

# 2014



## OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



Ensuring fair and equal administration of the law, safeguarding civil liberties and preserving public safety and doing so with professionalism and unity of purpose, while being good stewards of the public's trust.





## *Florida's 2014 School Resource Officer Unit Of The Year !*

*"Our Unit excels on every front, from  
safety, security, and investigations  
to mentoring and leadership  
development."*

*Sheriff Larry Ashley*





## A message from Okaloosa County Sheriff Larry Ashley

As we begin a new year in 2015, I am reminded first of how honored and humbled I am to serve as your Sheriff and to lead the men and women of your Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. 2014 was another busy year full of challenges and many achievements. Once again the men and women of your Sheriff's Office worked with unparalleled professionalism to provide exceptional service to the citizens and visitors of Okaloosa County and citing a single crowning achievement will be exceedingly difficult. While the following report highlights the efforts and achievements of our men and women, I would be remiss if I did not draw special attention to a few of their more significant accomplishments:



Once again in 2014 your Sheriff's Office operated with one of the lowest "per capita cost" and "officer per thousand citizen ratios" in the country. Our per capita costs are **43% less** than the national average for agencies serving a similar population size and this does not include or account for our tourist population. According to the International City/County Managers Association Annual Report, and Municipal Yearbook, the average per capita cost for an agency that serves between 100,000 to 249,000 was **\$286**. The amended proposal going into our FY 2015 budget was **\$163** per capita and is based on the 2013 population estimate of 190,183. Additionally the current average of 3.12 sworn officers for the South Atlantic Region and a 2.46 national average are well above our current ratio of 1.45 sworn officers per thousand citizens for the coming FY 2015.



Our agency also experienced a record number of calls for service in 2014 with 219,842 and we expect more of the same in 2015. Okaloosa County is currently the 4<sup>th</sup> most visited county in the state of Florida and the second most visited county by auto visitors.

**Since 2007 we have experienced a 31% climb in calls for service and attribute this to the substantial increase in the number of visitors to our community as well as the steady increase to our permanent population.**



We are grateful to our citizens, community leaders and the BOCC for recognizing these shortages in manpower and resources and we look forward to working closely with each of them as we continue to address these concerns in the coming years. These resource shortcomings however did not deter the professionalism and commitment of our people as the examples below will attest:

**\*The Okaloosa County Sheriff's School Resource Officer program was recognized as the Best in Florida and a model for the nation in 2014.**

The men and women who make up this unit are consummate professionals committed to the safety of students, teachers, and staff at all of our local schools.

**\*The Criminal Investigations Division again solved two cold case homicides in 2014 and secured indictments against those responsible:**

Mr. Buddy Phelps was murdered in 1981 and the case remained unsolved for 23 years.

The professionalism and tenacity of Investigator Mike Irwin, who identified Jackie Long as a suspect in the case, was inspiring. The evidence developed by Investigator Irwin resulted in Jackie Long's indictment for the Phelps murder by an Okaloosa County Grand Jury in June 2014 and brought long overdue closure to the family.

In 1998, 71 year old Jewel Melvin was found murdered in her Crestview home. For the ensuing 16 years, Investigators Ralph Garret and Mike Irwin worked tirelessly identifying witnesses and developing evidence that resulted in Michael McCombs and Steve Kimmons being indicted for Ms. Melvin's murder by an Okaloosa County Grand Jury in August 2014. Again this effort led to long overdue closure for the victim's family.



\*At our 2014 Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon, **Deputy Sheriff Jonathan Schlager was recognized by guest speaker, former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, as the Okaloosa County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.**

**\*2014 also saw the groundbreaking for a new 10,000 square foot Investigative Facility co-located at the Sheriff's Office Headquarters Complex.** Upon completion in April 2015, this new facility will result in a \$120,000 annual savings by eliminating the need to lease office space for the Investigations Division.

**\*Many heroic efforts on the part of Okaloosa County Deputies earned numerous “Life Saving Awards” and “Medals of Merit” during 2014.**

**\*2014 also saw your Sheriff’s Office earn re-accreditation through the Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. Accreditation Inspectors found OCSO to be fully compliant with each of the 251 accreditation standards and cited 11 exemplary policies, projects and procedures including our Citizen’s Academy, Take Me Home, and Checking On Delinquent Youth programs to mention a few.**

The men and women of the Sheriff’s Office continue to contribute, even in their off duty hours. During 2014 members of your Sheriff’s Office donated over \$60,000 and many hours of their personal time and resources to numerous charitable efforts in our community. Examples include over \$15,000 of sporting goods and equipment donated to the Florida Sheriff’s Youth Ranches as part of the School Resource Officer’s sponsored ‘Cram the Canoe Contest’, and over \$10,000 donated to the Children’s Advocacy Center when OCSO partnered with Florida Chapter XXV of the Blue Knights to Co-sponsor the Emerald Coast Challenge motorcycle skills competition, which promotes police community relations, motorcycle safety, and charitable giving as it’s platform.

All of these accomplishments are but a very few of the many highlights and charitable endeavors undertaken by the generous men and women of your Sheriff’s Office. These efforts only confirm what I have known all along, that the members of your Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office are committed and invested both professionally and personally in the betterment of the community we serve.

I hope you enjoy reading this year’s annual report with its many achievements while also becoming more aware of the future challenges we face as a community going forward. Please visit our website at [www.sheriff-okaloosa.org](http://www.sheriff-okaloosa.org) and friend us on Facebook for more information about your Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office.

Respectfully,

*Larry Ashley*





# ACTIVITY RUNDOWN

***RECORD BREAKING estimated 219,842 CALLS***

**Average of 602 calls per day**

**TRAFFIC STOPS—28,190**

**SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY/VEHICLES—2,917**

**CITIZEN CONTACTS—15,988**

**MISSING CHILDREN— 90**

**TRAFFIC CRASHES—5,887**

**CITIZEN AND AGENCY ASSISTS—5, 233**

**CAR BURGLARIES—777**

**ROAD RAGE—196**

**WARRANT SERVICES— 5,871**

**WELFARE CHECKS—2,752**

**K9 ASSIST CALLS— 2,935**

**CHILD ABUSE—881**

**NOISE COMPLAINTS—1,806**

**TRESPASSING— 1,483**

**FRAUD—853**

**INTOXICATED DRIVERS—1,263**

**RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES—755**

# NORTH DISTRICT



The North District encompasses nearly 450 square miles in the northern part of Okaloosa County. The boundaries extend east to west from Santa Rosa to Walton County. The north and south boundaries extend from Eglin Air Force Base to Covington and Escambia County, Alabama.

There are a mixture of unique communities within this district. This diversity ranges from densely populated urban areas in and around the city of Crestview, to vast acres of farm communities and very rural areas which are patrolled on a daily basis (Laurel Hill, Baker and Holt). The uniqueness of this district allows the 27 patrol deputies assigned here the opportunity to interact and serve each community as individuals and as a whole unit as required. The North District operates out of four separate locations.

**North District Office:** Serves as the public access location where citizens can report crimes, obtain copies of reports, and get free fingerprints completed as needed. This location also houses the Civil Process department and because it is located next to the Okaloosa County Court House, makes it very convenient for citizens to complete their business with a short walk if necessary. This centrally located office in the county seat of Crestview also serves as one of two registration points for criminal sexual offenders in Okaloosa County. In addition, it provides office space for the Okaloosa County Guardian Ad Litem Program as well as a satellite office for the Florida Highway Patrol.

**Brackin Street Office:** Serves as district operations office, housing Investigations and Patrol units. These divisions work together to ensure public safety and a higher quality of life for everyone living within the district.

**Laurel Hill Substation:** Located in the City of Laurel Hill and within City Hall. This partnership allows for community interaction with the deputy assigned to that zone 24/7. **Baker Substation:** Located in the heart of one of our oldest and most beautiful communities in Okaloosa County. These two substations provide the opportunity for the residents of these rural communities to speak with a deputy any time of day or night. It gives residents the ability to report crimes, provide vital intelligence for problems or issues, or get legal guidance on matters of concern. These interactions can take place without the need for residents to travel to other office locations, thus providing easier and more convenient communication between deputies and citizens.

## North District Statistics of Interest 2014

CALLS FOR SERVICE 43,451

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME PRIORITY ONE 6:47 (DOWN 2.21%)

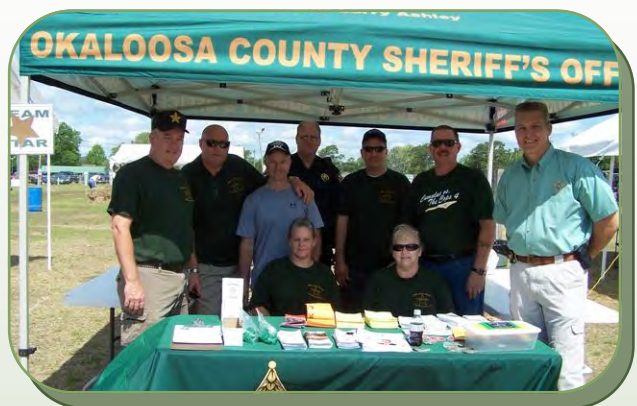
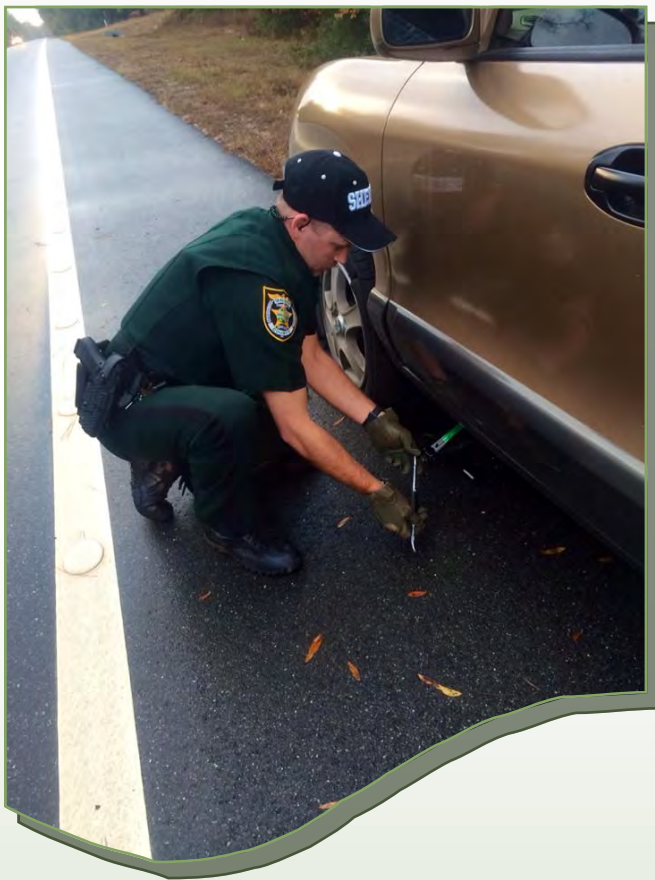
TRAFFIC STOPS 4,107

TRAFFIC CRASHES 371

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ARRESTS 91

WARRANT SERVICE 1,392

PROBABLE CAUSE ARRESTS 544



### NORTH DISTRICT

The largest geographic district in the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, covering nearly 450 square miles.



# NORTH DISTRICT

## North District Community Service and Activity

- \*Over 450 hours of volunteer service through personal giving and charitable activities
- \*Attended all Crestview Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club Meetings
- \*Attended all Crestview and Laurel Hill City Council meetings
- \*Provided instruction for OCSO Citizens Academy
- \*Provided Firing Range Instruction & Support for Community and Military

## North District Individual Accomplishments

- \*Deputies Heath Hehl, Joe Milonas and Lynn Stevenson were promoted to Corporal/ Investigator
- \*Deputies Sean M. Lynch, Todd Sears, Ken Taylor and Justin Boggs earned Life Saving Awards
- \*Investigator Mike Irwin selected as American Legion Post 395 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year



The men and women assigned to the North District are a very dedicated and close knit family. Each division is committed to working together to provide the support and resources that allow us to meet the many needs and requirements of this diverse community.

