

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

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May 28, 2013

“CASE OF THE QUARTER” AND OTHER HONORS FOR OCSO K9 TEAMS



Members of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit took away multiple awards and were honored with “The Case of the Quarter” during last week's United States Police Canine Association's Region One Field Trials.

Approximately seventy teams took part in the certification event hosted by the Highlands County Sheriff's Office in Sebring Florida.

Deputy Martin Jennings and K9 “Ryker”, along with Deputy Sterling Eslinger and K9 “Forg”, earned second place in the two man-team competition.

Deputy Tim Patterson and K9 “Dax” placed twelfth overall and also took fifth place in the search work category.

Deputy Patterson and “Dax”, along with Deputy Tony Kelly and K9 “Drako” also were awarded the “Case of the Quarter” for their work in tracking down a suspect who had fled into Okaloosa County during a high speed chase with a Florida Alabama police officer on February 24, 2013.

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The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation.

“The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate”

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The suspect crashed on Highway 85 near Robinson Road and ran into nearby woods, a silver handgun falling from the waist band of his pants. Deputy Kelly and “Drako” found the gun and began tracking the suspect. They took the track across a large pasture and two surrounding homes before handing it over to Deputy Tim Patterson and K9 “Dax”. K9 “Dax” picked up a scent near the western edge of the hayfield and proceeded through thick brush and standing water to a burned down residence with an abandoned RV. K9 “Dax” began running around the RV and barking aggressively. Deputy Patterson opened the passenger door and told the suspect to give up or he would release the K9. The suspect came out and was taken into custody. Inside the suspect’s car was 221 grams of marijuana, a container with nearly 154 grams of liquid Codeine and Phenergan along with loose firearm magazines and ammunition. Two passengers were charged with possession of controlled substances and possession of marijuana.

The driver, Tony Tatum, was charged with fleeing and eluding, displaying a weapon during the commission of a felony, possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, burglary to a conveyance, resisting arrest without violence, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, and trafficking in opium or derivative.

“Deputy Kelly and Deputy Patterson’s tenacious efforts and ability to work seamlessly with one another throughout the incident made the apprehension of three fleeing fugitives from Alabama possible and in the process thwarted any further criminal activities that would have undoubtedly been committed. “

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