front door looking for the 48 year old female victim's son. After telling suspects he was not there, the victim shut the door. Moments later, the suspects knocked again and forced their way inside when the victim opened the door. One of the suspects was armed with a black handgun. The subjects ransacked the son's bedroom and took items from inside leaving drug paraphernalia behind. Warrants were issued for the victim's son for items recovered by police in his room. The suspects have not been identified.

Brookside Park**Tuesday 6/3/08 1546****District 5-McClellan**

Synopsis: (Reported purse snatching) A 17 year old female was walking to work on Marrows Road when she was approached by a male subject. He suddenly demanded her belongings while pushing her to the ground and removing her purse. The suspect was last seen running toward Marlboro Road.

Dunleith**Tuesday 6/3/08 2130****District 10-Street**

Synopsis: (Reported attempted robbery) A 30 year old advised that he was walking home from the Star Center through the Oakmont path of Surrate Park when he was approached by two men who shouted, "Don't move or I'll pop you." Both then displayed handguns and demanded the victim empty his pockets and take off his shoes. A vehicle then drove toward them and scared off the suspects.

Whitehall**Wednesday 6/4/08 1115****District 7-Smiley**

Synopsis: (Reported attempted robbery) A 14 year old male victim advised that he was walking home from the Community Plaza Shopping Center toward the entrance of his neighborhood when he was approached by a male subject armed with a silver knife with a black handle. The man went through the victim's pockets and found his cell phone but did not take it. He then fled on foot toward Dunsinane Drive. The victim continued home and notified police after speaking with his mother.

Glasgow Ct TP**Friday 6/6/08 1200****District 6-Powers**

Synopsis: (Reported attempted kidnapping) A 15 year old female was walking in the area of Albert Street and Nick Street when she was approached by a Hispanic male who was driving a white panel van. The male grabbed the victim by her arm and attempted to pull her into the vehicle while another unknown suspect was inside the van. The victim kicked the male subject, broke free and ran off. The subjects then fled in the vehicle in an unknown direction of travel.

Taylorstowne SC**Friday 6/6/08 1708****District 7-Smiley**

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) An 18 year old male was walking behind Derr's market when he was approached by a male subject armed with a handgun. The suspect told the victim to empty his pockets or he would be killed. The victim relinquished an Ipod, his wallet, cash and cigarettes. The suspect then fled on foot.

Jefferson Farms**Friday 6/6/08 2230****District 7-Smiley**

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) Five teenagers were walking in the area of the parkland (Constitution Blvd) when two males in their 20's approached displaying handguns. The subjects forced all five to empty their pockets taking two hoodies and two cell phones. As the subjects were leaving, they fired three shots into the air over the victims' heads.

Castlebrook Apts

Saturday 6/7/08 0245

District 12-Bell

Synopsis: (Reported attempted robbery) A 32 year old female victim parked her vehicle in the parking lot and was getting things out of the trunk when a male subject attempted to pull her purse from her hands. The victim screamed causing the suspect to let go and run off. He was last seen entering a dark colored Oldsmobile Cutlass.

Arbor Place TH

Saturday 6/7/08 2320

District 10-Street

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) Two teenage victims were walking in the area of 208 Parma Avenue (the slightly wooded area between the 100 and 200 blocks) when they were rushed from behind by two male subjects. One victim was struck in the face by the suspects and his cell phone was taken but later found nearby.

Oakmont

Monday 6/9/08 1950

District 10-Street

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 28 year old male ice cream truck driver reported that he was serving a customer in the area of the parkland when 4-5 males (18 to 20 years of age) surrounded his vehicle. One reached through the operator's window toward the victim's cell phone while another entered through the front passenger door. The subject grabbed the victim and threatened to shoot him. As a third male reached into the overhead compartment and removed cash from his cash box. While on scene, one of the suspects decided to ride by on his bike and was identified and apprehended.

Lancashire Apts

Tuesday 6/10/08 1430

District 8-Cartier

Synopsis: (Reported home invasion style robbery) A 23 year old male victim was inside his home in the unit block of Rector Court when he heard a knock at the front door. As he opened the door, two armed men pushed their way inside. One pointed a .22 caliber gun at the victim and told him to get to the ground. The subject proceeded to steal a 42" LCD television, a Playstation III game, an Xbox 360 game and a Verizon cell phone. The black males then fled the residence. A witness observed this incident and photographed the car before the crime occurred as he thought the suspects were suspicious. An arrest has been made in this case.

Patrician Terrace Apts

Tuesday 6/10/08 1745

District 1-Reda

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 37 year old male walked into the laundry room in the "4605" building and encountered two male subjects inside. The men displayed a silver handgun and told the victim to empty his pockets. The victim started to fight the subjects and was hit in the head with the weapon. The subjects took cash and the victim's medication before fleeing.

Maryland Park Apts

Tuesday 6/10/08 2210

District 1-Reda

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 28 year old male advised that he was returning to his apartment, in the 700 block of Robinson Court, after washing his laundry when three suspects approached him on bicycles. The subjects got off the bicycles and displayed handguns before taking cash and car keys from the victim. During the robbery, he was struck in the back of the head with a handgun but stated he was not injured.

