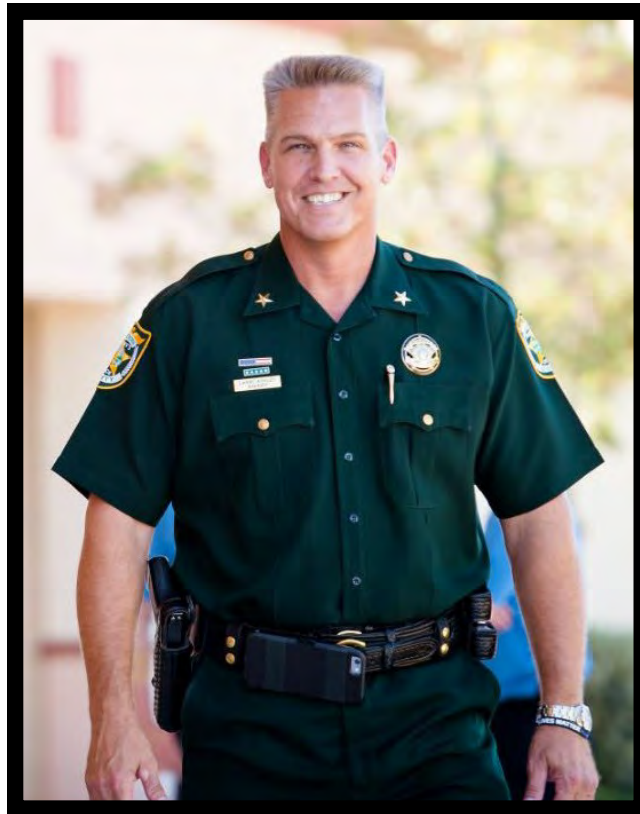


2016



OCSO ANNUAL REPORT

## *A MESSAGE FROM OKALOOSA COUNTY*

# *SHERIFF LARRY ASHLEY*

The beginning of a new year is always a good time to plan for upcoming challenges as well as measure the accomplishments of the previous one. I am extremely proud of the organizational accomplishments of your Sheriff's Office as well as the personal achievements of our deputies and staff in 2016.

In 2016 Okaloosa County was ranked as the second most visited county in Florida and there is no better time than Spring Break to observe the impact of that statistic in practice. Big crowds equal big demands on law enforcement's resources. Our office ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state this year with 393 Spring Break arrests. Most can be attributed to underage possession and consumption of alcohol, drunk driving, and illegal drug use. We continue to maintain a zero tolerance approach in dealing with violators.

In 2016, your Sheriff's Office again passed its annual (CALEA) National Accreditation standard assessment which is included in our three year policy audit and recertification. While maintaining its rank among the best law enforcement agencies in the state and nation, we also revamped and improved our recruitment and hiring programs to draw only the most qualified candidates. In today's demanding environment, identifying and hiring qualified recruits has become increasingly difficult, however our added menu of options, which is specifically tailored for each candidate, has started paying dividends in the form of attracting highly qualified personnel.

While solving cold and new murder cases, rapes, robberies and cyber-crimes, our Investigations Division also indexed and purged 52,511 total items of evidence in 2016. This purge project included the Drug, General, Found Property, and Tapes/Document rooms. The total weight of the purged evidence was 14,400 pounds while the cost to burn it was \$1,147.00. It was a huge undertaking and it paid off by saving taxpayers' dollars which won't be needed for expanding our evidence storage facilities.



Our Finance Department also had another successful audit in 2016 with 99.9 % of our budget utilized with no material adjustments and no management comments occurring.

In Patrol, our East District oversaw DUI enforcement efforts that resulted in Destin going from third to 27<sup>th</sup> in the rankings of Florida's 121 cities for traffic crashes involving alcohol and injuries. A 32% decrease in crashes involving alcohol and injuries is the kind of improvement we continually seek to build upon. Additionally our office spearheaded the campaign to get first aid training and NARCAN dispensed to patrol deputies in an effort to combat the epidemic of opiate overdoses. During 2016 NARCAN was administered ten times by deputies providing lifesaving efforts. Unfortunately, there were still 23 deaths attributed to overdoses, however the saves we experienced show the value of the program.





