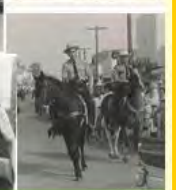
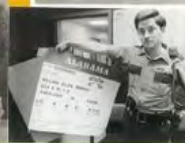


CELEBRATE

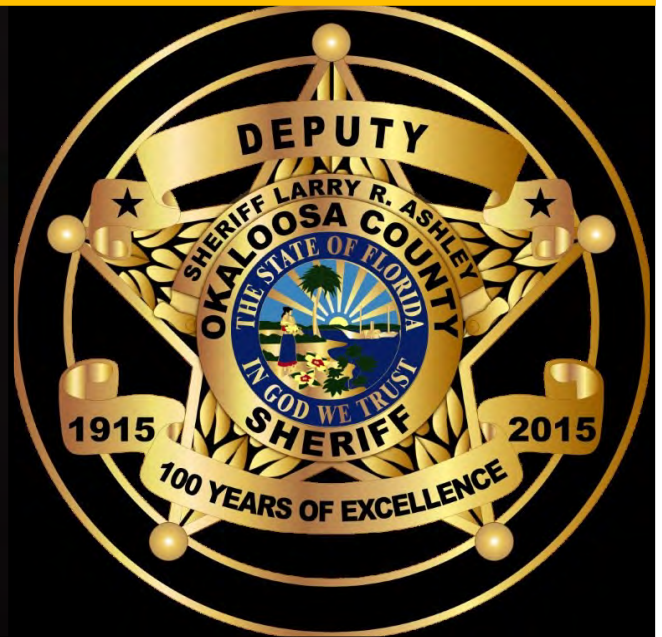
100 YEARS



OCSSO— A CENTENNIAL OF EXCELLENCE 1915—2015

2015

OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
ANNUAL REPORT



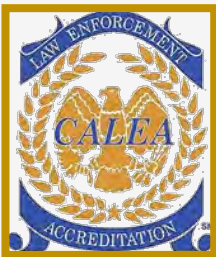
OCSO EARNS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

In 2015 the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office became the first and only law enforcement agency in Northwest Florida to be awarded National Accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. In fact, fewer than five percent of the 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the nation are nationally accredited. **The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has achieved this gold standard in public safety.**

The national CALEA program is the primary method for an agency to voluntarily demonstrate its commitment to excellence. The OCSO was awarded Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation at CALEA's National Winter Conference in Miami November 21, 2015.

“This prestigious designation is evidence the OCSO is committed to providing enhanced service to the citizens of Okaloosa County while upholding the highest standards of law enforcement practices in training, policies and procedures,” said Sheriff Larry Ashley. “Our agency earned statewide accreditation from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation in July 2010. Now we've joined the less than five percent of law enforcement agencies in the nation to have earned National Accreditation. It is evidence of our willingness to continually strive for superior performance while at the same time embracing transparency and innovation. We believe this commitment puts us among the nation's leaders in law enforcement professional development.”

The standards focus on department policies and operational procedures such as police training, use of force, emergency preparedness, and accountability. Compliance with these standards means a law enforcement agency both follows a code of conduct recognized by its law enforcement peers, the legal system and the public, and also meets the best professional requirements and practices for agencies nationwide.



**“He stood between us and evil as part of the thin blue line”
- Sheriff Larry Ashley.**

A HERO REMEMBERED ... NEVER DIES



**REST IN PEACE
TRUE BLUE HERO**

**DEPUTY SHERIFF
BILL MYERS**

END OF WATCH: 09-22-2015
TrueBlueWarriors.org - www.facebook.com/truebluewarriors



**“Deputy Bill Myers was a guardian. It was his nature. We are here to comfort one another and thank God for the life of Deputy Bill Myers,”
Rev. Ray Angerman**

A MESSAGE FROM OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF LARRY ASHLEY



As we begin a new year, it is always important to take measure of from where we have come, where we are currently, and where we want to go. Taking measure of 2015, I am extremely proud of the organizational accomplishments of your Sheriff's Office as well as the personal achievements of our deputies and staff.

In 2015 your Sheriff's Office achieved (CALEA) National Accreditation and ranks among the best law enforcement agencies in the state and nation. Once again your School Resource Officers have been named one of Florida's best, achieving the National Model Agency Award for 2015.

During the past year, our office coordinated a local street crimes task force in conjunction with local municipalities in an effort dubbed "Operation Overwatch" to address street crimes throughout the county. As a result, 132 criminals were arrested on a variety of charges including drug sales, possession of firearms by convicted felons, DUI's, and felony warrant service. We also initiated "Operation Wolf Hunter", investigating individuals who target and lure children online into extremely dangerous situations. Through those efforts we were able to identify and arrest sixteen adult sexual predators that arrived at a location to engage in sexual acts with children ages 12 to 14.

In response to elderly fraud our office also initiated an operation targeting unlicensed contractors who prey upon our most vulnerable. During the course of that operation we worked in conjunction with the State Attorney's Office, Office of Business and Professional Regulation and the Okaloosa County Building Industry Association. As a result 13 arrests were made and 18 cease and desist orders were issued, while nine violations of workers compensation were discovered. In short, unlicensed and unscrupulous contractors operating in Okaloosa County were put on notice to clean up their act.

These are just a very few examples of the accomplishments of your Sheriff's Office in 2015 and yet we have little time to enjoy these successes as we are already preparing for the projected Spring Break challenges that are certain to come our way soon.

MESSAGE CONTINUED

I do want to comment on the agency's devastating loss in 2015 as well. The in-the-line-of-duty shooting death of OCSO Deputy Bill Myers was a horrible tragedy. Bill was not only a devoted veteran law enforcement officer, but a great friend to countless people inside and outside the Sheriff's Office during his many years of service. He is greatly missed and will continue to be in our thoughts each day. The tremendous display of love and support that our community showed in light of this tragedy helped us move forward with our unwavering commitment to those we serve.

We continue to experience record numbers of calls for service and we are currently addressing a troubling trend of increased drug overdoses. In 2015 we experienced 55 drug overdoses with 19 of those resulting in death. Heroin use has skyrocketed across Florida and the U.S. and we are experiencing the effects of that surge here in our county as well. We expect this trend to continue into 2016 and we will be prepared to meet it while saving lives. We have partnered with our county Emergency Medical Service partners, and our deputies are now training to be administrators of Narcan, a medication which can help overcome the life-threatening effects of drug overdoses until medical help can be obtained.

As your Sheriff, I am honored to serve alongside the men and women who combat crime in our community each day and I feel privileged to have such a wonderful place to call home. I hope you enjoy reading this year's annual report outlining our many achievements. As an agency that has now earned dual accreditation for its effectiveness and efficiency, we stand prepared to address and overcome future challenges as we move forward.

Please take time to visit our website at www.sheriff-okaloosa.org and friend us on Facebook and Twitter for much more detailed information about your Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and the community we serve.



Larry Ashley, Sheriff

Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office

sheriff@sheriff-okaloosa.org



2015

ACTIVITY RUNDOWN

CALLS TO OESO 229,410

TRAFFIC STOPS — 25,711

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY/VEHICLES — 4,987

CITIZEN CONTACTS — 13,959

TRAFFIC CRASHES — 4,858

CITIZEN AND AGENCY ASSISTS — 8,557

CAR BURGLARIES — 811

ROAD RAGE — 46

K9 ASSIST CALLS — 2,589

FRAUD — 932

INTOXICATED DRIVERS — 873

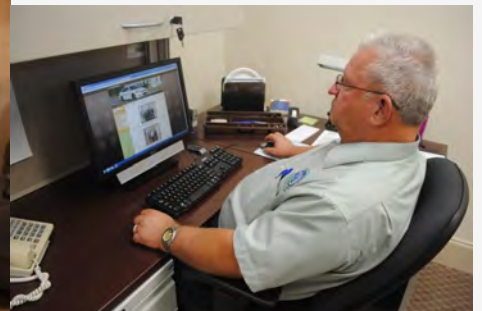
RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES — 767

CHILD ABUSE — 1,644

NORTH DISTRICT

The North District encompasses nearly 450 square miles in the northern part of Okaloosa County. The North District boundaries extend east to west from Santa Rosa to Walton Counties. The north and south boundaries extend from Eglin Air Force Base to Covington and Escambia Counties, Alabama.

We have a mixture of diverse and unique communities located in the North district. This diversity ranges from densely populated urban areas in and around the largest city in Okaloosa County, Crestview, to the many acres of farm land, horse ranches and residential homes located in the Baker, Holt and Laurel Hill communities. Many of the citizens of Okaloosa County have found comfort and peace in moving to the beautiful unincorporated areas in our North District. This creates challenges at times in locating addresses and homes where folks purposely choose to move to secluded areas. Community policing is used daily in our rural communities in reaching our citizens and meeting their law enforcement needs. The 27 deputies assigned to the North District do an excellent job of serving and improving the quality of life of those that live in and visit the area.



NORTH DISTRICT



The North District Office is located at 197 East James Lee Blvd. Crestview.

The North District maintains this public access location where citizens are able to walk-in and report a crime or obtain records and copies of reports. Citizens are also able to obtain digital fingerprints free of charge. Our Civil Process Unit operates out of the North District Office. Due to the proximity to the Okaloosa County Court House, those needing Civil Process services need only walk across the parking lot.

The North District Office also houses the Okaloosa County Guardian Ad Litem Program whose focus is on protection of children and their future. Finally, the Florida Highway Patrol has an office in the North District Office, which allows troopers the ability to turn in evidence, conduct interviews, and take breaks, as their closest office is located in Milton.



NORTH DISTRICT

The **Brackin Street Office** is located at 296 Brackin Street in Crestview. It serves as District Operations for the Uniform Patrol Division and Criminal Investigations Division for the district. These units work together to investigate reported crimes and bring closure to the victims.

The **Laurel Hill Substation** is located at 8209 Highway 85 North. It is the City of Laurel Hill City Hall and Administration Building. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office has partnered with the City of Laurel Hill for over six years. This office allows citizens and deputies to interact on a daily basis, to exchange information and to allow residents to pass on vital Intel that might otherwise go unreported.



The **Baker Substation** is located at 5808 Highway 189. It is located in the heart of one of the oldest communities in Okaloosa County.

The history of this community began at the turn of the century. While Baker has grown over the years, the roots here run deep in farming and agriculture. There are many generations of families still living in this area, where pride in community is very strong.



NORTH DISTRICT

North District Statistics for 2015

Calls for Service 56,837

(Increase of 30.9% over 2014)

Traffic Stops 6,185

DOMV Arrests 142

(Increase of 56% over 2014)

Warrant Services 1,383

Probable Cause Arrests 547

North District Individual Accomplishments

Life Saving Awards

Deputy Danny Dean

Deputy Sean Lynch

Deputy John Jenks

Sgt. Mike Radar

Certificate of Commendation

Investigator Nolan Weeks

Deputy Zack Putnam

Deputy John Jenks

Sgt. Jeremy Gilbert

Service Above / Beyond

Deputy Zach Putnam

Deputy Kenny Driscoll

Outstanding Performance

Investigator Nolan Weeks

NORTH DISTRICT

Community Service and Activity

- *Attended all Crestview Chamber of Commerce breakfasts
- *Participated in Crestview Rotary Club and Crestview Kiwanis Club
- *Attended City of Crestview and City of Laurel Hill council meetings
- *Provided instruction at OCSO Citizens Academy
- *Provided firing range instruction & support for community
- *Participated in Sons of Italy
- *Read and visited with several elementary school classes
- *Taught mens' Bible study classes
- *Spoke on specific topics at multiple Chamber committees



Partnerships within Our Community

2015 was a very busy year for the men and women assigned to the north district whether it was keeping up with assigned duties or working in the community to ensure our children and future leaders have the best opportunities available.