Sparrow Run

Saturday 6/14/08 2000

District 6-Powers

Synopsis: (Reported assault and attempted robbery) A 19 year old female, who was carrying her infant daughter, advised that she had walked to the mini mart on Brookmont Drive to purchase milk. While walking home, on the dirt pathway behind Teal Circle, she was approached from behind by two unknown males who grabbed her by the arms and knocked her to the ground. The suspects demanded the victim's money while repeatedly punching her in her face and kicking her in her stomach. A neighbor yelled at the two suspects that he was calling police, at which time both suspects fled leaving her and her daughter on the ground. The victim then picked up her daughter and ran home. No property was stolen as she had no money, but she was later hospitalized due to stomach pains as she was three months pregnant.

Angela's Dry Cleaners

Wednesday 6/18/08 1304

District 8-Cartier

Synopsis: (Reported attempted robbery) A male subject walked into Angela's Dry Cleaners, located at 2308 Carpenter Station Road, and demanded the victim's purse while holding what appeared to be a gun under his shirt. The victim then ran toward the front door and screamed "robbery" at which point the suspect fled out the rear door. No property was taken.

The Cedars

Friday 6/20/08 0020

District 9-Sheldon

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 65 year old male, who resides in the 2300 block of Spruce Avenue, was walking from his vehicle to his residence when he was approached by an unknown male who was wearing a ski mask. The suspect struck the victim about the head with a blunt object and wrestled away his wallet. He then fled on foot toward a nearby nursing home.

Maryland Park Apts

Saturday 6/21/08 0012

District 1-Reda

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 50 year old male was walking from the parking lot to his apartment, located in the 700 block of Robinson Lane, when he was approached by four male subjects and then an additional four more walked up behind him. One pulled a large black handgun from his waistband and put it under the victim's chin and demanded money. The subject then punched the victim about the face when he replied he had no money.

Garfield Park**Saturday 6/21/08 0245****District 10-Street**

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 41 year old male responded to a friend's home in the unit block of Memorial Drive after meeting them at a club in Wilmington. When the victim approached the residence, he was assaulted by four males who removed his keys, necklace, money and cell phone. The friends of the victim may turn out to be suspects as they were not cooperative with investigators.

Maryland Park Apts**Sunday 6/22/08 2000****District 1-Reda**

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 42 year old male was removing items from the trunk of his vehicle when he was approached from behind and pushed to the ground. The victim reported four male subjects, who were armed with handguns, went through his pockets and removed a cell phone. A witness observed the four males run off and get into a Chevy Cavalier with partial tag DE 179.

Harmony Rd**Sunday 6/22/08 2220-2230****District 11-Tackett**

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 21 year old male was walking from the Wawa on Route 4 back to his residence when he was approached by three males who were driving a red Honda. The subjects exited the vehicle and approached the victim while displaying a black handgun. The subjects went through the victim's pockets and removed property. The victim recognized the subjects from Glasgow High School.

Pine Valley Apts**Tuesday 6/24/08 0500****District 12-Bell**

Synopsis: (Shooting, attempted murder) Officers responded to the Pine Valley Apartments, for a report of a shooting that just occurred. When the officers arrived, they found a 37 year old male lying on the ottoman in the living room with multiple gun shot wounds to his abdomen. The victim advised that a suspect who answers to the nickname "Chuck" shot him during an attempted robbery and fled the apartment. As a result of the investigation, the identity of Chuck was later confirmed to be Bernard Ellerbe. He was later arrested by detectives for attempted murder, robbery and weapon offenses.

Garfield Park**Wednesday 6/25/08 0014****District 10-Street**

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 46 year old female was visiting friends in the unit block of Memorial Drive and was assaulted by a male subject while retrieving an item from her car. The subject punched the victim and stole her purse. The suspect was identified as "Disco" a local man who had not yet been identified.

Valley Run**Thursday 6/26/08 2255****District 8-Cartier**

Synopsis: (Reported robbery) A 30 year old male reported he was walking down Valley Run Drive near Butternut Court when he was approached by two suspects who stated, "Give it up." Both men displayed handguns and began to rummage through the victim's

pockets removing a cell phone, wallet and cash. Then they fled toward Carpenter Station Road.

Sparrow Run

Saturday 6/28/08 1640

District 6-Powers

Synopsis: (Reported shooting) Police responded to a residence in the unit block of Raven Turn and contacted a 38 year old male who reported he had been shot in the leg by a male subject who was arguing with his girlfriend's son. The suspect was later identified as Houston Caesar, a 20 year old male. Caesar was arrested and charged with assault and weapon offenses.

Swanwyck Estates

Monday 6/30/08 2350

District 7-Smiley

Synopsis: (Reported shooting) Police responded to the area of 131 Stamm Blvd for a report of a shooting that just occurred. When the officers arrived, they found a 31 year old male victim lying in the street suffering from an apparent gunshot wound to the torso. He was transported to the Christiana Hospital where he underwent emergency surgery and listed in stable condition. A witness advised that the victim was approached by three males and began to speak with them moments before he was shot. The suspects were last seen fleeing the area in a dark colored car.