We know that inventory programs are rarely exciting topics to discuss, however during this past year our office revamped inventory policy and procedures. This dramatically boosted efficiencies by saving literally hundreds of man hours previously spent in inventory tracking and audits.

These are just a very few examples of the accomplishments of your Sheriff's Office in 2016 and yet we are already preparing for the anticipated challenges of the new year.

As your Sheriff, I am honored to serve alongside the men and women who combat crime in our community each day and I

feel privileged to have such a wonderful place to call home. I hope you enjoy reading this year's annual report outlining our many achievements. As an agency that has now earned dual accreditation for its effectiveness and efficiency, we stand prepared to address and overcome future challenges as we move forward.

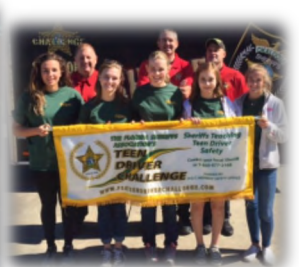
And finally, I ask that you get to know your OCSO! Please take time to visit our website at [www.sheriff-okaloosa.org](http://www.sheriff-okaloosa.org) and join the many thousands who follow us on Facebook and Twitter for much more detailed information about your Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and the community we serve.

*Larry Ashley*

**Larry R. Ashley, Sheriff**  
**Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, HQ**  
**E-mail: [sheriff@sheriff-okaloosa.org](mailto:sheriff@sheriff-okaloosa.org)**









# 2016 ACTIVITY RUNDOWN

**CALLS TO OCSO 187,282**

## **SAMPLE OF TYPES OF CALLS**

<b>FRAUD</b>	<b>1,009</b>
<b>TRAFFIC STOPS</b>	<b>24,339</b>
<b>CITIZEN CONTACTS</b>	<b>12,609</b>
<b>TRAFFIC CRASHES</b>	<b>4,909</b>
<b>SECURITY CHECKS</b>	<b>30,074</b>
<b>INTOXICATED DRIVERS</b>	<b>740</b>
<b>K-9 ARREST</b>	<b>1,951</b>
<b>WELFARE CHECKS</b>	<b>2,274</b>
<b>DISTURBANCES</b>	<b>4,975</b>
<b>ROAD RAGE</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE</b>	<b>2,532</b>
<b>SUSPICIOUS PERSON</b>	<b>1,227</b>
<b>TRESPASSING</b>	<b>1,798</b>
<b>SHOTS FIRED</b>	<b>373</b>

# NORTH DISTRICT

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

We have a mixture of diverse communities in the North District. They range from densely populated urban areas in and around Crestview, the largest city in Okaloosa County to the many acres of farm land, horse ranches, and residential homes in the Baker, Holt and Laurel Hill Communities. Many of the citizens of Okaloosa County have found comfort and peace in the beautiful unincorporated areas in our North District.



The North District has four locations that serve our growing community.

**The North District Office** - 197 East James Lee Blvd, Crestview

The North District maintains this public access location where citizens can walk-in to report a crime or obtain records and copies of reports. Citizens are also able to obtain digital fingerprints, free of charge.

**The Brackin Street Office** - 296 Brackin Street, Crestview

This office serves as the District Operations of the Uniform Patrol Division and Criminal Investigations Division

**Laurel Hill Substation** - 8209 Highway 85 North

This office is housed inside the City of Laurel Hill Administrative Building. Laurel Hill is the northernmost city in Okaloosa County.

**Baker Substation** - 5808 Highway 189

This office is located in the heart of one of the oldest communities in Okaloosa County.