The men and women assigned to the North District Office maintain a very good working relationship with all the area fire departments, state, and municipal agencies. They provide and receive tremendous support from all of these first responders and gain information and knowledge that can be utilized to support our citizens, building trust and improving the quality of life of this great community.

# CENTRAL DISTRICT

Encompassing the southwest corner of Okaloosa County, the Central District is the most densely populated district in the county. Nearly half of the county's full time population resides within the boundaries of this district.

The men and women of the OCSO Central district are committed to providing excellent service and protection, resolving problems satisfactorily, swiftly and safely. Members have continued to accumulate thousands of hours of training this year in order to meet that commitment. This training ranges from operational tactics and techniques to processes and procedures, all with the intent to better equip them for service.

Deputies were trained and equipped with basic response level medical gear like Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's.) That level of preparedness resulted in seven Central District members being awarded the OCSO Life Saving medal. This prestigious award criteria states in part; *"..a member who intervenes and takes substantial action in a situation where another's life is in impending peril and the action of the member directly abates the peril to another's life."*

More evidence of the benefits of the intense focus on professional development is the fact that several members were promoted to positions of additional responsibility, along with eleven members who qualified for promotion to Corporal.

The unique characteristics of the Central district consistently make it the busiest district served. The Central District has worked throughout the year to maintain a focus on safety, accountability and enhanced community interaction. In 2014 the Central District accounted for 83,292 calls for service (a 13% increase over 2013,) completed 7,434 offense reports and affected more than 1,613 arrests. Included in that total were:

## Central District Statistics of Interest 2014



**CALLS FOR SERVICE 83,292**  
**TRAFFIC STOPS 11,407**  
**9-1-1 VERIFICATIONS 3,252**  
**DISTURBANCES & FIGHTS 3,207**  
**ALARMS 2,215**



## CENTRAL DISTRICT

The most heavily populated and busiest district in the  
Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

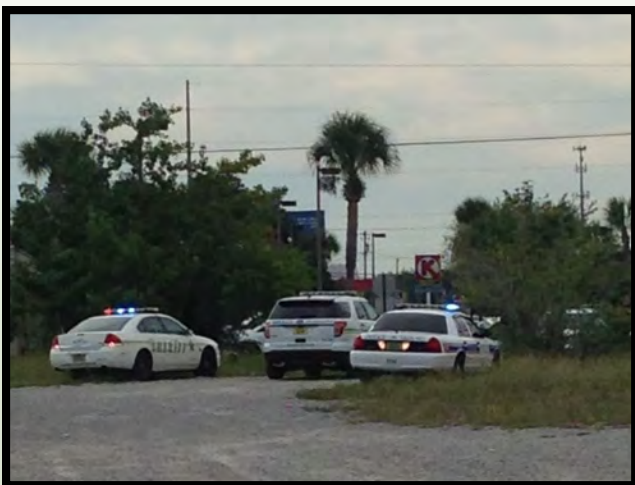


# CENTRAL DISTRICT

## Central District Community Service and Activity



- \*Provided dignified and respectful escorts for 130 local funerals including for Colonel Bud Day, Tuskegee Airman Walt Richardson and fallen local soldier, SFC Samuel Hairston.
- \*Transferred entire District offices and equipment into the OCSO Headquarters.
- \*Closed the Hetherington substation and oversaw subsequent opening of the Wright substation. The move allows greater access, visibility and productivity.
- \*Provided critical service during three unusual and hazardous weather events; a lengthy winter ice storm, a wind storm event and a flooding challenge.
- \*Provided support for the Billy Bowlegs festivities.
- \*Provided support for several community events such as Toys for Tots, the POW/MIA ceremonial escort and a host of functions with the two military bases.
- \*Supported and participated in the Mary Esther Veteran's day parade.
- \*Provided operational planning and support for the US Secretary of Defense's visit to the area.
- \*100% Physical Abilities Testing pass rate.
- \*100% of members trained in enhanced driving techniques.
- \*100% of members successfully trained for utilization and operation of body worn cameras.



# CENTRAL DISTRICT

## Service continues out of uniform!

### Service Above and Beyond

- \*100% of district members contributing to charity by payroll deduction
  - \*Homeless Coalition Board of Directors Member
  - \*Community Development Corporation Board Member
  - \*Homeless Task Force Committee member
  - \*Opportunity Place Shelter Board member
  - \*Addictions counseling
- \*Volunteer coaches for High School and Middle School sports
  - \*DJJ Circuit Advisory Board member
- \*Participation in many charity fundraising events
  - \*Foster parenting



## Central District Individual Accomplishments

- \*Mark Raiche promoted from Central District Sergeant to Lieutenant, Watch Commander
- \*Deputy Mark Nucci qualified for assignment to OCSO K9
- \*Deputy Jonathan Schlager selected as Emerald Coast Exchange Club's "Deputy of the Year"

## Seven Deputies Earned Life Saving Awards

- \*Deputy Elliott Howard - Trauma Intervention
- \*Deputies Mark Justiss and Cutler Petersen – Successful AED Deployment
- \*Deputies Jeremy Miller, Robby Naylor, Robert Speakman and Wesley Hagan – CPR
- \*Deputy Brandon Hand received a Certificate of Commendation for outstanding aid to a citizen.
- \*Deputy Megan Hankins received a Certificate of Commendation for detecting, intervening and investigating a sex crime against a juvenile victim.



# EAST DISTRICT



Okaloosa County is the number four tourist destination in Florida and the number two driving destination. The East District is where the tourists stay and play. As such, record breaking tourism in 2014 led to record breaking calls for service in the East District, (which covers areas from east of the Brooks Bridge on Okaloosa Island to the Walton County line, north to Duke Field, and south to Northwest Florida Regional Airport and all southern waterways).

In addition, the Mid-Bay Bridge Connector By-pass opened in 2014, adding ten miles of additional roadway to patrol. The largest permanent population serviced in the East District is Destin, which stands at 13,697, but swells to over 60,000 during the 100 days of summer and spring break. The Bluewater Bay/Seminole area is close behind with a population of 12,730.

Despite the all-time high demand, the OCSO East District Deputies continue to provide quality services. The 47 deputies and one Investigator assigned to the district continued to demonstrate a positive attitude and solid work ethic to ensure high levels of service. A common theme among comments received from citizens at community events is the high level of professionalism displayed by our deputies.

In 2014 the deputies assigned to the East District Patrol Services responded to 67,852 calls for service, completed 5,188 offense reports and affected 1,340 arrests. Included in that total were 240 DUI arrests, 232 narcotic arrests, 184 battery arrests, 40 burglary arrests, and 15 grand theft auto arrests. In addition, deputies responded to and investigated 1,617 traffic crashes on the roadways. This is a 19% reduction from 2013 when we had 1,961 crashes.

## East District Statistics of Interest 2014

Calls for Service 67,852

Offense Reports 5,188

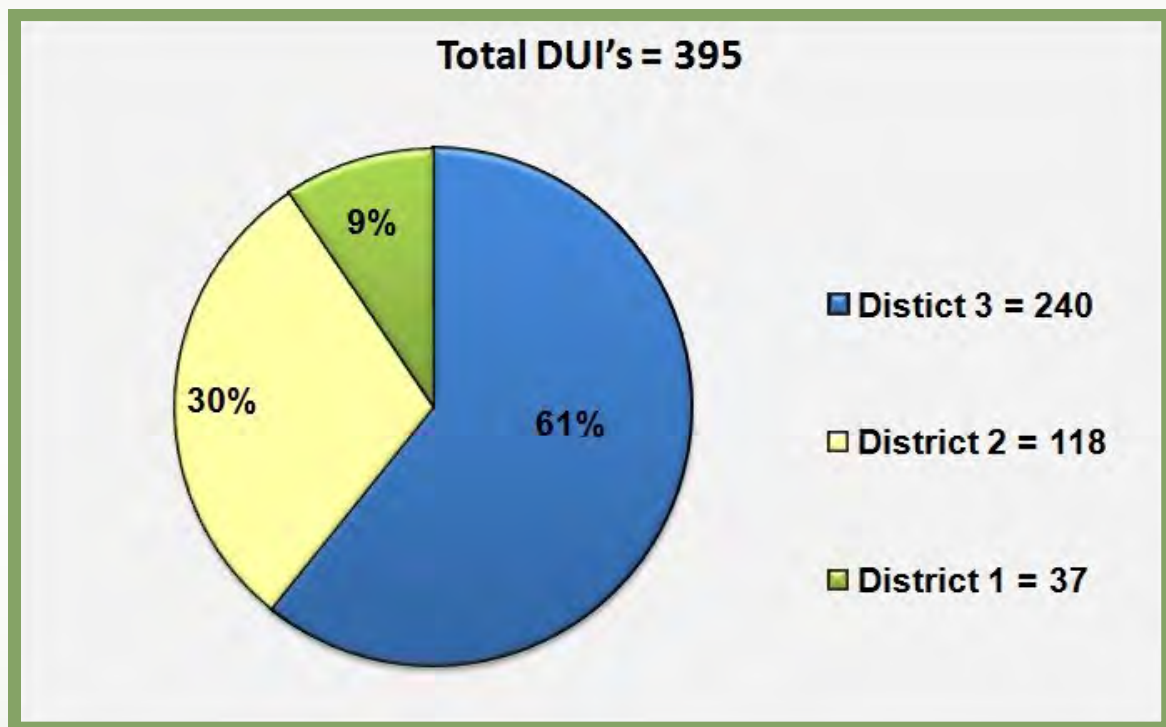
Arrest Reports 1,340

240 DUI Arrests

# EAST DISTRICT

Over the past several years Destin ranked in the top 10 for cities of similar size for traffic crashes involving alcohol and injuries. As a result, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and the City of Destin partnered in submitting for the Federal Grant "Drive Sober in Destin" for fiscal year 2014. The grant was awarded and the subsequent D.U.I. enforcement year began January 25, 2014. The grant funded education and awareness initiatives, along with D.U.I./Safety Checkpoints, D.U.I. saturation patrols, and low man D.U.I. patrols. The purpose and objectives of this grant were to reduce the number of alcohol related traffic incidents by 5% from the previous year. The diligent efforts of the deputies reduced those incidents by a combined average of 33% in the 2014 fiscal year.

- \* Traffic Crashes Involving Alcohol reduced by 19%!
- \* Traffic Crashes involving Alcohol and Injuries reduced by 30%!
- \* Fatality Crashes involving Alcohol reduced by 50%!



**61% OF DUI ARRESTS WERE MADE IN THE EAST DISTRICT**

## EAST DISTRICT

One of the busiest tourism areas in Florida as the number two drive destination in the state.



# EAST DISTRICT

Marine, Beach Patrol and Dive Team assets were busy again this year with record breaking crowds on the beaches and waterways. The four deputies assigned to the unit, with the help of Posse Volunteers, responded to over 3,600 calls for service during Spring Break and the 100 days of summer. They also affected 19 felony arrests, issued 384 Notices to Appear, and issued 163 Boating and Traffic citations. They conducted multiple dive operations including the recovery of two bodies which were the result of drownings.



The City of Destin has also recognized the need for additional resources. In their 2014-15 budget the city added three additional patrol positions with plans to add two more in 2015-16. These additional personnel are currently being utilized on a power shift, which covers the hours of the highest call volumes within Destin. The response from Shift Supervisors indicates it is allowing for more proactive policing, which was our primary goal. The hope now is that a reduction in crime will be realized.



The East District continues to emphasize proactive enforcement practices while engaging its citizens to report crime or suspicious activities. The goal is to maintain an atmosphere of hometown 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 by name.

