

Styles in modern living



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County police hire 1st policewoman

Diane Jordan, 25, of Myrtle Beach, is Horry County's first policewoman.

If that accomplishment is not enough, she climbed to the position by overcoming several serious obstacles along the way.

A high school dropout, Jordan realized the importance of continuing her education. In March of 1977, she received her General Education Diploma (GED) Equivalency from Horry-Georgetown Technical College. But, she didn't stop there.

After struggling with career decisions, she settled on Criminal Justice as her chosen area of study, realizing the traditional trends favoring male employment. Jordan says she chose Criminal Justice because she "likes a challenge." That may be

an understatement considering the precedent she has set in Horry County.

Success is an obvious goal of Diane Jordan and determination is an obvious attribute. She thought of dropping out of school several times, but each time her efforts were thwarted by Horry-Georgetown TEC's Dean of Students, J.R. Taylor. "I'd get depressed and frustrated and want to just quit, but Dean Taylor would always sit me down and give me one of his famous lectures full of encouragement," she said.

Taylor said he recognized Jordan's potential all along. "You could see that she was going to be successful. Everything she did, she did her absolute best," he said.

Jordan would like to be the best

in her work also. She says she sees no problems with her new job. "I love to work with people, and understanding is a key in police work," said Jordan.

Jordan's first six months on the job will be her most important. "I need to get established. Right now, I'm learning Horry County police work from the ground floor on up. I'll start in the dispatcher's office, learning codes and the basics of police work," she said. "From here, I'll go out in the field and eventually as a patrolwoman. The Criminal Justice Academy is a must, and I'll be going there in the next six months, so there is a lot ahead of me."

While experience is the best teacher, Jordan is full of praise for Horry-Georgetown TEC.

"The training I received at TEC is invaluable. For instance, I'm already familiar with terminology and procedures and very aware of many legal aspects of police work. The instructors were very good."

Jim Mortimer and John Holt are two of those instructors to whom Jordan gives much credit.

Problems? Jordan doesn't think she will encounter any. She says that there is only one way, "and that's up!" "After overcoming some of the obstacles that I have, I am just ready to take things as they come and learn as much as I can. I want to set a good example for all the policewomen and policemen who follow men."

When talking about the physical dangers of the job, Jordan is no less confident, "If I am called to settle

a dispute or handcuff someone or anything that might require physical force, I won't hesitate. I was sent to do a man's job, and I intend to do it well. If I'm knocked down, I'll get back up and finish the job."

And what are some necessary ingredients for good police work according to Jordan? "First of all, I'd say understanding of people. Then, taking responsibility and making sound decisions under pressure. I have found that you can't necessarily think like a woman. At least I was prepared; TEC taught me that police work wasn't just what you'd seen on TV."

Being the first at anything is exciting, but Jordan is more than excited. "It's a feeling you simply cannot describe."



Jordan