



2013



**OKALOOSA
COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Vigilance
Excellence
Commitment





OCSO MISSION STATEMENT

**“Ensuring fair and equal administration of the
law, safeguarding civil liberties
and preserving public safety;
Doing so with professionalism
and unity of purpose,
While being good stewards of the public’s trust.”**

“TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN, MUCH IS REQUIRED.” LUKE 12:48

2013 AGENCY MILESTONES

RECORD CALLS OF 213,488

Expanded the School Resource Officer Program to include all public elementary schools

Earned first reaccreditation with Florida Accreditation Commission - meeting 100% of applicable standards

Set new record for average time in obstacle course
Physical Abilities Testing
required of all sworn officers

Established "The Sheriff's Star" 501-C Charity for employees to provide assistance to community or co-workers in times of need

Reduced violent crime by nearly 11%

Provided free firearms safety training certification to 279 Okaloosa residents

Recorded a 13% increase in calls in Central District

Saw Priority One response times continue to decrease in North District from 7:27 in 2012 to 6:56 in 2013

Tallied 205 DUI arrests in East District

Cleared 1997 Cold Case Homicide of Fort Walton Beach resident Pluma Bell Sanford

Added fulltime Cybercrimes Specialist

Earned "Superior" rating for law enforcement in 2013 City of Destin Business Survey

Trained 145 students on driving safety skills during Teen Driver Challenge programs

Deputy Sheriff Mike Gallagher was honored as Destin Hometown Hero in June 2013, followed by POSSE Capt. Terry Watkins in July

Received federal grants totaling \$1.4 million from U.S. Justice Department COPS program for School Resource Officers & \$177,780 Homeland Security "Operation Stonegarden" Grant to assist with smuggling interdiction efforts



A MESSAGE FROM:

SHERIFF LARRY ASHLEY

In reflecting on 2013, I am overwhelmed with a sense of pride and appreciation for the efforts and achievements of the men and women who make up your Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. It is impossible to adequately summarize all of their accomplishments in this report. Throughout 2013 our Deputies and support staff worked tirelessly to ensure the citizens and visitors of Okaloosa County always received the very finest in police service. Regardless of any challenges faced, your Sheriff's Office performed with determined professionalism to keep Okaloosa County among the safest and greatest places to live. Please take a moment to review this annual report and see highlights of a few of the many achievements for 2013.

In less than two weeks following the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy where 26 lives were lost, our staff developed and implemented a plan placing a fully trained Deputy Sheriff in every public school in our county. Subsequently, through hard work and innovation, the Sheriff's Office School Resource Officer program has evolved into a benchmark for other agencies to emulate. The U.S. Attorney's Office has repeatedly lauded the OCSO program as among the best of its kind anywhere. Though there have been sixteen mass shootings, including many at schools since this time, our SRO program serves as more than a security force. These deputies investigate child crimes, enforce court custody orders, track sex offenders, develop emergency plans and mentor students on a variety of subjects and issues.

In 2013 your Sheriff's Office also completed full reaccreditation by the Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission and was deemed 100% complainant with all 257 accreditation standards. Additionally, the inspection team identified numerous OCSO programs as exemplary including: a) Public Information Office's use of Twitter, Nixle, Facebook and the OCSO website to keep the public informed; b) Public Information Office's "Take a Look, Catch a Crook" program which publishes photographs of suspected criminals on the agency website; c) Crime Prevention Programs including, Neighborhood Watch, Women's Self Defense, the Lock Take and Hide Campaign, Check on Delinquent Youth (CODY), and the Sheriff's Citizen's Academy to name just a few.



A MESSAGE FROM:

SHERIFF LARRY ASHLEY

PAGE TWO

The Accreditation report states: “The agency is clearly a top notch agency and the quality of law enforcement provided to those in Okaloosa County is exceptional”.

Having been subsequently appointed as a Commissioner on The Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, these findings serve as strong evidence that your Sheriff’s Office is providing outstanding law enforcement services to Okaloosa County. Our collective efforts produced a 10.58% drop in violent crime in 2013, reversing a three year trend of increases. Our Criminal Investigative Division also solved the 1997 cold case homicide of Ms. Pluma Bell Sanford, resulting in the indictment and arrest of Harry B. Leach.

As Sheriff, I was honored to serve as the 2013 Honorary Commander of the Marine VMFAT 501-CC attachment to the 33rd Fighter Wing. Our office works frequently with our military partners and this opportunity just reinforced our respect and admiration for the fine people in our community who serve in the Armed Forces. Our Office also formed a Charity Committee made up of deputy sheriffs and staff volunteers who take on community charitable projects and ensure they succeed.

Even though your Sheriff’s Office provides one of the best law enforcement services anywhere, we still maintain one of the lowest per capita costs for services and have one of the lowest officers per thousand citizen ratios in the state and country. As you will see in the remainder of this annual report, the men and women of the Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office worked tirelessly in keeping our community safe during 2013. It is my sincere hope and prayer that all the citizens we serve share the same sense of pride and admiration I feel for these fine men and women.

Sincerely,

Larry Ashley



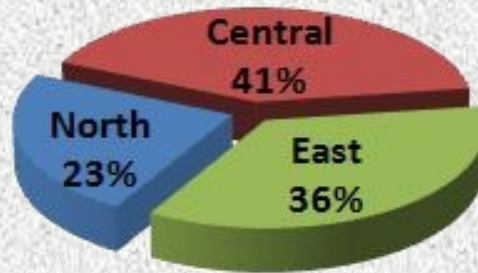
ACTIVITY FACTS OF INTEREST

*Record Breaking 213,488 Calls for Service
(average of 584 per day or 2 calls per minute)*

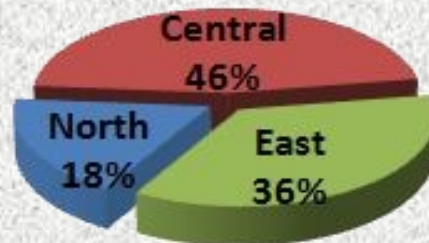


Traffic Stops - 26,560
Disturbances/Fights/Batteries – 6,672
Child Abuse – 987
Noise Complaints –1,930
Intoxicated Drivers –1,289
Suspicious Persons or Activity -1,648
Reckless Driving – 3,213
Traffic Crashes – 5,659
Pedestrian Traffic Crashes – 97
Suspicious Packages – 27
Trespassing –1,527
Lewd Acts/Indecent Exposure –107
Theft – 3,253
Fraud – 978

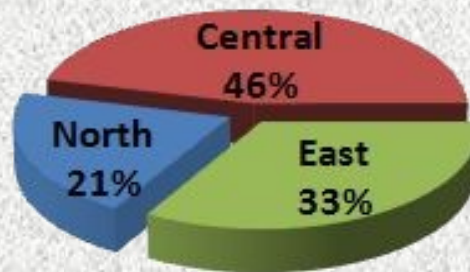
2013 Calls for Service



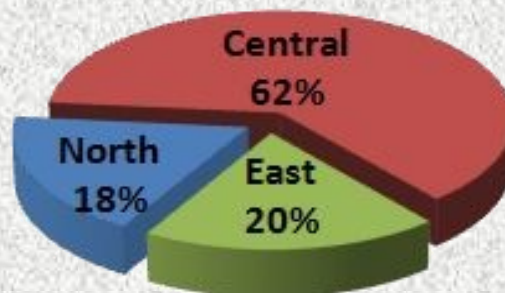
2013 Reports



2013 Incidents with Arrest



2013 Felony Narcotics Arrests



UNIFORMED ROAD PATROL

NORTH DISTRICT



2013 was a year of change and challenges for the men and women of District One. In full support of Sheriff Ashley's commitment to place a School Resource Officer in every school, the District One team pulled together to overcome occasional manning shortfalls.

The deputies assigned to District One place the health and safety of the community above themselves on a daily basis.

Here is one example: On Dec. 16th, deputies were attempting to serve an arrest warrant at Robert's

Trailer Park. They discovered the suspect was not home. Deputy Ken Taylor was returning to patrol when a resident of the trailer park approached, advising she'd come home to find her husband unresponsive on the floor.

Deputy Taylor responded with his AED (Automatic External Defibrillator). He found a 62 year old man barely breathing. EMS was called while Deputy Taylor continued to monitor the patient, whose breathing stopped before the ambulance arrived. Deputy Taylor however delivered one shock from the AED and then performed CPR. The man's pulse and breathing returned. EMS arrived and took the patient to the emergency room.

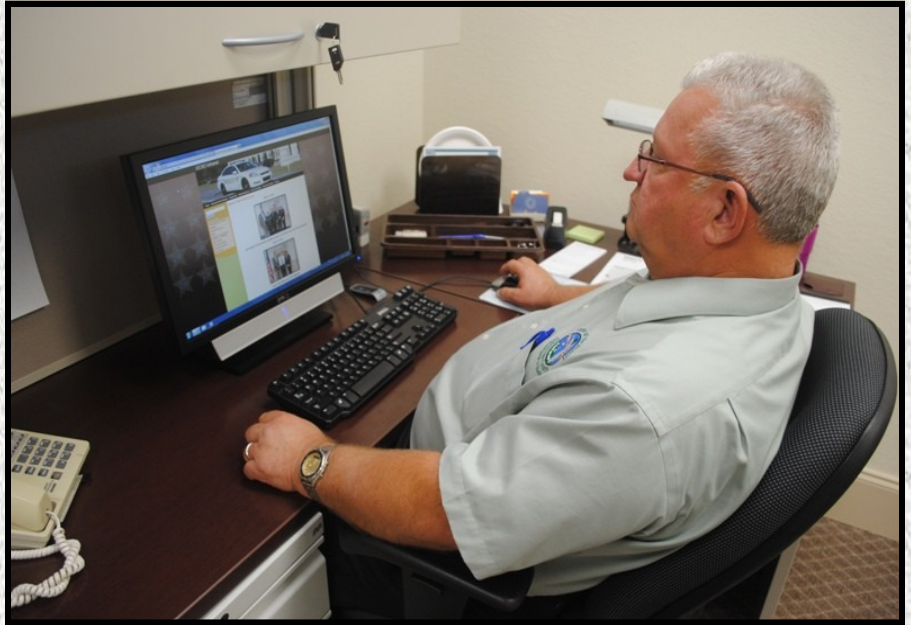
Three hours later the emergency room doctor advised the OCSO Shift Watch Commander that the patient was stable in the Intensive Care Unit and that he would not have survived without the aid provided by Deputy Taylor.

Deputy Taylor received the OCSO Life Saving Award, given to members whose selfless acts in the community directly result in saving the life of another.

This past year the District One Office, located in the Judge Joe Livingston Building in Crestview , evolved into a full service office where citizens can seek assistance. It now provides an automated fingerprint capability for those requiring volunteer and business related fingerprints and background checks.

The District Operations building, located on Brackin Street, has been partially remodeled to allow for additional office space and a much needed training room equipped with state of the art audio -

visual equipment. All of the material and equipment was purchased by funds forfeited by criminals. In addition, labor was provided by inmates of the Okaloosa County Jail, saving county taxpayers thousands of dollars.



Of the 41,822 calls for service in the district there were a total of 560 Probable Cause arrests. 115 of those were Domestic Violence related.

There were 62 arrests for DUI and a total of 1,504 Warrant services.

The OCSO North District is also happy to report that Priority One call response times continued to decrease. The average response time for 2013 was 6:56 versus 7:27 for 2012.

NORTH DISTRICT INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS: PROMOTIONS/AWARDS

Deputy Nolan Weeks - Promoted to Investigator/Corporal

Deputy Matt Self - Promoted to Investigator/Corporal

Deputy Heath Hehl - American Legion Post #395

North Okaloosa Law Enforcement Officer of the Year



CENTRAL DISTRICT

2013 was another noteworthy year in the Central District. It remained not only the busiest district, but recorded 46% of the probable cause arrests for the entire county. In fact, the Central District experienced a 13% increase in the number of calls for service over 2012.

Knowing that substance abuse fuels a significant amount of criminal activity, Central District personnel led the agency in the number of felony narcotics arrests.

Some other noteworthy information about Central District Calls for Service:



~ 2,725 responses to 911 calls

(where nature of the incident was otherwise unknown)

~ 2,680 responses to reported disturbances

***1,084 of those disturbances were identified as domestic/"family" related**

Approximately 17% of calls required two or more deputies

~ 2,272 responses to home or business alarms

***11 or .5% were actual reported incidents**

~ 6,585 traffic stops

***244 stops resulted in an arrest**

***131 stops resulted in a criminal citation or notice to appear in court**

***21 resulted in the service of an outstanding warrant**

***1,117 stops included a citation being issued**

***4,857 of the stops (74%) concluded with a written or verbal warning**

The Central District Office Front Desk is staffed with a non-sworn employee. This is a bustling office and the civilian clerk has been trained and qualified to serve all functions with the exception of arresting persons or serving warrants. The desk served more than 2300 “walk-in” citizens in addition to answering countless phone calls.

~ District Deputies hosted more than 150 citizens as ride along observers for a shift.

~ Under the “Gold Star Program” nearly all of the convenience stores and “Smoke Shops” in the district agreed not to sell “Spice” and other synthetic drugs, regardless of legal status, and they now display a decal expressing the dangers of the substances and their commitment to not sell them.



- ~ Three Central District members provided life saving CPR in separate events.
- ~ Four District members were nominated for Deputy of the Year.
- ~ Three of the four shift Supervisors moved into other assignments this year.
- ~ Achieved 100% Pass rate on the agency Physical Agility Test.
- ~ Provided instruction in the OCSO Citizen Police Academies and Teen Driver Challenges.
- ~ Provided agency wide instruction in various tactical training events.
- ~ Provided consistent, quality service to the community despite a 32% turnover rate in assigned personnel.
- ~ Many District members meet agency and community needs by taking on additional duties with the Special Response Team, the Crisis Negotiations Unit, Crime Scene Investigations, Dive Team and the Honor Guard.

CENTRAL DISTRICT INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS: PROMOTIONS/AWARDS

Central District Individual Accomplishments:

Deputy Brandon Mundt – Life Saving Award

Deputy Mark Nucci - Life Saving Award

Deputy Chris Ball – Life Saving Award

Deputy Mark Nucci – Outstanding Performance Award



Deputy Chris Ball



Deputy Mark Nucci



Deputy Brandon Mundt

CENTRAL DISTRICT COMMUNITY SERVICE “ABOVE AND BEYOND”

Central District members continue serve the community in a number of “non-traditional” ways. In one case, a deputy met a citizen struggling with physical and emotional difficulties whose home had become cluttered past their ability to clean it. Once off-duty, the deputy organized community members and performed a clean up at the grateful citizen’s home. This is but one example of commitment to the community.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES INCLUDE:

- ~ Homeless Coalition Board of Directors Member**
- ~Community Development Corporation Board Member**
 - ~ Homeless Task Force Committee Member**
 - ~Opportunity Place Shelter Board Member**
 - ~ AMI Kids Emerald Coast Board Member**
 - ~Addictions Counseling**
- ~Volunteer coaches for High School and Middle School sports**
 - ~DJJ Circuit Advisory Board Member**
- ~Participation in many charity fundraising events: The Emerald Coast Mud Run for Orphans, the Run for Science, Fisher House Benefit, Heart Walk, Relay for Life, Angel Tree, Toys for Tots, United Way Day of Caring, and many others.**



EAST DISTRICT

Calls for service in the East District, (which covers from east of the Brooks Bridge to the Walton County line, north to Duke Field, and south to Northwest Florida Regional Airport), continued to climb to new levels in 2013. One of the largest populations serviced in the East District is Destin, which also saw a record-breaking year in the number of visitors during the timeframe between Spring Break and the end of summer. Despite the all-time high in demand for service, the OCSO, which provides law enforcement services to the City of Destin under a contract agreement, earned a superior rating in a 2013 City of Destin Business Survey.

Due to the high level of calls in 2013, East District shift supervisors worked to continually monitor those calls and prioritize responses. The 44 deputies and one Investigator assigned continued to demonstrate a positive attitude and solid work ethic to ensure high levels of service.

In 2013 the deputies assigned to East District Patrol Services responded to 63,746 calls for service, completed 5057 offense reports and affected 1364 arrests. Included in that total were 205 DUI arrests, 216 narcotic arrests, 25 burglary arrests, and six robbery arrests. In addition, deputies responded to and investigated 1,961 traffic crashes on the roadways of Destin alone.

Total Calls for Service	63,746
Total Offense Reports	5,057
Total Arrest Reports	1,364



EAST DISTRICT



Marine, Beach Patrol and Dive Team assets were realigned under the East District in October 2013 and are supervised by the East District Sergeant. This allows for more direct supervision of these critical resources.

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 home-town 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

EAST DISTRICT COMMUNITY SERVICE “ABOVE AND BEYOND”



ADDITIONAL SERVICES INCLUDE:

- ~ Led the agency with the 2013 American Cancer Society Relays for Life in Fort Walton, Destin & Niceville
- ~ Sponsored multiple families at “Operation Empty Stocking”
- ~ Attended dozens of Chambers of Commerce meetings, Destin and Niceville City Council Meetings, and other Civic Functions
- ~ Provided instruction for OCSO Citizens Academy

EAST DISTRICT INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS: PROMOTIONS/AWARDS

Sgt. Shannon Tait promoted to Lieutenant

Deputy Jeremy Gilbert promoted to Sgt.

Dep. Kaye Towner and Dep. Michael Evans promoted to Investigator



In July 2013, Lt. Shannon Tait, Frank Taylor, and Deputies Chad Goleta, Michael Van Eps, Jason Stoker, Christine Tenzycki, and Jon Hernandez responded to a burglary in progress at Club Destin Resort. They quickly established a perimeter and discovered multiple suspects had burglarized numerous cars in the area. The three suspects attempted to separate and flee the area. All three were located and arrested. All the stolen property was recovered, including firearms.

For their efforts Lt. Shannon Tait, and Deputies Frank Taylor, Chad Goleta, Michael Van Eps, Jason Stoker, Christine Tenzycki, and Jon Hernandez received Letters of Commendation.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

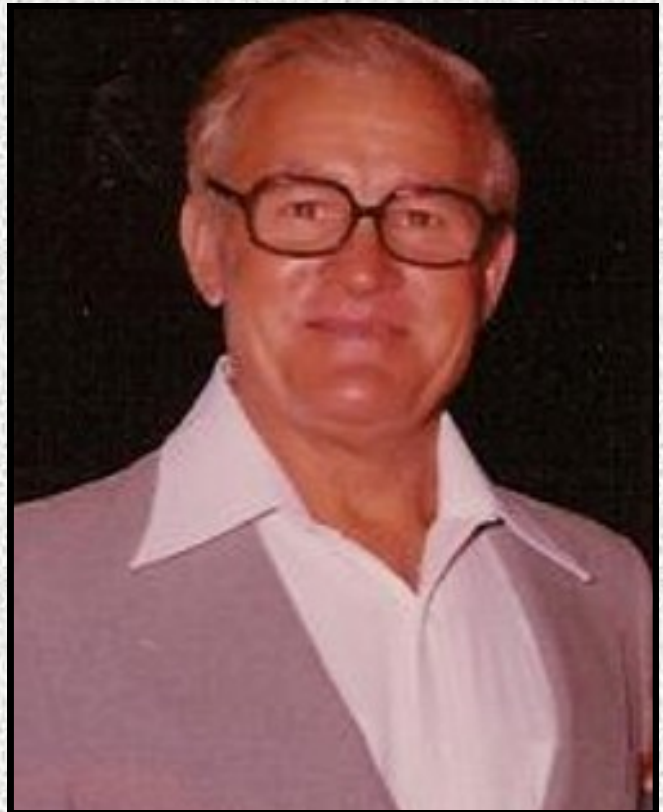
The Criminal Investigation Section has added a full-time cyber-crime specialist. This was done to combat emerging criminal trends that seek to exploit internet based activities through intrusions, fraud, commerce and identity theft. It is estimated that U.S. web shoppers spent over \$232 Billion in 2013 alone. This specialist will also provide support to other units within investigations including the Economic Crimes Unit, Property Crimes Unit, Internet Crimes Against Children and others.



The Criminal Investigation Section also added a full-time polygraphist, increasing the efficiency of the Investigations Division. This investigative tool is available 24/7 to assist in both active criminal investigations and pre-employment back-ground screenings.

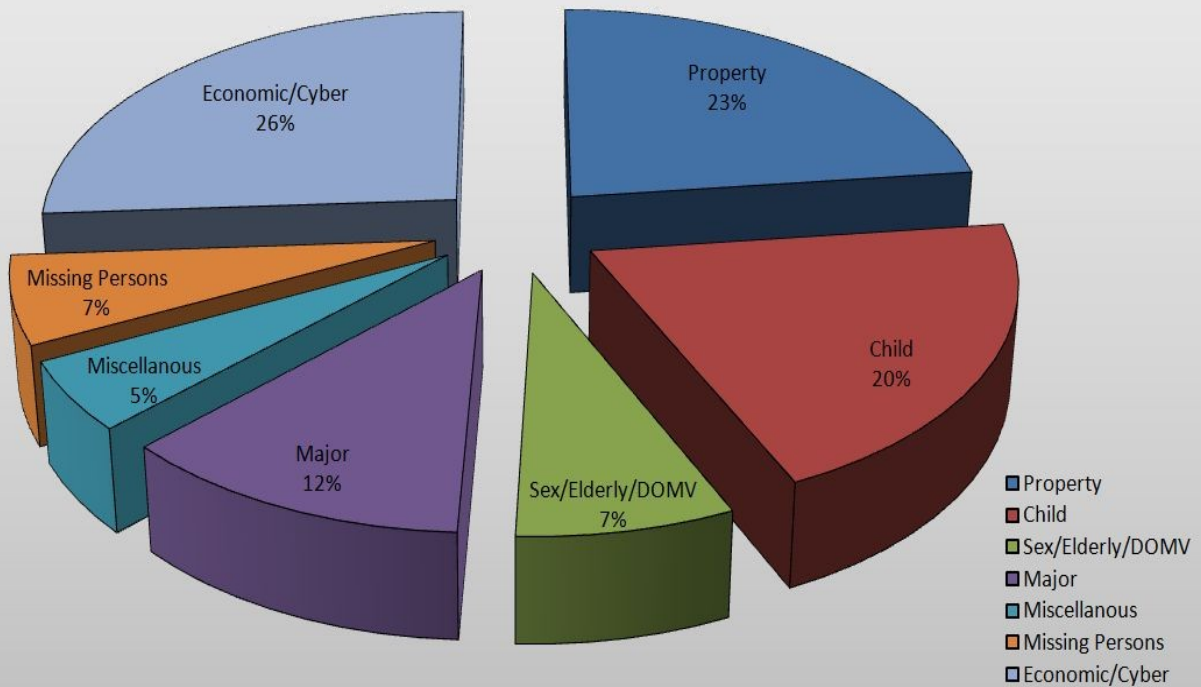
The Special Investigation Section was reorganized to include other specialty units dealing with criminal activity directly and indirectly related to illicit narcotics activity and violence. The Drug Task Force, Fugitive Warrants, Street Crimes and K-9 Units all work and interact in a cohesive effort for the efficient investigation, interdiction and arrest of narcotics violators, violent offenders and “vice” activity.

The Criminal Investigation Section closed the 1997 homicide case of Pluma Bell Sanford. In November 2012, a DNA match was identified to a suspect from crime scene evidence. One month later, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement confirmed the DNA match of Harry B. Leach of Missouri. The suspect was arrested in 2013 for the offense of kidnapping and homicide and extradited to Florida to stand trial. In June 2013, the suspect died while in jail. A complete review of the case was conducted by the Office of the State Attorney. It was determined that evidence indicated the suspect was responsible for the death of Pluma Bell Sanford and the case was closed.

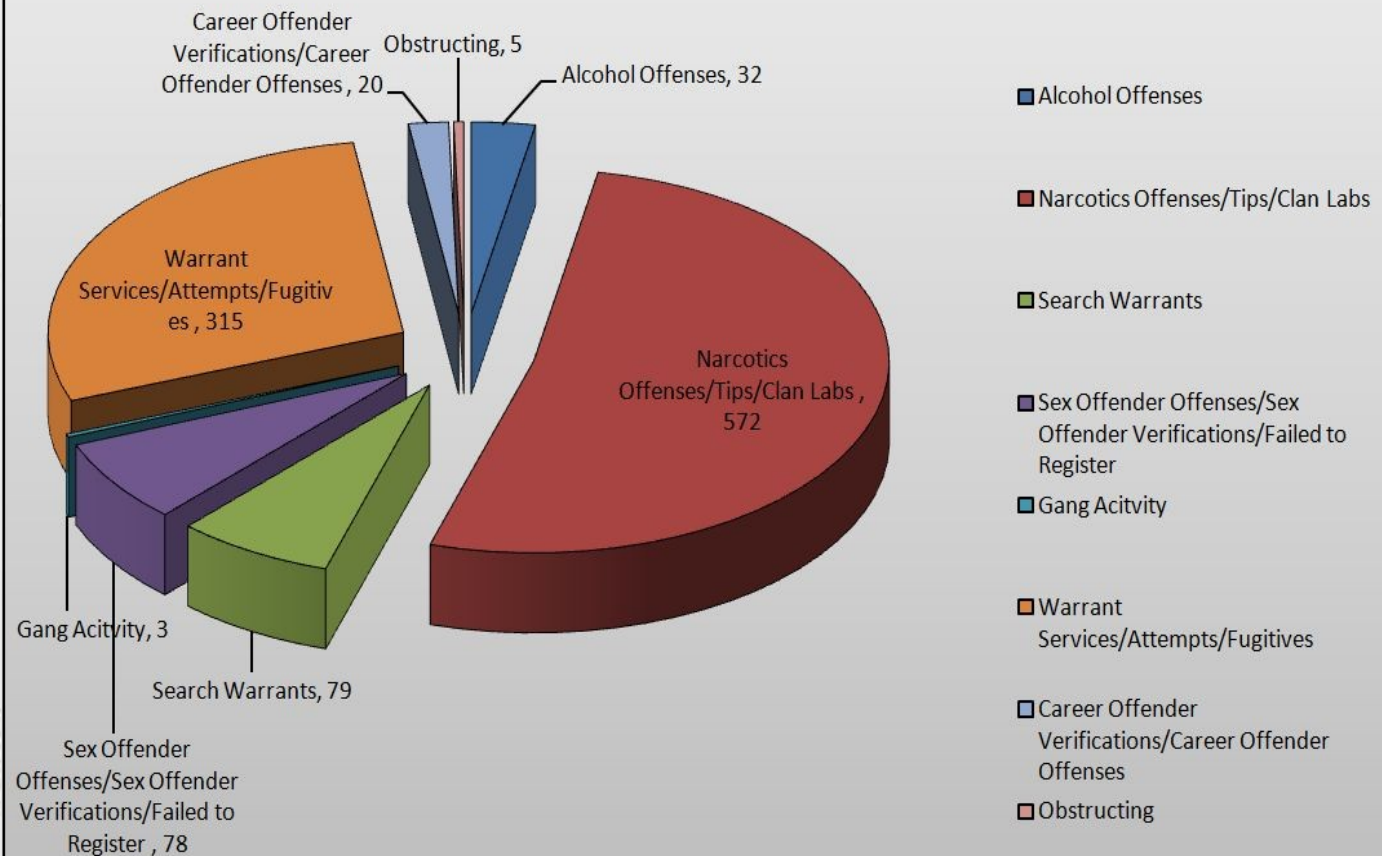


In another cold case, OCSO Investigators working the Buddy Phelps murder uncovered information related to another homicide which occurred in Alabama. This information was provided to the Lawrence County Alabama Sheriff's Office, resulting in the arrest of Garry R. Lindsey, who was charged with the 2006 murder of Roy Dale Oliver. Okaloosa investigations worked closely with the Lawrence Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Gene Mitchell said their support was "instrumental in solving this cold case."

2013 Criminal Investigations



2013 Special Investigations



THE OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION IS ONE OF EIGHT FLORIDA AGENCIES AWARDED A "STOP" GRANT—(SERVICES, TRAINING, OFFICERS, PROSECUTORS) WHICH PROVIDES FUNDING FOR A SPECIALIZED INVESTIGATOR.

THAT INVESTIGATOR FOCUSES ON CASES INVOLVING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, STALKING AND INJUNCTION VIOLATIONS, IN AN EFFORT TO COMBAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND PROTECT VICTIMS.

THIS INVESTIGATOR ALSO FORMS PARTNERSHIPS WITH CIVIC-ORIENTED ABUSE CENTERS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION.

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The OCSO's first on-site assessment for reaccreditation with the Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission took place May 7 – May 9th. Sheriff's Office staff demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the process. Their efforts led to the agency's first reaccreditation in which 100% of all applicable standards were met with no corrective actions, waivers, or elective exemptions.

The Sheriff's Office has enrolled in the process of seeking national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), the first of its kind attempt for local area law enforcement.



TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

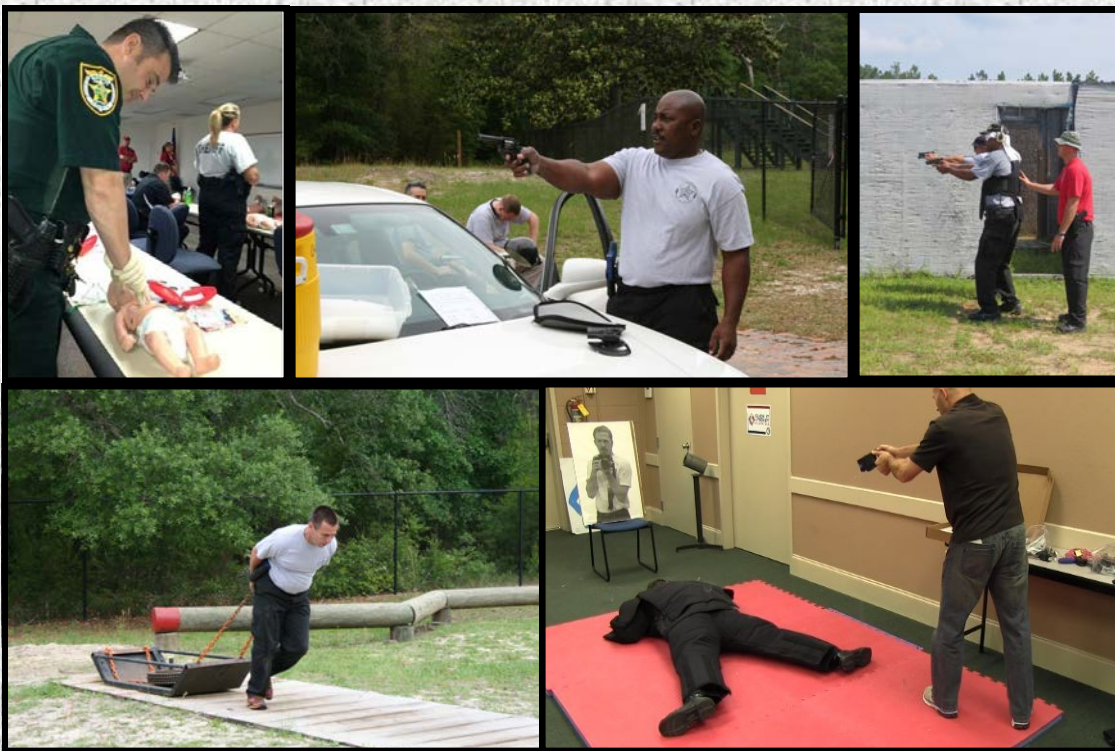
- ~ **Citizen Firearms training course attendance increased 56% with 279 graduates receiving certification. This course was provided free of charge with a volunteer staff accumulating more than 500 total hours of service.**
- ~ **There were 26 retired law enforcement officers recertified to carry concealed firearms under the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004. The Federal Bill mandates annual firearms training for qualified retired law enforcement officers and was also provided at no cost.**
- ~ **The Sheriff's Office hosted seven local agencies for their firearms training totaling more than 30 days (at no cost): those participating included the Ft. Walton Beach Police Department, Crestview Police Department, Office of the State Attorney 1st Judicial Circuit, Florida Wildlife Commission, United States Coast Guard, Okaloosa County Department of Corrections, and U.S. 7TH Special Forces Group.**

The total number of training hours for employees in 2013: 20,705 hours.

The breakdown includes:

- ~ 3,385 hours of online training, an increase of more than 1,000 hours
- ~ 2,838 hours of Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC) course hours
- ~ 1,110 hours of firearms training
- ~ 782 hours Emergency Vehicle Operations training
- ~ 788 hours CPR and AED certification
- ~ 10,171 training hours awarded for practical instruction

The Physical Abilities Testing (PAT) program saw across the board improvements in all age groups for average completion times by deputies. The 16 station obstacle course, approximately a half mile in distance, was completed in 5 minutes 35 seconds on average, a new course record and well under the eight and a half minutes allowed.



Keeping in line with the Sheriff's Training Division theme of maximizing training and reducing overtime costs, the agency Emergency Vehicle Operations course was expanded to include online instructional training. Deputies can now complete the training at their convenience on duty. It also allows for more actual driving time for each deputy during training sessions.

COURT SECURITY

The workload increased across the board for Court Security in 2013.

The Detention Section processed or transported 9,906 subjects, 124 more than it handled in 2012.

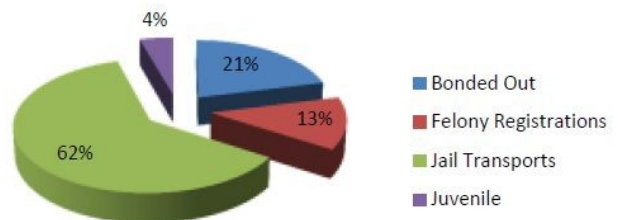
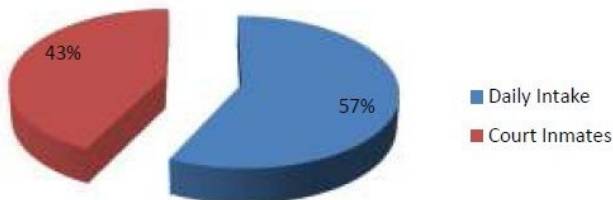
Court Security North handled 16,203 cases or hearings. They also screened 107,545 individuals through the Single Point of Entry. That figure is up 7,828 from last year. In addition, they seized 306 items of contraband or weapons.

Court Security South handled 46,134 cases or hearings during 2013 which equates to approximately 188 per day. They screened 149,263 citizens through the Single Point of Entry, more than 609 people per day, or 67 per hour. This is an increase of 5,754 from 2012. They seized 411 items of contraband or weapons.

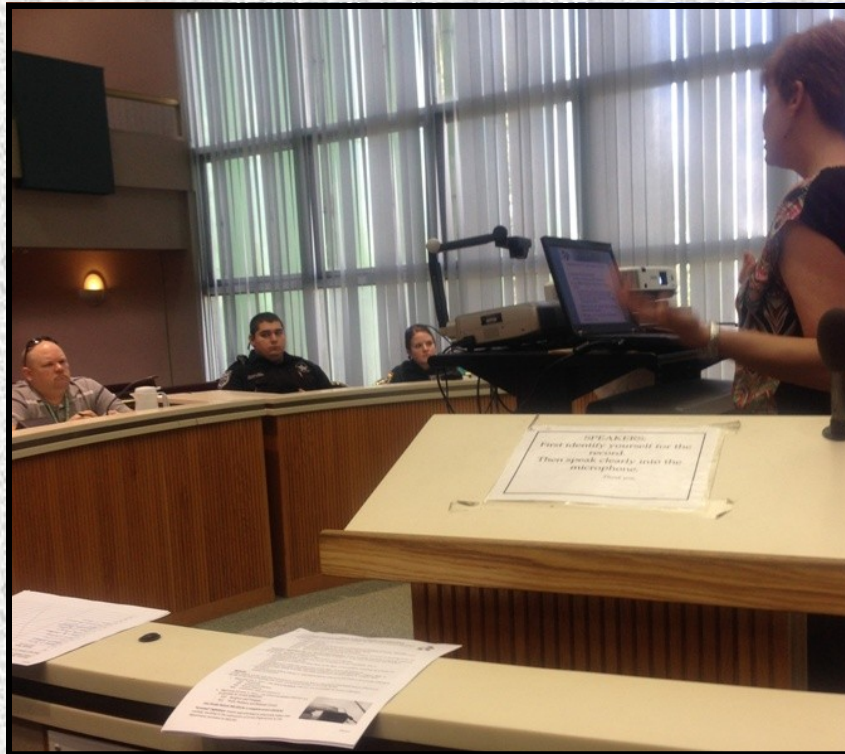
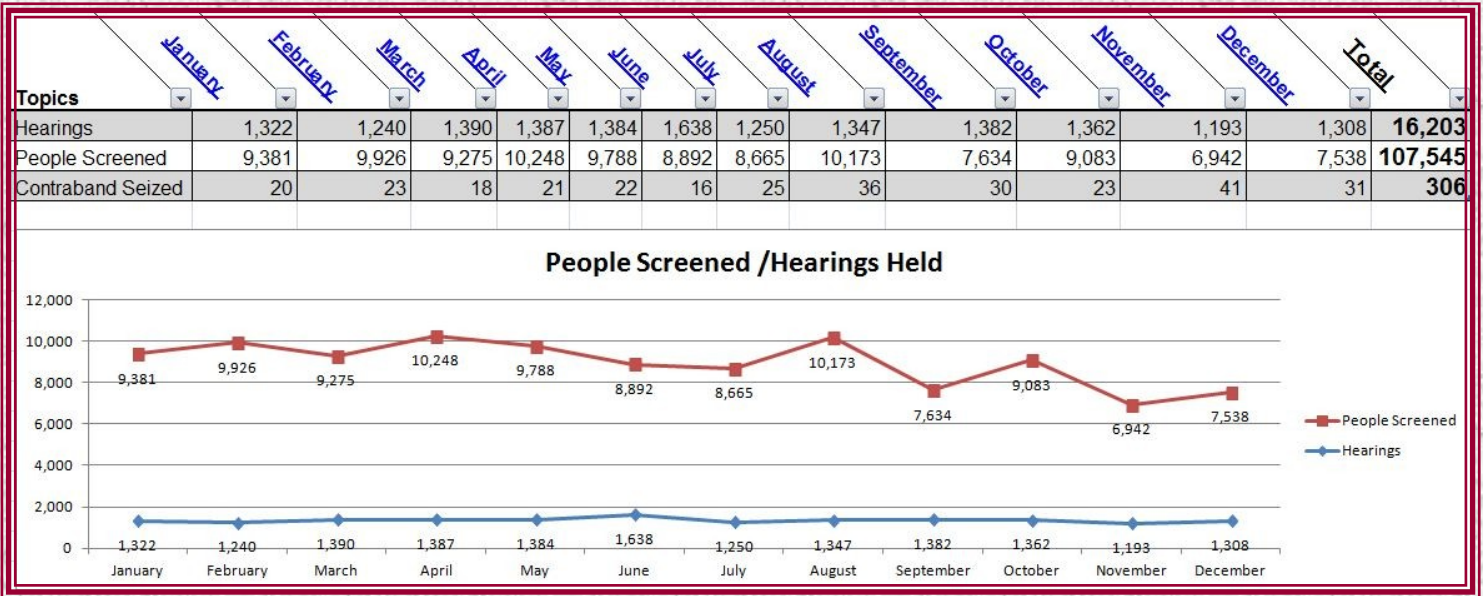
They also processed 817 DNAs from court and submitted them to FDLE. Court Security's efforts have consistently kept Okaloosa within the top echelon of the state for compliance.

2013 Booking and Transportation Totals

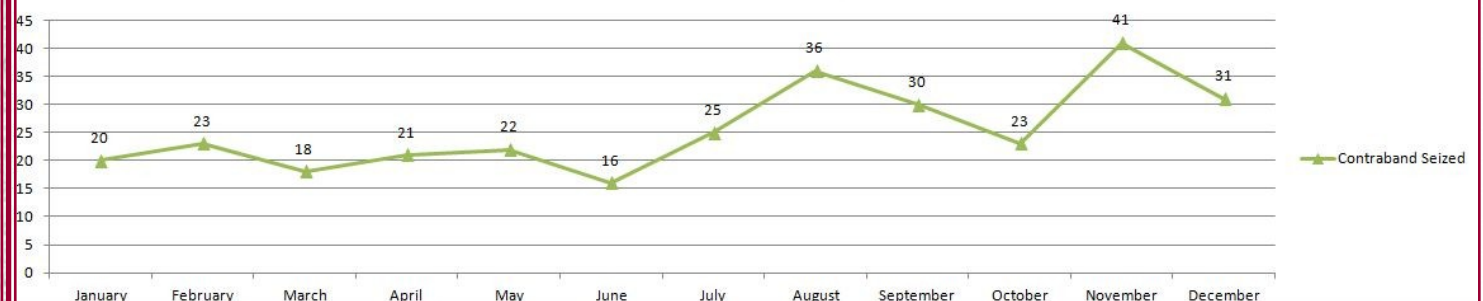
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Daily Intake	456	419	434	509	472	499	488	505	483	490	461	453	5669
Bonded Out	69	73	77	118	124	85	120	116	73	107	115	96	1173
Felony Registrations	63	54	44	63	62	72	64	67	58	51	63	57	718
Jail Transports	300	275	292	293	276	307	268	274	312	304	248	269	3418
Court Inmates	363	350	270	384	391	323	361	425	347	410	319	294	4237
Juvenile	24	15	21	27	12	25	16	21	31	18	18	20	248
Total Per Month	819	769	704	893	863	822	849	930	830	900	780	747	9906



NORTH END COURT SECURITY STATISTICS



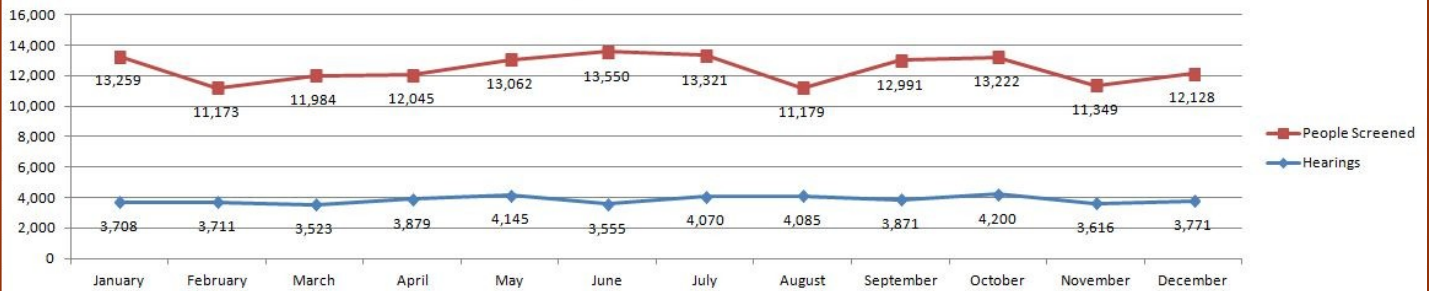
Contraband Seized



SOUTH END COURT SECURITY STATISTICS

Topic	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Hearings	3,708	3,711	3,523	3,879	4,145	3,555	4,070	4,085	3,871	4,200	3,616	3,771	46,134
People Screened	13,259	11,173	11,984	12,045	13,062	13,550	13,321	11,179	12,991	13,222	11,349	12,128	149,263
Contraband Seized	25	40	57	33	50	29	16	42	52	17	22	48	431
DNA Taken (All)	70	45	46	60	61	71	66	98	67	98	44	91	817

People Screened /Hearings Held



Contraband Seized



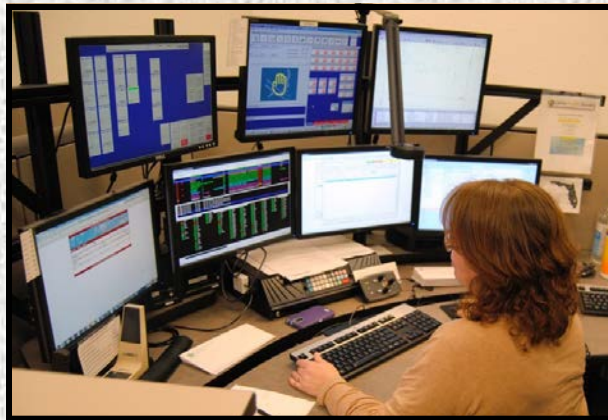
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

I.T. NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

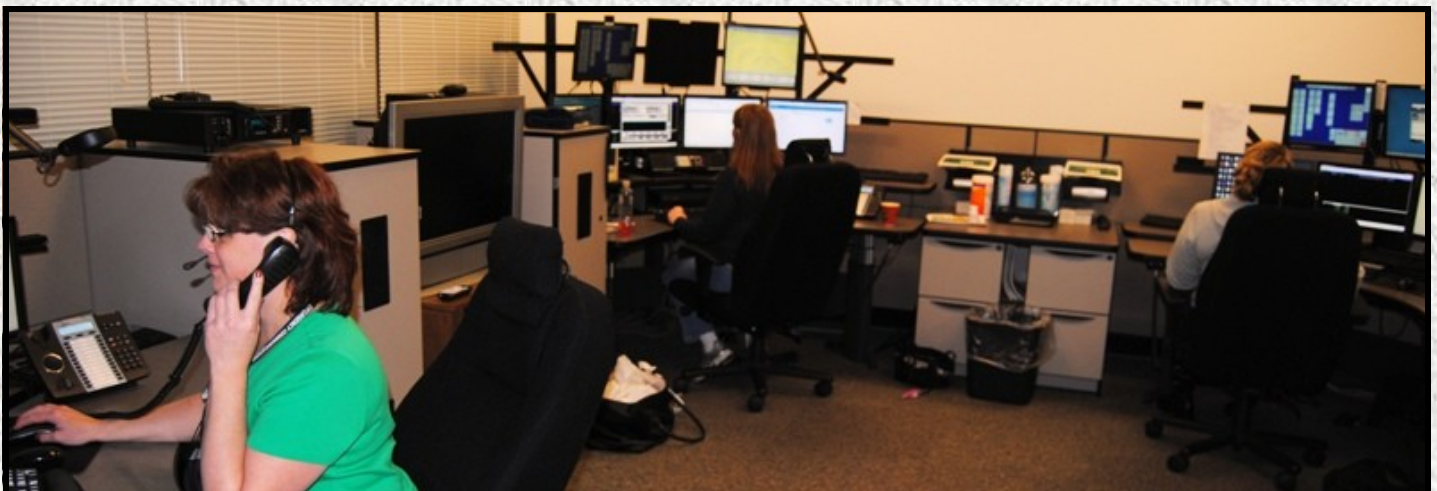
~ Implemented an internal help desk system to track computer issues and assistance provided



~ Communication Center: Handled 213,488 Calls for Service, including 49,964 9-1-1 calls



~ Notable incidents: Included March 20th barge collision with the Brooks Bridge and officer-involved shooting May 15th



JUDICIAL SERVICES

WARRANTS

The Warrants Unit handles all agency arrest warrants and civil commit orders issued by the courts in Okaloosa County. Warrants also intakes warrants and civil commits from other counties in Florida where the defendant/respondent may be in Okaloosa County. Warrants coordinates and arranges transports of defendants taken into custody in other states and throughout the state, utilizing a combination of in-house resources and a commercial transport company. In addition, the OCSO is required to transport inmates from the institution where they are housed back to Okaloosa County for court hearings.



WARRANTS NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ~ Warrants processed, entered, scanned, and maintained 12,767 Orders from the Court; while completing monthly warrant and injunction validations
- ~ Processed app. 14,226 offense reports and associated documents.
- ~ Processed 383 DUI (Driving Under the Influence) cases
- ~ Processed 7,476 Uniform Traffic Citations
- ~ Processed 1,151 Traffic Crash Reports
- ~ Processed 1,684 Written Traffic Warning Citations

CIVIL PROCESS

The Sheriff or his deputy is required by Florida statute to serve orders from the courts that come into his possession. Civil Process receipts in and processes all enforceable and non-enforceable orders from the courts. Examples include but are not limited to domestic violence injunctions, repeat violence injunctions, dating violence injunctions, summons and complaints in civil disputes, criminal subpoenas, landlord tenant cases, writs of possessions, and writs of replevin. Civil Process clerks also collect applicable statutory service fees.

CIVIL PROCESS NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ~ 16,332 papers served
- ~ 1,433 domestic/repeat/dating/sexual/stalking violence injunctions
- * an increase of 15% over 2012
- ~ 33 juvenile protection orders (Chapter 39)
- (**Since July of this year with the FDLE approval, entering on hand active Juvenile Orders into FCIC, approximately 75% complete)
- ~ 9,767 criminal subpoenas
- ~ 550 domestic/repeat/dating violence injunction orders
- * a 56% increase over 2012
- ~ \$169,957 in fees collected



LOGISTICS

The Logistics Division is comprised of Fleet, Fleet Maintenance, Supply/Quartermaster, Electronics, Facilities Maintenance, Evidence/Property, Crime Scene Investigations, CHOICE Instruction, and Chaplains. All of these separate entities have one singular purpose; to directly support the deputies and personnel of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office in their mission to ensure the safety and well-being of the citizens of Okaloosa County.

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 down to prevent the decay of idle vehicles costing insurance and registration fees, yet allowing for an adequate supply of back-up and special needs vehicles. Nineteen new vehicles have been added to the fleet.



Fleet has 348 vehicles in its inventory, including 126 patrol vehicles, 25 specialized vehicles, and 200 “moderate use” vehicles designated for Investigations, Detention, SROs, and Court Security. Currently, there are 171 vehicles identified as over the projected 150,000 mile/six year mark for replacement.