# EAST DISTRICT

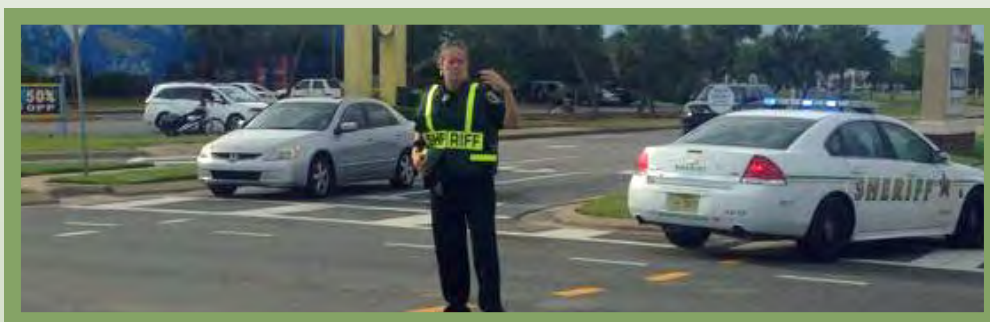
## EAST DISTRICT COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITY

- \*Over 500 volunteer hours with multiple charitable and civic endeavors
- \*Led the agency in participants at the 2014 American Cancer Society Relay for Life in Niceville
- \*Sponsored multiple families at "Operation Angel Tree"
- \*Attended dozens of Chambers of Commerce meetings, Destin and Niceville City Council meetings, and other civic functions
- \*Participated in United Way Day of Caring Events
- \*Provided instruction for OCSO Citizens Academy
- \*Deputy Mark Bollinger volunteered over 111 hours this year to the Citizens Firearms Academy.
- \*Sergeant Jason Fulghum volunteered over 125 hours this year to various charitable organizations and to coaching softball.

## EAST DISTRICT INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- \*Sergeant David Allen was named to the five-member Board of Directors of the Florida SWAT Association, a non-profit organization that provides training opportunities and consultation to SWAT Team members across the state.
- \*Deputy Richard Cooper, Deputy Dan Genrich and Deputy Brandon Findley were promoted to Corporal/Investigator
- \*Deputy Tom Piaget earned the OCSO Life Saving Award





# CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The Career Development Program provides career guidance, recognition of accomplishments, and financial incentives for non-supervisory deputies within the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. It sets out a distinct career track for those who want to go beyond the minimum requirements of their jobs and to be recognized and rewarded for their extra efforts to excel.

The program is based upon 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.

## **In 2014 the following deputies achieved Career Deputy 1 status:**

**Anthony Kelly**

**Brian Jansen**

**David Howell**

**James Reeves**

**Steve Williams**

**Tim Homer**

## **The following deputies achieved Career Deputy 2 status:**

**Joseph Milonas**

**Jason Folley**



# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Investigators at the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office have been extremely successful over the last three years solving five cold case homicides dating back to 1975. It is the mission of the Sheriff's Office to continue investigating all unsolved homicide cases despite time or obstacles involved.

A Grand Jury was presented a case involving a 1998 homicide of Jewel Summerlin Melvin. Ms. Melvin was found murdered in Crestview, Florida on the afternoon of May 1998. Michael Lynn McCombs and Steven Earl Kimmons were arrested.

A Grand Jury was presented a case involving a 1981 homicide of Leonard "Buddy" Phelps. Mr. Phelps was found murdered in Niceville, Florida in October 1981. Jackie Long was arrested.



BUDDY PHELPS



COLD CASE CHRONICLES



JEWEL MELVIN

Investigations by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office aided in the indictment of Garry Ray Lindsey for the 2006 murder of Roy Dale Oliver in Lawrence County Alabama.

Investigations by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office helped lead to the indictment of Jackie Long as well as his son Shane Darrel Long for the 2005 Robbery and beating of Henry Maxie Jordan in Wing, Alabama. Jordan later died and injuries from that beating were believed to be a contributing factor.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Property Crimes Unit has **established a retail theft prevention group** with local business owners and loss preventions specialist that meet to discuss and develop strategies to help thwart and prevent thefts and fraud for area retail businesses.

The Sheriff's Office Investigations Division has initiated a Cyber Crimes Unit to help investigate and provide specialized assistance and training in the increasing theft, fraud other crimes using the internet.

The Sheriff's Office has **initiated a Clandestine Laboratory Response Team**. The team is comprised of Sheriff's Investigators and patrol deputies that are specially trained and equipped to respond to the growing threat of methamphetamine laboratories which can impact the safety of all Okaloosa County residents. The manufacturing process is highly volatile and the remnants discarded are toxic, hazardous materials and could result in serious injury or death if someone is exposed.



# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

## Criminal Investigations Division Individual Accomplishments

- \* Investigator Chad Rewis was promoted to Sergeant from the OCSO Narcotics Unit.
- \* Investigator Dan Genrich received the Medal of Merit award and also received the "Destin Hometown Hero Award"
- \* Investigator Heath Hehl seized 4.5 pounds of crystal methamphetamine.



## United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) Case of the Quarter Awards

- \* 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter OCSO Deputy Tim Patterson and Deputy Jon Duenas
- \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter OCSO Deputy Derek York
- \* 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter OCSO Deputy Martin Jennings





# WARRANTS/RECORDS/CIVIL PROCESS

## Warrants

Processed 4,615 Warrants and Civil Commits  
Number of Prisoner/Inmates transported back to Okaloosa County – 598



**Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office**  
*Sheriff Larry R. Ashley*

### Okaloosa's Wanted Persons

**Search WANT/WARRANT**

Last Name:

First Name:

Middle Name:

PLEASE FILL IN SEARCH CRITERIA

Powered By:  
CTS America



## Records

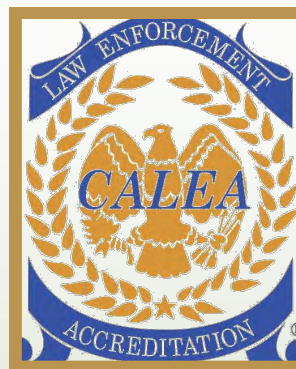
Processed 15,614 offense report with associated documents  
Processed 427 DUI Cases  
Processed 7,231 Traffic Citations  
Processed 1,193 Traffic Crash Reports  
Processed 2,103 Written Traffic Warning Citations

## Civil Process

Processed and served 14,560 court documents  
Processed 1,203 Domestic/Repeat/Dating/Stalking Violence Injunctions  
Processed 526 Domestic/Repeat/Dating Injunction Orders  
25 Juvenile Protection Orders  
8,113 Criminal Subpoenas  
Collected \$186,045.29 in Fees

# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

During 2014, the OCSO continued to conduct a self-assessment of the agency in order to obtain Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation from the National Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Through a collection of information provided by numerous law enforcement agencies across the United States, CALEA established 484 standards for law enforcement agencies to meet. Of the 484 standards, 420 were applicable to the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. The agency proceeded with the self-assessment by complying with applicable standards, developing proofs of compliance, and preparing for the assessment. Although the agency was allowed 36 months to complete the self-assessment, it was completed in approximately fourteen months. Based on the completed self-assessment, CALEA scheduled an on-site assessment in which a team of CALEA-trained assessors will visit the agency on July 13, 2015 to determine compliance with standards, review agency operations, conduct a public information session, and report its findings to the Commission for final determination of accreditation status. The commission will meet in November 2015.



A review of current reporting procedures of the Field Training and Evaluation Program was conducted. The agency was using a paper-based process which lacked sufficient controls and failed to provide a trainee's current training status. Working with the Field Training Officers, the section reviewed several commercial reporting applications used by other agencies across the U.S. and settled on a program designed and supported by a Florida based company, LEFTA (Law Enforcement Field Training Application). The program allows for immediate access to a trainee's status and performance, tracks calls for service handled by the trainee, and reflects statistical data for the entire program to reduce potential liability for the agency.



# TRAINING

Our employees attended 10,321 training hours outside of our agency  
Our employees attended 6,823 hours training within the agency.

**574 of those hours involved firearms training for specialty teams:**

**Crisis Negotiations Unit      248 hours**

**Special Response Team      272 hours**

**Dive Team    64 hours**

**K9      60 hours**

Additional training included:

Roll call type training    280 hours

PAT (Physical Abilities Testing)    532 hours

Training with less lethal options    645 hours

Various other topics    1363 hours



Our employees completed 3,240 hours of online training through websites and agencies outside of our own.

Employees completed 2,313 hours of online training through Power DMS, saving an estimated \$53,268 in man-hour costs by having it completed online (using a very conservative estimate of \$23.03 average per hour salary of a deputy sheriff). In addition, the OCSO is saving on instructor hours/cost.

**The OCSO also held six Firearms Safety Courses, training 116 citizens.**





# PHYSICAL ABILITIES TEST

Overall times have seen steady improvement since the OCSO Physical Abilities Testing program, which became mandatory in 2011, first began. Sheriff Larry Ashley implemented the program to boost the physical fitness capabilities of sworn employees through a series of obstacles/stations that test agility, stamina, endurance, and more.

2011	2011	2012	2012	2013	2013	2014	2014
AGE RANGE	TIME	AGE RANGE	TIME	AGE RANGE	TIME	AGE RANGE	TIME
19-29	5:10	19-29	4:57	19-29	4:58	19-29	4:51
30-39	5:27	30-39	5:05	30-39	5:06	30-39	5:01
40-49	5:44	40-49	5:37	40-49	5:38	40-49	5:27
50-59	6:05	50-59	6:06	50-59	6:08	50-59	6:00
60-69	8:43	60-69	6:43	60+	6:38	60+	6:40
70+	8:26	70+	7:51	70+	7:54		
Average	6:35	Average	6:03	Average	6:03	Average	5:35



# TRAINING

# CROSSFIT OKALOOSA



In the summer of 2014, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) took its fitness program to another level! "Cross-Fit Okaloosa," a non-profit affiliate of Cross-Fit Head Quarters, was established using an existing space and outfitting it with modern, rugged, and high impact equipment, *funding courtesy of Okaloosa County drug dealers!* The program is run by employees and features a mixture of weight lifting, gymnastics, and high intensity movements all designed to give deputies a well balanced and sustainable fitness program.

Cross-Fit has a direct application to the work done each and every day by the men and women of the OCSO. Whether it's continually getting in and out of vehicles or chasing a fugitive, Cross-Fit prepares its participants for anything, anywhere, anytime. Deputies are getting fitter and faster. Sheriff Ashley mandated all deputies run through the OCSO Physical Abilities Test, which is a timed obstacle course designed to test the variety of movements a deputy might encounter. The course is run twice a year and during the fall of 2014, some deputies regularly participating in Cross-Fit were actually 10% faster after just four months of training. **More fit deputies means less injuries, higher quality of life, and an overall safety agency.** The nature of modern law enforcement demands fitness and Cross-Fit Okaloosa delivers!

# COMMUNICATIONS

Administrative phone calls received (April – December) - 168,981 (increase of 14,350)

911 calls received (Oct 2013 – Sep 2014) available numbers - 105,094

Communications relied on an excellent team effort between its dispatchers and Field Services to transport communications officers to and from the Communications Center during the January 2014 Ice Storm to ensure proper manning.

**Day shift also received a Certificate of Commendation for working the demands of a serve thunderstorm on March 28, 2014.**

In addition, floods during April 2014 also created extremely demanding work in the Center . The professionalism and expertise of the Communications team led to an outstanding job handling a deluge of calls and heavy amounts of radio traffic during all these weather related issues.

## 2014 Statistics for Communications Calls for Service

Grand Totals	
236219	Calls for Service
3163	Tow Entries
2210	Watch Orders Created
41	Alert Tone Tests
114	Fin Tests
679	Nixle Notifications
10	FCIC Certification
1	FCIC Recertification
32	PST Training
14	PST Position Evaluations
28	Digital Certificates
456	Validations



# YOUTH SERVICES

2014 marked the recognition of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Youth Services Unit as an entity worthy of emulation. **The School Resource Officer program earned the Florida School Resource Officers Association's award as the top program in the state of Florida.**



The journey to this honor actually began back in 1997 when the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office entered into a partnership with the Okaloosa County School Board and formed the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. The program was expanded from middle and high schools to all Okaloosa County public elementary schools after the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary in Connecticut in December 2012. Sheriff Larry Ashley ensured School Resource Officers are fulfilling responsibilities at 37 public schools and serving a student population of more than 30,000 students, along with a faculty and staff of 2,500 School District personnel. SROs are also responsible for safety and security of all Middle and High School sporting events and other school related activities.

