



OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

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SHERIFF LARRY ASHLEY
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A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF LARRY ASHLEY

2012 was an equally challenging and productive year for the men and women of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. The most significant challenge came in the form of a 4.87 % budget reduction which was the 5th consecutive annual budget reduction. Since FY 2008 your Sheriff's Office has reduced its operational budget by over 19%. As a result of this most recent reduction, we were forced to eliminate 18 paid positions and sadly send 14 of our co-workers home without jobs. **Coupled with a 14% increase in calls for service, a population increase of 2.7%, record numbers of tourists returning to our beaches, and the continuing social issues inherent in a depressed economy, these budget reductions made 2012 one of the most challenging years in Sheriff's Office history.**

Despite these significant challenges the men and women of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office performed with unwavering dedication and professionalism throughout the year.

While remaining committed to new accreditation and physical fitness standards, we also continued the Teen Driver Challenge Program, which has become a benchmark throughout the State of Florida and the Southeast. The Sheriff's Public Information Office continues to receive local and statewide accolades for its innovative use of social media as a means to provide transparency and keep the public informed on law enforcement issues.

(continued on next page)



A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF LARRY ASHLEY

The Criminal Investigations Division solved three cold case homicides, one of which dates back 37 years. Corporals Steve Hough and Todd Watkins were awarded the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery for heroic acts during a shooting incident. The Special Investigations Division helped lead Florida in Synthetic Drug Enforcement. Okaloosa County Deputies garnered four of only ten Subject Matter Expert designations granted statewide by the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission. Corporal Gary Venuti was recognized as Florida's School Resource Officer of the Year for 2012.

The dedication and professionalism of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is best illustrated by the fact that those crimes effected through preventive patrol, crime prevention and education, and proactive investigation were down significantly in 2012. Burglaries were down 9.4 %, Robberies were down 13%, Larcenies were down 8.2%, Vehicle Thefts were down 10% and overall arrests were up 12% and DUI arrests are up 29%. These statistics provide strong evidence that the men and women of your Sheriff's Office do not waiver in their dedication to the safety and well-being of Okaloosa County's citizens and our visitors.

In closing, let me say that I am proud of the efforts and achievements of all the employees here at your Sheriff's Office. I am frequently amazed at their innovation, energy and achievements. The citizens of Okaloosa County are well served by these fine men and women of law enforcement.

I hope you find our 2012 Annual Report informative and ask that you visit our website at www.sheriff-okaloosa.org and follow us on Facebook to leave a comment, ask a question or just to learn more iabout your Sheriff's Office and the community we serve.

