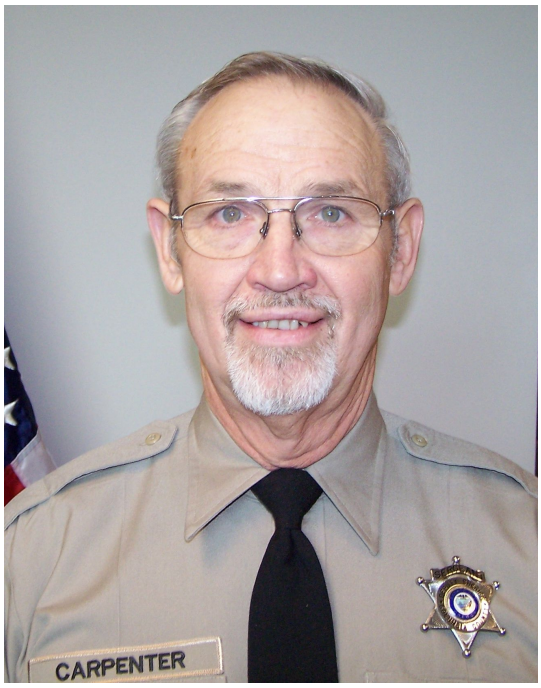

St. Helens, Ore. – Sheriff Jeff Dickerson has chosen a familiar face to take command of the Columbia County Jail.

Dickerson has named First Sergeant Jim Carpenter to fill the position that had been vacant for two years prior to the new sheriff taking office January 1. Carpenter was the construction liaison for the county when the current jail, sheriff's office and community corrections facility was constructed in 2000. He has served the community in the Corrections Division of the sheriff's office for 20 years. The new jail commander takes charge of his position effective April 1.

"Jim Carpenter brings years of administrative and supervisory experience to the table," Dickerson said. "He has been instrumental in assisting me with my transition to the sheriff's office and has helped build relationships between me and my staff. I believe he is the best person for the job to help me continue to reinvigorate the office of sheriff in Columbia County."

Carpenter began his career with CCSO in 1989 after years in private business in Scappoose. He served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. One of his three children, Doug Carpenter is a sergeant for the Scappoose Police Department.

After joining the sheriff's office, Carpenter worked his way up the chain of command, beginning with an appointment to sergeant in 1998. In 2001, he began running the programs inside the jail. In 2005, Sheriff Phil Derby appointed Carpenter to the rank of first sergeant and gave him considerable administrative authority in the sheriff's office. In 2008, Derby named Carpenter as the acting jail manager, a position he continued to hold until Dickerson tapped him to help with increased oversight in the jail.

"We are restructuring the command structure in the jail to address efficiency issues," Dickerson said, "and Carpenter has been a great help to me all along the process. He is a team player who has the best interests of the sheriff's office and of our employees in mind. I trust him to lead this transition with compassion and dedication to duty."

Carpenter takes the reins in the jail with advanced and supervisor certificates in corrections from the State Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. He attended the state Executive Academy in 2003, the Supervisory Academy in 2004 and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association Command College in 2005.

He is a member of the Elks Club who had helped in the formative stages of the Scappoose Sauerkraut Festival, a past Scout master and is still involved in many fund raisers for children's organizations and civic groups.