Caddo Sheriff's Office prepares for Gustav

Friday, August 29, 2008
The Caddo Sheriff's Office will establish a command post at Hirsch Coliseum at 3 p.m. today in preparation for south Louisiana evacuees. Four deputies will be assigned to man the command post and provide security at Hirsch on a 24-hour basis.

Caddo Sheriff Steve Prator said two 5-man teams of Caddo deputies area also on standby in case they are needed to help with law enforcement efforts in south Louisiana. The deputies are part of the Louisiana Sheriff's Association Task Force, which provides mutual aid to other sheriff's offices in the event of an emergency. Prator said the deputies are packed and prepared to go, but that he has not yet received an official request for their help.
The Louisiana Sheriff's Association has inquired about the number of south Louisiana inmates that Caddo Correctional Center could hold if needed, Prator said. When the question was posed on Thursday, the facility could accommodate 50 men and 30 women from other institutions; however, that number changes daily based on the number of arrests made in Caddo Parish. Caddo deputies are also on standby in case they are needed to transport inmates from south Louisiana to CCC.

"We are balancing our efforts to be prepared but not overact," Prator said. "For the citizens of Caddo Parish, our services will not be reduced."