## **North District Personnel 2016 Performance Awards**

### **Life Saving Award**

Deputy Steven Richards

### **Certificate of Commendation**

CNU Investigator Nolan Weeks III

### **Outstanding Performance Award**

Investigator Nolan Weeks III

## **North District Personnel 2016 Promotions**

Investigator Mike Smith to Patrol Sergeant

Deputy Casey Dennis to Patrol Corporal later to SIS Investigator

Deputy John Jenks to Patrol Corporal

Deputy Robert Robinson to Patrol Corporal

Deputy Martin Jennings to Patrol Corporal



## **North District Statistics of Interest for 2016**

<b>Calls for Service</b>	<b>50,776</b>
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	<b>6,459</b>
<b>Warrants Services</b>	<b>1,723</b>
<b>DOMV Arrests</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>DUI Arrests</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Probable Cause Arrests</b>	<b>625</b>

## North District Community Service Activity for 2016

Attended Crestview Chamber of Commerce breakfasts

Membership in Crestview Rotary Club

Membership in Crestview Kiwanis Club

Attended City of Crestview Council meetings

Attended City of Laurel Hill Council meetings

Attended Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners meetings

Provided Instruction at OCSO Citizens Academy

Provided firing range instruction & support for community

Liaison to multiple Chamber committees and civic groups

Supported local Faith Ministries and charitable Organizations

Provided book reading and mentoring to local students





## Community Commitment

The men and women who work and live in the North District take great pride in participating within the community in which they serve. They realize the importance of being a vital part of the community, not just by working to patrol and investigate the crimes that occur, but also through participating in and managing many community-related organizations. In 2016, our North District employees donated almost 500 hours of their (off-duty) personal time in order to provide a better place to live and also to raise their individual families for generations to come.

One of the most important characteristics seen almost daily is the support this community gives to our deputies. Snacks and goodies are routinely delivered to our offices. It is almost impossible to visit a restaurant or grocery store without someone saying a kind word or giving words of encouragement to our deputies in uniform. Many area churches cook meals and bring them by our office, especially on the weekends, just to say thank you. Several of our area businesses have provided large meals for our deputies to enjoy.



The community support provided by the families, churches and businesses in Okaloosa County is unsurpassed. We are all blessed to live in such a great area and should be proud to call Okaloosa County "HOME".

# 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 fulltime population resides within its boundaries.

The 45 men and women assigned to Central District are committed to providing excellent service and protection. They strive to resolve problems safely and in a timely manner.

Members have accumulated many hours of training which range from Traffic Homicide School and Desert Snow Training to Crisis Intervention Training, all in an effort to better equip themselves for service.

Deputies were trained and equipped this year with Narcan (a nasal spray form of naloxone for the emergency treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose). This has contributed to a Central District member being awarded the OCSO Lifesaving Medal, and ten lifesaving applications agency-wide.







The Central District accounts for about 60% of the felony narcotics arrests for the entire county. In 2016, Central District's felony narcotics arrests rose 30% from last year (2015). This continues to drive us to find specialized training courses for members in narcotics investigations to further each member's knowledge.

Within this year, each supervisor on all four shifts (Sergeants and Corporals) have been promoted with many new deputies assigned to Central District as well. Even with all the new people, the statistics for proactive natured calls have soared.

The Central District has worked tirelessly throughout the year to focus on safety, accountability and to enhance community interactions. In 2016, our district accounted for nearly 70,000 calls for service, completing 6,774 offense reports and affecting more than 1,400 arrests.

### **Central District Statistics of Interest for 2016**

<b>Total Calls for Service</b>	<b>69,305</b>
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	<b>8,951</b>
<b>Watch Orders/Security Checks</b>	<b>10,998</b>
<b>Assistance Calls</b>	<b>3,166</b>
<b>911 Verifications</b>	<b>2,308</b>
<b>Disturbances/Fights</b>	<b>2,950</b>
<b>Alarms</b>	<b>2,040</b>
<b>Welfare Checks</b>	<b>1,227</b>
<b>Felony Narcotics Incident w/Arrests</b>	<b>273</b>