Sincerely,

Larry Ashley

Okaloosa County Sheriff



2012 AGENCY MILESTONES

RECORD NUMBER CALLS 210,175

\$528,000 REDUCTION IN BUDGET

**LAW ENFORCEMENT CONGRESSIONAL
BADGE OF HONOR TO TWO INVESTIGATORS**

CREATED ECONOMIC CRIMES UNIT

**ACHIEVED PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATOR
STATE CERTIFICATION**

CLOSED THREE COLD CASE HOMICIDES

ADDED DIGITAL FORENSICS EXAMINER

**PARTNERED WITH TAX COLLECTOR
FOR DRIVER SAFETY**

CONTINUED SYNTHETIC DRUGS CRACKDOWN

**CORPORAL GARY VENUTI NAMED FLORIDA
SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER OF THE YEAR**

**SHERIFF APPOINTED TO
FLORIDA CITIZEN SAFETY & PROTECTION TASK FORCE**

QUICK FACTS ON CALLS

Record-Breaking 210,175 Calls for Service



SAMPLE OF INCIDENTS

Traffic Stops – 30,139

Theft – 3,245

Child Abuse – 693

Disturbances/Fights/Battery/Assault – 6,434

Burglaries – 1,666

Distressed Swimmers – 51

Noise Complaint – 1,478

Threats – 563

Road Rage – 170

Intoxicated Driver/Person – 2,243

Trespassing – 1,842

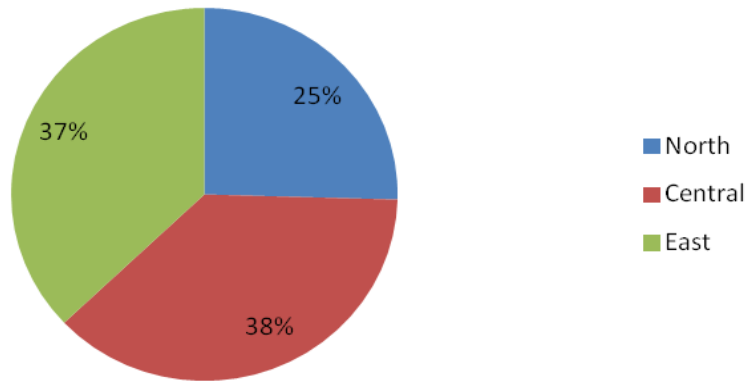
Criminal Mischief – 469

Fraud – 1,002

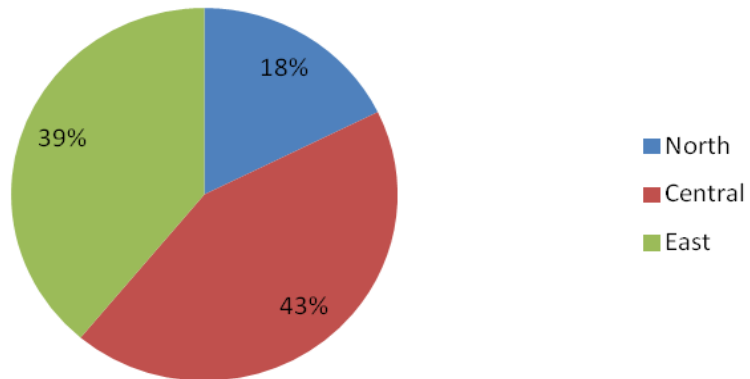
Reckless Drivers – 2,424

Security Check – 24,276

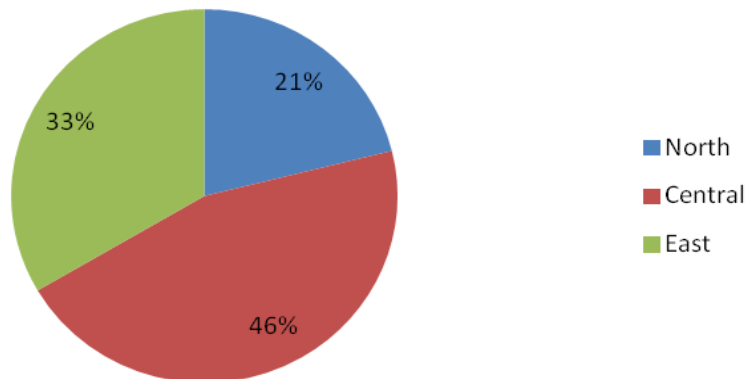
Call Distribution by District



Offense Reports by District



Probable Cause Arrests by District



UNIFORMED ROAD PATROL

NORTH DISTRICT

2012 was a year in which the men and woman of District One certainly followed the directive of Sheriff Larry Ashley: "We have to do more with less", and literally took it to heart as the statistics indicate.



Calls for service increased by more than 23,000, from 39,152 in 2011 to 62,493 in 2012. Better utilization of manpower and a renewed emphasis on Priority One Response times led to significant improvements, from *nine minutes in 2011 to 7.27 minutes in 2012*, a reduction of 1.5 minutes.

District One shift supervisors do an excellent job managing these deputies to maximize their effectiveness and efficiency. With the large increase in calls for service and the decrease in response times to priority one calls for service, the citizens of District One are receiving quality, economical law enforcement

In January 2012 the Sheriff's office relocated the North District Office to the Judge Joe E. Livingston Building in the center of Crestview, at the intersection of Highways 85/90. This change has allowed better exposure for the agency. We are more visible to the community, with easier access by the public. Citizens visiting the Courthouse can walk next door and take advantage of any service offered by the OCSO. The Joe Livingston Building also serves as the home of the State Guardian Ad Litem Program and the Florida Highway Patrol was given office space for troopers to do paperwork, make phone calls and take breaks. This consolidation of services pays great dividends to citizens for a cost of only \$400 for the annual lease on the entire building.

In March 2012 the OCSO partnered with the Holt Water System by installing communication equipment on a water tower in the Holt area. This equipment improved the radio reception to the communication division which greatly enhanced the safety of our deputies assigned to the Holt community. The equipment used was recycled from other locations, thus making this much needed improvement almost cost-free.



UNIFORMED ROAD PATROL

CENTRAL DISTRICT

2012 was a year of many challenges and much adversity. Once again, the men and women of the Central District rose to the demands. As statistics reflect, Central remained not only the busiest district but recorded 46% of the probable cause arrests for the entire county. Research shows that a Central district deputy writes an offense report on one of about every ten calls! **The number of reports completed in the district rose by 7% over 2011 and the number**

of incidents resulting in a probable cause arrest increased by 12%. This is especially noteworthy as the district has actually decreased in assigned personnel.



ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANT CENTRAL DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- *Replaced a full time sworn deputy at the front desk with a non-sworn employee. This is an extremely busy desk and the Civilian clerk has been trained and qualified to do every function with the exception of arresting persons or serving warrants. This has allowed for reallocation of resources in an extremely competitive environment.

- *Hosted more than 170 citizen ride-alongs for the year.

- *Provided instruction in the OCSO Citizen Police Academies.

- *Presented Lifesaving Medals to five Central District members

- *Presented Certificates of Commendation to five members

- *Nominated four members for "Deputy of Year" due to outstanding work

UNIFORMED ROAD PATROL

EAST DISTRICT

The East District encompasses all areas east of the Brooks Bridge to the Walton County line, north to Duke Field, and south to Northwest Florida Regional Airport. Included in this are all unincorporated areas, along with Destin, Niceville, and Valparaiso. **The number of personnel assigned to the East District dropped to 39. Even though calls for service are at an all time high, deputies continue to provide high levels of service.** 2012 visitor numbers exceed previous years from Spring Break through the 100 days of summer.



The East District continues to emphasize proactive enforcement practices and engaging citizens to report crime or suspicious activities. The goal is to maintain 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.

