

What makes police work on St. Simons unique?

“

IT'S SPECIAL BECAUSE NOT ONLY DO YOU HAVE TO KNOW THE LOCAL FOLKS, YOU HAVE TO GET TO KNOW THE TOURISTS, TOO. THERE'S NOT AS MUCH GOING ON OVER HERE AS ON THE MAINLAND, AND A LOT OF PEOPLE CONSIDER THIS THE EASY LIFE FOR A POLICE OFFICER. BUT THE IDEA IS TO KEEP IT THAT WAY. MY WHOLE THING IS TO STOP ANY ACTION BEFORE IT GETS STARTED.

”

Magistrate's Office as an investigator. Lacey left that job, Barton says, to get back out among the people.

“He likes to be with the people,” Barton says. “He's what a police officer ought to be. He's firm but fair. He's good for the kids. He knows who's up to stuff, and he tries to put them back on the proper course. He's one of those special people, and we're lucky to have him.”

A native of Washington, D.C., Lacey retired from the U.S. Navy after 20 years while stationed at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base. He's been a member of the county police force for 13 years. His job is supplemental shift

supervisor for the island, where he also lives.

Lacey is a cool operator. He doesn't exacerbate tense situations with a confrontational approach. Instead, he uses tact - a rare commodity these days - in dealing with routine situations. But when he's been called upon to shift gears, he has risen to the occasion, and has several collars of violent offenders to his credit.

What he relishes about police work, however, is less thrilling but infinitely more rewarding -- his day-

to-day association with those he has sworn to protect.

“We do a lot of foot patrols,” Lacey says. “I walk the pier, the shops, just to let people know I'm here. I get a lot of information from shop owners because we're friends. It makes people feel a little better knowing we're around.”

Glynn County Police Chief Matt Doering says Lacey is a prime example of the kind of police work he advocates.

“Randall does a good job of establishing a rapport with the



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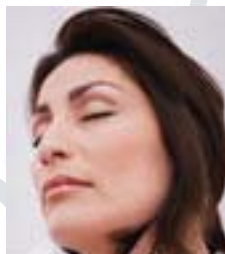
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