

the wake of the hurricane, it was decided that the team would be divided into two groups of 15, to work on major cleanup and reconstruction projects. My reaction on seeing the disaster site for the first time: it honestly looked like a war zone. Disaster officials on surveying the area after the hurricane estimated there was eight years worth of garbage and debris to clear out.

Project members performed extensive repair and reconstruction work on a total of 19 homes belonging to peace officers from the Metro-Dade and Homestead Police Departments. In the majority of cases, the officers concerned had been unable to effect the necessary repairs due to insufficient funds because of insurance shortfalls and/or the heavy demands imposed on their time due to work schedules. Some financial assistance was available through the Metro-

Dade Peace Officers' Trust, which provided funds for the construction and repair materials. All the labour to repair the damaged homes was provided on a volunteer basis by the relief effort members. It was estimated that the volunteer labour for repair and reconstruction amounted to approximately US\$90,000.

Relief group members toiled an average of 12 hours each day in 90°F heat, and took their meals in a large army tent erected in the parking lot at the Homestead PD headquarters. What remained of the demolished Keysgate Country Club had been hastily cleaned up and members made all the necessary repairs and adjustments so they would have some place to clean up and sleep. Despite the gruelling work and Spartan living conditions, morale was buoyant and enthusiastic. As well, they were well received by the



TAKING OFF FOR FLORIDA (L-R) Kneeling: Csts R.E. Foster, E. Tarsitano, K.E. Baltus and D.N. Kiperchuk. **Front row:** Csts J.D. Balaban, L. Russo-Lemay and R.L. Schoefield, Robyn Rau (Canada 3000), Csts G.J.G. Guilbault, J.D.R. Duguay, D. Hubley and D.E. Kaye. **Back row:** Sgt. B. Anderson (Metro Toronto), C/M M. Lichasz, Sgt. B. Thomas, Csts K.G. Vardy, J. Gault and J.J.B. Dufoe, Cst. J. Speckeen (Peel Regional Police), Cst. B.E. Kent, Sgt. G. Buffet (Metro Toronto Police), Csts M.M. Kohnen, G.W. Gawley and S.W. Glover, Cpl. L.G. Tettman and Cst. R.S. Peterson. **Missing:** Csts K.J. Cosman, L.L. Flewelling, M.M. Lakusta, R.J. Sudsbear and T.A. Virgin.