The SRO program operates on multiple levels. The first priority is the frontline protection of students, staff, and school property. Additionally the SROs are involved in the following areas as they partner with students, parents, and staff to establish youth relations and mentoring programs through positive law enforcement interactions: examples include Okaloosa County Sheriff's Explorers, Florida Sheriff's Association Caruth Camp, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Youth Week, and Teen Driver Challenge.

2014 was a busy year for the SROs. They provided educational classroom instruction on a variety of topics to include cyber safety, anti-bullying, anti-alcohol and drug abuse experimentation prevention, and Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT). In addition, the SRO program designed and introduced elementary level programs such as "Books to Badges" and "Character Counts", Community Service and Leadership Programs.

# YOUTH SERVICES



SROs, supported by the community, sponsored “Cram the Canoe” collecting more than \$15,000 to replace canoes and provide sporting equipment and other much needed camp supplies for the Florida Sheriff’s Associations “Camp Caruth”. SROs traveled to the camp to participate in one week camping sessions. They worked as counselors and mentors, focusing on “Bridging the Gap” between law enforcement and our youth.

OCSO Explorer Post 543 was expanded by increasing the number of SRO Advisors and adding meeting locations to include the north end of Okaloosa County. Explorer Post 543 volunteered more than 600 hours to charitable and community service projects in 2014 and continues its motto “Building Tomorrows Leaders Today”.

2014 also brought into the ranks a dedicated K-9 named “Kilo” and a handler. Kilo is a drug detection K-9 and is assigned full time to Youth Services. K-9 “Kilo” and his handler not only help to ensure that our schools maintain a drug free school environment, but also have proven to be mentors to our youth as well.

**In addition to protecting schools, OCSO SROs gather and monitor Gang Intelligence, investigate, monitor and verify more than 350 registered sex offenders within Okaloosa County, and participate in diversionary programs such as Teen Court for first-time youthful offenders.**

The wide-ranging proactive stance of the Okaloosa County Youth Services Division underlines the decision to honor it as the 2014 State of Florida “Unit of the Year”. The award was presented by the Florida Association of School Resource Officers at its annual training conference in Daytona Beach, Fl.

The Youth Services Division will continue to reach out to our youth and to serve as role models, creating an atmosphere to cultivate good citizenship and respect for people, property, and the community we serve.



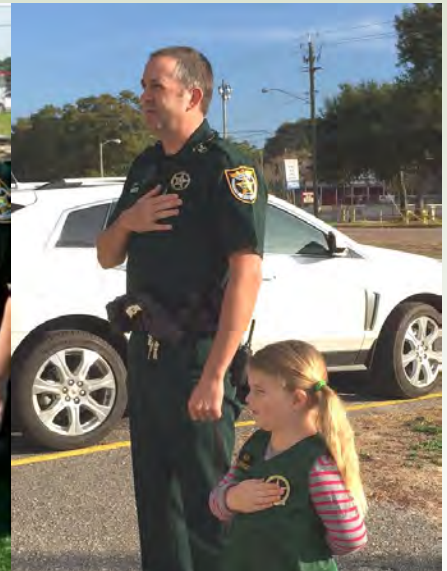


# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS IN ACTION





# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS IN ACTION





# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Pentamation server upgrade (Finance/Payroll Server) including a new physical server and upgraded software package.
- In-car and body-worn camera system evaluations and testing of several types and manufacturers.
- First phase of deployment of body-worn camera systems including installation of approximately 40 camera system charging/uploading docking stations at all substations.
- Training of 65 people on body-worn camera systems with balance of training to be completed in first quarter of 2015 and the deployment of 260 individual camera sets to deputies.
- Configuration, set-up, and deployment of 75 new mobile computers in patrol cars to replace older units.
- Reconfiguration and deployment of the 75 mobile computers taken from patrol units for upgrade and reissuance to School Resource Officer use.
- Configuration and set-up of network, desktop computers, and phones for Civil, Warrants, and Records units that moved to OCSO Headquarters from the old Shalimar Annex facility.
- Configuration and set-up of network, desktop computers, and phones for Finance, Human Resources, Legal, and several Administration offices that moved to new locations within Headquarters.
- Configuration and set-up of network, desktop computers, and phones for Evidence in their remodeled location at Headquarters.
- Configuration and set-up of desktop computers and phones for Central Patrol District Offices relocation to Headquarters from the old Shalimar Annex facility.
- Set-up of evidence label printers at each major Substation for deputy use.
- Configuration and set-up of new Barracuda firewalls for additional network security.



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Successful completion of an FDLE Information Technology security audit.
- Deployment of a new County IP-based phone system to be completed in first quarter of 2014.
- Upgrade of main law enforcement database/records server including moving all database records to another physical server.



- Installation and set-up of new AFIS live scan electronic fingerprinting system at Headquarters for individuals required to submit fingerprint/photograph with employment applications, professional licenses, and license renewals.
- Set-up and deployment of new virtual Remote Desktop server for use by deputies and employees of the State Attorney's Office to access records and other network resources from outside the agency.
- Set-up email encryption system for sending secure and/or sensitive information outside the agency.
- Deployment of 200 new mobile hot spots to provide more reliable and faster network connections in deputies' vehicles, leading to a savings of approximately \$9,600 per year on recurring monthly costs within the new devices.
- Set-up and deployment of an additional eight wireless network access points to bring wireless internet access throughout Headquarters.

**HANDLED MORE THAN 3300  
INTERNAL REQUESTS FOR  
I.T. ASSISTANCE**



# LOGISTICS DIVISION

The Logistics Unit provides direct support to all field units and the administrative staff. Elements of the Logistics Unit include Fleet, which maintains vehicles; Electronics Maintenance, which installs and services electronics on vehicles, electric devices, and speed detection equipment; Facilities Maintenance, which maintains all facilities in good repair, cleanliness, and remodeling for more efficient use of space, and; Quartermaster that equips personnel with uniforms, gear, office supplies, and central shipping and receiving. Former units under Logistics: Evidence, CSI, Choice, and Chaplains, were reassigned to other divisions under department reorganization in 2014.



## FLEET

The Fleet Division maintains agency vehicles in the highest standard to ensure officer safety and performance. In house maintenance of vehicles results in lower costs for labor and parts and less down time for agency vehicles. An added advantage is the enabling of OCSO vehicles to stay in service six to ten years with mileages exceeding 150,000. New equipment was obtained during 2014, which now enables total tire, wheel, and alignment service of agency vehicles. Eighteen new vehicles have been added to the fleet, including a new jail bus. Additionally, two short buses and one ambulance converted into a clandestine lab response vehicle were obtained via donations to the agency.

The Fleet has 362 vehicles in its inventory, including 134 patrol vehicles, 37 specialized vehicles, and 191 "moderate use" vehicles designated for investigations, detention transportation, and other specialized units. There are currently 189 vehicles identified as being over the projected 150,000 mile/six year mark for replacement. At the current rate of use an additional 141 vehicles will come due for replacement in 2015. Additionally, there are 22 trailers, including utility trailers, and emergency response trailers, seven all terrain vehicles, and six boats in the OCSO inventory.

**Over the past year, the Fleet Division has serviced 1,053 vehicles, averaging 96 per month. Service includes everything from oil changes, to electrical and body parts repair, to engine rebuilding or replacement.** Thus, outsourcing costly repairs is minimal. 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, to save money without sacrificing the quality of service.

Seven vehicles were sent to auction that garnered \$10,350.00 for the agency. Six unserviceable vehicles were donated to other agencies.

# LOGISTICS DIVISION

## 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. **In response to the consolidation of units formerly housed in the old Shalimar Courthouse Annex, major renovations have occurred to create additional, more efficient work spaces such as: movement of the electrical shop into the garage and the creation of offices, work stations, and conference area, evidence processing stations and facilities in its place for the Central Patrol Division; creation of offices and work stations for Records and Civil Process; upgrading of the reception area and addition of a latrine; and complete renovation of the Evidence Room.** They actively stripped old unusable machinery for scrap sale. The OCSO received over \$2,829.00 from the sale of unusable metal products.



# LOGISTICS DIVISION

## SUPPLY / QUARTERMASTER

The Supply Division maintains the necessary material to equip 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 operate continuously to test new products and new vendors in an effort 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. **During 2014, a new 500-gallon diesel fuel trailer, two portable diesel powered light plants, and a small boat were obtained and added to the inventory for emergency response and operations.** Emergency rations and medical kits are also stocked.



## ELECTRONICS

The Electronics Shop wires vehicles for radios, computers, camera systems, and emergency lighting. Vehicle interiors are disassembled to route wiring and electronics to ensure the integrity of the components and to prevent loose wiring 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 474 repairs or modifications and 24 complete assemblies.** The shop also calibrates speedometers and radar units. During 2014, 417 speedometers were calibrated. 229 of those units were from other law enforcement agencies. 269 radar units were calibrated, with 137 from other agencies. Calibrations for other agencies were performed at no cost to them. The shop also repairs electrical components ranging from monitors to cameras to everyday items such as vacuum cleaners, saving the OCSO costly outsourcing funds.



# HUMAN RESOURCES

The OCSO Division of Human Resources (HR) is committed to the effective design of regulated systems that ensure a pool of talented employees are available to provide the law enforcement needs of Okaloosa County. OCSO HR provides advice and service in Strategic Management, Employee Benefits and Reward Systems, Policy, Classification and Compensation, Employee Relations, and Workforce Planning and Employment, as well as a portion of Risk Management.

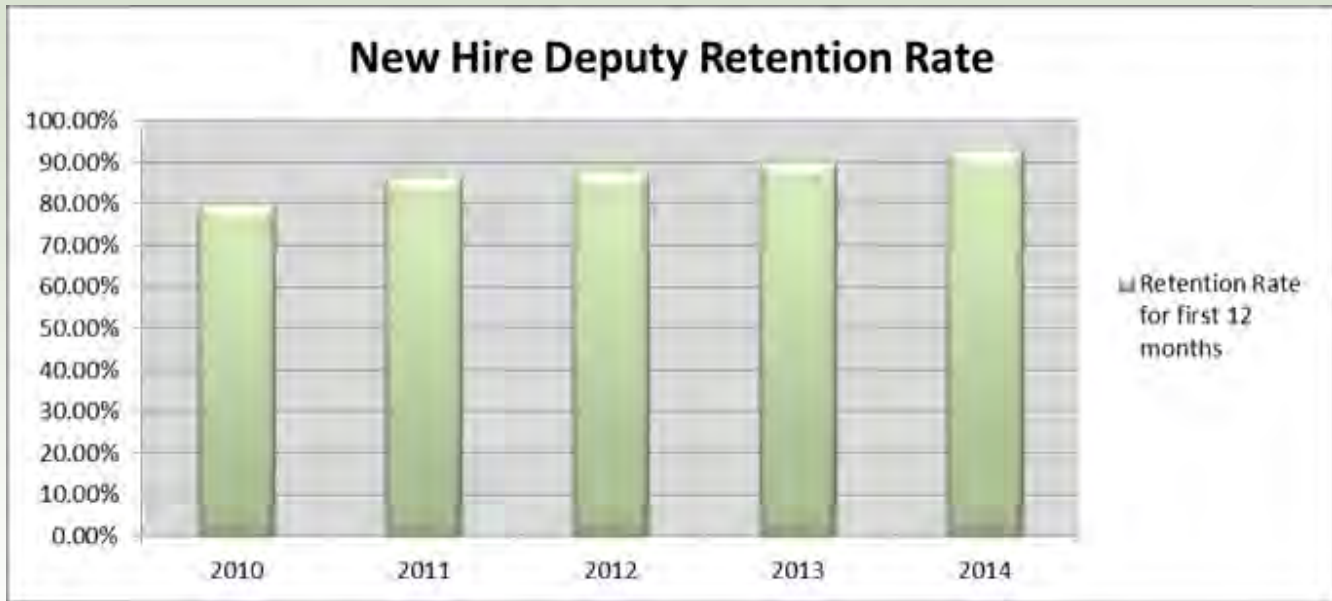
**Workforce Planning and Recruitment:** The policy of the OCSO is to foster, maintain, and promote equal employment opportunity for all persons without regard to race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, gender, marital status, handicap, sexual orientation or any other non-merit characteristic. OCSO policy extends to all personnel actions, including recruiting, hiring, training, job assignments, transfers, promotions, compensation, benefits, and disciplinary actions.



