

# Sheriff's Office



**T**he primary focus of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office in 2010 has been to enhance public safety planning and reevaluate policies to ensure the agency performs at optimum levels. Under the guidance and leadership of Sheriff Ed Spooner and Chief Deputy Larry Ashley, the agency continued to streamline administrative staff functions to better support the mission of the enforcement members during a challenging time of shrinking budgets.

One of the agency's proudest moments came in June when the agency received accreditation by the Florida Commission for Law Enforcement Accreditation. Accreditation is a process by which an agency measures its policies and practices against the best

practices and professional standards in the law enforcement community. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office went through a rigorous process that included a review of each and every policy, standard operating procedure and operational practice. The agency conducted preliminary inspections in order to prepare for the Commission's on-site assessment in May. The accreditation process was a team effort by all members of the agency and resulted in increased efficiency and better operational efforts by all. The process required some facility and equipment updates which were funded by proceeds of forfeiture actions taken against drug law violators in the county.

The agency is also taking proactive steps to prepare for the influx of personnel and families supporting the Army's 7th Special Forces

Group near Duke Field. Because the bulk of the impact is expected in North Okaloosa County, now Sheriff Ashley has increased the enforcement staff in the north district with two patrol deputies, two K-9 units and an additional investigator.

In addition, the Sheriff's Office refurbished and updated



**Sheriff Larry Ashley was elected in 2010**

the North District Office facility in 2010. The work was accomplished by the agencies' facility maintenance section with a great deal of inmate labor. The estimated \$150,000 to \$200,000 project was completed for approximately \$60,000.

In looking forward to 2011, Sheriff Ashley has established that the mission of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office will be: *Ensuring fair and equal administration of the law, safeguarding civil liberties and preserving public safety; doing so with professionalism and unity of purpose, while being good stewards of the public's trust.*

**Ed Spooner**