## Central District Individual Accomplishments

Kenneth LaPee promoted to Major of Operations Bureau

Shannon Tait promoted to Captain/Central District Patrol Commander

Kevin Kirkpatrick promoted to Lieutenant

Bill Jerard promoted to Inspector in Training and Development

Grady Carpenter promoted to Sergeant in Central District

Heath Hehl promoted to Sergeant in Central District

Dennis Fields promoted to Sergeant in Central District

Harold Mason promoted to Sergeant in Central District

2015 Deputy of the Year, Travis Topolski promoted to Investigator

Jonathan Schlager promoted to Investigator

Mark Justiss promoted to Corporal in Central District

Megan Hankins promoted to Corporal in Central District

Sterling Eslinger promoted to Corporal in Central District

Mark Wilson promoted to Corporal in Central District

Sgt. Grady Carpenter and Deputy Aaron Pitman earned the Medal of Valor

Deputy Robert Speakman – Life Saving Medal – CPR

Deputy Wes Haggan – Life Saving Medal

Corporal Mark Justiss, Deputy Sheriff Adam Fitchett, Deputy Sheriff Mark Wilson and  
Deputy Sheriff Joey Herrmann – Life Saving Medals

Deputy Sheriff Adam Fitchett and Mark Wilson – Certificate of Commendation





## Noteworthy accomplishments and events

Provided escorts for 129 local funerals including the service for Destin Fire Chief Michael Urenda.

Supported and participated in the Mary Esther Veteran's Day Parade.

Supported and participated in the Ft. Walton Beach Christmas Parade.

100% Physical Abilities Testing pass rate.

Provided support for several community events such as "Toys for Tots".

Attended and participated in city council meetings and various fraternal and non-profit organizations.

Provided security escort for United States Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter.



# EAST DISTRICT



The East District makes up the southeast portion of Okaloosa County and is one of the top tourist destinations in the state of Florida with approximately 3.6 million visitors vacationing during the year. Tourists are drawn to the white sandy beaches and the breathtaking emerald waters. During the summer, the population can grow as much as 60,000 plus on any major holiday. The East District covers east of the Brooks Bridge on Okaloosa Island to the Walton County line, north to Duke Field, south to Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport and all southern waterways.

In 2016, the deputies assigned to East District Patrol Services responded to 61,349 calls for service, completed 4,786 offense reports, and effected 2,051 arrests. Included in those totals were 236 DUI arrests, 107 narcotic arrests, 149 battery arrests, 158 burglary arrests, and four grand theft auto arrests. In addition, deputies responded to 2,148 traffic crashes on the roadways.





## East District Statistics of Interest 2016

<b>Calls for Service</b>	<b>61,349</b>
<b>Offense Reports</b>	<b>4,786</b>
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	<b>8,856</b>
<b>Felony Arrests</b>	<b>448</b>
<b>Traffic Crashes</b>	<b>2,148</b>
<b>Arrest Reports</b>	<b>2,321</b>
<b>Warrant Services</b>	<b>888</b>
<b>Watch Orders</b>	<b>3,559</b>
<b>911 Verifications</b>	<b>2,156</b>

We continue to emphasize proactive enforcement practices and engaging citizens to report crime or suspicious activities. Our goal is to continue maintaining 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.



From 2009-2013, Destin ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 121 Florida cities for traffic crashes involving alcohol and injuries. Because of this, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and the City of Destin partnered in submitting for, and being awarded, the Federal Grant "Drive Sober in Destin" for the fiscal year 2014 which continued in 2015 and 2016. The latest numbers show that Destin is now ranked 27th. Throughout 2016, the grant funded overtime. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office performed 1,515.25 hours of D. U. I. enforcement patrols and D.U.I./Safety checkpoints. The combined four quarters yielded 2,129 traffic stops, 91 DUI's, 302 speeding citations, 11 seatbelt citations, 20 open container citations, 18 narcotics arrests, 152 miscellaneous citations, and 1,644 warnings for traffic related incidents. The purpose and objective of this grant was to reduce the number of alcohol related traffic incidents with a goal of 5% reduction from the previous year. The diligent efforts of the deputies have reduced those crashes involving alcohol by 32% through the 2016 fiscal year.