At the current rate of use, an additional 151 vehicles will come due for replacement in 2014. Additionally, there are 21 trailers, (including utility trailers and Emergency Response trailers), seven all terrain vehicles, and five boats in the OCSO inventory.

Over the past year, the Fleet Division has serviced 1,169 vehicles, averaging 97 per month. Service includes everything from oil changes and electrical to body parts repair and engine rebuilding. As a result, outsourcing for costly repairs is minimal. In fact, this in-house service would cost the agency more



than \$341,000.00 if it was outsourced. 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.

New vendors are consistently sought in a quest to save money without sacrificing the quality of service.

Eleven vehicles were sent to auction, garnering \$14,900.00 for the agency.

SUPPLY/QUARTERMASTER

The Supply Division maintains the necessary materials to equip both 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 continuously test 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, ensuring the integrity of the components and preventing loose wiring from becoming hazardous to the operator. Cages and other equipment, such as secure equipment boxes and gun racks, are custom installed.

One vehicle from an outside agency was assembled at no cost to that agency. There were 603 repairs or modifications and 26 complete assemblies accomplished in 2013.

The shop also calibrates speedometers and radar units. During 2013, 569 speedometers were calibrated. 364 of those units were from other law enforcement agencies. 374 radar units were calibrated, with 228 from other agencies. (Calibrations for other agencies were performed at no cost to them.)

The shop also repairs electrical components ranging from monitors and cameras to everyday items such as vacuum cleaners, saving the OCSO costly outsourcing funds.

The shop lost one member due to retirement in 2013 and obtained a part-time employee in his place.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE



The Facility Maintenance crew, augmented by inmate labor, is responsible for the grounds, car washes, 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, the Deployment trailer, and the Meth Lab Response trailer. Complete renovations were done of the Finance section, the Command Staff area, Training Room, and Brackin Street offices, as well as modifications to Information Technology offices. These renovations created additional as well as

more functional workspaces.

The OCSO received more than \$850.00 from the sale of unusable metal products, and \$780.00 worth of new power equipment was received in trade for unusable machinery in the inventory.

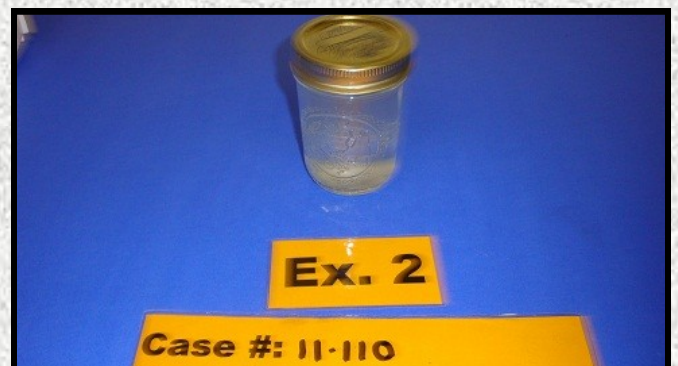
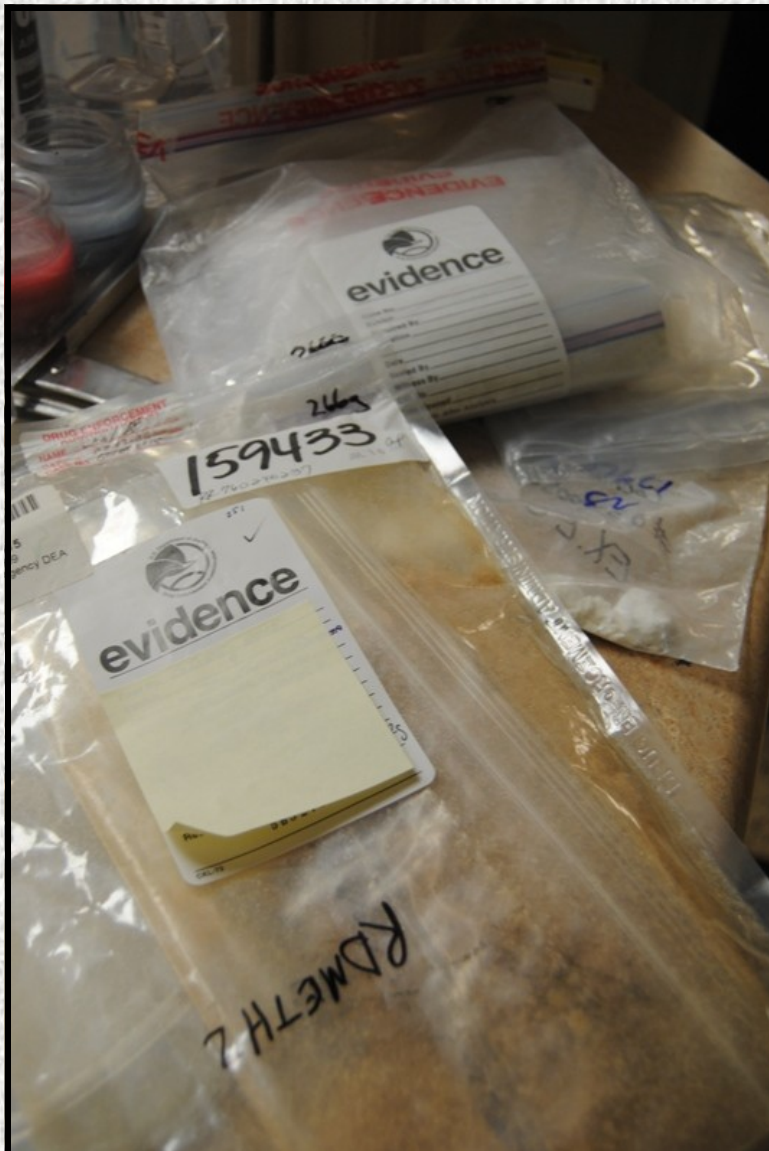
The crew also performed the preparation and site work to facilitate the move of two 20' X 60' mobile homes (used as offices) from the Shalimar Courthouse Annex to the OCSO Range Training Facility in Crestview.

EVIDENCE/PROPERTY ROOM

The Evidence/Property Room maintained the safekeeping and integrity of 70,544 pieces of evidence and 1,260 pieces of found property. Over the past year, the OCSO took in 16,217 pieces of evidence and purged 5,378 pieces. In addition, evidence personnel logged 259 hours on the road picking up evidence at substations and delivering evidence to the Pensacola FDLE Crime Lab.

Overall, 2,174 items were processed at the FDLE Crime Lab. (Items that can be properly disposed of and are usable, such as bicycles, are donated to charity.)

Inspectors with the Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission found the OCSO Evidence Room to be well-organized, efficient, and in full compliance with accreditation standards.



CHAPLAINS

The volunteer Chaplain Corps logged more than 1,519 hours in service to the personnel of the OCSO. They provide training and counseling to all department personnel, as well as citizens seeking help when in contact with a deputy. OCSO Chaplains handle death notifications, funerals, weddings, and baptisms, and are present for official functions. Additionally, they make their presence known throughout the various facilities to spread kind words and 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, three of which have been recommended to be sworn in as Chaplains.

The Chaplains planned and executed another highly successful Law Enforcement Memorial Luncheon attended by more than 350 people and organized the department “Shining Star Angel Tree” which helped 83 children. The average spent by each OCSO sponsor was \$125.00, totaling \$10,375.00.



In addition, OCSO Chaplains planned, implemented, and hosted Southeast Regional Training for the International Conference of Police Chaplains. The format for this highly successful event at the OCSO has now been adopted by the International Chapter of Police Chaplains.

CHOICE

The OCSO provides a full time employee to the CHOICE program at Crestview High School. This highly motivated instructor provides three levels of instruction to high school students in legalities, technology, and protocols of crime scene analysis. Support is given from the Crime Scene Investigation Section, and students can spend the summer receiving additional training and field experience.

The 2013 school year ended with 118 students. This school year, there are 81 beginning, 23 intermediate, and 22 advanced students - for a total current enrollment of 126 students.

CRIME SCENE UNIT

Crime Scene Personnel balanced their time between crime scene work and augmenting the Evidence Room staff.

Approximately 44% of their time was spent working the evidence room. They provided training to the shift CSIs, new recruits, and did demonstrations for public schools and civic groups. They are moving forward with the implementation of a universal latent print workstation. The latent station will connect directly to the FBI and give investigators latent print results in hours rather than weeks.



The Crime Scene Unit both planned and sponsored a regional latent print weeklong class at the OCSO that was attended by students from as far away as New Jersey.



YOUTH SERVICES



Beginning in 1997, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office entered into partnership with the Okaloosa County School Board and formed the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. After the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012, Sheriff Larry Ashley expanded the program to include all public schools. School Resource Officers are now fulfilling responsibilities at 37 public schools and serving a student population of 30,000 plus students, along with a faculty and staff of 2,500 School District personnel. SRO's are also responsible for safety and security of all Middle and High School sporting events and other school related activities as well.



The SRO program operates on multiple levels. The first priority of the SRO program is the frontline protection of students, staff, and school property. Additionally the SRO's are involved in the following areas as they partner with students, parents, and staff:

~ Establishing youth relations and mentoring programs through positive law enforcement interactions: Programs that SRO's are directly involved in — Okaloosa County Sheriff's Explorers, Florida Sheriff's Association Caruth Camp, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Youth Week, and Teen Drivers Challenge.



~ Providing educational classroom instruction on a variety of topics to include cyber safety, bullying, anti-alcohol and drug abuse experimentation prevention, and Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) These programs are taught at all levels—elementary, middle, and high school.



~ **Intelligence and Crime Prevention.**

~ **Diversionary Programs, Teen Court for first-time youthful offenders.**

~ **Serving as role models, creating an atmosphere to cultivate good citizenship and respect for people, property and community.**

~ **Hosting the Explorers Program— mentoring our youth to help create “Tomorrow’s Leaders Today”**



CRIME PREVENTION

The Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit had a busy year in 2013, working to educate local citizens so they are less likely to become victims of a crime.