The professionals working for the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office realize how important it is to take the time to give back to our young people and members of the community and to pass on as many tools as possible.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is blessed with all the tools and equipment needed to serve this growing community. Our partnerships within the community make us much more effective. We work with many different agencies daily to bring the highest level of service possible to our community shareholders.

NORTH DISTRICT



Examples of Partnerships

- *Provided office space for Guardian Ad Litem and the Florida Highway Patrol in our North District Office.
- *Provided daily assistance, occasional training, and equipment to all our volunteer fire districts.
- *Provided traffic control and rendered first aid to traffic crash victims in the unincorporated areas of our district in support of the Florida Highway Patrol.
- *Transported Emergency Medical Service personnel to remote locations in order to treat patients.
- *Partnered on a daily basis with the Crestview Police Department to ensure professional service.
- *Provided office space to Department of Agriculture Investigators who we work many cases with annually.

NORTH DISTRICT

These are just a few examples of how the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office works with the entire community in order to provide professional law enforcement to a growing community. We pride ourselves on taking an active role in providing manpower, equipment and training to ensure we participate fully in improving the quality of life in this great county we call home.



CENTRAL DISTRICT

Encompassing the southwest corner of Okaloosa County, the Central District is the most densely populated district in the county. Nearly half of the county's full time population resides within its boundaries.

The 43 men and women assigned to the OCSO Central district are committed to providing excellent service and protection, resolving problems satisfactorily, swiftly, and safely. Members have accumulated thousands of hours of training this year in order to meet this commitment. This training ranges from operational tactics and techniques to processes and procedures, all with the intent to better equip them for service.

Deputies were trained and equipped with basic response level medical gear like Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) and tourniquets. That level of preparedness resulted in three Central District members being awarded the OCSO Life Saving medal.



CENTRAL DISTRICT

The Central District accounts for about 60% of the incidents which resulted in felony narcotics arrests for the year. As a result, we have sought out and attended specific training in narcotics investigation and interdiction. Members are also equipped with referral information for those in need of counselling and intervention for addiction.

Another evidence of the benefits of the intense focus on professional development is the fact that several members were promoted to positions of additional responsibility, along with eleven members who became certified instructors in various disciplines.

The unique characteristics of the Central district area consistently make it the busiest district we serve. The Central District has worked throughout the year to maintain a focus on safety, accountability and enhanced community interaction. In 2015 the Central District accounted for nearly 76,000 calls for service, completed 7,266 offense reports and affected more than 1,463 arrests. Included in that total were:

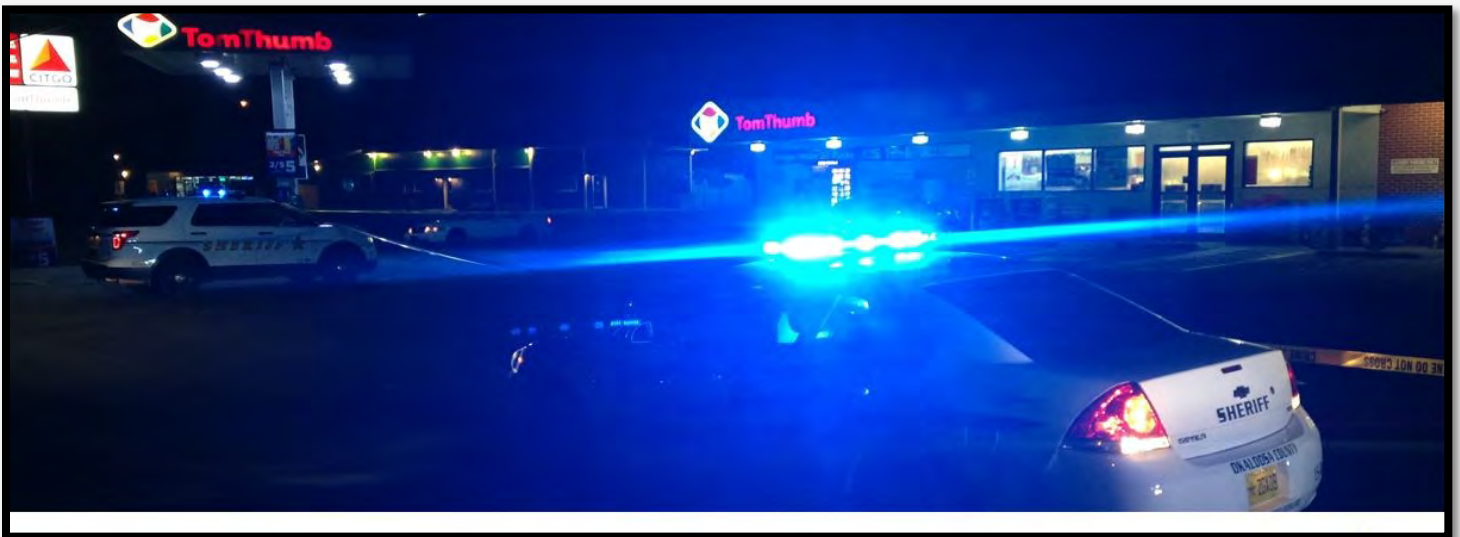
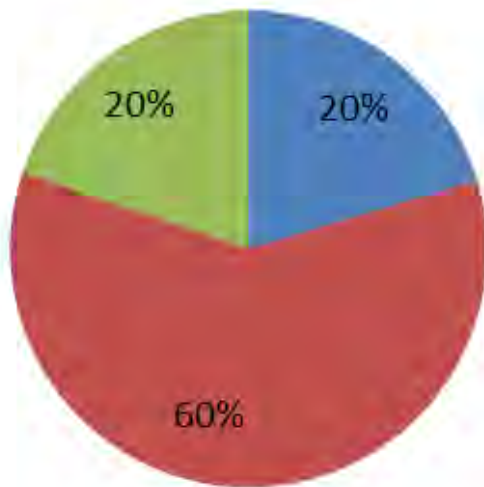
Total Calls for Service	75,509
Total Offense Reports	7,266
Total Arrest Reports	1,703
Traffic Stops	8,390
(72% warnings, 17% Cited, 6% Criminal charges, 5% other)	
Watch Order/Security Check	13,223
Assistance Calls	3,466
911 verifications	3,045
Disturbances and fights	2,788
Alarms	2,139
Welfare Check	1,154
Felony Narcotics Incident w/Arrests	194



CENTRAL DISTRICT

Felony Narcotics Arrest Incidents

■ North ■ Central ■ East



CENTRAL DISTRICT

Noteworthy accomplishments and events:

- *Provided dignified and respectful escorts for 137 local funerals including the service of Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force #9, CMSGT James Binnicker.
- *Responded and provided investigative support for the tragic crash of a military Black Hawk helicopter into the Santa Rosa Sound.
- *Attended and participated in community events, city council meetings, and various fraternal organizations.
- *Provided support for several community events such as “Toys for Tots,” fallen Special Operations Airmen ceremonial escort and a host of functions with the two military bases.
- *Supported and participated in the Mary Esther Veteran’s Day parade.
- *Provided safety briefings, crime prevention surveys and active shooter response awareness to a variety of community organizations.
- *Obtained a small vessel and trained operators from each shift to enhance our water related response capabilities.
- *100% Physical Abilities Testing pass rate.
- *100% of members trained on enhanced emergency driving techniques.
- *100% of members trained on and using body worn cameras.



CENTRAL DISTRICT

Always Serving, Above and Beyond!



- *District members logged more than 800 hours of off duty volunteer time.
- *100% of district members contributed to charity by payroll deduction.
 - *Homeless Coalition Board of Directors Member
 - *Community Development Corporation Board Member
 - *Homeless Task Force Committee member
 - *Opportunity Place Shelter Board member
 - *Addictions counseling
- *Volunteer coaches for High School and Middle School sports
 - *High School ROTC advisor
 - *DJJ Circuit Advisory Board member
- *Provided instruction in the OCSO Citizen's Police Academy
 - *Foster parenting and mentoring

CENTRAL DISTRICT

Central District Individual Accomplishments

PROMOTIONS/AWARDS

*Central District Sergeants Kevin Kirkpatrick and Chad Rewis were awarded the Sheriff's Office highest award, the Medal of Valor, for service to the community by risking their lives in the performance of a hazardous duty.

*Deputy Travis Topolski named "2015 Deputy of the Year."

*Deputy Kourtney Spruill named "Sworn Outstanding Performer of the Year."

*Three Life Saving Awards:

Deputy Kourtney Spruill - CPR

Deputy Jeremiah Dowdy- Drowning Rescue

Deputy Wes Haggan - CPR

*Deputies Mark Mitchell, Adam Fitchett, and Zach Putnam received Certificates of Commendation for exemplary performance.

*Deputies Brandon Jennings and Zach Putnam received recognition for "above and beyond" performance.

*2014 Deputy of the Year, Jeremy Miller, promoted to Investigator.

*Eight members eligible for promotion to the Criminal Investigations Division



EAST DISTRICT

The East District of Okaloosa County continues to be one of the top tourist destination in the State of Florida and is the number 2 driving destination. The East District is the epicenter of where the tourists are drawn to enjoy the sugar sand beaches and emerald green waters. 2015 broke all previous records for visiting tourist. Along with that came record breaking activity in the East District. (which covers from east of the Brooks Bridge on Okaloosa Island to the Walton County line, north to Duke Field, and south to Northwest Florida Regional Airport and all southern waterways.)

The largest permanent population serviced in the East District is Destin which stands at 13,697 and swells to over 60,000 during the 100 days of summer and spring break. Bluewater Bay/Seminole area is close behind with a population of 12,730.

Despite the all-time high in demand for service, the OCSO East District Deputies continue to provide quality service. With only 49 deputies and one Investigator assigned to the District, they continued to demonstrate a positive attitude and solid work ethic to ensure high levels of service.



EAST DISTRICT



A common theme of comments received from citizens at community events is the high level of professionalism displayed by our deputies.

In 2015 the deputies assigned to East District Patrol Services responded to 67,774 calls for service, completed 4,710 offense reports and affected a record 1545 arrests. Included in that total were 236 DUI arrests, 156 narcotic arrests, 220 battery arrests, 123 burglary arrests, and 9 grand theft auto arrests. In addition, deputies responded to and investigated 2577 traffic crashes on the roadways.

East District Statistics of Interest 2015

Total Calls for Service 67,354

Total Offense Reports 4,710

Total Traffic Crash Investigations 2577

Total Arrest Reports 1,545



EAST DISTRICT

Destin has also recognized the need for additional resources. In their 2015-2016 budget they added two additional patrol positions bringing the total personnel assigned in Destin to 19. The additional personnel has allowed for more proactive policing which was our goal. The hope now is that a reduction in crime will be realized.

We continue to emphasize proactive enforcement practices and engaging citizens to report crime or suspicious activities. Our goal is to continue maintaining an atmosphere of hometown policing. This is accomplished by assigning each deputy to his or her particular areas on a consistent basis. They get to know their shop owners, neighbors, and business leaders.



