

**From:** John D. Peacock  
**To:** ["Tom McLaughlin"](#)  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Friday, May 06, 2011 4:36:00 PM

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Mr. McLaughlin,

Based on my research, review of documentation and interviews with specific agency members, as well as my direct knowledge on the subject, the circumstances surrounding the individuals you mention are as follows:

Captain Ashmore retired October 1, 2004, approximately two years prior to Sheriff Morris instituting the health insurance premium subsidy program and at that time he opted out of the agency's health insurance plan all together. When the subsidy program started only qualifying members already enrolled in the agency health insurance plan were offered the subsidy. This is because our health insurance plan is not an open enrollment type of plan. At least one other retiree also opted out of the plan and was unable to re-enter because of this.

Corporal Bennett took advantage of a voluntary separation agreement offered by Sheriff Spooner in which he receives a subsidy of half of his insurance premium for a period of 18 months. He also received half of his yearly salary as part of that agreement. This program was also offered to employees of the Board of County Commissioners. Two additional retirees took advantage of this incentive program.

Sergeant Bush left the agency after the program was closed to new participants.

Major J.D. Peacock  
Administration  
Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office  
1250 North Eglin Parkway  
Shalimar, Florida 32579  
Office: 850-651-7410  
Fax: 850-609-3048

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**From:** Tom McLaughlin [mailto:TMcLaughlin@nwfailynews.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 06, 2011 3:48 PM  
**To:** John D. Peacock  
**Subject:**

Maj. Peacock,

Can you please tell me why Capt. Ashmore, Sgt. Jon Bush and deputy David Bennett, each with over 20 years of service as a certified law enforcement officer, were not included in the Sheriff's Office retirement program that offered full health care benefits to retiring officers with over 20 years of service.