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July 1, 2010

OCSO HONORED WITH STATEWIDE ACCREDITATION

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office today received full accreditation from the Florida Commission for Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) at a ceremony in Bonita Springs. The prestigious designation follows a dedicated movement within the OCSO to ensure its policies and procedures at every level, from road patrol and investigations to finances and administration, reflect the very best practices in modern law enforcement throughout the state.

"Achieving accreditation benefits the agency and our entire community", said Sheriff Ed Spooner. "It confirms to the public that we adhere to specific guidelines based on professional standards, standards that were reviewed and overseen by a multi-faceted, independent non-political entity. This is a huge moment for the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office".

Chief Deputy Larry Ashley, who initiated the accreditation push, praised OCSO employees for their stellar achievements in not only passing, but exceeding the rigorous inspection in every aspect.

"Our agency excelled despite confronting many challenges including the heartbreaking loss of three of our deputies, the aftermath of dealing with the arrest of the former Sheriff, and reduced budgets," said Chief Ashley.

Sheriff Spooner and Chief Ashley also praised the Accreditation Team, which implemented the first-ever strictly electronic format for the policy review, a novel approach that is expected to serve as a model for the state for future law enforcement agency accreditation efforts.

During the assessment, the agency was put through mock inspections where law enforcement officers from across the state scrutinized every aspect of every function of the OCSO. Now that accreditation has been achieved for the first time in the agency's history, it must remain in compliance with CFA standards in order to retain its accreditation.

A news conference with additional details will take place at the Sheriff's Office Administration Building in Shalimar on Tuesday, July 6th at 1:30 p.m.

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A FULLY ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
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