During 2014, nine percent of the applicants became OCSO employees. HR accepted approximately 600 employment applications, and hired 53 new employees. OCSO employs over 100 prior military service members. This year, 19% of the employees hired are military veterans.

HR expanded the Recruiting Committee this year to include twenty new members. The objectives of the committee are to create new ideas for attracting more diverse applicants, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of our current recruiting efforts, and to identify and overcome recruiting barriers. **In an effort to attract quality applicants to OCSO, the Recruiting Committee reviewed current recruitment materials and looked for ways to update them in a way that highlights OCSO and the diverse opportunities we offer.** Members of the Recruiting Committee were able to attend eleven job fairs, two community initiative meetings, and reach out to several law enforcement academies to provide hiring information.

# HUMAN RESOURCES



When we hire the best qualified Deputy, the cost of hiring and providing three months of training is approximately \$17,000. Retaining the Deputies provides us with a high rate of return for our community (*chart 1*). **The Deputy retention rate is an indication of our high quality candidate selections, vetting methods, organizational culture, and the quality of life in Okaloosa County.**



**Compensation & Classification:** Past economic hardships resulted in freezing or minimizing performance pay or cost of living pay increases. Employee retention has become a priority; thus our compensation and classification system will evolve so that we may compensate employees fairly in relation to their performance and experience. This year, we completed the annual market study and conducted job evaluations.

**Benefits:** The enactment of the Affordable Care Act has required HR and Finance to develop partnerships with third parties to minimize financial hardships on OCSO. The strategy continues toward maintaining manageable healthcare costs for employees, budgeting for Federal contributions, and designing a multitude of reporting mechanisms pertaining to IRS regulations.

# HUMAN RESOURCES

**Risk Management:** This year, HR and Professional Standards received an award from the Florida Sheriff's Risk Management Fund for Excellence in Risk Management and Loss Control for our efforts to reduce and control losses. **The efforts have been financially beneficial as we have realized annual savings for worker's compensation costs (chart2).**

**Performance Management:** In 2013 HR implemented an electronic performance management system. The performance management practices continue to emerge as we assess the competency results. OCSO employees are rated in the areas of decision-making/judgment, interpersonal skills/teamwork, job knowledge/skills & abilities, and professional responsibility/accountability.



**Accreditation:** HR updates, maintains, and implements work practices for thirty-five (35) HR related General Orders. This year, HR provided proof of compliance for thirty-seven (37) Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA®) standards.



# JUDICIAL SERVICES

The workload remained steady for Court Security in 2014. The Detention Section processed or transported 10,391 subjects which equates to 485 more than in 2013.

Court Security North handled 16,935 cases or hearings, or 732 more than in 2013. They also screened 87,711 individuals through the Single Point of Entry. This figure is down 23,735 from last year. **In addition, they seized 300 items of contraband or weapons.** For the last two months of 2014, the screeners had to “hand search” items coming into the Courthouse due to X-ray equipment failure.

Court Security South handled 48,109 cases or hearings during 2014 which equates to approximately 190 per business day, excluding first appearances which occur daily. This number is 1,975 more than 2013. They screened 145,633 citizens through the Single Point of Entry which equates to more than 577 people per day, or 64 per hour. This is a decrease of 3,630 from 2013. **They seized 599 items of contraband or weapons.** They also processed 804 state mandated DNAs from court and detention for submission to the FDLE.

2014 North Court Security Totals

Topics	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Hearings	1,469	1,218	1,326	1,449	1,660	1,332	1,345	1,485	1,414	1,549	1,303	1,385	16,935
People Screened	7,188	8,708	7,525	8,303	7,439	7,513	8,421	7,879	5,209	7,543	5,909	6,074	87,711
Contraband Seized	32	47	41	31	18	29	29	17	22	19	11	4	300

People Screened /Hearings Held



Contraband Seized



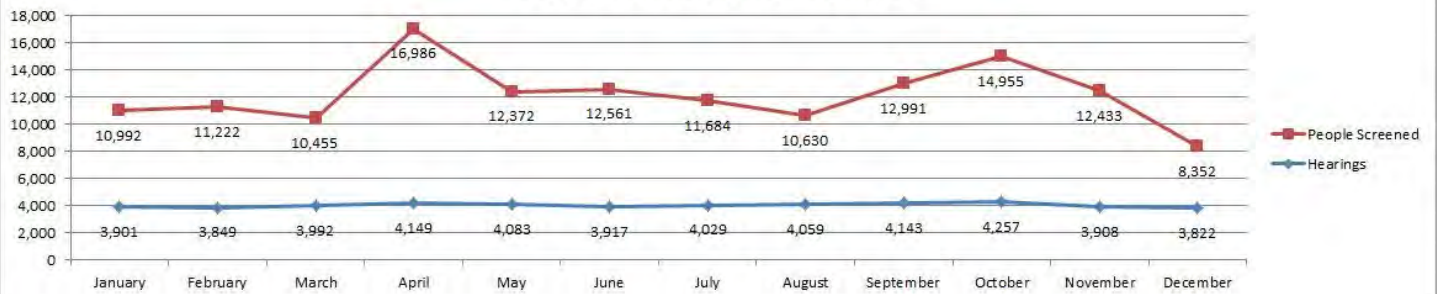
# JUDICIAL SERVICES



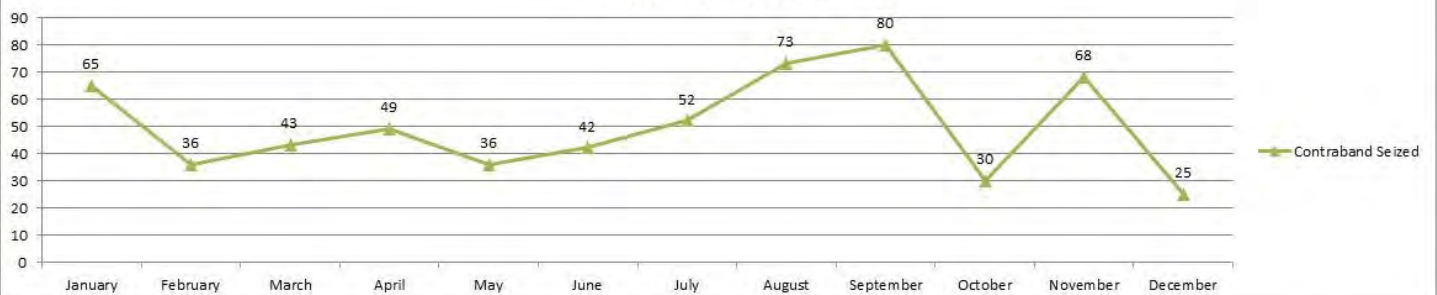
**2014 South Court Security Totals**

Topic	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Hearings	3,901	3,849	3,992	4,149	4,083	3,917	4,029	4,059	4,143	4,257	3,908	3,822	<b>48,109</b>
People Screened	10,992	11,222	10,455	16,986	12,372	12,561	11,684	10,630	12,991	14,955	12,433	8,352	<b>145,633</b>
Contraband Seized	65	36	43	49	36	42	52	73	80	30	68	25	<b>599</b>
DNA Taken (All)	33	52	36	73	70	59	102	71	83	83	70	72	<b>804</b>

**People Screened /Hearings Held**

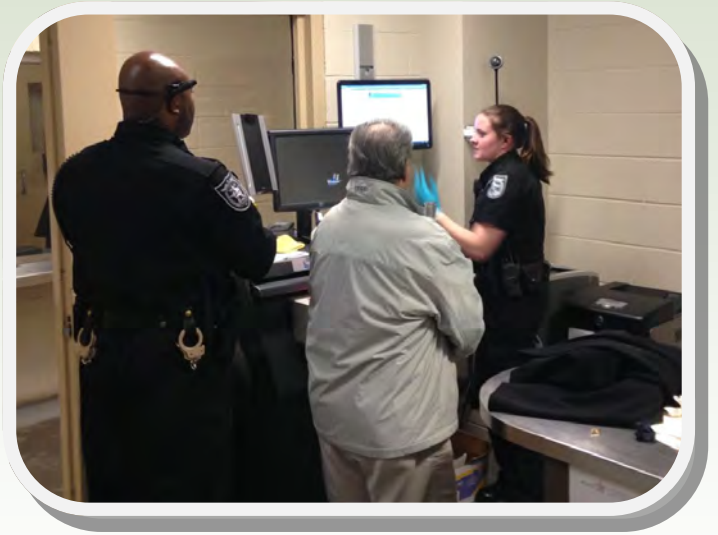


**Contraband Seized**



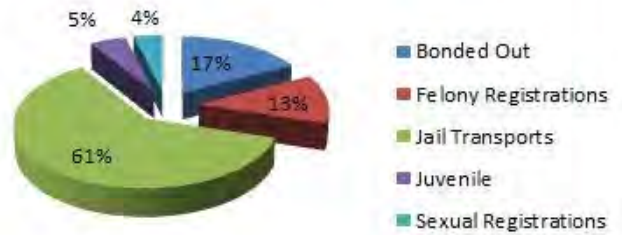
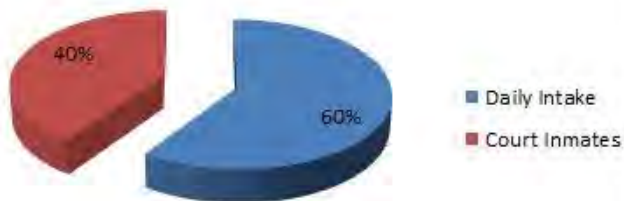


# JUDICIAL SERVICES



**2014 Booking and Transportation Totals**

	<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>September</i>	<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>Daily Intake</b>	460	467	577	504	550	507	459	548	598	584	522	413	6189
<b>Bonded Out</b>	122	91	125	122	122	76	62	79	64	60	63	77	1063
<b>Felony Registrations</b>	43	66	85	60	56	57	67	55	62	79	61	78	769
<b>Jail Transports</b>	252	263	324	279	313	346	336	356	376	376	369	306	3781
<b>Court Inmates</b>	317	361	300	335	349	330	371	418	361	377	331	352	4202
<b>Juvenile</b>	19	30	29	30	32	13	20	11	39	28	42	11	304
<b>Sexual Registrations</b>						19	37	39	42	36	35	35	243
<b>Total Per Month</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>839</b>	<b>899</b>	<b>837</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>765</b>	<b>10391</b>



# FINANCE

The Finance Department administered thirteen grants last year which included timely reports and successful audits to the state. In 2014, the OCSO was awarded several new grants including the renewal of Drive Sober in Destin and Stonegarden.

Finance upgraded financial software over the summer so that efforts to go paperless can continue. The upgrade allows for electronic notifications, requests, and approvals.

**The OCSO has a strong ethical standard and Finance helped improve controls within the agency by developing an internal fraud policy which was implemented in January 2014.** 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.

Two employees of our Finance Team are also members of the Sheriff's Mounted Posse. The Mounted Posse was featured by The Rocky Mountain Horse Association magazine in the summer 2014 issue. In addition to the Mounted Posse, our Finance Team also serves and/or volunteers for the following: OCSO Star Charity, the Wellness Committee, Team Star, the Recruiting Committee, Centennial Committee, and the Niceville High School Track Team.

We anticipate another successful audit at the end of 2014 and continue to look for process improvements. We are proud to serve the OCSO.