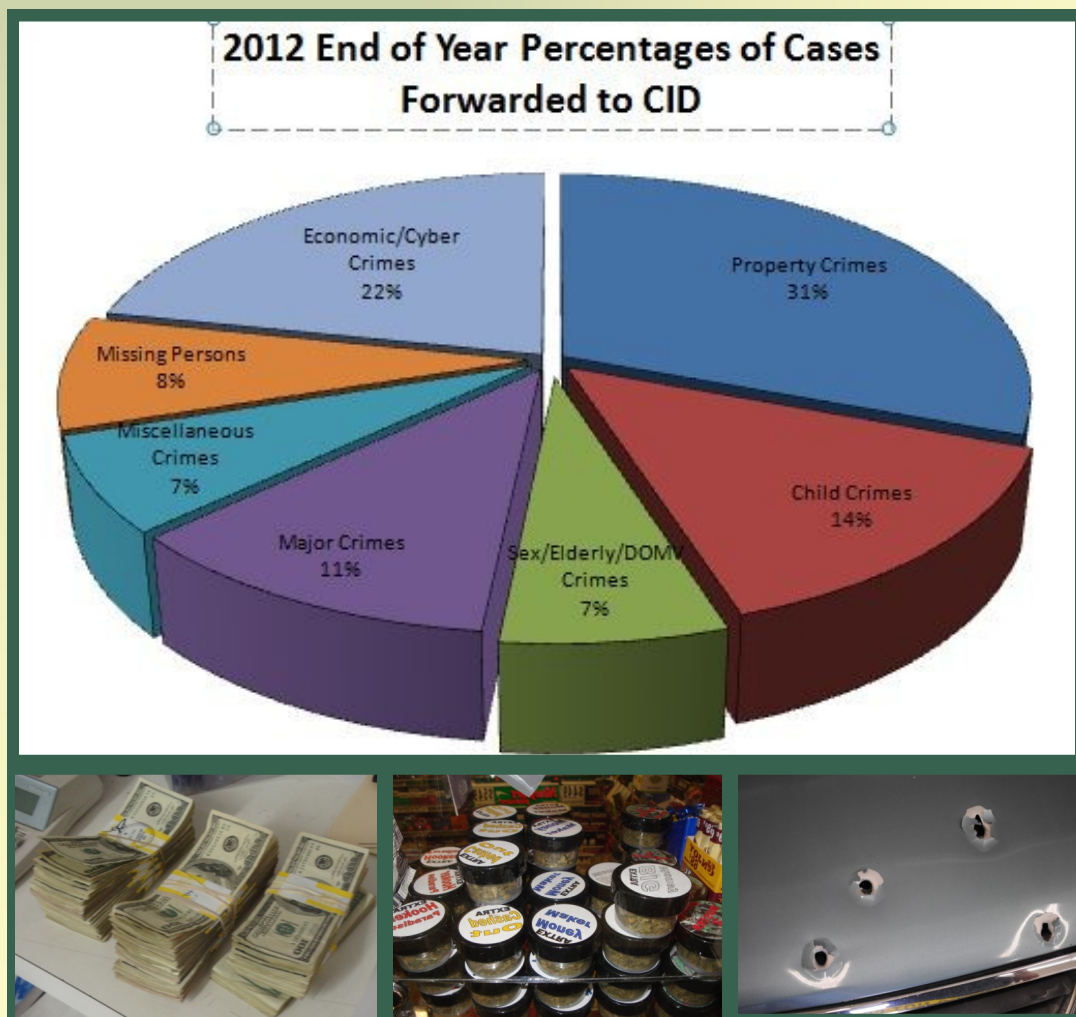
One of the largest populations serviced in the East District is Destin. The OCSO provides law enforcement services to the City of Destin under a contract agreement. The latest City of Destin Climate Survey states citizens feel safer in their neighborhoods than citizens in most other areas of the country.

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Investigative Services Division of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office was re-organized in 2011 and split into two sections; Criminal Investigation Section and Special Investigations Section. **These two sections are responsible for the investigation of criminal activity, intelligence gathering and dissemination.** To accomplish this mission the Investigative Services Division consists of thirty-nine Sheriff's Office employees.

The Criminal Investigative Section (CIS) is stationed in each of the county's three Districts. **The section is further segregated into specialty units consisting of Property Crimes, Child Crimes, Economic Crimes, Mortgage Fraud and Sexual Battery/Elderly Abuse and Domestic Violence.** In addition to the specialty units there is a pool of investigators that are assigned to general investigations to handle violent crimes and other complex investigations.

The Special Investigations Section (SIS) is centrally located in District 2. SIS is segregated into three sections: Narcotics Task Force, Fugitive/Warrants Squad, and a Sexual Offender/Gang Tracking Unit. SIS primarily conducts covert proactive investigations with very limited investigations that are responsive in nature.



Criminal Investigative Section

1,610 cases were forwarded to the CIS for follow-up investigations in 2012, which is a 12% increase from 2011. A closure rate was achieved of 38.52%, a 17.43% increase from 2011. Property Crimes equated for 39% of the cases forwarded to CIS which is a reduction of 20% over the number of cases forwarded in 2011.

An Economic Crimes Unit was created during the spring of 2012. Two full-time investigators were assigned to this specialty area that accounted for 22% of the cases forwarded to CIS. This is a 57% increase compared to 2011. The investigators assigned to the Economic Crimes Unit are responsible for building a partnership and sharing intelligence with the financial institutions in Okaloosa County. The concept is to build a partnership with the financial institutions to combat the ever increasing number of financial crimes occurring in the county.



