

# Sheriff



**Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff**

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January 31, 2014

## **OCSO NAMES 2013 INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR**



OCSO Property Crimes Investigator Corporal Patrick Uptmor today was named the agency's 2013 Investigator of the Year.

Supervisors say he had one of the highest clearance rates in the unit last year. For example in the third quarter he cleared more than half of his cases. His efforts in 2013 helped solve numerous burglaries and crack several burglary rings operating in the area.

Corporal Uptmor was recognized for his systematic, detailed approach to cases and his zest for following up every lead to locate and recover stolen property so it can be returned to its rightful owner.

In addition to his success working cases, Corp. Uptmor took on the role of "Liasion" for the unit, organizing and conducting weekly property crimes meeting between regional law enforcement agencies. He also acts as the liaison with area pawn shops, second-hand dealers, and scrap metal yards to keep them up to date on new laws, trends, or suspects.

Despite his heavy workload, Corp. Uptmor took on the role of Training Officer for the newest Property Crimes Investigator as well.

Supervisors say his success is easily recognized by his statistics, his professionalism, and his tireless efforts to serve not only the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, but other law enforcement agencies and the citizens of Okaloosa County and the region.

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To: Awards Committee

From: Sgt. Laurie Keller-Lithgow

Re: Nomination of Investigator Pat Uptmor for Investigator of the Year, 2013

Date: January 17, 2014

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It is with distinguished honors that I nominate Corporal Patrick Uptmor for Investigator of the Year for 2013. Corporal Uptmor has been with the agency for ten (10) years of which the last two years have been with the Criminal Investigations Section as a Property Crimes Investigator. Corporal Uptmor was assigned to this unit since its inception and has had a great influence on this unit's success in the last two years. Since Corporal Uptmor started in Property Crimes, he has developed a very systematic, detailed approach to his cases. He makes it a point to interview all suspects in his cases when possible, even if that requires the request of other Investigators in other jurisdictions to help accomplish this task. On a few occasions I have heard other investigators advising Corporal Uptmor that he would be "wasting his time" in attempting to interview "so and so" because they "never talk". Corporal Uptmor was not deterred and conducted his interviews. On more times than not, the subject who "never talks" not only agreed to speak with Corporal Uptmor but a majority of the time confessed to the incident and others. This coupled with the fact he will follow each and every lead to locate and recover stolen property to prove the crime and return the items to the legal owner. It is because of his tenacious, professional manner, Investigator Uptmor was able solve numerous burglaries and "crack" several burglary rings throughout this (2013) year.

In this past year he had one of the highest clearing rates in this unit.

1<sup>st</sup> quarter – 52 cases worked; 11 cases were cleared and of those 8 were closed with an arrest, and 26 individuals were arrested. This gave him a clearance rate of 21.15%.

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter - 57 cases worked; 22 cases were cleared and of those 13 were closed with an arrest, and 22 individuals were arrested. This gave him a clearance rate of 38.60%.

3<sup>rd</sup> quarter - 66 cases worked; 34 cases were cleared and of these cases 28 were closed with an arrest, and 50 individuals were arrested. This gave him a clearance rate of 51.51%. He has 10 cases which are awaiting warrant service. This was the highest clearance rate among the Property Crimes Investigators

4<sup>th</sup> quarter - 65 cases worked; 20 cases were cleared and of these 14 were closed with an arrest, and 17 individuals were arrested. This gave him a clearance rate of 30.77, but he currently has 21 cases which are pending a warrant service.



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In addition to working his cases, Corporal Uptmor took role as the "Liaison" for this unit. He organizes and conducts the weekly Property Crimes Meetings; thereby ensure that information is dispersed among all law enforcement agencies within Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton Counties. He also acts as the Liaison between the various Pawn Shops, Secondhand Dealers, and Scarp Metal Yards. He advises them of new laws, changes in reporting procedures, and relating new trends and what to be, or who to be, on the watch for. In the last two quarters of 2013, he has also taken on the role of Training Officer for new Property Crimes Investigator, Corporal Weeks; as the other Property Crimes Investigators have left this Unit. Currently Corporals Uptmor and Weeks are the only two actively assigned to this unit. During this period, Corporal Uptmor has accepted the increased workload as a challenge and continued to methodically and meticulously work through each and every case. His success is easily recognized by his statistics, his professionalism and his tireless efforts to service not only this agency, but to other law enforcement agencies and the citizens of Okaloosa County and Northwest Florida. It is for these reasons that I am recommending Corporal Uptmor for considerations for Investigator of the Year.



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