# CRIME PREVENTION

In 2014, Elizabeth Bingham-Forgette joined the Crime Prevention Unit full-time and became a certified Crime Prevention Practitioner. The Florida Attorney General's Office certification requires practitioners to complete three 40 hour classes which include general crime prevention as well as residential and business security classes. **Elizabeth placed at the top of the Attorney General's Office Crime Prevention class and has become a valuable asset to the OCSO Crime Prevention Unit.**



## The OCSO Crime Prevention Unit has completed

- 74 Various Presentations
- 59 Community Events
- Partnered with the Anti-Drug Coalition for a presentation/education about drugs and addiction from Dr. Victor DeNoble the first “whistle blower” on tobacco
- Conducted Eight CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) Security Surveys
  - \* Children In Crisis
  - \* RBCS- Rocky Bayou Christian School
    - \* Niceville & Destin
    - \* L3
  - \* Emerald Isle Condo
  - \* 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church Niceville
  - \* Good Shepard Lutheran Church
  - \* Trinity Methodist Church

# CRIME PREVENTION

**The Okaloosa Sheriff's Office Volunteers completed a total of 4,289 volunteer hours for the year!!**

The OCSO General and RSVP volunteers gave a total of 1,855 hours.

The OCSO volunteers helped with office work, the Citizens Firearms Safety Class, Hostage Negotiations Unit, Investigations Unit with Leads-on-Line, and the Crime Prevention Unit with numerous community events.

Volunteer Master Joe Cayer provided six Women's Self-defense Classes and two Kid's Self-Defense Classes.

Volunteer Patrick Boretsky taught the first class for handicapped individuals.

The RSVP volunteers performed 22 CODY Checks on juveniles on probation in the East and Central Districts.

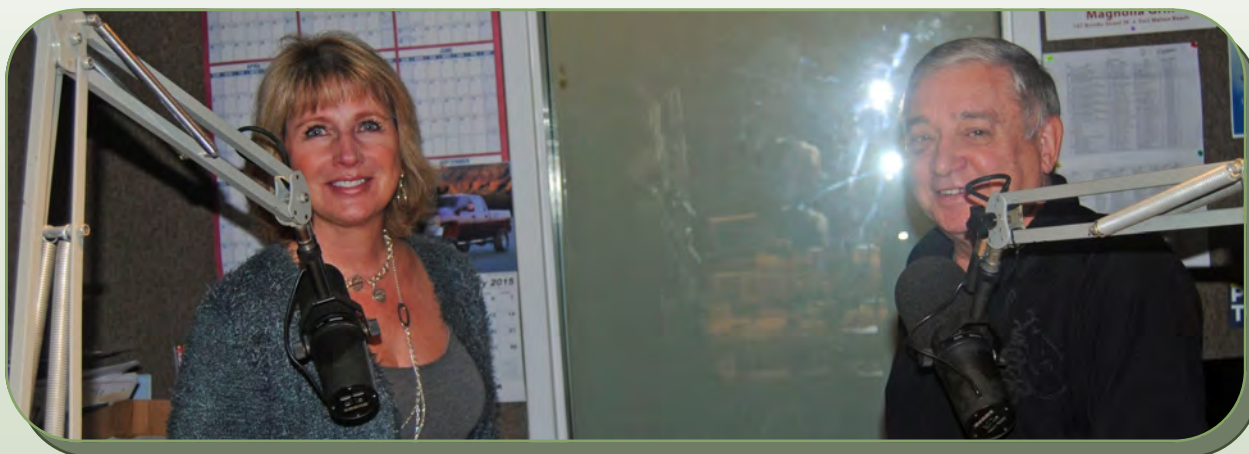
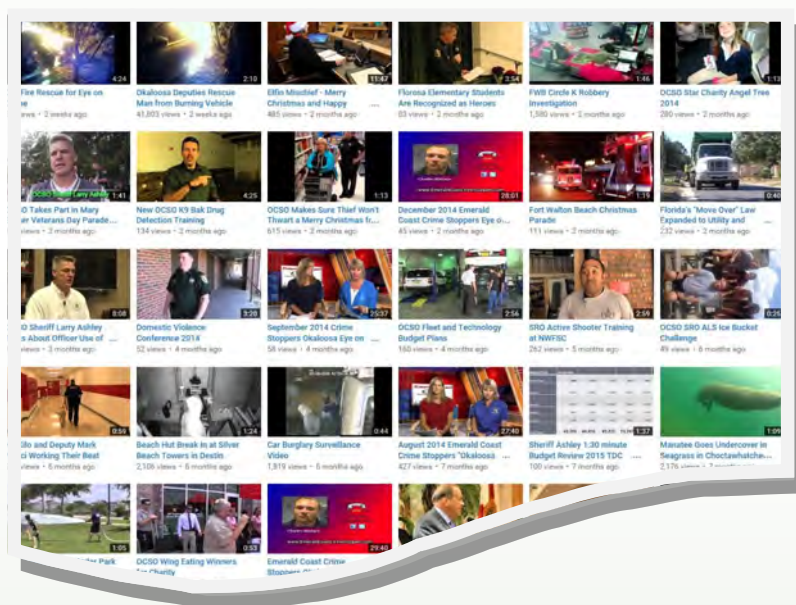




# PUBLIC INFORMATION

The Public Information Office handled thousands of media and citizens inquiries in the past year, including requests for assistance from as far away as Japan and Sweden. The Unit helped produce the brochure and video for the School Resource Officer Unit's award-winning entry as the Florida SRO Unit of the Year in Florida. **The Unit also was responsible for sharing nearly 200 news releases, 36 agency-related YouTube videos, and approximately 3500 Tweets.** The PIO section oversaw the agency Facebook page, which surpassed 16,000 "likes" by followers.

During the Ice Storm of 2014, the PIO Unit helped monitor and share vital public safety information at near maximum levels over a two day period to ensure residents were kept up to date via social media and news releases on items ranging from road and bridge closures to power outages.



# EMERALD COAST CRIME STOPPERS



## Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers Coordinator Nicole Wagner named 2014 Florida Crime Stoppers Professional of the Year



Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers enjoyed another extremely successful year in 2014 with the number of tips received approaching the 1000 mark.

## Crime Stoppers Statistics of Interest 2014

TIPS RECEIVED 936

ARRESTS 89

CASES CLEARED 112

REWARDS APPROVED 82 totaling nearly \$21,000

PROPERTY AND NARCOTICS RECOVERED \$144,000

**CASH REWARD UP TO \$3,000**

**863-TIPS**

Funding provided by the Attorney General's Crime Stoppers Trust Fund.

**www.EmeraldCoastCrimeStoppers.com**





# POSSE

The Sheriff's Posse Program is an important element of the agency that supports and augments different divisions within the department. It is a non-profit organization comprised of men and women who are interested in serving their community by devoting time to law enforcement. Members come from all walks of life and bring a variety of skills along with many years of life experience to the organization. These skills and experience, combined with dedication and a willingness to help local citizens, is an excellent example of people helping one another.

Posse members are auxiliary Law Enforcement Officers. When in the presence of a Deputy Sheriff they can do any task with appropriate authority when authorized to do so. All members are subjected to a background check and are required to be certified by FDLE.

The Sheriff's Posse Program is designed for members to supplement the sworn deputy sheriff force by handling specific calls for service requiring minimal use of law enforcement authority. The Posse assists with patrol functions, beach and marine enforcement, crime scene security, search and rescue operations, and handles other routine duties that a regular sworn deputy would be required to do if a Posse volunteer was not there. Members have opportunities to be exposed to the many facets of police work by providing their free services to the community.

In 2014, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Posse averaged between 34 and 38 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 409 details last year, an increase of 146 details over 2013.** Those details include re-occurring events over the years, such as festivals, runs, crime scene security, guarding prisoners, and extra patrols during the holidays.

**The Posse volunteered over 18,693 hours of service in 2014, surpassing the number of donated hours in 2013 by 796.** The Posse continues to support the agency, by substituting for School Resource Officers, filling in for Court Security, and serving civil papers.



# POSSE

Some of our members have commented that this duty is interesting, challenging, and worthwhile. Many have lost count of the actual lives that they were instrumental in saving in the event of a medical, welfare, or traffic accident emergency. The Posse is an additional layer of trained personnel. **The eyes and ears of the Sheriff's Posse augment the Deputies ability to provide security and protection for the residents and visitors of this community.** In short, it is a great job to volunteer for. The Posse Member experiences tend to sharpen and stimulate both mind and body. This is a volunteer job that actually gives back to the community, agency and its members. Very few jobs have accomplished that.





# MOUNTED POSSE

**The Mounted Posse volunteered more than 1250 hours in 2014 for community events and training.** This year we had the honor of being recognized by the Rocky Mountain Horse Association Magazine in an article written by three of our members.

Our 27 member Posse promotes goodwill and creates a positive impression for Law Enforcement. We enjoy seeing the smiles on the faces of the children, as well as the adults.

## Some of the events attended by the Posse in 2014 were:

FWB BBQ Event  
Silvercrest Community Fair  
Southside Elementary Fall Festival  
Niceville Assembly of God Fall Festival  
Holt Baptist Church Fall Festival  
Northwood Elementary Fall Festival  
Baker Rodeo  
YMCA Event @ Old Warrior's Ranch  
OCSO Youth Week  
Niceville Christmas Parade

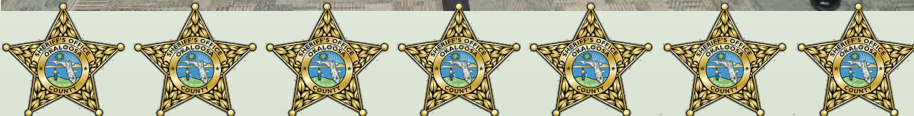


# CHAPLAINS PROGRAM

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Chaplains volunteered 2434 hours to the OCSO and the surrounding community in 2014.

The donations of their time and talents included:

- Organizing and helping to sponsor 96 children for the OCSO Star Charity Annual Angel Tree Program. The average sponsor spent \$110 per child and the total estimate of funds raised for gifts exceeded \$10,500.
  - Conducting fifteen briefings for new OCSO personnel
  - Training 42 new Chaplains at Miami Beach Police Department
  - Conducting premarital counseling for three couples and three weddings
- Helping to organize and sponsor the OCSO Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Luncheon which this year featured former Arkansas Governor and FOX TV Contributor the Honorable Mike Huckabee





## DEPUTY OF THE YEAR 2014



Deputy Jeremy Miller has used his background as a Navy Seal and later an Officer in the U.S. Air Force to set the tone for his commitment to duty, discipline, and leadership. In 2014 he either initiated or responded to nearly 2000 calls for service, generating nearly 180 written reports and 52 arrests, all while assisting his fellow deputies in countless other incidents.

In May 2014, Deputy Miller earned the OCSO Life Saving Award for his quick action to conduct CPR and buy time for a man suffering an apparent heart attack. He earned his Master's Degree in business Administration and was working on a second undergraduate degree in Biblical Studies, while also working as a Sunday School teacher for sixth graders.

He's a volunteer group counselor for "Reformers Unanimous", a recovery support group where he mentors and counsels men with a variety of addictions. He researched, developed, and implemented a training course for local business owners on how to respond to active shooters and workplace violence.

Deputy Miller's wide ranging accomplishments, his natural ability to lead others, and his consummate professionalism as a law enforcement officer inspires the respect and admiration of his coworkers and his supervisors as well.

# INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR

Investigator Les Wolthers is a committed, well-rounded, and skilled investigator who is open to new challenges and to exploring new methods and techniques.

His work ethic shone through when he began investigating a large scale counterfeiting case in February 2014. It initially appeared to be an isolated case, but grew to encompass more than forty documented cases at many area businesses. Investigator Wolthers used a confidential informant to help uncover both the manufacturer and the distribution source of the counterfeit cash. His case involved numerous interviews, as well as the planning and execution of eight separate search warrants. His efforts helped lead to three federal indictments and another arrest on state charges.