To highlight the 2012 year the CIS was able to close three “Cold Case” Homicides. These closure involved cases that were thirty-seven, twenty-seven, and fifteen years old. The success is attributed to the hard work of the men and women of the Investigative Services Division.



1985 Donald Tidwell Murder

1988 Ulai Sookruetai Murder

1997 Pluma Sanford Murder

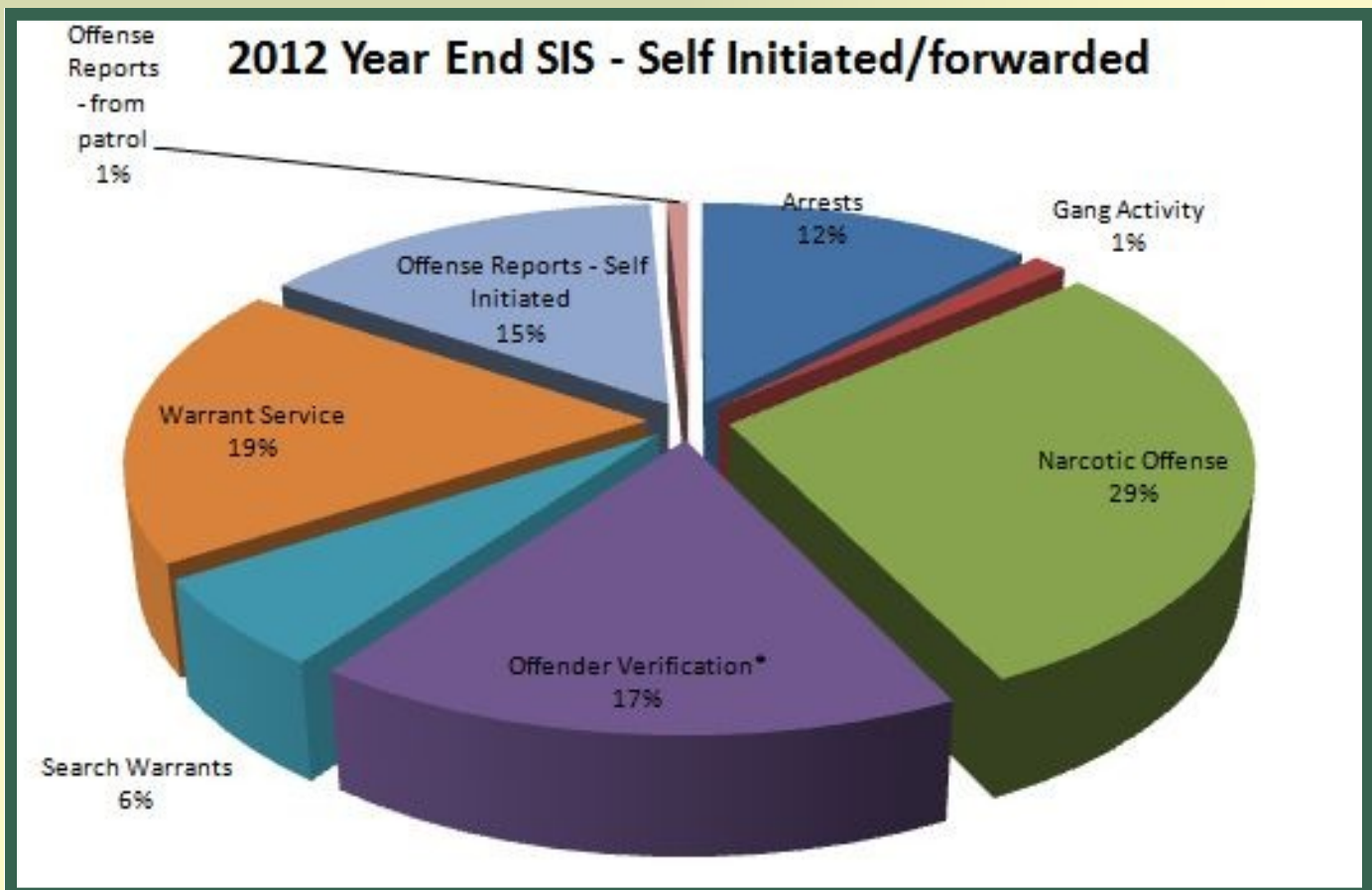
Each of the investigators worked tirelessly analyzing and resubmitting evidence from these cases. As a result, with the advancements in modern technology they were able to gather sufficient evidence to solve their cases and bring closure to the friends and families of the victims.

Special Investigations Section

The Special Investigations Section (SIS) continued to be proactive from narcotics enforcement to sex offender verifications. During 2012 SIS experienced significant increases in the number of methamphetamine laboratories that were discovered. Clandestine laboratories are very dangerous and time-consuming, requiring specially trained officers who evaluate, collect evidence and dismantle the labs for safety purposes.

With synthetic drug abuse on the rise over the last few years, the SIS took a proactive stance against vendors who sell the illegal substances. Criminal cases were made against business owners and individuals in Okaloosa County and significant seizures of controlled substances, merchandise and assets resulted from these arrests. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office successes were used as a model in December of 2012 when additional synthetics were banned by the Florida Attorney General.