EAST DISTRICT



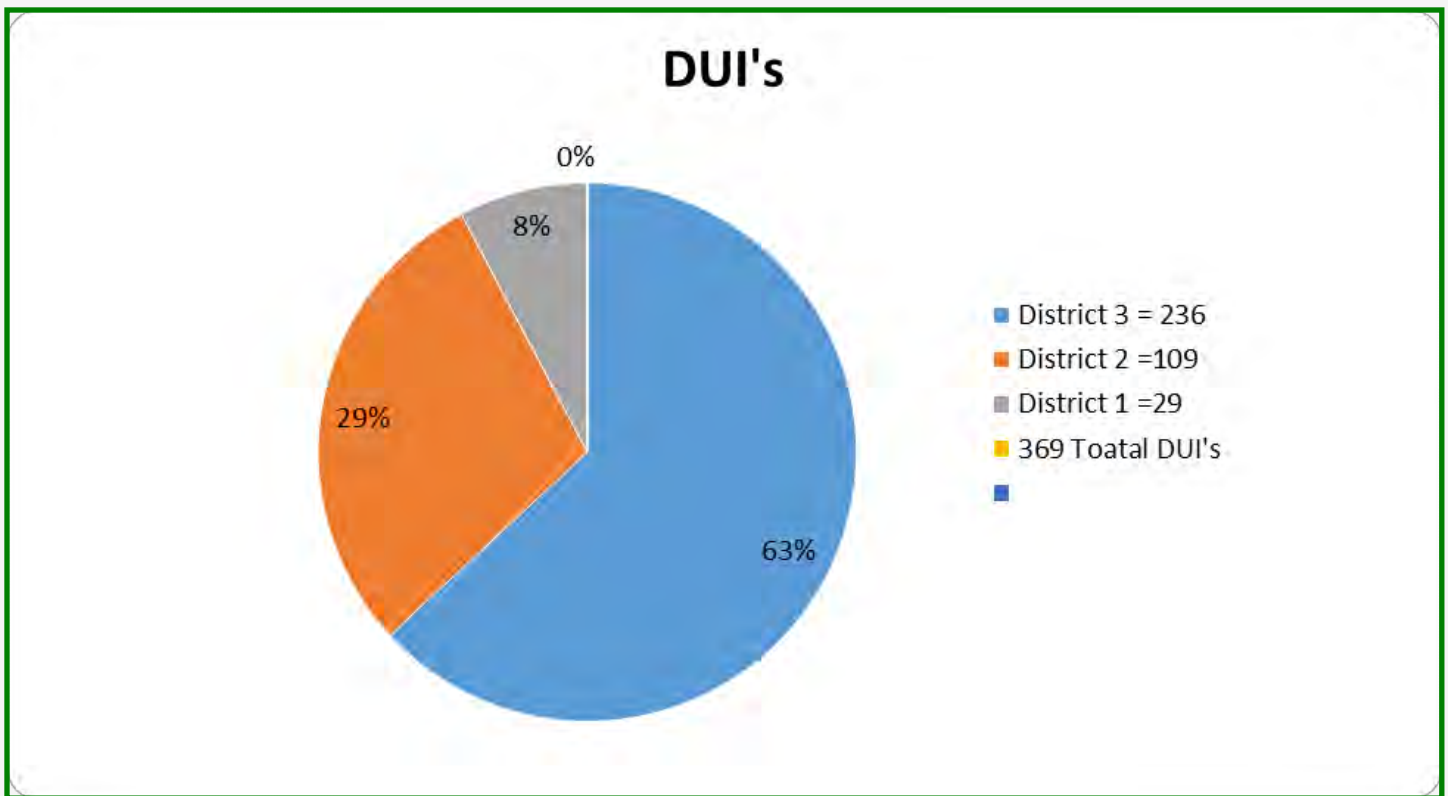
From 2009-2013 Destin ranked 3rd out of 121 Florida cities for traffic crashes involving alcohol and injuries. Because of this the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and the City of Destin partnered in submitting for and were awarded the Federal Grant "Drive Sober in Destin" for the fiscal year 2014 which continued in 2015. The latest numbers show Destin is now ranked 23rd. Throughout the grant funded overtime, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office preformed approximately 1,958 hours of D.U.I. enforcement patrols and D.U.I./Safety checkpoints. The combined four quarters yielded 2,551 traffic stops, 98 D.U.I.'s, 393 speeding citations, 18 seat-belt citations, 18 open container citations, 23 narcotics arrests, 288 other citations, and 2,040 warnings for traffic related incidents.



EAST DISTRICT

The purpose and objectives of this grant was to reduce the number of alcohol related traffic incidents with a goal of 5% reduction from the previous year. The diligent efforts of the deputies reduced those crashes involving alcohol by 23% in the 2015 fiscal year.

Traffic Crashes Involving Alcohol reduced by 19%!
Traffic Crashes involving Alcohol and Injuries reduced by 30%!
Fatality Crashed involving Alcohol reduced by 50%!



**63% OF OKALOOSA COUNTY
DUI ARRESTS
WERE MADE IN THE EAST DISTRICT**

EAST DISTRICT



Members of the East District were the first responders to the tragic crash of a military Black Hawk helicopter into the Santa Rosa Sound. Okaloosa Dive and Marine assets lead the initial response and recovery efforts the recovery efforts which lead to the recovery of the remains of the eleven Marines and Soldiers.



EAST DISTRICT

Marine, Beach Patrol and Dive Team assets were busy again this year with the record breaking crowds on the beaches and waterways. The 4 deputies assigned to the unit with the help of Posse Volunteers responded to over 5471 calls for service during Spring Break and 100 days of summer, affected 30 arrests, issued 484 Notices to Appear and issued 144 Boating and Traffic citations. The 2015 Spring Break efforts resulted in the 3rd highest arrest rate in the State of Florida. They also conducted multiple dive operations recovering 14 bodies as a result of aircraft crashes and drowning incidents.





EAST DISTRICT

EAST DISTRICT COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITY

- *Hundreds of volunteer charity and civic hours donated
- *Sponsored multiple families at “Operation Angel Tree”
- *Attended dozens of Chambers of Commerce meetings, Destin and Niceville City Council meetings, and other civic functions
- *Sgt. Ron Kimble volunteered to provide Addictions Counseling
 - *Provided instruction for OCSO Citizens Academy
- *Volunteered coaches for Little League baseball, soccer and softball teams
 - *Sunday School teachers
- *Sgt. Ron Kimble had the highest number volunteer hours with 86

EAST DISTRICT INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- *Sgt. Ron Kimble was named 2015 Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office Supervisor of the Year

Four Deputies Earned Life Saving Awards

- *Deputy Jonathan Hernandez- Rescue and CPR of swimmer
- *Deputy Mark Bollinger- CNU Negotiator who prevented an armed suicidal person from taking his own life.
 - *Deputy Al Vafides- Performance of First Aid and CPR
 - *Deputy Kyle Corbitt -Performance of First Aid and CPR

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARDS

Deputies Daryl Culberson, Mootaz Nabulsi, and Richard McCoy for their efforts in detecting and capturing a serial burglary ring

PROMOTIONS

Sgt. Matt Abbott promoted to Investigation Sergeant
Deputy Al Vafides was promoted to Corporal/Investigator

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

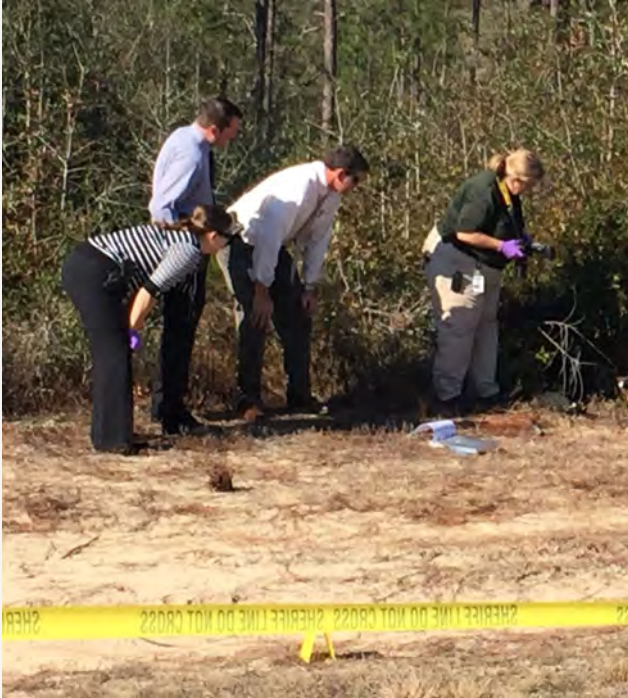
Congratulations to four OCSO deputies who achieved “Career Deputy One” status:
Deputies Mark Bollinger, Mike Gallagher, Martin Jennings and Samantha Schill

Congratulations to Deputy David Bowell who achieved “Career Deputy Two”



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Criminal Investigations Section



January 2015: Mark Williams Homicide Investigation, seven month investigation resulting in four 1st degree murder indictments and four Racketeering Indictments for Marvin Wilkins, Bernard Nunnally, Nijajuan Russell, and Erich Justice

May 2015: The arrest of 46-year old James Ty Flanders for the 2011 Murder of Marie Carlson of Fort Walton Beach. Flanders, former pastor of Calvary Chapel Emerald Coast at 407 Racetrack Road, was taken into custody at his home in Cochise Arizona by members

of the US Marshals Task Force and Department of Public Safety.

July 2015: OCSO Criminal Investigations Division moved into new building at Headquarters.

August 2015: Timothy Stocker Homicide Investigation, which resulted in an active 1st Degree Murder warrant for suspect Jordan Christopher Reeves.

August 2015: Investigator Todd Watkins was promoted to rank of Sergeant and OCSO 2014 Deputy of the Year, Jeremy Miller, was promoted to the rank of Investigator.



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

October 2015: Operation Wolf Hunter: a joint undercover cyber-sex sting operation resulting in 16 arrests. All of the defendants were charged with Traveling to Meet a Minor and Using an On-Line Service to Lure/Entice a Minor. These arrests have prevented countless numbers of children from becoming potential victims.

September 2015: Bill Meyers Homicide Investigation/Officer Involved Shooting Investigation: Under extraordinarily tough circumstances, Investigators rushed to the scene, relayed information, and took part in attempts to capture the suspect as he tried to get away on Highway 85. CID personnel worked to manage and control multiple crime scenes, evidence, and witnesses and provide comfort to family members while grieving themselves,” said Sheriff Ashley.



“Inv. Grady Carpenter was lead investigator for the crime scene in Shalimar, and Inv. Steve Weyer for the scene in Niceville. Their actions and professionalism were nothing less than outstanding. That being said, these two are part of a team that can’t function without the whole. CID performed numerous tasks, without question or complaint, for many hours under one of the most stressful situations imaginable.”

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

November 2015: Daniel Flynn Homicide Investigation, led to the identification of the suspect and the case was pending a grand jury at the end of the year.

December 2015: Investigations Commander Captain Michael Card was among 230 law enforcement officers – representing 47 states, 27 international countries, four military organizations, and two federal civilian organizations – who successfully completed the FBI’s prestigious National Academy Program at Quantico, Virginia.



Seven Investigators also tested and became eligible for the Sergeant’s promotion list.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Special Investigations Section

The Sheriff's Special Investigations Section (SIS) seized over \$250,000 in currency, two vehicles and two motorcycles in 2015 in state and federal court.

100 Search Warrants were executed.

120 Crime Stopper Tips were followed up and closed.

More than two kilograms of crystal methamphetamine were seized as well as other multiple controlled substances.



19 Clandestine Drug laboratories were responded to and dismantled.

Arrest warrants in hand, four homicide suspects were surveilled and safely taken into custody within two days.

Two Investigators were temporarily assigned to "Operation Overwatch" where 132 street level arrests were made with a multi-agency street crime task force.

361 Narcotics and other Criminal violators were arrested.

Three Investigators tested and were eligible for the Sergeant's promotion list.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

K9 Unit



January – March 2015: Unit assigned one new handler and two new dogs. Training completed in minimal time.