Along with work ethic, another strong point is his skilled report writing and the quality of his search warrants.

In addition, Investigator Wolthers volunteers with special needs children at Silver Sands School, assists with the OCSO Citizens Firearms Safety Course, and is Godfather to six children.

He is a key member of the OCSO Investigations team and serves as a great example to his peers on both the professional and the personal level.





## SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

The OCSO Outstanding Supervisor of the Year took over the K9 Unit in January 2014. Since that time, Sgt. Jim Duval has taken numerous proactive steps to ensure his unit is well-trained, highly motivated, and extremely competent.

Sgt. Duval has also worked hard however to enhance his own qualifications, becoming certified in FDLE Instructor Techniques and obtaining his U.S. Police Canine Association Trainer Certification.

He implemented a new work schedule so K9 handlers could have time off every other weekend, yet still maximize their demanding work and training schedules. He also established a written policy and comprehensive procedures for the K9 selection process.

Sgt. Duval researched, ordered, and then outfitted the unit with new work uniforms, helped develop a new K9 training area, and put in many personal hours of physical labor to help make that new area a success.



He motivates his team through his leadership, support, and daily work ethic. He leads by example and fosters a positive environment.

The results of his efforts speak for themselves: a 68% increase in total K9 calls, a 90% increase in security checks and watch orders, and a 64% increase in arrests in 2014.

## OPERATIONS SWORN PERFORMER OF YEAR

Deputy Mitch Landis combines high energy, motivation, and good judgment to be a leader in the Field Services Division. He prides himself on conducting thorough investigations and working each case to its fullest to reach the best resolution.

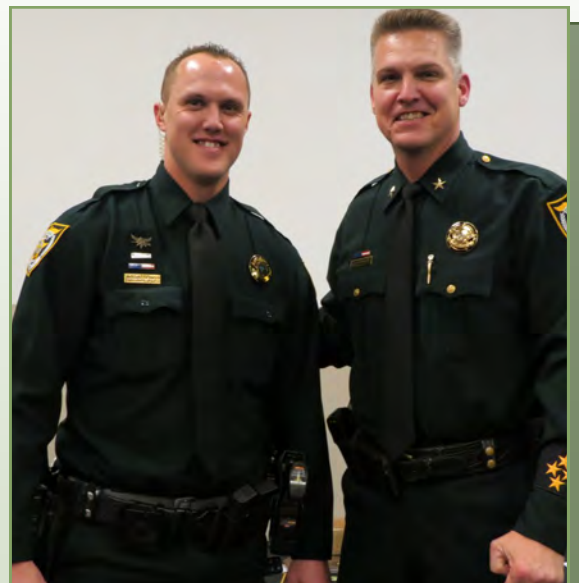
In 2014, he tallied impressive numbers. He responded to nearly 1800 calls for service, prepared 191 offense reports, and cleared 129 cases resulting in 85 arrests. Deputy Landis also removed 14 drunk drivers from Okaloosa County roadways and made 45 narcotics arrests.

In May 2014, he helped track down a suspect who was using Craigslist to get cash in exchange for stolen property. In April, his work on a loitering and prowling case led to an investigation that identified the suspect, who was linked to trying to steal four boats.

Deputy Landis did outstanding work in conjunction with narcotics investigations and assisted the Drug Unit on multiple occasions.

In addition to his normal deputies, Deputy Landis is a member of the OCSO Special Response Team, an agency instructor, and a top performer in all aspects of his careers.

He continues to set high standards and to excel, serving as a positive role model for his peers. He is a reliable and highly motivated employee who uses his work ethic to benefit the entire community.





## JUDICIAL SWORN PERFORMER OF YEAR



Deputy Rachel Stanford's Sergeant refers to her as a leader, an outstanding performer, and an asset to both the Detention Unit and the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office as a whole.

Deputy Stanford's motivation and eagerness to excel in every aspect of her duties is obvious to those who work alongside her on a daily basis. She routinely goes the extra mile, taking on difficult

assignments like compiling and verifying all data collected within the Detention Unit dealing with juveniles, creating a monthly report, and making sure the report gets into the appropriate hands.

Deputy Stanford provides training and guidance to ensure her co-workers are complying with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. She streamlined the process for downloading video evidence from the Intoxilyzer Room and getting it to the State Attorney's Office. She compiles most of the prisoner transport lists, which must be updated and often modified multiple times.

Deputy Stanford handles all those responsibilities while also booking new arrestees, registering sex offenders, predators and felons and working the in-processing room.

She is also working towards obtaining her Master's Degree, striving to continue to excel and advance within her career field.

## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Deputy James Reeves is one of the OCSO's most dedicated School Resource Officers. His initiative, organizational skills, and time management work together to make him tremendously effective in getting results that make a difference at Fort Walton Beach High School.

A few of his 2014 highlights include:

- Contacting a local doctor's office for free physical exams for kids in need so the children could attend Caruth Camp
- Providing 99 hours of instruction as a Teen Driver Challenge instructor
- Donating \$100 for the "Cram the Canoe" Campaign, as well as a needed washer and dryer for the Caruth Camp
- Designing the OCSO SRO Unit Challenge coin
- Implementing a new gate system to reduce skipping and truancy while establishing a safer traffic flow pattern
- Achieving Florida Association of SRO Practitioner Certification
- Achieving Florida SRO Specialist Certification
- Assisting in the development of operations plan templates for large events

Deputy Reeves never complains about his workload and is always willing to take on new challenges to help the SRO Unit achieve its goals.





## COMMUNICATIONS OUTSTANDING PERFORMER

Michael Miller is the kind of coworker who consistently steps up to help others. His supervisor say he not only works hard, but performs at an exceptional level.

Here's one example of his willingness to go the extra mile: During a shift while working on Channel 2, Michael helped with a situation out of Walton County on Channel 3 that involved a battery on a law enforcement and theft case.

Walton County could only provide suspect descriptions and a vehicle with a tag, but there was a prior tag flagged in the OCSO Computer Aided Dispatch system on the vehicle. That flag showed the agency had done a traffic stop on that vehicle earlier in the day. The female driver's name and drivers license number were provided to Walton County and Michael then worked to research the driver in an attempt to be able to provide additional information.

Through his efforts he was able to locate a booking photo from the state of Georgia with matching demographics. He uploaded the information and sent it to the Walton County Sheriff's Office. The female was positively identified as one of the suspects. The same photo helped OCSO deputies identify, locate, and arrest her. Michael is always eager to put in the extra effort needed to help our deputies and to ensure officer safety.



Jeff Igram began his career as a deputy and that understanding of the law enforcement community has served him well in his work in the world of Information Technology for the OCSO.

In January 2014, Jeff took on the extra task of evaluating in-car and body-worn camera systems to replace issues revolving around Digital Ally in-car camera systems. Jeff did this on top of his already demanding normal work schedule. The testing of the systems lasted into early summer, which is when the agency also got new GET-AC laptop computers. The acquisition meant coordinating and swapping out 200 mobile hotspots used by deputies to do their daily jobs. The laptops had to be upgraded and new operations systems and hardware enhancements had to be installed.

Jeff took on overseeing the job of getting all of this accomplished in a timely fashion, as well as also upgrading and redeploying the used laptops to our School Resource Officers.

Jeff and his team also received 225 body-worn camera systems and were able to get them deployed by the end of December, a task which involved training as well. Docking stations had to go into all District Offices as well.

Jeff undertook numerous demanding jobs on top of his additional duties and performed all of the undertakings in an outstanding fashion.





## OPERATIONS NON-SWORN OUTSTANDING PERFORMER



Mary Jones has been a valuable asset to the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office for many years, beginning back in 1984 when signed on as a Clerk. Mary advanced steadily until resigning in 1997. She returned to the agency in 2011 and embarked on a new path as a Criminal Analyst. As she had in the past, Mary combined her intelligence, work ethic, knowledge and attitude as

a team player to help the OCSO in multiple ways. In the timeframe since rejoining the Sheriff's Office, Mary's skill set has repeatedly proven invaluable in helping to solve crimes and deter criminal trends.

Mary has made it clear she is never reluctant to put forth the effort to do what it takes to ensure a task is completed. She has literally driven into her office in the middle of the night to aid deputies by putting together a photo line-up that was needed in a timely manner.

Mary is always enthusiastic about advancing her expertise. She is Pen Link certified, which has been instrumental in aiding investigations where cell phone tower "pings" can provide crucial information.

Mary's coworkers and supervisors point to her outgoing personality as an asset to those around her, helping to spread a can-do attitude that improves the overall working environment for sworn and non-sworn alike.

## NON-SWORN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



From volunteer Chaplain in 2002 to fulltime invaluable asset— Chaplain Larry Carter logged nearly 2500 hours of service in 2014. That's 48 hours a week and it doesn't take into account the work and assistance he provided from his own home.

The list of Chaplain Carter's contributions could fill a book: from hospital visits to death notifications to helping

deputies deal with high stress calls or personal challenges, he is a constant and compassionate source of comfort and encouragement.

Whether taking part in a ride-along to help build better rapport with the patrol deputies, to sending a birthday card or helping organize Law Enforcement Memorial and Appreciation luncheons and Star Charity events, Chaplain Carter's personal touch has enhanced the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office in countless ways.

His expertise and leadership have made him a stand-out in the field. He's a senior Chaplain and an assistant state representative from our region with the International Conference of Police Chaplains.

Chaplain Carter also assists the Public Information Office by producing agency-related videos that are both informative and entertaining.

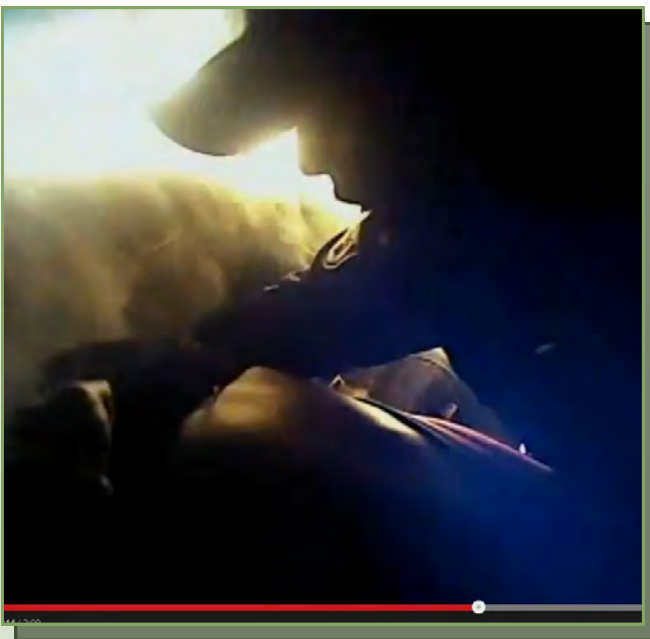
## MEDALS OF MERIT & LIFE SAVING AWARD

On Christmas Day 2014, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Deputies Joseph Trimboli and Eric Keyes responded to a traffic crash with injuries on Main Street in Destin. They arrived to find heavy flames around the rear of the car. The flames were quickly spreading to the inside and the driver was still behind the wheel with the doors locked.



Deputy Keyes had to hit and shatter the passenger side window to get the man out alive. The individuals' clothes were already on fire. With the car nearly fully engulf, Deputies Keyes and Trimboli pulled the man through the broken window, risking their own lives to save the driver. The man later expressed his gratitude for their heroic efforts.

The actions of Deputies Trimboli and Keyes to put aside the risks to their own personal safety in order to rescue the life of another individual, earned them the respect of their co-workers and supervisors. They were presented the Medal of Merit and Life Saving Awards. The body-cam video of the rescue attracted national and international media attention and garnered more than 40,000 views on the OCSO YouTube page.





# TEEN DRIVER CHALLENGE

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office hosts the Teen Driver Challenge (TDC), a classroom and driving range course designed to boost the driving skills of young drivers. 145 students attended the free course in 2013. In 2014 that number climbed to 164 in six separate classes. The students who participate in the Teen Driver Challenge are paired with a specially trained tactical driving Instructor who is also an SRO. The SRO rides in the vehicle with the student encouraging and guiding them through a driving course that includes a variety of road conditions and emergency situations they may face in real life.