In 2012 the SIS added duties to the Investigative Technician position and created a certified Digital Forensics Examiner. This examiner is responsible for performing tasks to assist law enforcement officials investigating crimes involving computers, electronic storage devices and other digital media devices. The examiner utilizes highly technical skills to open computers, electronic storage devices and other digital media in order to recover data and deleted files. Through these efforts Investigators are provided with valuable clues that help catch criminals who specialize in an ever-growing array of computer-related offenses.



TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The total number of 2012 training hours for employees = **23,794**

A further breakdown as follows:

Online training through PowerDMS: **2,120 hours**

Online training through Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute: **693 hours**

Online other: **31 hours**

Specialized Training done by Special Teams

(Special Response Team, Crisis Negotiations Unit, Dive Team, Marshals Task Force)

6,104



In-Person Training

In-house with agency member instructors:

5,025 hours

SO sponsored/coordinated:

1,866 hours

CJSTC courses taken at NWFSC:

2,912 hours

All other:

5,042 hours

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Sheriff's Office Training Division implemented a new format for firearms training. Deputies previously were scheduled on their days off for the training which compounded their overtime. **With the current format of designated days set each week, training dates are more flexible and allow for the deputies to schedule their qualifications during a portion of their normal duty time which cuts overtime costs.**

Active Shooter Training sessions: Five classes
(Total of 224 hours training performed for deputies)

Citizens Firearms Classes Conducted: **6**
Number of citizens trained in use of firearms and receiving certificates: **178**

The Sheriff's Office was host to seven local agencies for their firearms training:

Ft. Walton Beach Police Department
Florida Wildlife Commission
Crestview Police Department
United State Coast Guard
Office of the State Attorney 1st Judicial Circuit
Okaloosa County Department of Corrections
United States Marshals Service

There were Fifty-six (56) days totaling more than 400 man hours provided to these agencies **at no cost** for their training.



TRAFFIC UNIT

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Traffic unit was very active in 2012 in many areas of traffic safety education and enforcement. The unit reached full staffing level during the year with one Sergeant, six daytime Deputy Sheriff's (with two units in each of the three patrol districts in the county on day shift), and two full-time DUI enforcement specialists assigned to night-time patrol to apprehend impaired drivers. The unit also had one member of the Sheriff's Posse and one part-time Deputy Sheriff who performed traffic unit duties. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Posse was also very active in partnering with the Traffic Unit to safely run large parades and events.

Traffic Safety Education is a high priority for the Traffic Unit. Deputies could often be found at a school, military base or private business speaking about various aspects of traffic safety. There are four certified Child Passenger Safety Seat Technicians who assisted parents with properly installing child safety seats to help make kids safer. **Traffic Units also partnered with the School Resource Officers to put on twelve classes of the Teen Driver Challenge this year and trained 119 teens to be safer drivers.**



TRAFFIC UNIT

Traffic Safety Education:

Traffic Safety Education Briefings at 7th Special Forces Group/Eglin AFB/Hurlburt Field

FWB High School Drivers Education Class

OCSO Youth Week

OCSO Citizens Police Academy

Teen Driver Challenge (TDC) Program 119 Trained

App. 30 child safety car seat inspections

Beyond Just Buckled Child Passenger Safety Education

Traffic Safety Briefing for O.C. bus drivers

Pedestrian Safety Workshop Destin

Sgt. Mark Raiche attended all MADD Victim Impact Panels as a speaker

Radar Speed Trailers and Variable Message Board placed throughout the county to raise awareness about speed limits and safety belt use

Numerous speed surveys conducted in neighborhoods within the county to evaluate speeding problems and focus enforcement

Traffic units assisted with numerous escorts and events throughout 2012:

Lauren's Kids Walk for Child Sexual Abuse Awareness

FWB Mardi Gras Parade

Veteran's Day Parade - Mary Esther

Toys for Tots escort

Florida State Hog Rally Ride

Ride 2 Recovery Wounded Veterans

EOD Memorial Escort

7th Special Forces Group Jingle Bell Jog

Wounded Warrior Escort

Land-based operations for Billy Bowlegs Festival for all law enforcement agencies involved

Hurlburt Field Ruck March

Assisted Patrol 284 times with Funeral Escorts



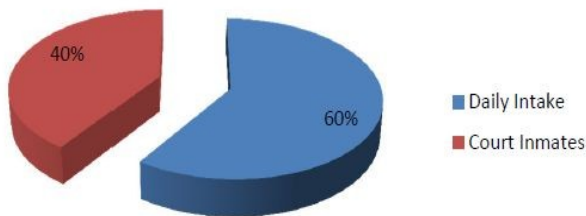
COURT SECURITY

Court Security North handled 18,414 cases (parties to hearings) in the 245 working days during the 2012 calendar year. **This equates to over 75 cases per day.**

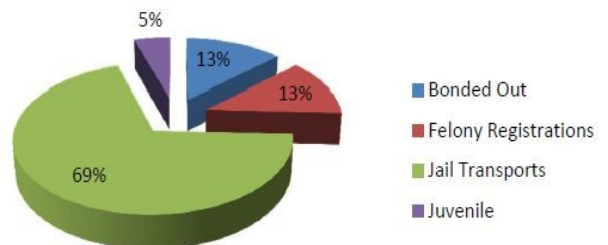
2012 Booking and Transportation Totals

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Daily Intake	461	426	479	443	533	500	573	493	496	521	451	447	5823
Bonded Out	55	44	42	59	62	52	74	68	72	100	76	57	761
Felony Registrations	56	64	71	55	66	58	58	58	62	69	53	56	726
Jail Transports	330	299	331	305	389	359	408	350	339	308	294	310	4022
Court Inmates	215	313	309	274	334	348	287	323	444	369	441	302	3959
Juvenile	20	19	35	24	16	26	33	30	23	23	18	14	281
Total Per Month	676	739	788	717	867	848	860	816	940	890	892	749	9782

Year To Date Totals



Daily Intake Year To Date



The North end courthouse screened 99,717 citizens or roughly 45 people per hour.