June 2015: Ribbon cutting ceremony for new K-9 Training Center

August 2015: Unit members attended advanced K-9 training seminar (Handler Instructor Training Seminar 2015)

August – September 2015: Unit Supervisor and 2/3rds of unit assigned to “Operation Overwatch” resulting in 132 street level arrests of Okaloosa’s “most wanted.”

October: Planned and executed a successful K-9 demo for the OCSO 100th Anniversary celebration.

December: Unit received advanced tracking training from an outside vendor.

December: K-9 handler Derek York received Life Saving Award for rescue of an 86-year old female via K-9 track.



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

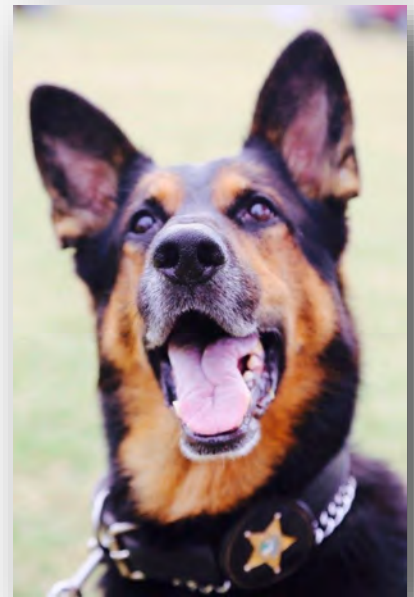
K9 Unit continued

69 Tracks

66 Perimeter Searches

38 Building Searches

33 Area Searches



71 suspects apprehended as a direct result of K-9 involvement

One apprehended with force

An outstanding 71% apprehension rate without K-9 use of force

296 Narcotic checks

174 Alerts

59% Alert vs Search rate

313 total unit arrests: Includes arrests where K-9 was not the primary officer, but arrest was made due to K-9 involvement (155 arrests).

WARRANTS/RECORDS/ CIVIL PROCESS

Warrants

The Warrants Unit processes all agency arrest warrants and civil commit orders issued by the courts in Okaloosa County. It also intakes warrants and civil commits issued by other jurisdictions, where the defendant may be in Okaloosa County.

The Warrants Unit coordinates with other agencies on the execution of warrants outside of Okaloosa County and arranges transport of prisoners from other jurisdictions. It also transports or coordinates transportation of prisoners housed in confinement institutions outside of Okaloosa County for judicial hearings.

The Warrants Unit is currently managing more than 3400 outstanding warrants and orders to take into custody for the arrest of fugitives.

During 2015 the Warrants Unit processed more than 5000 warrants
4063 warrants were executed
Transported 658 prisoners at a cost of \$145,037.63



WARRANTS/RECORDS/ CIVIL PROCESS

Records



The Records Unit processes all reports, videos, traffic citations, DUI's and Crash Reports for the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. This unit is the custodian and point of contact for all records related information for internal, public records requests, and judicial process such as court and DUI administrative hearings.

It also conducts quality assurance on offense reports and compiles the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) statistics.

Records processed:

16,036 Offense Reports

6854 Uniform Traffic Citations

2308 Written Warnings

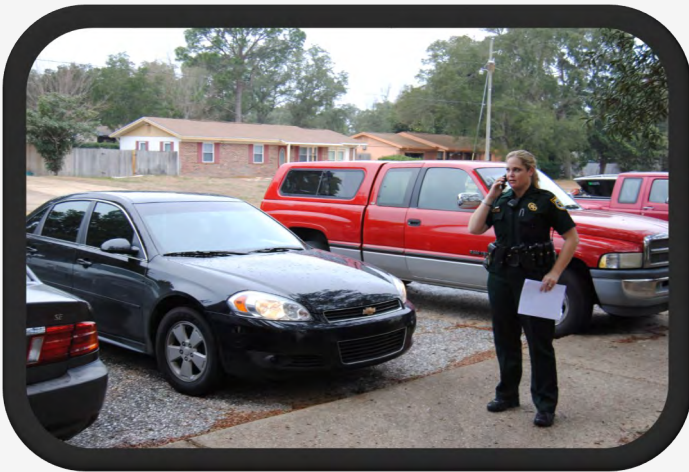
1281 Traffic Crash Reports

353 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) cases

Responded to 9583 emails and an untold number of telephone inquiries for public record requests and other information pertaining to records held by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

WARRANTS/RECORDS/ CIVIL PROCESS

Civil Process



The Sheriff or his deputies are required by Florida Constitution and statutes to serve orders from the court that are delivered to him. Civil Process receipts in and processes all enforceable and non-enforceable orders from the court. This includes but is not limited to Domestic Violence and other protective orders, summons and complaints, criminal and civil subpoenas, Writs of Possession, Replevin, Garnishment, Attachment, and so on. Civil Process also collects the applicable service fees required by statute. Civil Process deputies execute evictions, child custody orders, seize property, and hold sales of property seized in Levy's.

During 2015 the Civil Process Unit:

- Managed more than 2000 domestic injunctions and protection orders
- Processed and served more than 14163 pieces of civil process
- Processed and served 1413 domestic violence and other protective orders
- Processed and served 7416 criminal subpoenas
- Collected more than \$172,000 in Sheriff's Fees

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Professional Compliance Unit, Office of Professional Standards

In January 2015, the Professional Compliance Unit completed the agency's self-assessment which was required to attain Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation from the national Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The self-assessment examined all areas of agency operations and determined the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office complied with all 420 applicable CALEA standards. As a follow-up, the agency was visited in June 2015 by CALEA trained; independent assessors who further determined compliance by thoroughly reviewing files, observing operations, and conducting interviews. Following a positive on-site assessment, the agency met before the full CALEA Commission in November 2015. The commission is composed of 21 representatives from local, state/provincial and international law enforcement and public safety organizations, along with business, academia, the judiciary, and state/provincial and local government. The commission unanimously and unconditionally awarded CALEA's Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation to the agency.



TRAINING

In 2014, the agency obtained permanent access to a Firearms Training facility on the outskirts of Crestview. Acquiring the property allowed for the construction of a much needed rifle range and other more permanent tactical training assets. The improvements to the range contributed to a more enhanced training program allowing sworn members to greatly refine and expand skills and techniques. The range was officially dedicated on Oct 30th.



As with prior years, the unit continued to provide Citizen Firearms training to the citizens of Okaloosa County which facilitates the training necessary to obtain a Concealed Weapons Permit. The unit conducted seven two-day Citizens Firearms Safety Courses, training 110 citizens.



TRAINING

In 2015, OCSO employees attended 17,843 training hours outside of our agency and 11,095 hours within the agency. This training included a variety of topics such as firearms, defensive tactics, crowd control, vehicle operations, less lethal weapons, Physical Abilities Testing, leadership courses, CrossFit, Crime Scene training, major crimes, interviewing, and other specialty instruction.



3,591 hours of online training programs were completed through various websites outside of the agency. Internally, our own "PowerDMS" virtual system provided 1,842 hours of online training, saving the agency literally thousands of dollars in tuition, travel and instructor costs, while also reducing manpower shortages.



COMMUNICATIONS

Communications trained to implement the ProQA (Emergency Police Dispatch) program which will be operational in early 2016. The program helps emergency dispatchers move smoothly through Case Entry and Key Questioning. It assists dispatchers in quickly identifying the appropriate Determinant Code for each case and clearly displays the response configuration specifically assigned to the code by local agency authorities. ProQA then guides dispatchers in providing all relevant Post-Dispatch and Pre-Arrival Instructions, as well as important case completion information).

229213	Calls for Service
3341	Tow Entries
2091	Watch Orders Created
41	Alert Tone Tests
95	Fin Tests
747	Nixle Notifications
22	FCIC Certification
109	FCIC Recertification
36	PST Training
9	PST Position Evaluations
50	Digital Certificates
505	Validations
185767	Admin Calls Received



YOUTH SERVICES



2015 marked another year of recognition for the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Youth Services Unit. The School Resource Officer program earned 2015 National Model Agency award for the entire nation.

In 2014 the unit won 2014 Florida School Resource Officers Association's award as top program in the state of Florida. The unit is responsible for 37 public schools and serves a student population of 33,000 stu-

dents, along with 2,500 faculty and staff. Sheriff Larry Ashley has ensured that all public schools will maintain an SRO on their campuses.

The SRO program operates on multiple levels. The first priority will always remain to be the front line protection of students, staff and school property. Additionally the SRO's remain involved in the following areas as they partner with students, parents, and staff to establish youth relations and mentoring programs through positive law enforcement interactions.

Examples include: Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Explorer Program, Okaloosa Youth Week, Florida Sheriff's Association Caruth Camp, Teen Driver Challenge, School Safety Patrol, Character Counts and Books to Badges. The unit also participated in the departments "Angel Tree" program raising over 10,000 dollars in gifts at Christmas time.



YOUTH SERVICES



In 2015 the unit continued its educational responsibilities by instructing in the classroom on a wide variety of subjects to include Cyber Safety, Anti-Bullying, Texting and Driving, Teen Dating. In addition the SRO program continued to introduce programs such as: “Books to Badges” and Character Counts” Community Service and Leadership Programs. SRO’s travel with local students to “Caruth Camp” where they participate in a one week camping session designed to “Bridge the Gap” between law enforcement and our youth.

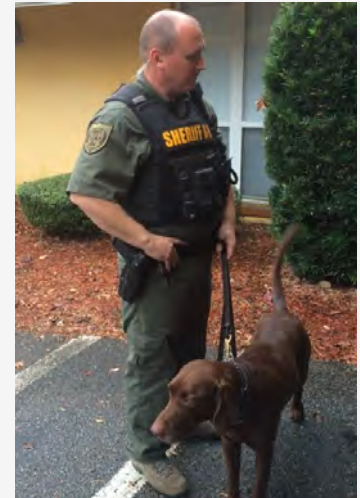
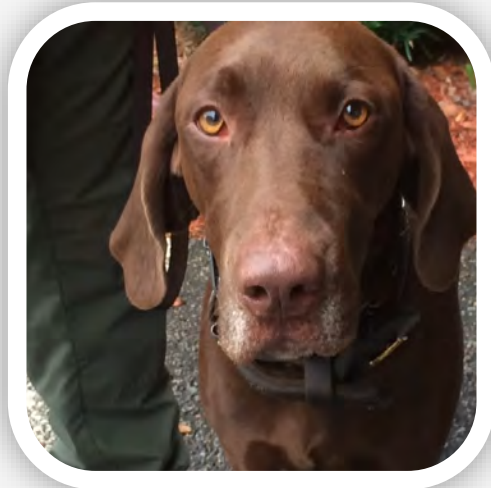
EXPLORERS

OCSO Explorer Post 543 stayed busy with community service projects volunteering over 500 hours to charitable and community service projects in 2015. Explorers motto “Building Tomorrows Leaders Today” continues to be its mission. Several Explorers entered the ranks of our nation’s military in 2015.



YOUTH SERVICES

In 2015 the unit K-9 ,“Kilo” was retired and a new K-9, “Gunner” was brought into the unit. Gunner is also a drug detection “dog” and will help ensure that our schools maintain a drug free environment.



In addition to protecting schools, OCSO SRO’s continue to monitor and verify more than 350 registered sex offenders within Okaloosa County. Several times in 2015, SRO’s identified offenders on their campus that had not followed statutory requirements. Sheriff Larry Ashley turned this program over to the SRO’s for this exact reason.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office Youth Services Division will continue its high standards as being named 2015 National Model Agency. The unit will continue to reach out to our youth and serve as role models, creating an atmosphere to cultivate good citizenship and respect for people, property, and the community we serve.



SROs in ACTION



SROs IN ACTION



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



- * Finished rollout of body worn cameras to remaining patrol units and all specialty units
- * New MCT laptop rollout - 75 Patrol Units have new MCT laptops
- * SRO's were then subsequently re-assigned refurbished MCT laptop computers
- * Added Second NetMotion server to handle extra MCT load
- * Moved Investigations and Narcotics Unit sections to their new building
- * Setup and Assigned new tablet laptops for Investigators to use as their desktop and mobile computer solution
- * Updated and expanded our internet connection and added redundancy
- * Installed two new firewall appliances to better protect our network
- * Replaced both Barracuda Internet filter appliances with new units
- * Replaced our email archiver appliance with a new unit
- * Successful FDLE and FBI technical audits completed
- * Released Android version of our SmartPhone app
- * Replaced old Civil Workflow Fingerprinting system located at HQ

LOGISTICS DIVISION

The Logistics Unit provides direct support to all field units and the administrative staff. Elements of the Logistics Unit include Fleet, which maintains and procures vehicles; Electronics Maintenance, which installs and services electronics on vehicles, electric devices, and speed detection equipment; Facilities Maintenance, which maintains all facilities in good repair, cleanliness, and remodeling for more efficient use of space; and, Quartermaster that equips personnel with uniforms, gear, office supplies, and central shipping and receiving. The unit also maintains emergency supplies, including food, water, and fuel for extraordinary events and situations. These emergency supplies and equipment are split up among the Districts in the event roads become impassable. A new part-time employee was added for electronics installation and repair. At the end of 2015 the Logistics Unit was reorganized: Quartermaster and Fleet functions now fall under Finance and Maintenance falls under IT.

FLEET

The Fleet Division maintains agency vehicles in the highest standard to ensure officer safety and performance. In house maintenance of vehicles results in lower costs for labor and parts and less down time for agency vehicles. An added advantage is the enabling of OCSO vehicles to stay in service six to ten years with mileages exceeding 150,000.

During 2015, 38 new vehicles were put into service. There remain 45 vehicles with over 150,000 miles that need replacement, and there are an additional 45 vehicles that will be due for replacement by the end of 2016. Four vehicles were donated to other agencies and 26 were sent to auction, which netted \$86,295.00 back to the agency.



LOGISTICS DIVISION



Over the past year, the Fleet Division has serviced 1025 vehicles, averaging 85 per month. Service includes everything from oil changes, to electrical and body parts repair, to engine rebuilding or replacement, and complete tire and wheel service. Thus, outsourcing costly repairs is minimal. If outsourced, these repairs would have cost the agency an estimated \$474,894.00. In contrast, during 2010, 971 repair orders were written at an estimated savings of \$232,313.00.

The Fleet Division also repairs and services assets such as heavy machinery, trailers, and ATVs. Inventory of parts is closely regulated and unserviceable vehicles are cannibalized to ensure parts are on hand to negate down time for agency vehicle repairs. Installation of bulk oil tanks to accommodate the required oil for new vehicles saved the agency \$6.00 per quart of oil. New vendors are consistently sought, to save money without sacrificing the quality of service.

SUPPLY / QUARTERMASTER

The Supply Division maintains the necessary material to equip the deputies in the field and the support staff with what they need to do their jobs. This function continuously evolves into a more centralized operation to ensure quality control. Supply personnel test out new products and new vendors to save expenses. Supply levels are maintained to ensure minimal lag time in resupplying commonly used items, and there is an aggressive effort to recycle goods, such as uniform items, to defray expenses. Emergency rations and medical kits are also stocked in the event they may be needed.

LOGISTICS DIVISION

ELECTRONICS

The Electronics Shop wires vehicles for radios, computers, camera systems, and emergency lighting. Vehicle interiors are disassembled to route wiring and electronics to ensure the integrity of components and prevent hazardous loose wiring. Cages and other equipment, such as secure equipment boxes and gun racks, are custom installed. In 2015, there were 371 repairs or modifications and 38 complete assemblies completed. In addition, 437 speedometers were calibrated, approximately half from other law enforcement agencies. 279 radar units were calibrated with 50% from other agencies. Calibrations for other agencies were performed at no cost to them.



FACILITY MAINTENANCE

The Facility Maintenance crew, augmented by inmate labor, is responsible for the grounds, car wash, major and minor repairs of all facilities, and major renovations. No repairs, whether electrical, plumbing, or structural were outsourced this past year. They have actively stripped old unusable machinery for scrap sale. The OCSO received over \$775.00 from the sale of unusable metal products.

Notable projects during 2015 included: complete remodel of the Conference Room/ Training Room, renovation of the Old Fleet Building to create more space, enclosed area for bulk oil storage, conversion of unusable space for IT and armory expansion, renovation of the range to include a new canopy for the pistol range staging area, the stacking of three conex boxes to create a three story shooting platform, a 45' rappel tower, and the construction of a new "shoot house".

HUMAN RESOURCES

The OCSO division of Human Resources (HR) is committed to the effective design of regulated systems that ensure a pool of talented employees are available to provide the law enforcement needs of Okaloosa County. OCSO HR division provides advice and service in Strategic Management, Employee Benefits and Reward Systems, Policy, Classification and Compensation, Employee Relations, Workforce Planning and Employment as well as a portion of Risk Management.

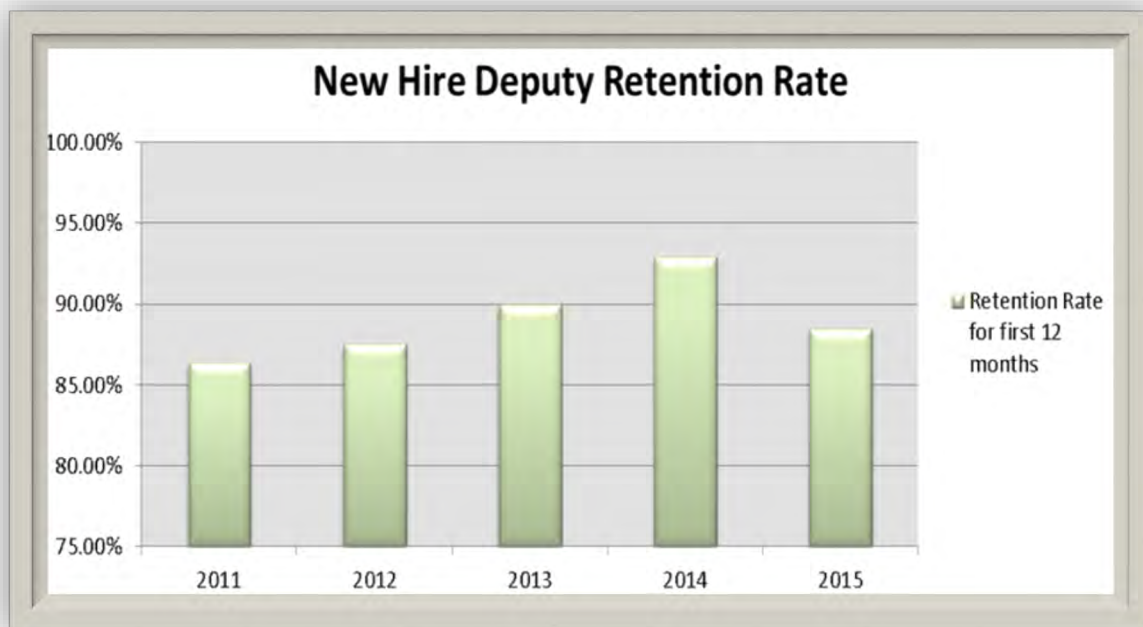
Workforce Planning and Recruitment: The policy of the OCSO is to foster, maintain, and promote equal employment opportunity for all persons without regard to race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, gender, marital status, handicap, or any other non-merit characteristic. OCSO policy extends to all personnel actions, including recruiting, hiring, training, job assignments, transfers, promotions, compensation, benefits, and disciplinary actions.



HUMAN RESOURCES

During 2015 the OCSO HR section was responsible for filling fifty-seven (57) vacancies. Forty-seven (47) vacancies were filled through external recruitment procedures while six (6) vacancies were filled with internal recruitment procedures. OCSO HR facilitated the promotional processes for Investigator and Sergeant. On average, it took 36 days to fill a vacant position. Seventeen (17) New Employee Orientations were conducted.

When we hire the best qualified Deputy, the cost of hiring and providing three months of training is approximately \$17,000. Retaining the Deputies provides us with a high rate of return for our community. The Deputy retention rate is an indication of our high quality candidate selections, vetting methods, organizational culture, and the quality of life in Okaloosa County.



Compensation & Classification: Past economic hardships resulted in freezing or minimizing performance pay or cost of living pay increases. Employee retention has become a priority; thus our compensation and classification system has evolved so that we may compensate employees fairly in relation to their performance.

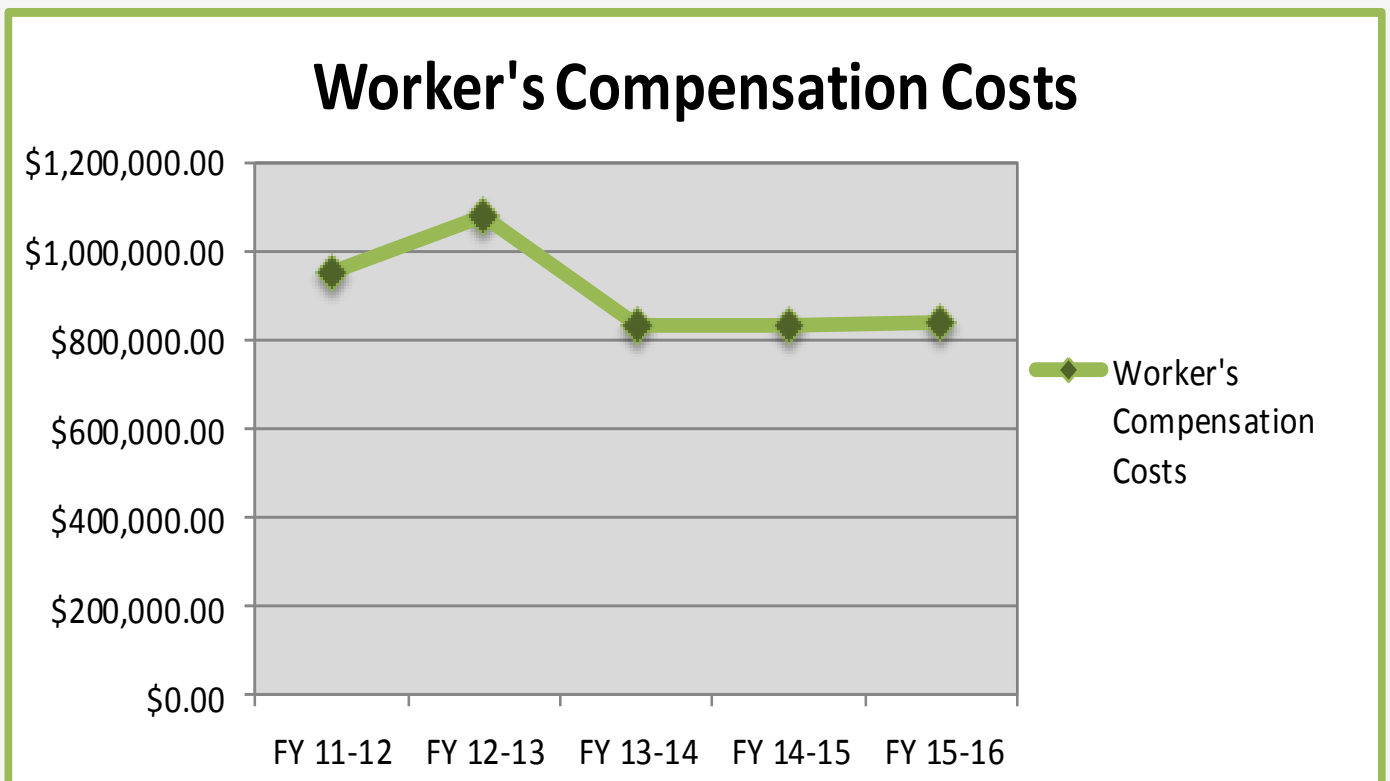
HUMAN RESOURCES

This year pay adjustments were made to address pay compression. As a result, 86 sworn employees' pay rates were updated to better reflect their years of law enforcement experience.

Benefits: The enactment of the Affordable Care Act has required HR to implement a new HRIS module to record the benefit requirements for employees and their dependents. The installation and maintenance of the module will ensure IRS healthcare reporting is processed within specified timelines.

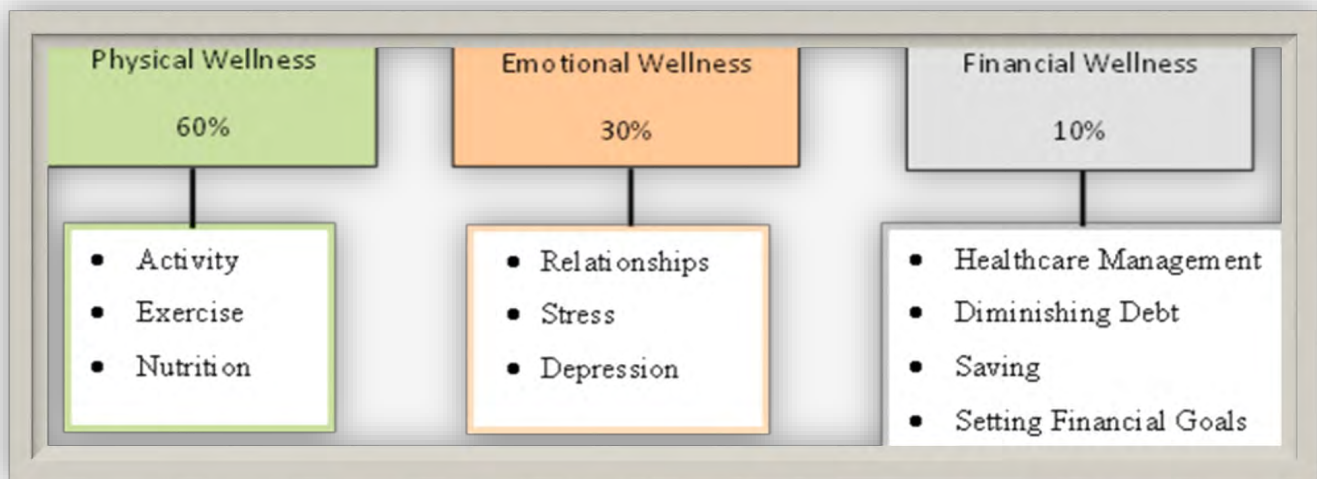
Accreditation: HR updates, maintains, and implements work practices for thirty-five (35) HR related General Orders.

Risk Management: The unfortunate line of duty death was a first one experienced by the current HR staff. Focus on coordinating benefits in a timely manner is essential to the surviving family. The breakdown of the types of cases handled this year is provided below.



HUMAN RESOURCES

Wellness Program: This year, 60% of OCSO employees participated in the annual biometrics/personal health assessment facilitated by Florida Blue as part of our annual benefit package. Upon receiving the aggregate personal health assessment data, the Wellness Committee developed a three-prong approach to improve employee well-being. The areas of focus are physical well-being, emotional well-being and financial well-being. Here are the components of each wellness category:



JUDICIAL SERVICES

COURT SECURITY

The workload increased slightly for Court Security in 2015. The Detention Section processed 10,774 subjects which is 383 more than it handled in 2014. The section also transported 8,309 inmates including those scheduled for court, which is an increase of 326 from 2014. They also registered 1,389 felony/sexual offenders in 2015.

Court Security North handled 21,930 cases or hearings; this is 4,995 more than in 2014. They also screened 67,345 individuals through the Single Point of Entry. This figure is down 20,366 from 2014 due to some services being reduced at the facility. In addition, they seized 95 items of contraband or weapons.

Court Security South handled 55,850 cases or hearings—7,741 more than in 2014. They screened 151,354 citizens through the Single Point of Entry; up 5,721 from 2014. This number equates to 582 people per day, or 64 per hour. This is an increase of 5,721 from 2014. They also seized 425 items of contraband or weapons.

The section processed 740 state mandated DNAs from court and detention which were submitted to FDLE. OCSO is currently at a 98% collection rate from 97% previously reported.

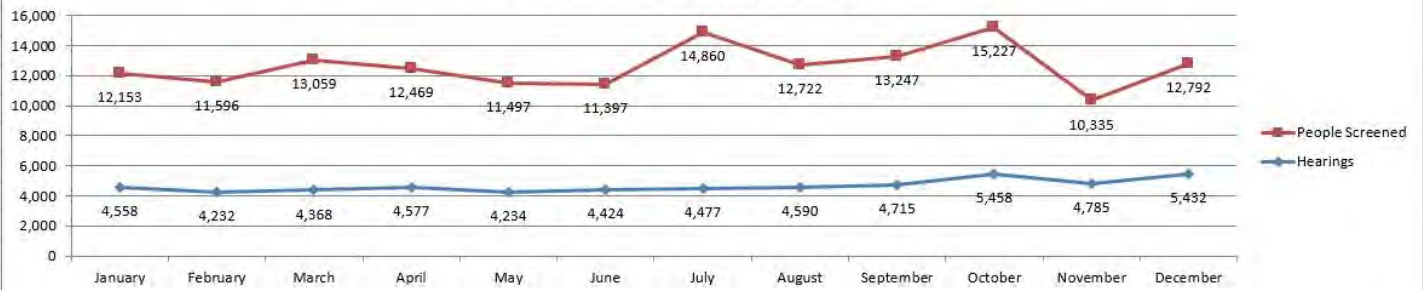


JUDICIAL SERVICES

2015 South Court Security Totals

Topic	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Hearings	4,558	4,232	4,368	4,577	4,234	4,424	4,477	4,590	4,715	5,458	4,785	5,432	55,850
People Screened	12,153	11,596	13,059	12,469	11,497	11,397	14,860	12,722	13,247	15,227	10,335	12,792	151,354
Contraband Seized	39	39	53	47	42	38	41	34	27	23	12	30	425
DNA Taken (All)	69	40	71	76	67	90	55	62	74	83	53		740

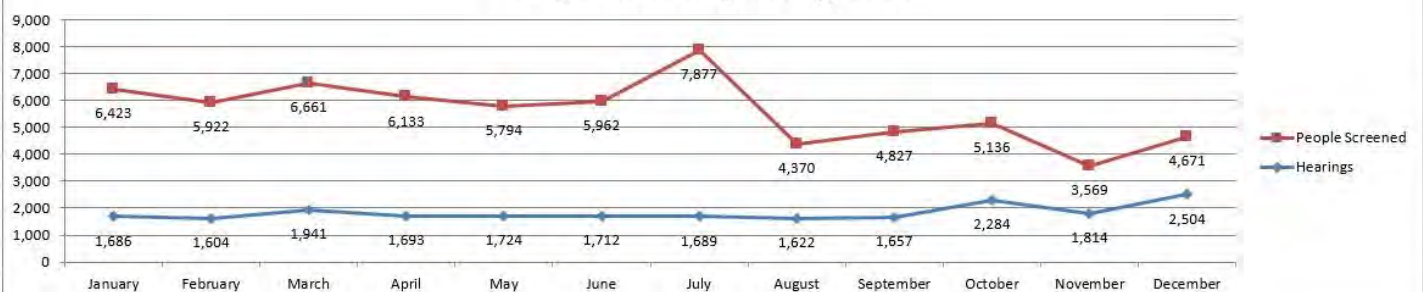
People Screened /Hearings Held



2015 North Court Security Totals

Topics	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Hearings	1,686	1,604	1,941	1,693	1,724	1,712	1,689	1,622	1,657	2,284	1,814	2,504	21,930
People Screened	6,423	5,922	6,661	6,133	5,794	5,962	7,877	4,370	4,827	5,136	3,569	4,671	67,345
Contraband Seized/Found	8	24	13	9	12	4	8	3	3	2	4	5	95

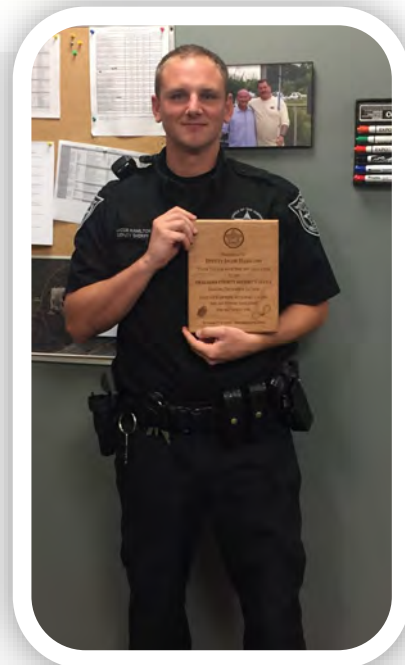
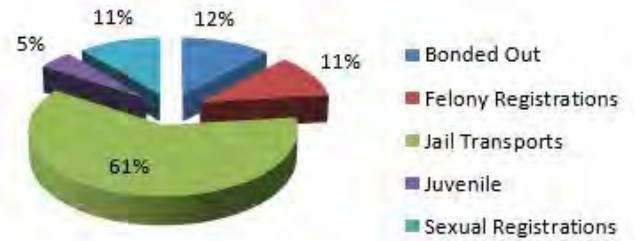
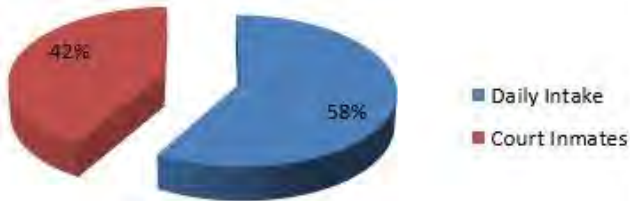
People Screened /Hearings Held



