

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

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OCSO DEPUTY EARNS MEDAL OF MERIT



On January 28th of last year, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office 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 kidnapers 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 has earned him the Medal Of Merit.

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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"