

# Sheriff



**Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff**

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## **Members of OCSO K-9 Unit Take Home Awards**

Fifteen judges from across Florida recently evaluated K-9 handlers from the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and more than fifty other teams as part of the 2011 U.S. Police Canine Region One Field Trials, hosted by the OCSO.

The five phases of certification were obedience, agility, suspect search, article search, and criminal apprehension.

In the individual awards, Deputy Tim Patterson and K-9 Dax finished fourteenth overall and fourth in bite work; Deputy DJ Fields and K-9 Kilo finished fifth in outdoor narcotics search; Deputy Derek York won the "Sportsmanship Award", selected by the certification and competition judges.

In the four-person team events, Sergeant Bob Dudley and K-9 Ruger, Deputy Tim Patterson and K-9 Dax, Deputy Sterling Eslinger and K-9 Joker, and Deputy John Duenas and K-9 Diesel took third place overall.

The USPCA is the largest and oldest active organization of its kind and is dedicated to the betterment of law enforcement K9 tactics and standardization of training methods. The end goal is to improve the abilities of the canine in police work and "render better service to the community".

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The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

"The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate"