

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

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OCSO TO UNVEIL “GET FIT” TEST COURSE

The Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office will unveil its new Physical Abilities Test Course at Northwest Florida State College in Niceville next Tuesday, March 8th, at 11 a.m. Media is invited to attend.

The PAT Course, as it’s called, is located next to the College’s Baseball field and contains sixteen obstacles/stations to test agility, stamina, endurance, and more.

Sheriff Larry Ashley has implemented a new Wellness and Physical Abilities Program for all sworn officers in an effort to ensure they can meet the physical demands of their law enforcement duties. The program will also help them maintain their personal wellness. Sheriff Ashley says those actions will lessen the chances of a deputy getting injured or sick, as well as help control agency funded health care costs.

“Physical fitness is a component of the job. Our deputies need to be fit to perform under sometimes adverse conditions, pursue and subdue individuals when necessary, and protect and defend both themselves and others”, said Sheriff Ashley. “They will be required to get PAT certification twice a year.”

The updated policy is modeled after a successful program operated by the Citrus County Sheriff’s Office. Employees having difficulties will get specialized attention from an agency Wellness Committee to help them work to meet the mandatory objectives.

Sheriff Ashley will be one of the first OCSO sworn officers to go through and demonstrate the PAT course when it is officially unveiled on Tuesday.

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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”