

# Sheriff



**Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff**

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Dec. 5, 2013

## **SHALIMAR MAN DONATES FUNDS FOR UPDATED K-9 VEST**



( Pictured above: Deputy Martin Jennings & K-9 "Ryker", Sheriff Larry Ashley, Ret. Col. Alan Hassell, Deputy Jon Duenas and K-9 "Diesel")

An Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Special Response Team K-9 will be getting an updated ballistic vest thanks to the generosity of a Shalimar couple.

Retired Air Force Colonel Alan Hassell and his wife presented a check to Sheriff Larry Ashley December 4<sup>th</sup> to cover the \$1000 cost of a new K-9 Ballistic Vest that will help protect the dog from both bullets and knives or shanks.

The Sheriff's Office is purchasing a second vest for the other Special Response Team K-9.

The OCSO currently has seven patrol K-9's in the agency and their current vests are expired.

Compared to the older vests, the new eight pound model for German Shepherds is lighter and more flexible, as well as stab and shank resistant.



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Sheriff Ashley, a former K-9 handler at the OCSO, said, “We are very grateful to the Hassells for this generous donation to help protect one of our agency’s very valuable assets. Our K-9 Units often have to perform dangerous tasks and the new vests that are available today for law enforcement K-9’s are a significant improvement for the dog’s safety and comfort.”

Below is a photo of what the vest from K9 Elite in Kentucky will look like:



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