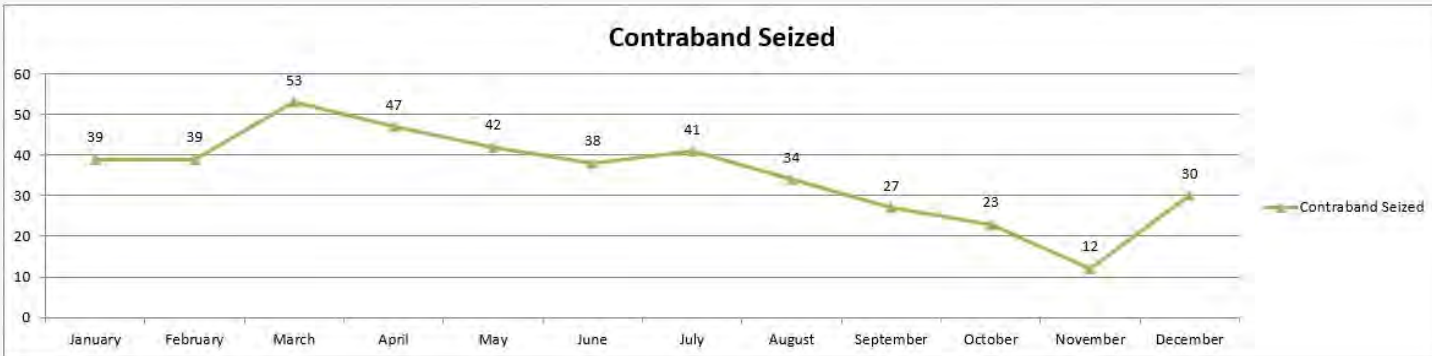
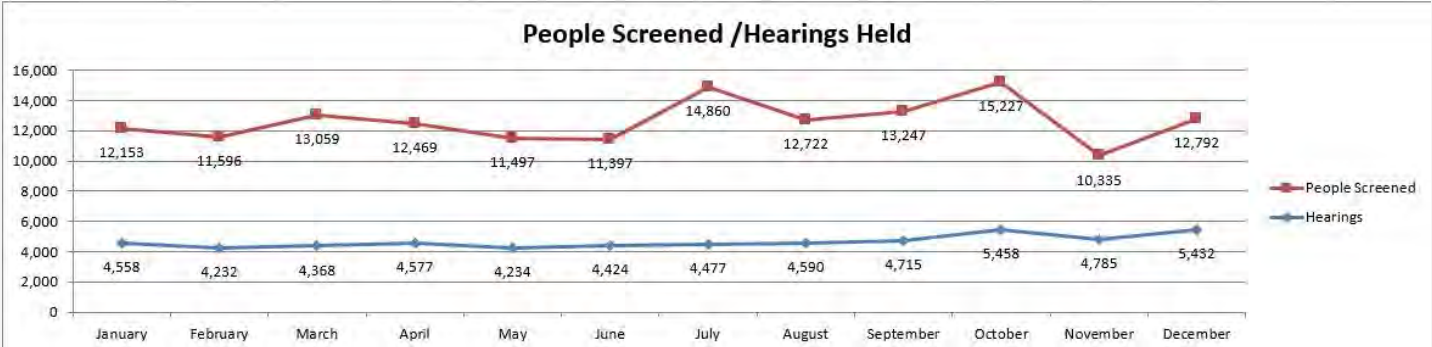
JUDICIAL SERVICES

2015 Booking and Transportation Totals

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Daily Intake	491	509	537	530	467	550	546	600	544	565	446	504	6289
Bonded Out	76	74	60	54	54	60	49	92	79	64	40	55	757
Felony Registrations	51	55	51	55	54	58	73	60	56	63	44	77	697
Jail Transports	281	278	339	335	292	351	350	345	328	354	287	284	3824
Court Inmates	291	324	398	305	205	350	370	445	480	436	410	471	4485
Juvenile	19	19	28	31	26	27	41	27	14	24	13	29	298
Sexual Registrations	45	67	59	54	41	54	58	75	67	60	60	52	692
Total Per Month	782	833	935	835	672	900	916	1045	1024	1001	856	975	10774



JUDICIAL SERVICES



FINANCE

The Finance Department administered 13 grants last year which included timely reports and successful audits to the state. In 2015, the OCSO was awarded several new grants including the renewal of Drive Sober in Destin, Stonegarden, MetaData, Fusion and STOP.

The OCSO values diversity and welcomes input from all interested parties, regardless of cultural identity, background or income level. Moreover, the Sheriff's Office provides the highest quality of service for all residents by delivering fiscally-sound, responsive services in a manner that is equitable, professional and has the highest degree of integrity. Finance is just one department among many that upholds this standard. To address federal requirements, and prove its commitment to the public, Finance developed a Title VI Plan, ADA/504 Plan, and Limited English Proficiency Plan. In addition, Finance developed a standalone policy for Small and Disadvantaged Minority and Women Business Enterprises. The policy is currently in review and is expected to be implemented early in 2016.

One of our team members retired after serving over 14 years with the agency. We were sad to see her go, but were happy to add another Accountant to the team.

The Finance Team continues to serve in various areas within the agency and community at large. We are members and volunteers of the Sheriff's Mounted Posse, Star Charity, Wellness Committee, Team Star, Recruiting Committee, Centennial Committee, Okaloosa Leadership, charity bowling league, Christmas Trees for Hospice, and the Angel Tree.

We had a smooth transition within our team over the summer and that kept us on track for another successful audit at the end of 2015.



CRIME PREVENTION

The OCSO has two certified employees that make up the Crime Prevention Unit Elizabeth Forgette and Ashely Bailey. In 2015 Ashley and Elizabeth attended the National Conference on Preventing Crime in the Black Community, Southern States Crime Prevention Conference, and the Global Leadership Training. They also attended additional free training provided throughout the county on Sexual Predators, Child Abuse, Domestic Violence and Mental Health. Also, Elizabeth became a certified Convenience Business Inspector through the FL Attorney General's Office. The additional training will help the Crime Prevention Unit provide the most up to date safety information to the citizens of Okaloosa County.



The Crime Prevention Unit has completed:

75 Safety Presentations

32 Community Events

17 Neighborhood Watch Meetings

A 12 week Citizens Academy with 53 graduates

Attended 49 Chamber breakfasts, luncheons, and networking events

Attended monthly meetings for AMIKids Board, Department of Juvenile Justice

Community, Anti-Drug Coalition, BE Empowered,

Rocky Bayou Christian School Safety Committee,

Emerald Coast Public Relations Organization, and Okaloosa & Walton County

Sexual Assault Inter-council

CRIME PREVENTION

3 CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) Security Survey
Lovejoy & Greater Sylvania Heights Front Porch
Pier One Condos
Holiday Isle

Assisted 10 citizens in reviewing their Free Credit report
Conducted 20 Newcomer's Briefings at Hurlburt Field AFB
Performed 45 Take Me Home Program entries
Scheduled 120 students for 11 Teen Driver Challenge Classes

OCSO VOLUNTEERS

46 Okaloosa Sheriff's Office Volunteers completed **2,912 volunteer hours**
OCSO General and RSVP volunteers contributed 1,832 hours.
OCSO volunteers helped with office work, the Citizens Firearms Class, Hostage
Negotiations Unit, assisted the Investigations Unit with
Leads-on-Line and the Crime Prevention Unit with community events
Volunteer Martial Arts Expert Master Joe Cayer provided four
Free Women's Self-defense Classes
RSVP volunteers performed 21 CODY Checks on juveniles on probation



PUBLIC INFORMATION



In 2015, the OCSO Public Information Office produced approximately 320 news releases and 60 videos for the agency's YouTube channel. Instagram was added to our list of social media outlets that the OCSO uses to increase interaction and share information with our citizens and visitors. The agency's Facebook page added more than 10,000 additional fans in 2015, climbing to more than 27,000. Public Information was also responsible for sharing more than 3500 Tweets and Facebook posts ranging from hard news involving arrests to recognizing the daily accomplishments of agency personnel and volunteers.

One of the most challenging tasks of 2015 involved providing information in connection to the in-the-line-of-duty death of longtime former Deputy Bill Myers and subsequent events, to include the arrival of the U.S. Honor Flag, remembrance ceremonies and a formal Memorial Service attended by thousands.



EMERALD COAST CRIMESTOPPERS

Record-breaking number of tips received: 1,137

Cases Cleared: 99

Arrests: 64

Rewards Approved: \$18,925

Property & Narcotics Recovered: \$149,548



EMERALD COAST
CRIME STOPPERS
www.EmeraldCoastCrimeStoppers.com
850-863-TIPS

**CASH REWARD
UP TO \$3,000**

Funding provided by the Attorney General's Crime Stoppers Trust Fund.



POSSE

2015 – Total Posse Hours 12,827

Posse Activities from January 2015 thru December 2015



Posse activities ranged from training and special details, to backing up patrol and attending membership meetings.

A number of Posse members, including Terry Watkins, Elaine Bustamante, Ken Stacey, and Chuck Danick, work as School Resource Officer substitutes as needed.

Posse members Stu Stewart and Lynn Gray work daily in Civil Process to help serve papers.

In Booking, Posse member Doug Pike works two days a week and is backed up by a Posse member as needed. Doug also assists three days a week with Traffic.

In 2015, various Posse members also spent time assisting the OCSO by guarding prisoners in hospitals, helping with court security and crime scenes, and providing extra ATV beach patrols.

Total details - 219

2015 Average Posse membership is 26
The average for 2014 was 35 Posse members.



MOUNTED POSSE



1080 total volunteer hours from
28 Mounted Posse Volunteers
who also attended 12 community events,
two funerals and six training exercises.



CHAPLAINS PROGRAM

In 2015, the OCSO Chaplains assisted the agency Patrol and Investigations Divisions with a combined grand total of 3255 hours for services (26% more than 2014) during 259 “call-outs.” Their services include next of kin notifications, emotional support to the officers and citizens, assisting with funeral preparations, and other general counseling and requested services. Also in 2015, they provided training for 39 new employees, over 100 hours of marriage and family counseling, planned and organized over 60 combined hours for the 2015 Annual Law Enforcement Memorial Luncheon with guest speaker Commissioner Adam Putnam with over 275 attendees.



In another wonderful act of kindness, the Chaplains led the charge to get 104 children sponsored with warm coats during the annual coats for kids Angel Tree project. Several members of the agency came together to see this project make an impact in our community!

DEPUTY OF THE YEAR 2015



From Niceville High School and the University of West Florida to Platoon Commander in the U.S Marine Corps, Deputy Travis Topolski has always been a leader and a high achiever. Since joining our agency in 2013, his “willingness to serve” with honor and distinction has continued.

Last year he responded to 1223 calls for service, generated 181 offense reports, and made approximately 102 arrests. His case closure rate was fifty percent, not including stats generated assisting other deputies or while serving as a Field Training Officer for new deputies.

Deputy Topolski applied for a waiver to try out for the Special Response Team in 2013 and brought with him a wealth of valuable knowledge. He applied for a waiver to test for Corporal/Investigator, passed the test, and is on the current promotion list. He became an FTO in 2015 and logged nearly 80 hours training newly hired deputy sheriffs.

Since joining the agency, he’s completed Advanced Report Writing, Firearms Instructor, General Instructor Techniques, and become an OC - Less Lethal Munitions, Chemical munitions and Distraction Device Instructor as well as an agency Physical Abilities Testing Course Evaluator. (He also set a PAT course record). He is invaluable as an OCSO CrossFit program coach, spending more than 230 hours helping other employees obtain a higher level of fitness.

Dynamic, determined, motivated, modest, diligent, hard-working, a great team player - that’s how co-workers describe Deputy Topolski. He backs up other units without hesitation and is known as the “Human Gazelle” for his ability to catch people that run from him.

INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR

Tony Kelly began his career at the Sheriff's Office in 2005 and in 2014 was promoted to the rank of Investigator. He continues to impress his peers and supervisors with his steady commitment to excellence and professionalism.

On January 21, 2015 the body of 18-year old Mark Williams was discovered near the wood line along State Road 85. He had been shot multiple times. Investigator Kelly was one of those assigned to work this complex case involving numerous gang members. Alongside Mike Irwin he worked the next seven months to develop and pursue leads, ultimately being able to utilize a confidential informant to get critical information leading to numerous arrests for murder and racketeering. As a result of this case, he also proactively researched gang violence and requested training to better understand and combat the issues confronting our community.

During March and April 2015, Investigator Kelly assisted patrol in developing suspects involved in a series of "smash and grab" vehicle burglaries throughout Okaloosa Island, Destin, and Niceville. Two individuals were arrested and connected to eighteen separate car burglaries.

Even during in-depth, high profile investigations, Investigator Kelly stays on top of his day to day cases and maintains case management. He is an essential asset to our division and displays a genuine empathy for victims and their families. His quality of work and volume of work exemplify his commitment and perseverance.



SWORN SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR



During 2015, Sgt. Ron Kimble continued working towards his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration and started “Leadership Okaloosa” using the leadership tools he’s acquiring to become a more effective supervisor.

