

# Sheriff



**Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff**

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February 2, 2012

## **WOUNDED OCSO INVESTIGATOR CALLS COMMUNITY SUPPORT “PHENOMENAL”**



Investigator Steve Hough with son, Jackson & wife, Tanya

An OCSO investigator who survived being shot three times while working to take a violent fugitive into custody says the amount of support he’s received has been overwhelming, including letters from across the country.

Investigator Steve Hough says the December 9<sup>th</sup>, event in Santa Rosa County, when the suspect came out of the home on Camille Garden Circle firing guns in both hands, initially seemed like something out of a movie. He says he relied on his training and returned fire immediately. But when he was knocked to the ground and saw all the blood, he realized he’d been shot in the face.. In addition, to being shot in the face, two bullets also went through Investigator Hough’s leg, injuries he was unaware of until he arrived at the Emergency Room. Hough, who is part of the OCSO Sexual Predator & Offender Unit, was working at the time as part of a U.S. Marshals Service team.

Investigator Hough and his wife Tanya say they want to voice their extreme gratitude for the emotional and financial support offered by co-workers, family, friends, local citizens, and even complete strangers over the last two months.



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”

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“It’s just been incredible,” said Hough. “The amount of support that’s come in is still, to this day, it’s overwhelming. It’s phenomenal.”

Hough and his wife Tanya say it has boosted their spirits and helped ease the painful process of recovery.

Hough says he plans to return to his job as a law enforcement officer once he’s gotten through all the planned surgeries.

He also wants to be able to share his experiences with fellow law enforcement officers in hopes his experience may provide insights that would benefit others who also find themselves in a gunfight. He also wants to be sure those who go through such an ordeal realize that it’s critical to open up and talk about what happened with others, so that you can heal both emotionally and physically.

Monday, Sheriff Larry Ashley awarded Investigator Hough the OCSO Medal of Valor for his actions of putting his own safety at risk to capture a violent fugitive.

OCSO Investigator Todd Watkins also received the Medal of Valor and Investigators Jeff McGill and John Merchant were awarded Medals of Merit.

To watch an interview with Investigator Hough, divided into two segments, click on the following links:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9XoniA9dtvo&feature=plcp&context=C3d03decUDOEgsToPDskJ0S4rSKcj5ZgFi5l-bkFjh>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUSINXCPv-4&feature=plcp&context=C37875c6UDOEgsToPDskKy4VTVRNilwZ1TCYxuRkht>

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