SOME NOTABLE CRIME PREVENTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ~ **Participated in 65 community events throughout the county, handing out safety brochures, booklets, and flyers.**
- ~ **Provided 44 safety presentations on various topics to churches, civic groups, organizations, and schools.**
- ~ **Disseminated CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) crime security reviews to schools, Neighborhood Watch Groups, condos, and organizations.**
- ~ **Started six new Neighborhood Watch Groups.**
- ~ **Provided four free Women's Self Defense Classes to approximately 185 women through Karate Master Joe Cayer.**



~ Oversaw a total of 7,157 Volunteer hours:

- * **The general volunteers completed 1,318 hours by working in the office and at community booths.**
- * **Mounted Posse completed 4,070 hours of service including rodeos, parades and events with static displays.**
- * **RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) volunteers completed 250 hours including CODY checks on juvenile probationers and assisting the OCSO Posse with traffic and crowd control.**
- * **Chaplains completed 1,519 hours**

TEEN DRIVER CHALLENGE

During 2013, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office increased its commitment to the Teen Driver Challenge program. 145 teens received this valuable training during 2013. Most students came from Okaloosa County but some traveled from as far as Pensacola and Panama City to learn advanced driving skills. The number of certified instructors was increased from 24 to 52 and a commitment was made in June to double the number of teens receiving the training. June 2013 was the two year anniversary of the pro-

gram and 201 teens had been trained at that point.

A goal was set to increase student attendance to 200 teens in 12 months and the number of classes was doubled to meet that goal. The OCSO is on track to succeed in training 200 students by the end of June 2014.

Public response to the program has been outstanding and many teens who attend new classes have been referred to the program from prior attendees or their parents. We have also seen several younger siblings of prior students attend because so many parents of former students want all their children to have this valuable training.



The OCSO also partnered with other Sheriff's Offices in the Northwest Florida to provide training to instructors from those agencies on the Teen Driver Challenge (TDC). As a result, 28 future instructors from three different Sheriff's Offices received Teen Driver Challenge Instructor training. Two of those agencies have begun or are ready to begin hosting the training within their own communities. The third agency is actively moving toward the same goal. All are modeling their programs after many techniques and procedures we have successfully used.

Instructors from the Teen Driver Challenge also supported the Florida Sheriff's Association by staffing the TDC booth at the FSA Mid-Winter Conference at Sandestin Beach Resort.

The Teen Driver Challenge vehicles and Seatbelt Convincer trailer were used at community events and schools throughout Okaloosa County to engage thousands of teens and parents in conversation about teen driver safety and the free training we offer through the Teen Driver Challenge. The TDC program was also profiled at several other community/ military speaking events.

Some of those events included: OCSO Youth Week, FWB Relay for Life, Back to School Bash at Shalimar United Methodist Church, Trunk or Treat event at Wright Baptist Church, Farm Bureau Annual Dinner at Crestview Community Center, Big Truck Day at the Destin Community Center, Several parades throughout Okaloosa County, Crestview Rotary Club, 7th SFG Safety Briefings, Red Horse Squadron Safety Briefing, 96th LRS Squadron Safety Stand-down, VFA-101 Safety Briefing, 505th CCW/CC Squadron Safety Day at Hurlburt Field, 486th Flight Test Squadron Safety Briefing, MADD Victim Impact Panels.



The success of the OCSO TDC program was also recognized when Sheriff Larry Ashley was quoted in the Fall edition of The Sheriff's Star:

“Law enforcement is a calling to have a positive effect in our communities,” said Sheriff Ashley. “We believe this valuable program represents an amazing opportunity to make a positive difference in a teen driver’s life by teaching skills that can help keep them safe for the rest of their life.” (Source: The Sheriff's Star Fall 2013 Edition, Page 12)”



FINANCE

The Finance Department administered fifteen grants last year which included timely reports and audits to the state. In 2013, the OCSO was awarded several new grants including a \$1.4M COPS Grant.

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 continues

to manage purchases and distribution of aids for the Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Escambia, Bay and Walton County SRT's.

The OCSO Payroll Administrator was recognized as the Support Services Division Outstanding Non-Sworn Performer of the Year. This award is subsequent to her recognition as the 2011 Employee of the Year.

Two Finance Team staffers are also members of the Sheriff's Mounted Posse and the Purchasing Clerk was recognized as the Mounted Posse Member of the Year.

Finance revised the organizational structure to create departments and units within divisions. They set up financial software to match the structure so that reports will run at the lowest level and roll up by unit, department and division. This ability gives management the information it needs to track and control expenditures of specific areas because each unit is now identifiable within the general ledger. In addition, Finance is looking to the future when management will use the revised structure in the financial software to plan their expenditures as they head into fiscal year 2015.

The OCSO has a strong ethical standard and Finance helped improve controls within the agency by developing an internal fraud policy which is currently under review for implementation. This policy identifies fraud on a grand scale and includes the misuse of public trust. The policy also establishes a hotline whereby employees can provide information or complaints even if the activity reported is not illegal. We expect this program to be implemented before January 2014.

The Finance Department is going paperless! We began the effort in 2013 and will complete the transition in 2014.

We continue to be team-oriented and diligent. These attributes ensured another successful audit at the end of 2013.



PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Office of Public Information made strides again with social media - approaching the 10,000 “likes” number towards the end of 2013. It issued or posted approximately 235 news releases, to include sexual offender/predator change of address notifications, or other law enforcement related news. All news releases are also shared on OCSO Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Approximately fifty-three videos were added to the agency’s YouTube page in 2013 and garnered an estimated 63,000 views since signing on.

The Public Information Office is taping OCSO news conferences from start to finish and

sharing the unedited segment on YouTube so citizens who want access to the entire context of what was said on issues of local import now have access that opportunity.

Another project completed in 2013 involved a media training video for all incoming deputies, made available on the agency’s POWER DMS in-house training computer site. It allows new deputies to gain a beneficial understanding of the fundamentals of dealing with reporters and/or citizens at a crime scene or other incident.

Public Information and Information Technology combined forces to develop and promote a new iPhone app that makes crime-related public safety information easily accessible to citizens at no charge.

In addition, Public Information assisted the Okaloosa Young Lawyers Division of the Okaloosa Bar Association with a major public awareness campaign for SRO’s called “Stand Up for Safety in Our Schools”.

When the OCSO accepted its first Reaccreditation Award from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, (which certifies that the OCSO maintains the highest standards of professionalism), the Public Information Unit was one of two programs within the agency cited as “exemplary”.



CHARITY COMMITTEE



The Sheriff's Star, sponsored by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, is a 501-C (3) Charity established in 2013 as a means for the employees of OCSO to provide assistance to the community and their co-workers in a time of need or disaster. It also allows for employees as individuals and the OCSO as a group to control the amount of time, monies and talent they give back to the national and or local charity of their choice. Any employee can donate through payroll deduction to any national or local charity. Just as importantly, The Sheriff's Star allows

employees to make additional, meaningful investments in our area. In 2013, they did so to the tune of more than 2,300 hours of time. Our goal is to support not only our OCSO family, but to lift up and give back in a variety of ways year-round.



CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Career Development Program is a program which provides career guidance, recognition of accomplishments, and financial incentives for non-supervisory deputies with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. The Career Development Program provides a distinct career tract for deputies who want to go beyond the minimum requirements of their jobs and to be recognized and rewarded for their extra efforts. The program is based on a system which awards credits in such areas as training, higher education, professional achievement, and community involvement. Currently, there are three levels of advancement in the Career Development Program. Since its inception by Sheriff Ashley, eight deputies have achieved the Career Deputy I status, most within the last year, and another 22 deputies are actively participating in the program. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is very proud of their employees and excited about those really helping to make Okaloosa a great place to work and live!

COMPLETED:

- ~ Deputy Faegin Willis**
- ~Deputy Jason Folley**
- ~Deputy Joseph Milonas**
- ~Les Wolthers**
(transferred to CID)
- ~Deputy Miguel Rojas**
- ~Deputy Tom Henry**
- ~Deputy Tim Homer**
- ~Deputy David Howell**

OKALOOSA SHERIFF'S POSSE

In 2013, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Posse averaged between 35 and 40 members. This number varies during the year due to members moving for employment, being hired by law enforcement agencies and retirement from the Posse.



The Posse covered a total of 263 details last year, an increase of 79 details over 2012. Those details included festivals, runs, triathlons, special events at the Emerald Coast Convention Center, holiday patrols, guarding crime scenes and/or prisoners at hospitals, beach patrol, parades, back-up patrol and more.

In fact, the OCSO Posse volunteered 17,937 hours of service in 2013; surpassing the number of donated hours in 2012 by 1,315.

The OCSP continues to be a good training ground for law enforcement officers as fifteen Posse members were either hired by the OCSO or other agencies during 2013.

BREAKDOWN OF SERVICE
6,570 SPECIAL DETAILS
(3,976 in 2012)
3,862 BACKUP PATROL
(3,441 IN 2012)
4,937 OTHER
consisting of court security,
booking, traffic, and screener
686 TRAINING



2013 DEPUTY OF THE YEAR

DEPUTY JONATHAN SCHLAGER



In less than two years with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, Deputy Jonathan Schlager has made a tremendous impact on the agency's busiest district, the Central District which covers the Shalimar, Fort Walton Beach, and Mary Esther areas.

Deputy Schlager was named the Okaloosa County Deputy of the Year for 2013.

He began his law enforcement career in the U.S. Air Force and has continued to serve as a Reservist since

2009, presently assigned at Hurlburt Field.

Since coming on board the OCSO in March 2012, Deputy Schlager has demonstrated an outstanding work rate. Last year he responded to 1,698 calls for service, generated 187 offense reports, and made approximately ninety arrests. He was also selected as a shift Field Trainer and logged nearly 340 hours field training newly hired deputies.

Deputy Schlager began working a string of warehouse burglaries in the area in August 2013. He not only identified a suspect and located multiple victims who were unaware their storage units had been burglarized, but obtained an arrest warrant for the suspect and helped the Criminal Investigations Division recover more than \$35,000 in stolen goods that could then be returned to the rightful owners.