An agency firearms and defensive tactics instructor, he voluntarily conducted crowd control, defensive tactics and taser training for Posse members so they could meet mandatory training requirements. Sgt. Kimble also currently teaches firearms and defensive tactics at Northwest Florida State College. He drafted a plan to use the MILO simulated threats system to finish mandatory training requirements for C- Shift personnel authorized to carry tasers. This was done without acquiring overtime or straining shift resources.

A four year veteran of the Sheriff's Office Special Response Team, Sgt. Kimble is a technical specialist responsible for maintaining high profile specialized equipment. He mastered the operations of the ICOR MARK 3 CALIBER ROBOT, vital equipment in situations where preservation of life is key.

After Deputy Bill Myers was gunned down September 22nd, Sgt. Kimble spotted and pursued the suspect, providing up-dates on the radio for other units. The suspect ignored efforts to stop him and fled to a local motel where he barricaded himself inside. Sgt. Kimble assumed initial on scene command responsibilities, securing the premises, preserving life and keeping the subject from escaping.

He engages the community in many ways, including volunteering with Chapter 700 of Reformers Unanimous, a faith-based, addictions treatment program.

OPERATIONS SWORN PERFORMER

During 2015, Deputy Kourtney Spruill responded to 1,689 calls for service, generated 200 offense reports, and made approximately 178 arrests. Year in and year out, she has been a top performer at the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

Her nickname is "Walking MNI" (Master Name Index) because of her ability to recall information from BOLOs, suspect information, aliases, and the like.

Her peers describe her as influential, motivated, outgoing, patient, persuasive, proactive, relentless, and a great team player. Her supervisors and co-workers alike cite her judgment, knowledge, and professionalism.

While working a power shift April 1st, her assistance resulted in the recovery of a firearm, money, and clothing from an armed robbery at a Mary Esther restaurant.

In the community, she's an active member of Navarre Assembly of God Church. One night while on duty, she found a couple and their small child sleeping in their car in a Wal-Mart parking lot. They had become homeless and had no money or place to go. Deputy Spruill provided her own money so the family could get out of the heat. She asked for nothing in return and never told anyone. The OCSO learned of it after a citizen reported the compassionate gesture.



NON -SWORN SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR



Denise Sledge is an extremely motivated self-starter who consistently looks for ways to provide additional assistance to her subordinates and counterparts. She has been a positive role model and top performer in Communications for 21 years.

In addition to her primary duties, Denise is the agency's alternate Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC), assisting the TAC in matters relating to FCIC/NCIC policy and procedures agency wide. She is also responsible for validating all records entered by communications personnel. Her tireless efforts, in coordination with her Records, Warrants and Civil Process counterparts, resulted in an error rate of less than .4 percent during a recent FDLE CJIS records audit - a herculean effort. Denise is attending Florida's Certified Public Manager (CPM) program, a nationally-recognized leadership development program for public managers and supervisors.

On 22 September Denise's shift received the call every communications officer dreads, "Officer Down." Deputy Bill Myers was shot and killed while serving a domestic violence injunction. As calls flooded in, Denise rallied her shift and gathered information, coordinating the response and delegating duties. She fielded a 911 call from a distraught witness. She used her skills to calm the caller and glean information for our units. She ensured radio operators were promptly advised of the color of the vehicle, shooter description, and direction of travel. These facts were broadcast over primary channels and were instrumental in providing the data needed to promptly acquire the shooter. Denise showed calmness under extreme pressure. Her professional demeanor and outstanding abilities were priceless assets during a chaotic and shocking event. She set the tone for focusing on the task at hand so all could do their part to aid the agency in its mission during extraordinary circumstances.

JUDICIAL SWORN PERFORMER

When asked in 2014 to read the name of OCSO Fallen Officers, Deputy Pat Jenkins wanted to make sure he had correct information. He checked records of the Florida Sheriff's Association and Florida's Fraternal Order of Police and found our second Sheriff, John Summerlin, was only mentioned in FSA records. He discovered Sheriff Summerlin had only been in office 17 days in 1921 when he became the OCSO's first in the line of duty death. The vehicle he was in was hit by a train while he was transporting a subject. Through hard work and perseverance, Deputy Jenkins made sure Sheriff Summerlin's name appears on the Memorial Wall in Tallahassee, the National Memorial in Washington DC, and OCSO Memorial at Headquarters in Shalimar.

As part of the OCSO Centennial, Deputy Jenkins also researched the agency's history. He located photos and conducted interviews with surviving Sheriffs and other members of their staff to create a PowerPoint Presentation for OCSO social media sites.

He is the ultimate role model for an Honor Guard. When Deputy Bill Myers lost his life in the line of duty, he spent countless hours working with the unit to ensure the service honored not only Deputy Myers, but his family, the agency and the community.

Currently assigned to the courthouse, Deputy Jenkins oversees security needs but also assists the Judges Judicial Assistant, the attorneys in the courtroom and chambers, and the clerks in the courtroom. He voluntarily undertook multiple tasks which required a great amount of time in addition to his normal duties, working hard each day to run a secure, smooth moving courtroom and/or chamber.



**COMMUNICATIONS
OUTSTANDING
PERFORMER**



Kalyn Fields has been a member of the Communications section for nine years. She is a hard worker, adheres to standards, and performs her duties at an exceptional level. She will help any coworker, to include the shift supervisor, when needed or asked.

Kalyn's daily performance speaks volumes. She arrives to work on time, checks the schedule for work assignments, and goes to the assigned position and receives pass on. She is always polite, courteous and helpful to all callers. If working a radio position and an emergency situation arises, Kalyn stays calm and keeps excellent narrative notes in CAD. She makes sure she gets information the responding deputy needs and keeps officer safety in mind at all times.

Kalyn takes on additional responsibilities without question. She has readily accepted the role of Communications Training Officer. She has the unique ability to impart knowledge and build the proper foundation all new hires require to effectively progress through training and throughout their career. Kalyn shares her experiences and couples that with adherence to agency policy and procedures to ensure her trainees are some of the best trained.

Kalyn also performs Officer in Charge (OIC) duties when required. When she is the OIC Kalyn oversees the operation of the shift requiring her to assist her counterparts when requested, enter records into NCIC/FCIC, and a myriad of other duties which crop up during her shift.

SRO OF THE YEAR

Deputy Leah O'Sullivan has immersed herself in her school, becoming a welcoming and trusted confidant. She takes part in its athletic program, donating time to the girls' softball team as an assistant coach. This added role allows her to mentor the youth in immeasurable life lessons by way of athletics.

Deputy O'Sullivan also volunteers her time to the Sheriffs Office Explorer Program. She has "taken the reins" and has become one of the Explorer Post advisors and, moreover, leader to her peers.

When not mentoring Deputy L. O'Sullivan makes strides in her continual growth as a law enforcement officer. She oversees and is responsible for specific aspects of the Sheriff's Office Sex Offender/Predator Unit. Assigned to the north end of Okaloosa County, Deputy O'Sullivan is responsible for eleven SROs and approximately 150 or more offenders.

Deputy L. O'Sullivan displays traits and characteristics that are sought after in any career field. She is dedicated to her profession and shows time and time again, her investment in the welfare of our children. Her tenacity, passion, and work ethic set the standard for not only members of the Youth Services Division, but also for the Sheriffs Office as a whole. Members should strive to meet these qualities demonstrated by Deputy L. O'Sullivan and supervision of the Youth Services Division is proud and honored to have Deputy Leah Spooneybarger-O'Sullivan as their representative for SRO Sworn Employee of the Year for 2015.



**ADMINISTRATION NON-SWORN
EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**



Theresa Reeve, a clerk in Civil Process, was involved last year in processing more than 14,100 documents, (including 1,200 Injunctions), as well as serving 3,229 subpoenas. She handled a stream of daily customer contacts, networking calls, contacts within the judiciary, and interactions with other customers and nearly flawless accuracy.

She often works overtime to make sure Court Orders are being processed and sent to the appropriate district on time. Ms. Reeve has become a subject matter expert in Civil Process. Due to her leadership skills, she handles daily duty assignments of other personnel in the section.

As processes constantly evolve, Ms. Reeve steps up to examine what is presented and how it can be best utilized. Civil Process is now using the E-portal to the Clerk of Courts record system. This involves making electronic entries into the Clerk of Courts records statewide. Ms. Reeve quickly and efficiently analyzed the issues and the compatibility of the E-Portal system and how we do business. Based on her work it now takes only about 30 to 40 seconds to input a return or another piece of process through the E-portal. That has reduced paperwork to a minimum and also reduced costs in reproduction and transportation.

She has been selected to attend several leadership classes and the State of Florida Certified Public Managers Course, which she will graduate from in July 2016. Ms. Reeve is already applying lessons learned in these courses to her work and employee relations.

**ADMINISTRATION
NON-SWORN
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER**

Angel DeJesus and Roy Parker are joint recipients for the OCSO Non-Sworn Outstanding Performers for 2015.

They possess the willingness, initiative and technical competence to engage any task. Their strong desire to excel serves as a role model for others. Along with routine maintenance, they undertake major renovation projects to enhance OCSO facilities by creating more efficient use of space and an aesthetic work environment. These projects are accomplished above industry standards at a fraction of the cost of outsourcing.

Notable 2015 projects :

- *Completion of remodeling the HQs Conference and Training Room
- *Construction of enclosed area at the garage to house new bulk oil storage tanks
 - *Construction of a new office for the Armory
 - *Construction of a new IT office
- *Range renovations - rebuilding the range tower stairs and roof, new canopy over the pistol range staging area, construction of a new shoot house, the use of three unimproved conex boxes to build a three story shooting platform, and construction of a 45' rappel tower.

The planning and execution of major renovation projects by Angel DeJesus and Roy Parker has made a direct impact on the OCSO, helping produce a first class facility which will serve as a role model for other agencies and future endeavors of a similar nature.



POSSE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

This year's Posse Member of the Year donated more than 1800 hours of volunteer time to the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Posse in 2015. Lt. Lynn Gray serves as a member of the Posse Board of Directors as the Lieutenant in the north end of the county and is a strong leader who leads by example. He has volunteered for numerous Posse details after coming into the Posse in 2006, including traffic control for early morning charity runs throughout the county. Most notably, he responds to request for Posse support during emergency situations twenty-four hours a day. He has assisted the Sheriff's Office in a variety of positions. Lt. Lynn Gray has worked as courthouse bailiff, entry point security scanner, a booking officer, school resource officer substitute and is currently working each week as a civil process server.

Lynn is a 20-year Army veteran serving as a Military Police Officer. He has received the Presidential Service Award for volunteering over 500 hours in a calendar year.

Lynn Gray's professionalism and tireless effort in support of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Posse and the Okaloosa Sheriff's Office make him an excellent choice for Posse Member of the year for 2015.



**MOUNTED POSSE
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**



Natalie Wells has been a member of the Okaloosa County Mounted Posse since its conception in 2011, volunteering almost 300 hours during the past 4 years.

In 2015, Natalie, volunteered 60 hours to the Mounted Posse, taking on many roles in the organization. She has participated in parades, festival and school events. She also does not so glamorous or pleasant jobs such as ground crew and pooper scooper. Also, being the wife of the organizer, James Wells, she is always tasked with additional duties far beyond the regular posse member.

On training days at the arena she helps load and unload obstacle equipment and organizes the pot luck dinners. Prior to events she emails everyone the times, locations, and meeting places.

Probably the biggest sacrifice Natalie makes for the Mounted Posse is giving up her spare bedroom for the storage of additional uniform items such as shirts, hats and jackets. She also tries to keep up with James and keep him on track. She is truly one of our most important and willing Mounted Posse members and we are glad to present her with the Mounted Posse Member of the Year for 2015.





