

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff

1250 Eglin Parkway • Shalimar, Florida 32579-1234
Phone: (850) 651-7410 • Email: sheriff@sheriff-okaloosa.org

January 31, 2014

OCSO NAMES 2013 DEPUTY OF THE YEAR



(Deputy Jonathan Schlager and Sheriff Larry Ashley)

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

Today 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.

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TO: Sheriff Larry Ashley
FROM: Sergeant Bill Jerard
Subject: Deputy of the Year 2013 Nomination

December 3, 2013

This letter is respectfully submitted for the purpose of nominating Jonathan Schlager for "Deputy of the Year - 2013".

Deputy Schlager began his career with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office in March of 2012. He is presently assigned to Alpha Shift – Central District and was previously submitted as a candidate for Deputy of the Year - 2012 by Sgt. Holloway. Prior to this, he worked for the Fort Walton Beach Police Department as a uniformed patrol officer beginning in 2009.

Deputy Schlager actually began his law enforcement career in the United States Air Force where he served as an active duty member from 2002 through 2009. Since 2009, he continues serving in the Air Force Reserve as an IMA at Hurlburt Field and is presently assigned to the 1st Special Operations Security Forces Squadron as a Patrolman.

During the course of 2013, Deputy Schlager has continued to demonstrate an enthusiastic willingness to serve; he maintained a positive "lead by example" and "can do" attitude that has inspired members of his shift as well as other agency members. He is a positive peer leader and is seen by his fellow employees as a role model and above average performer. He is a dedicated employee and puts the demanding requirements of his job above all else, as an example, he schedules his military time on his days off so as not to create a manpower shortage for his assigned shift members.

Deputy Schlager is currently continuing his post secondary education and is degree seeking at Northwest Florida State College. He currently attends courses as his schedule permits, and goes out of his way to make himself available should a course date fall on a scheduled work day. He is constantly seeking ways in which to develop himself both personally and professionally. In 2013 he was selected by the OCSO FTEP Coordinator as a shift Field Trainer and has since logged approximately 340 hours field training newly hired deputies.

Deputy Schlager is a current member of Freemason Lodge 172 and has been a dedicated member since 2012. He has been raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason and volunteers his time to the Lodge's fund raising efforts for various charities.

During the year 2013 Deputy Schlager responded to 1698 calls for service, generated 187 offense reports and made approximately 90 arrests. His 2013 case closure rate was 42% (cases closed with arrest or marked as exceptional). These statistics do not include stats generated by deputies he oversaw in the field training program.

As an example of Deputy Schlager's tenacious work ethic, in August of 2013, he began working a string of burglaries occurring at several self-storage warehouses in Fort Walton Beach. Deputy Schlager was determined and identified a suspect, the suspect's modus operandi and multiple victims who would have otherwise been unaware they were victims of these burglaries and thefts. The suspect in the case attempted to avoid contact with law enforcement. Deputy Schlager obtained an arrest warrant for dealing in stolen property based on his investigation. Contact was made with the suspect who attempted to flee and was subsequently taken into custody. As a result of Deputy Schlager's initial investigative efforts, CID Investigators were able to obtain search warrants for the suspect's residence and storage units; over \$35,000 in personal property was recovered and returned to its rightful owners and the suspect was arrested for multiple burglaries and grand thefts. This is but one example of Deputy Schlager's proactive enforcement of the law, hard work and dedication to the job.



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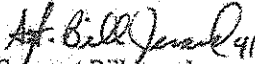
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His peers have described Deputy Schlager as: energetic, focused, having an indomitable spirit, motivated, persistent, persevering, proactive, professional, and having an unrelenting pursuit of justice. Deputy Schlager routinely receives compliments about his performance from deputies and supervisors he works with. He works well with his peers and has a modest demeanor. He is a well-rounded Deputy Sheriff and exercises good judgment in the performance of his duties. He requires little supervisory guidance. He is a "go to" member of Alpha Shift South when a task needs to be completed. Concerned about officer safety, he consistently backs up other units without hesitation and is an example other deputies should emulate.


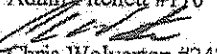
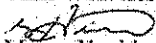
Deputy Schlager has developed a positive relationship within the community and because of that relationship he frequently receives information from citizens related to crimes occurring within his zone, suspect locations, drug information, etc. He follows up on this information and/or ensures the information is provided to the appropriate personnel. He frequently takes the opportunity to educate citizen's regarding the laws and safety. Feedback from citizens on their interaction with Deputy Schlager has been most favorable and a positive reflection on the agency.

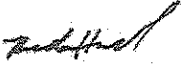


Deputy Schlager's professionalism and accomplishments reflect great credit upon himself and the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. He represents the highest standard for a Deputy Sheriff with this agency. It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I and members of Alpha Shift South submit Deputy Jonathan Schlager as a nominee for the 2013 Deputy of the Year award.

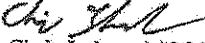
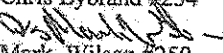
Respectfully submitted,


Sergeant Bill Gerard

And members of Alpha Shift – Central District:


Adam Fitchett #170

Chris Wolverton #247

Megan Hankins #212


Brandon Hand #291

Elliot Howard #259

Tim Siren #133


Chris Lybrand #254

Mark Wilson #250



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