Supervisors say Deputy Schlager leads by example and demonstrates a "can do" attitude that inspires his co-workers. They cite his energy, focus, good judgment, professionalism, and unrelenting pursuit of justice.

He is also a current member of Freemason Lodge 172, and volunteers time to the Lodge's fund raising efforts for various charities.



2013 INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR

CORPORAL PATRICK UPTMOR

A “tenacious professional” is the way his supervisor describes our 2013 Investigator of the Year, an individual whose work helped solve numerous burglaries and crack several burglary rings this past year.

In 2013, Corporal Patrick Uptmor earned one of the highest clearing rates in the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

In the third quarter alone, working as a Property Crimes Investigator, he worked 66 cases and accounted for 50 arrests.

He's willing to tackle the toughest cases and will follow each and every lead available to locate and recover stolen property.

In addition to all his successes in that capacity, Corporal Uptmor also took on the role as “Liaison” for the unit, organizing and conducted weekly property crimes meetings amongst various agencies. He works with pawn shops, second-hand dealers, and scrap metal yards to keep everyone informed of new laws or new trends to keep an eye on.

Corporal Uptmor also took on the role of Training Officer for the new Property Crimes Investigator, yet despite his workload, his tireless efforts have continued as he methodically and meticulously works through each and every case.

Corporal Patrick Uptmor provides outstanding service to this agency and the citizens of Okaloosa County - and he is our 2013 Investigator of the Year.



2013 SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

SGT. KEVIN KIRKPATRICK



The deputies of Bravo Shift (Central District) unanimously nominated Sgt. Kevin Kirkpatrick for the 2013 Supervisor of the Year. As shift supervisor, he's responsible for the day to day operations of the busiest district in the Sheriff's Office.

And Sgt. Kevin Kirkpatrick leads his shift by example, making not just enormous contributions beyond his normal duties, but also by working with the Special Response Team, as a Firearms Instructor at Northwest Florida State College, and as a Varsity and Junior Varsity soccer coach for Rocky Bayou Christian School.

Sgt. Kirkpatrick not only oversaw all nine employees under his immediate span of control last year, he also provided valuable guidance and assistance. He personally trained his shift on active shooters, medical trauma treatment, narcotics investigations, officer safety, traffic stops and much more.

As second in command of the Special Response Team, he helps train, organize, equip and support all twenty-five members and all operational deployments. In 2013 alone, he personally oversaw five team call outs and supervised sixteen of their training days.

Sgt. Kirkpatrick is noted by his co-workers as someone who strives to maintain the highest standards of performance and excellence in both his personal and professional life.

His nomination letter read: "His holistic approach to leadership directly reduces criminal and civil liability for the Sheriff's Office and makes our deputies some of the best law enforcement officers in the state, if not the entire country".

That is high praise indeed from his co-workers.





The Outstanding Performer of the Year in the Field Services Division Deputy Philip Piaget is a leader on Delta Shift. In 2013, he was the primary deputy in response to 1,417 calls for service. He not only stands out in his number of arrests (at 64) - and written offense reports (at 164), - his number of DUI arrests is 116% higher than the average in his shift. In addition, he was case officer for six of 14 burglary cases which led to arrests by Delta East deputies in 2013.

Deputy Piaget's is also recognized as providing a lifesaving role December 29th 2013 by providing chest compressions on a Destin citizen during CPR. His overall outstanding performance in his job demonstrates his professionalism to duty and his steadfast dedication to the traditions of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, earning him the top award in the Field Services Division.



The Sworn Support Services Outstanding Performer of the Year is known by his supervisors and co-workers to be positive, helpful, courteous, accomplished, innovative and motivated.

Deputy Steve Baldwin helped organize and professionalize DNA collections and submissions, he initiated a jury survey to see how to improve juror services, he often arrives early to sweep the exterior of the entire courthouse area, and he came up with a program to provide an "Officer Friendly" coloring book for children who have to come to the Courthouse. Steve volunteers for charity work and uses his background in radio and marketing to help use in numerous ways, yet he's always quick to recognize the accomplishments of others. We don't have the time to list everything, but I could keep going.

Deputy Steve Baldwin is a role model and leader and earned the award as 2013 Sworn - Support Services Division Outstanding Performer of the Year.



The Non-Sworn Support Services Division Employee of the Year is someone who has not only made tremendous contributions to the agency, she also selflessly volunteered countless hours to charitable causes, including serving as President for the Board of Directors of Shelter House.

Roberta Holloway's long list of achievements in 2013 include reducing training costs through implementation of on-line training programs and helping supervisors ensure compliance of personnel through automated tracking programs. Her efforts helped save our agency thousands in overtime costs. In addition, Roberta skillfully coordinated agency training needs with budget considerations, conducted some 46 pre-employment investigations, and oversaw and streamlined the popular Citizens Firearms Course registration process.

Her supervisors weren't the only ones who noticed her outstanding work. She received numerous commendations from others for her efforts and great attitude.

Roberta Holloway is the 2013 Non-Sworn Support Services Division Outstanding Performer of the Year.



Eddie Thompson is the OCSO Non-Sworn Employee of the Year for 2013—an individual who is both highly motivated and self-initiating.

He performed at least twenty-one complete installations of new vehicles as part of a critical part of our Fleet Division. He was also responsible for 551 repairs and modifications as well as the certifications of 528 speedometers and 330 radar units, many for outside agencies.

Eddie's efforts range from maintaining equipment for hurricane preparations to helping supervise inmate workers, or setting up chairs and tables for special events. If something needs to be done, he is always willing to help and can be counted upon to do his best in every situation big or small.



Candice Gilbert, The Non-Sworn Communications Section Employee of the Year will assist any co-worker, including the shift supervisor, anytime she's needed or requested.

She's proven to be a good decision maker who's not afraid to take on responsibility. Candice accomplishes whatever she's tasked to handle with efficiency, never complaining about her workload.

In May 2013, she dispatched a Deputy to a reckless vehicle. That led, in turn, to a traffic stop, and ultimately an officer-involved shooting.

Despite a flood of incoming and outgoing demands, Candice kept calm and did not outwardly indicate the stresses involved. All the while, she also maintained a comprehensive sequence of events in the CAD notes and handled all the requests from the field with minimal assistance.



The Non-Sworn Operations Division Employee of the Year is Doris Coffee, who made wide-ranging contributions in Legal, H-R, and Finance. Her work handling workers' compensation helped decrease premiums, leading to significant savings during a time of budget hardships.

Her accomplishments also included overseeing a project involving seized funds accounts and old forfeitures that were often decades old. Her research efforts and document preparation in the complicated project meant tens of thousands of dollars could be either purged or given to the agency's financial contribution to the budget, helping enable the placement of a School Resource Officer in every public school.

Along with those projects, she also took on tasks in Human Resources.

In every aspect of her job, Doris has proven to be a valuable employee and a positive difference maker.





POSSE MEMBER OF THE YEAR
ELAINE BUSTAMANTE



MOUNTED POSSE
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
GARY WILLIAMS



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
JOE COBB

MEDAL OF MERIT

DEPUTY DAN GENRICH

On January 28th of 2013, the OCSO received a report of a kidnapping and learned the victim was being held in a white truck in the area of Calhoun Avenue and Beach Drive in Destin. While information involving another possible location near Destin Harbor was being checked out, Deputy Dan Genrich continued to search in that area.



Those efforts paid off. He not only spotted the truck at a home on Calhoun, he saw the victim being loaded into it by three desperate suspects. Although he didn't have a back-up he knew that timing was critical. Deputy Genrich approached the trio and ordered them to the ground at gunpoint, rescuing the female hostage. After she was freed, the victim, Bethany Stanley, said the kidnappers had been discussing where to dump her body.

It was later learned Stanley had been held at several locations and tortured over the previous twenty four hours, including being burned with

cigarettes, strangled, and blindfolded with rags shoved in her mouth while water was poured over her face.

If not for the efforts of Deputy Dan Genrich, Stanley would likely have been killed. Instead she was rescued and taken to Fort Walton Beach Hospital for treatment.

Deputy Genrich's courageous actions and selfless efforts to prevent the murder of this individual and take those responsible into custody bring great credit upon himself and the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and earned him the Medal of Merit.



MEDAL OF MERIT

DEPUTY JONATHAN DUENAS & DEPUTY TIM PATTERSON

On January 2nd 2014, Deputies Tim Patterson and Jonathan Duenas were called to provide K-9 support to the Crestview Police Department SWAT team. The C-P-D was serving a felony search warrant on suspects involved in an earlier shooting and known to carry multiple firearms.

The two handlers positioned themselves on the backside of the house as the SWAT team readied to enter, using two flash bangs. Gunfire erupted at the front of the residence and Deputies Patterson and Duenas saw three members of the SWAT team fall off the porch and onto the ground.

Deputy Duenas saw a man exiting the back door to escape. He released K9 “Diesel”. While K-9 Diesel was pulling the suspect to the ground, members of the SWAT team began shooting at the suspect. The suspect had been shot and Deputy Duenas recalled Diesel and continued maintaining security until the all clear was given.

Deputy Patterson and K9 Dax went to the front to clear the residence. They led a safe and successful clearing of the home, including the crawl space underneath, and then secured the surrounding area in the back until relieved by the C-P-D.

Their actions while bullets were literally flying around them showed exceptional courage or bravery while rendering service and apprehending a person who had committed a serious crime.

Their ability to remain calm under these circumstances, push through danger to apprehend the suspect, identify other potential dangers, and assure crime scene preservation warrants the MEDAL OF MERIT.



PROMOTIONS

Promotions – August 26, 2013



Corporals Matt Abbott and Nesli Suhi-Moore promoted to Sergeant



Deputy Nolan Weeks promoted to Corporal



Corporal Dave Allen promoted to Sergeant



Deputy Les Wolthers promoted to Corporal and assigned to Criminal Investigations

LIFE SAVING AWARD



Deputy Sheriff Jonathan Schlager

LIFE SAVING AWARD



Deputy Sheriff Mark Wilson

LIFE SAVING AWARDS



Deputy Sheriff Richard White & Deputy Sheriff Tom Henry