TEEN DRIVER

CHALLENGE

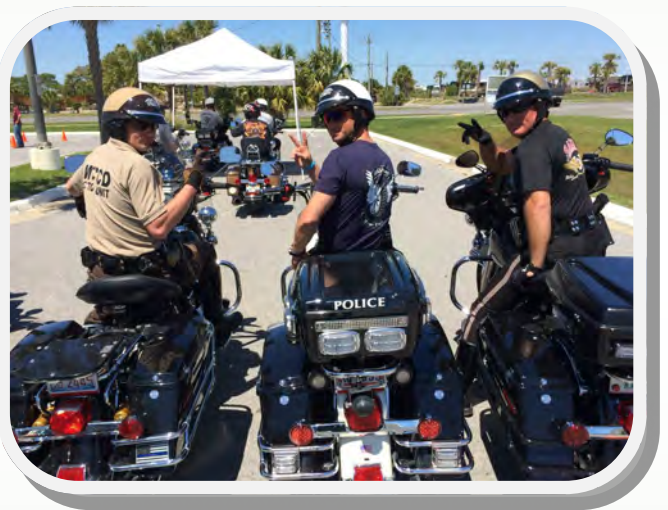


# EMERALD COAST CHALLENGE

In late March of 2014 the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and Emerald Coast Blue Knights Chapter XXV hosted the 2nd Annual Emerald Coast Challenge. This motorcycle rodeo tests a rider's skills and abilities.

The event had multiple goals:

- Improve law enforcement – community relations.
- Improve motorcycle safety by skill development.
- Provide 24 hours of advanced motorcycle training to law enforcement and the public alike.
- Raise monies for Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center in Niceville and develop the public's awareness of the needs of the Center and its clients — sexually and/or physically abused children in the community. In 2013, the Center treated 739 children at no cost.



The event drew 73 competitors from as far away as Texas, Michigan, Illinois and numerous other places around the nation. Although there are many motorcycle rodeos for law enforcement across the United States, this was one of only three open to both law enforcement and civilians in 2014.

The 2014 Emerald Coast Challenge met all of its goals:

- Provided training to approximately 25 Law Enforcement Officers and 48 Civilians
- Raised more than \$10,000 for the Emerald Coast Children's Advocacy Center
- In addition, Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Employees volunteered more than 500 hours of their own time and using figures provided by the Okaloosa County Tourism Development Council's website, there was also a positive economic impact to the community of an estimated \$213, 950.00.



# 2014 COUNTY PARTNER AWARD



The Florida Association of Counties (FAC) presented its 2014 "County Partner Award" to Okaloosa County Sheriff Larry Ashley. Each year the statewide organization gives the award to members of the county family that demonstrate outstanding leadership in helping FAC's advocacy efforts during the legislative session.





# DEPUTY/RESERVIST AWARD

Deputy Chad Goleta was honored as Duke Field's 919<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing Outstanding Airman of the Year.

Deputy Goleta is a Staff Sergeant assigned to the 919th Special Operations Support Squadron and has served at Duke Field since 2010. While a reservist and employed by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, he obtained his A.A.S. in Intelligence Studies & Technology from the Community College of the Air Force and will complete his B.S. in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia Southern University this spring.

Deputy Goleta has been with the OCSO since May 2012 - first in the Posse and then later becoming a full-time Sworn Officer. He is currently assigned to Patrol. He was formerly a Police Officer with the Panama City Police Department for nearly 4 years.

While in the Reserve and as an employee with the OCSO, he has also volunteered in the community for the United Way Day of Caring, The Baker Corn Maze & Haunted Trail, the Fraternal Order of Police, the OCSO Citizen Firearms Safety Course, and at Wat Mongkolratnam (the Thai Buddhist Temple).

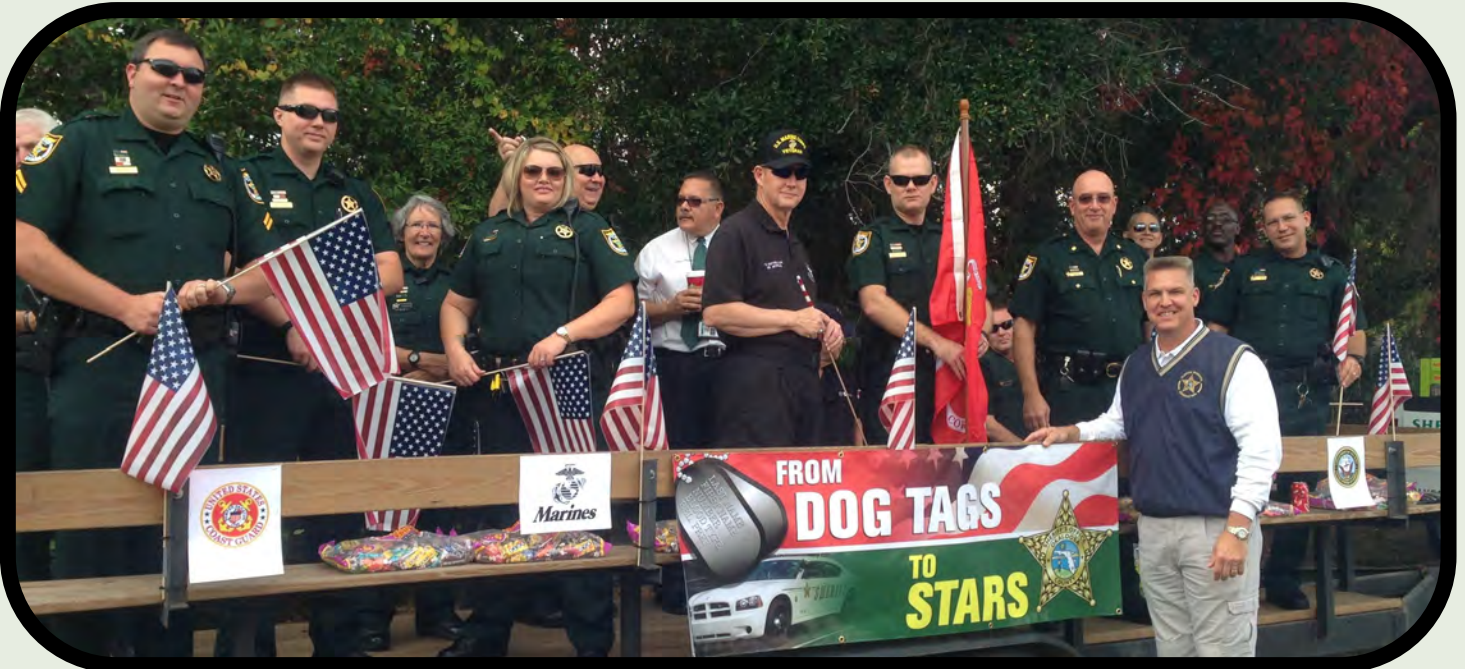
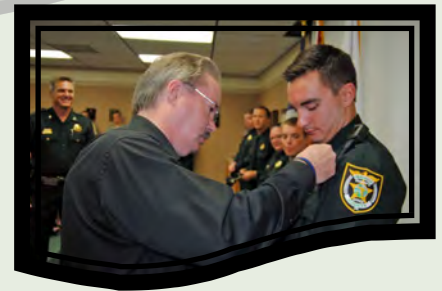
**Deputy Goleta earned the "Outstanding Airman of the Year" at the 919<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing at Duke Field for 2014 for the combination of his outstanding efforts with the Reserve, OCSO, education and his involvement in the community.**



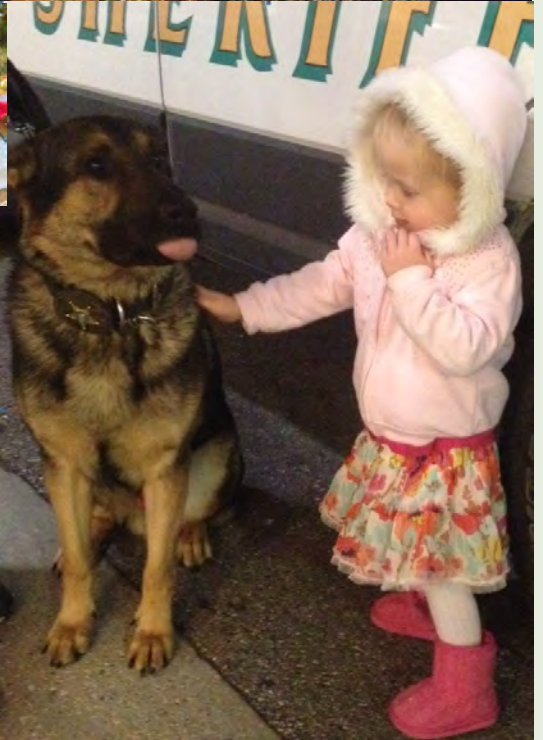
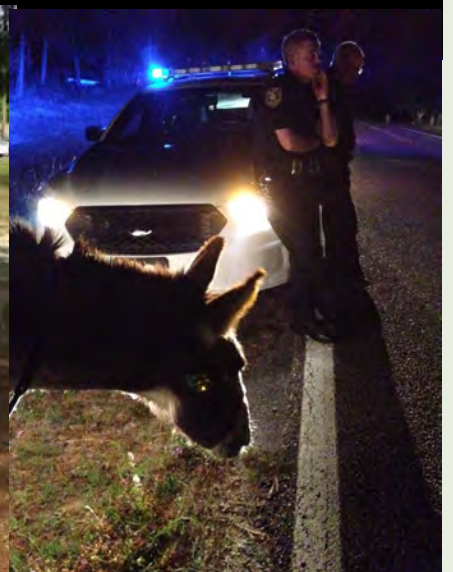




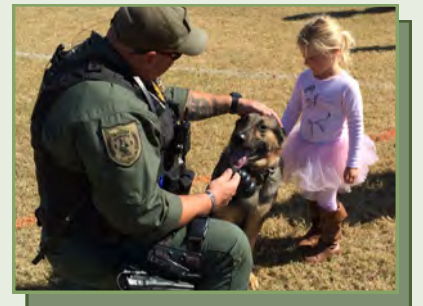














# Stop the Texts

SHERIFF-OKALOOSA.ORG



# Stop the Wrecks

## GET THE MESSAGE!

**NO TEXTING  
WHILE  
DRIVING**



**IT'S THE LAW**



**OKALOOSA COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

*Just Drive*

Text Free Driving Pledge

- \_\_\_\_\_ I PLEDGE NOT TO TEXT AND DRIVE because it makes me 23 times more likely to crash.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I PLEDGE NOT TO TEXT AND DRIVE because it's like driving after having 4 beers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I PLEDGE NOT TO TEXT AND DRIVE because it's like taking my eyes off the road for an average of 5 seconds. At 55 MPH, it is like driving the length of a football field - completely blind.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I PLEDGE NOT TO TEXT AND DRIVE because car crashes kill an average of 11 teens - EVERY DAY.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I PLEDGE NOT TO TEXT AND DRIVE because distracted driving injures 330,000 people every year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I PLEDGE NOT TO TEXT AND DRIVE because texting and driving is dangerous and life threatening to me, others in my car and everyone else on the roads.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I PLEDGE NOT TO TEXT AND DRIVE because texting and driving ends and ruins lives everyday and I will NOT contribute to this growing epidemic.

By signing below, I am making a conscious commitment to not text while driving, always wear my seatbelt and encourage my friends and family to always do the same

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**A MESSAGE FROM  
THE OKALOOSA COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



**IF YOU SEE  
SOMETHING,  
SAY  
SOMETHING.**

***Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers***  
 **863-TIPS 1-888-654-TIPS**  
***www.emeraldcoastcrimestoppers.com***

**OC SO COMMUNICATIONS**

**NORTH OKALOOSA 689-5705**

**SOUTH OKALOOSA 651-7400**