There were 125 items seized as contraband. The South end courthouse handled 44,949 cases and screened 143,509 citizens. This equates to 183 cases per day and 1.08 people screened per minute. There were 700 items seized as contraband which equates to 2.85 items seized per day.

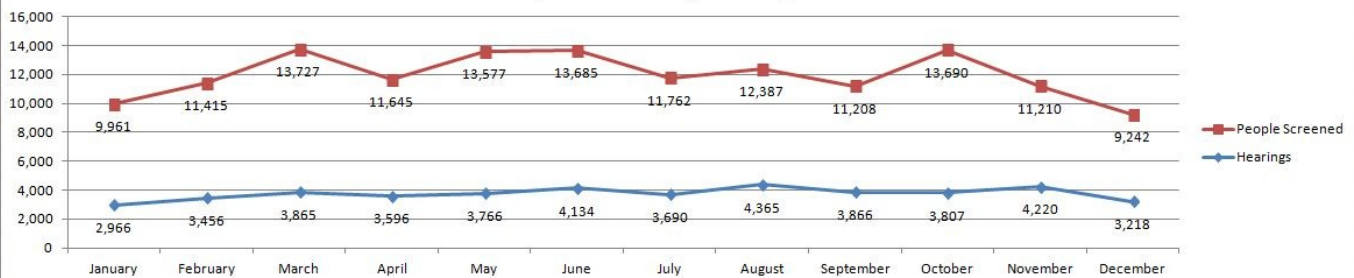


SOUTH COURT SECURITY

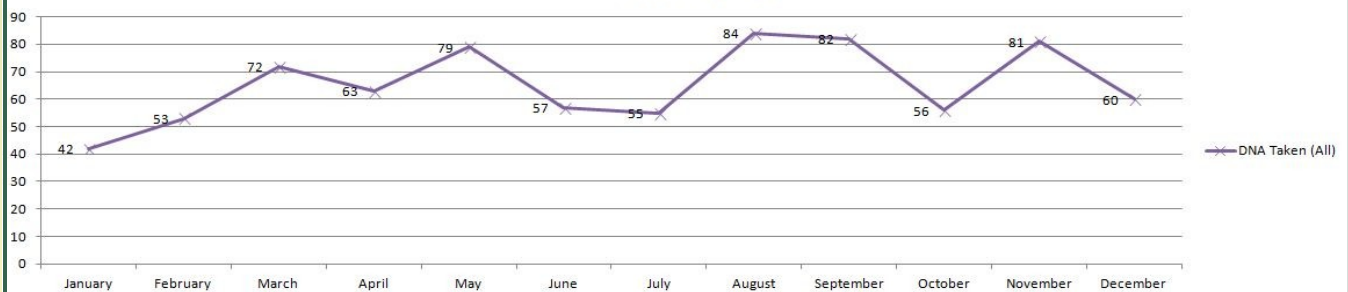
2012 South Court Security Totals

Topic	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Hearings	2,966	3,456	3,865	3,596	3,766	4,134	3,690	4,365	3,866	3,807	4,220	3,218	44,949
People Screened	9,961	11,415	13,727	11,645	13,577	13,685	11,762	12,387	11,208	13,690	11,210	9,242	143,509
Contraband Seized	48	38	57	35	44	130	94	50	54	70	52	28	700
DNA Taken (All)	42	53	72	63	79	57	55	84	82	56	81	60	784
BOCC Hours	9	3	3	3	3	1	4	6	2	3	3	4	44

People Screened /Hearings Held



DNA Taken (All)



