

Cold Case Working Group releases new information in the murder of Pamela Cahanes - 10/29/2012

SEMINOLE CO. (Oct. 29) – A newly formed Seminole County Cold Case Working Group today began a review of the 1984 murder of Pamela Cahanes, a 25-year-old Navy airman apprentice who was last seen at the Navy Training Center in Orlando, and later found deceased in the front yard of a Sanford home. The multi-agency team is working to generate new information and leads, and to bring answers for the Cahanes family. The Seminole County Sheriff's Office also released new photos and an investigative timeline on its cold case website and Facebook page. Investigators are especially interested in speaking with anyone who graduated from the Training Center in 1984.

Cahanes graduated from the Navy Training Center on Aug. 3, 1984 and the following day was seen shopping in Orlando. She was spotted back at the Navy Training Center with an unidentified male later that same day. That evening, she was again seen with an unidentified male at the Mariner's Club, a lounge and bar on the Navy Training Center campus. The Navy Training Center was located at what is now Baldwin Park. Shortly after 1 a.m. on Aug. 5, Cahanes is believed to have been to a Chinese restaurant.

Cahanes was found deceased at approximately 7 a.m. on Aug. 5 in the front yard of a vacant home located at 2918 Old SR 46 (now Riverview Avenue) in Sanford. She was partially clothed and badly beaten. The cause of death was strangulation. Cahanes' clothes were found close to her body, along with bags of shopping containing purchases from Kmart and the Fashion Square Mall. A Chinese takeout carton, and a receipt (believed to be from a Chinese restaurant), was found nearby. Autopsy results indicate Cahanes had eaten Chinese food shortly before her death. Cahanes had approximately \$100 in her pocket. Investigators believe that she was not killed at the location she was found, and that she was likely transported there by a vehicle.

Investigators have a variety of forensic evidence, and have interviewed dozens of people in conjunction with the case. In 2008, the case was featured on a deck of cold case playing cards that was circulated to more than 200,000 offenders in county jails and on state probation. CrimeLine will soon feature the case on a billboard in Sanford. A reward of up to \$5,000 is offered for information leading to an arrest.

The Cold Case Working Group includes investigators from the Seminole County Sheriff's Office, FBI, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Altamonte Springs, Casselberry, Lake Mary, Longwood, Oviedo, Sanford, and Winter Springs police departments.