

Sheriff



Sheriff Ed Spooner
Okaloosa County



Michele Nicholson
Public Information Officer
850-651-7420
April 26, 2010

ACCREDITATION TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENTS ABOUT OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A team of assessors from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) will arrive May 19th to examine all aspects of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services, Sheriff Spooner announced today. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has to comply with approximately 259 standards in order to receive accredited status. Many of the 259 standards are critical to life, health, and safety issues.

As part of the on-site assessment, agency members and the general public are invited to offer comments to the assessment team. A copy of the standards is available through the Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation website at flaccreditation.org. Just click on "Law Enforcement" and the "4th Edition Standards Manual". You can also get a copy through the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Public Information Officer in Shalimar, FL at 850-651-7420.

For more information regarding CFA or for persons wishing to offer written comments about the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office ability to meet the standards of accreditation, please write:
CFA, 3504 Lake Lynda Drive, Suite 380, Orlando, Florida, 32817.

The Accreditation Program Managers for The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office are Captain's Steve Hurm and J.D. Peacock. They said the assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar agencies. The assessors will review written materials, interview individuals, and visit offices and other places where compliance can be witnessed. The CFA Assessment Team Leader is Lt. Johnny Greenwood of the Putnam County Sheriff's Office. Other team members are Chief Billy Walls (Retired) and Mr. Troy Bettencourt of the Punta Gorda Police Department.

Once the Commission's assessors complete their review of the agency, they report back to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency is to receive accredited status. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office's accreditation is for 3 years. Verification by the team that The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office meets the Commission's standards is part of a voluntary process to gain or maintain accreditation--a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence, Captain Peacock said.

###