Contraband Seized

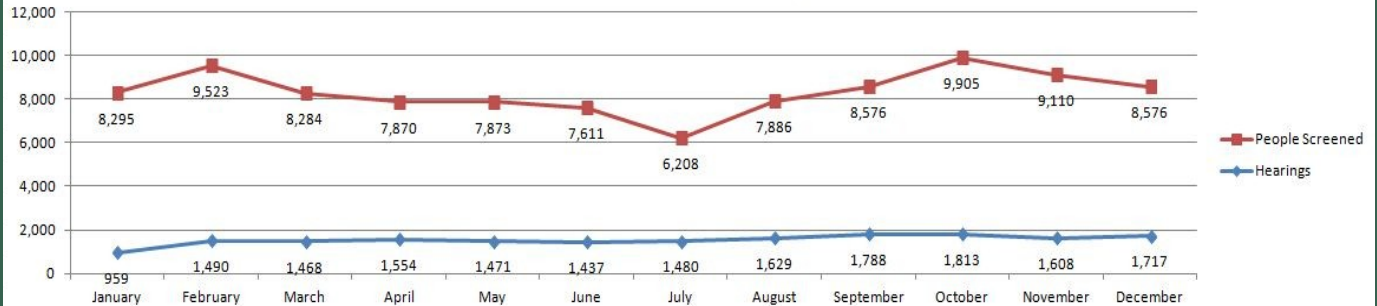


NORTH COURT SECURITY

2012 North Court Security Totals

Topics	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Hearings	959	1,490	1,468	1,554	1,471	1,437	1,480	1,629	1,788	1,813	1,608	1,717	18,414
People Screened	8,295	9,523	8,284	7,870	7,873	7,611	6,208	7,886	8,576	9,905	9,110	8,576	99,717
Contraband Seized	8	5	10	6	12	14	7	15	11	17	9	11	125

People Screened /Hearings Held



Contraband Seized



LOGISTICS DIVISION

Fleet

The Fleet Division maintains agency vehicles in the highest standard to ensure officer safety and performance. An added advantage is the enabling of OCSO vehicles to stay in service six to ten years with mileages exceeding 150,000. The number of spare cars in the fleet has been trimmed to prevent the decay of idle vehicles costing insurance and registration fees, yet allowing an adequate supply of back-up and special needs vehicles. Thirteen new fuel-efficient AWD SUV's have been added to the fleet, giving deputies the ability to traverse over a variety of unimproved roads and off-road terrain in the county.

Over the past year, the Fleet Division has serviced 1,336 vehicles, averaging 130 per month. Service includes everything from oil changes, to electrical and body parts repair, to engine rebuilding. Thus, outsourcing costly repairs is minimal. The Fleet Division also repairs and services assets such as heavy machinery, trailers, and ATV's.

New vendors are consistently sought. The newest parts vendor has saved the agency approximately \$6000.00 This savings has been accomplished without sacrificing the quality of the product.



LOGISTICS DIVISION

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. **Over the past year, this function has evolved into a more centralized operation to ensure quality control.** Supply personnel operate continuously to 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.



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 the components and to prevent loose wiring becoming hazardous to the operator. Cages and other equipment, such as secure equipment boxes, are custom-installed.

The shop also calibrates speedometers and radar units. During 2012, 486 speedometers were calibrated. 292 of those were from other law enforcement agencies. 386 radar units were calibrated, with 228 from other agencies. **Calibrations for other agencies are performed at no cost to them.** The shop also repairs electrical components ranging from monitors to cameras to everyday items such as vacuum cleaners, saving the OCSO costly outsourcing funds.



LOGISTICS DIVISION

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.** The crew rebuilt and renovated unusable trailers, such as the new emergency response trailer, and an off-site building housing communications components that was in danger of collapse.



They have actively stripped old unusable machinery for scrap sale and obtained donated machinery and 53 air conditioning units for use at OCSO facilities, saving thousands of dollars. The units unsuited for repair were sold for scrap and the remaining units that could not be used were donated to Okaloosa Applied Technology. The OCSO received more than \$1600.00 from the sale of unusable metal products.

Evidence/Property

The Evidence/Property Room took in 15,511 pieces of evidence and purged 5,733 pieces of evidence in 2012. They also purged 686 guns—(seven of which were discovered to be stolen through follow-up efforts). That number also includes 192 guns that were traded by the OCSO Armorer for \$28,000.00 worth of new guns to be used by the department. Evidence personnel logged 457 hours on the road, picking up evidence at sub-stations and delivering evidence to the Pensacola Crime lab. Items that can be properly disposed of and are usable, such as bicycles, are donated to charity.



LOGISTICS DIVISION

Crime Scene Investigation

The Crime Scene Investigation Section lost one member due to budget downsizing. The two remaining personnel balanced their time between crime scene work and augmenting the Evidence Room staff. Approximately 55 percent of their time was spent working the evidence room. They provide training to the shift CSI's and new recruits, and conduct demonstrations for public schools and civic groups.



They have increased their technical capabilities and are researching and testing presumptive tests for gunshot residue in response to the crime lab's cessation of GSR testing. They are also developing a plan to add a universal latent print work station to their facility. The latent station will connect directly to the FBI and will give investigators latent print results in hours, rather than weeks.

LOGISTICS DIVISION

Chaplains

The volunteer Chaplain Corps logged more than 1139 hours in service to OCSO personnel. They provide training and counseling to all department personnel, as well as citizens seeking help when in contact with a deputy. **They handle death notifications, funerals, weddings, baptisms, and are present for many official functions as well. Additionally, they make their presence known throughout the various facilities to spread kind words and provide uplifting conversation.**



This has been another year of increased demand for Chaplain services and we are fortunate to have several candidates for inclusion in the Chaplaincy.



The Chaplains planned and executed another highly successful Law Enforcement Memorial Luncheon attended by more than 350 people, and organized the agency's "Angel Tree" program which provided at least 75 needy local children with approximately 600 Christmas gifts.

Currently, they are planning the Southeast Regional Training for the International Conference of Police Chaplains to be hosted by the OCSO in 2013.

Choice

The OCSO provides a full-time employee to the CHOICE program at Crestview High School. **This highly motivated employee provides three levels of instruction to high school students in legalities, technology, and protocols of crime scene analysis.** Support is given from the CSI section, where the employee will spend the summer receiving additional training and field experience.

COMMUNICATIONS

2012 was spent primarily building the agency's Public Safety Telecommunicator State certification program. We actually started in November of 2011 and our program was approved in August 2012. The total course length is 276 hours, and though it's a separate certification, we combine it into our local certification training program. **This allows us to thoroughly cover all aspects of Communications and deliver a fully trained and competent communications officer at the end of training.**

Part of the state certification mandate was to have all communications officers in the State of Florida certified by October 1st 2012. Those who were eligible were grandfathered in. We had 25. Those who didn't meet that requirement had to test. We tested nine. We also had two new hires who were required to complete the state certification training, and both were completed (classroom and testing) and certified by October 22nd.

In other news: we worked 40,142 **911** calls in FY 2012.

(Transferred calls not included).



FINANCE



Finance has streamlined the payroll process by implementing electronic time-sheets across the board reducing time and paper. What used to take five days now takes three.

We have converted almost all of our vendors to automated clearing house (ACH) which means payment is received by the vendor the same day their invoice is processed.

The Finance Department administered 18 grants last year which included timely reports and audits to the state.

Okaloosa County is one of five counties that make up Region One's Special Response Team (SRT) and is the Region's point of contact for SRT grants. Through these grants, the OCSO finance department managed purchases and distribution of aids for the Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Escambia, Bay and Walton County SRT's.

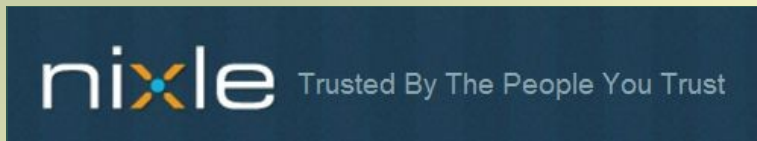
Finance has a strong staff which believes in teamwork and led to another very successful audit at the end of 2012.



PUBLIC INFORMATION

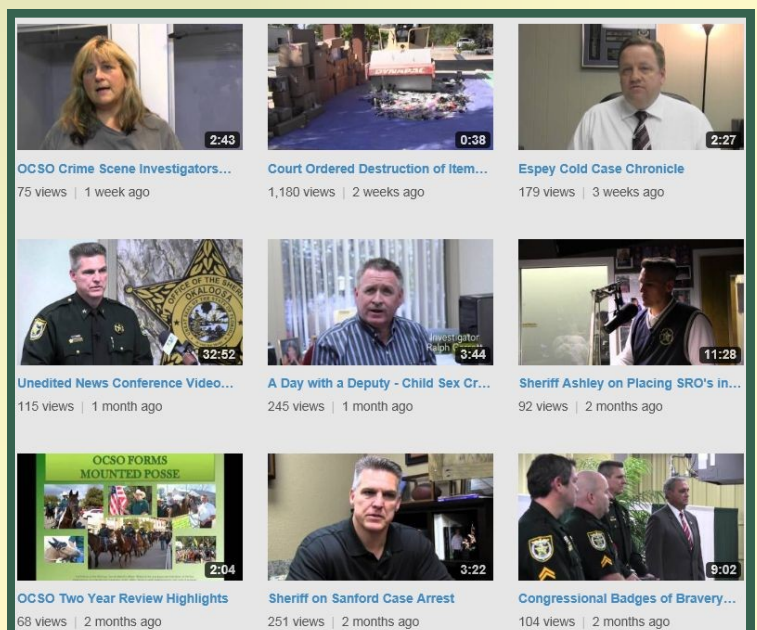


The Public Information Office continued its emphasis on capitalizing on social media as a means to inform and interact with the public. The agency Facebook page passed the 5000 “likes” milestone and is continuing to grow rapidly. **The office also implemented a program called “NIXLE” that sends out free, secure text or email emergency alerts or advisories directly to citizens from Communications or the PIO unit.** NIXLE is a form of electronic community policing using secure law enforcement terminals.



The Public Information Office instituted a new web-based program dubbed “Take a Look—Catch a Crook” to let the public view surveillance photos typically seen only by investigators in crimes ranging from shoplifting to scams. The photos are now available on the OCSO website to highlight people of interest, witnesses, or potential suspects connected to various crimes around Okaloosa County.

The PIO unit, with the assistance of Chaplain Larry Carter, began a new deputy and investigator spotlight showcase, named “A Day with a Deputy” that posts to the agency YouTube page. It involves profiling different members of the agency in a way that highlights their crime-fighting efforts, as well as gives the public a better understanding of what their often very difficult jobs entail. It also gives citizens a chance to better know the dedicated professionals who serve and protect them on a daily basis.



SHERIFF'S POSSE

In 2012, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Posse averaged thirty-five to forty members.

The Posse covered a total of 193 details in 2012, including festivals, runs, special events at the Emerald Coast Conference Center, holiday patrols, guarding prisoners at hospitals, crime scene protection, holiday special events and other details.

Overall the Posse performed 16,622 volunteer hours last year.



Those hours can be broken down to:

Special Details	3,976
Training	2,334
Backup Patrol	3,441
Other	4,680

(The remainder of the hours are for meetings & administrative duties.)

PHOTOS



PHOTOS



PHOTOS