Marine, Beach Patrol, and Dive Team assets were busy this year with the record breaking crowds on the beaches and waterways. These assets, along with the help of Posse volunteers and a “Zero Tolerance Initiative”, responded to over 3,731 calls for service during Spring Break and the 100 days of summer. The units effected 398 arrests, issued 191 Notices to Appear, and handed out 116 Boating and Traffic citations. They also conducted multiple dive operations, recovering five bodies as a result of a boating crash and several drowning incidents.



# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS



The entire Criminal Investigations Division was honored by Sheriff Larry Ashley for its complete and professional investigation of a high-profile homicide.

- Pensacola defense attorney Joseph Reosti was arrested on charges of possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance and smuggling contraband into a correctional facility. Reosti was providing contraband to a jail inmate during a visit.

- Thirty-two years after a Christmas tree salesman was bludgeoned to death near Fort Walton Beach, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office officially closed the case due to the death of the murder suspect in a Texas prison.



- Investigators investigated a disturbance on Santa Rosa Boulevard where an off duty law enforcement officer shot two people and himself during an altercation. After a lengthy investigation, the case was presented to the State Attorney's Office which declined to pursue charges based upon the Florida "Stand Your Ground" law.

- Investigators charged an inmate with Trying to Arrange Murder of His Alleged Sexual Assault Victim. Darell James Robinson was arrested for solicitation to commit premeditated first degree murder. A fellow inmate says Robinson offered to pay his \$1,200 bond, and let him live at his home for free, if he would agree to kill the 17-year old victim in Robinson's sexual assault case.

- Investigators and the Cyber Unit investigated a disturbing email threatening school violence in Okaloosa County. This investigation covered multiple jurisdictions as well as overseas conspirators. After an all-night investigation, it was determined the individual who sent the email was located outside the United States and was attempting to make it appear as if an Escambia County resident sent the email in an attempt to get the individual in trouble with law enforcement.



-Suspect James Ty Flanders, while accompanied by his lawyer, led Sheriff's Investigators and Prosecutors from the State Attorney's Office to a location where Flanders admitted to killing Marie Carlson and burying her body in his side yard while he resided there. Flanders showed investigators specifically where to look for Carlson's remains.



-Investigators with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office conducted a shooting investigation that injured three people on Santa Rosa Boulevard on Okaloosa Island. After a five month investigation, a warrant for Nkosi Chamberlain was obtained for three counts aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

-An investigation led to the arrests of two former Okaloosa County EMS paramedics in connection with a probe that revealed they used their cell phones to take selfies and videos with patients inside ambulances for their own amusement as part of a "selfie war" competition. Many patients were intubated, sedated, or otherwise unconscious at the time.

-Investigators responded to a shooting that injured four people outside a townhome complex on Landview Drive near Fort Walton Beach June 9th. The investigation led to the arrest of one adult and two juveniles for attempted homicide.



-Investigators Grady Carpenter, Harold Mason, Tony Kelly, and Mike Smith were promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

-Investigators initiated an undercover operation targeting offenders who prey on minors via electronic communications. Suspect Christopher Carpenter contacted the undercover Investigator, who was posing online as a minor. Carpenter sent the undercover Investigator sexually explicit messages and arranged to meet the minor at a pre-designated location. When Carpenter arrived Investigators took him into custody without incident.



-Investigators arrested 24-year old Yoshaunda Timms for aggravated battery causing great bodily harm. The suspect stabbed another female outside a business on Miracle Strip Parkway in Mary Esther.

-Investigators arrested Justin Lantz for the murder of his mother at their home and attempting to get rid of her body under the Brooks Bridge.

-Investigators arrested Oscar Castaneda for the murder of Osvaldo Torres-Michua and Fidel Gonzales for being a principle to murder. Investigators began working a missing person case that led them to believe the victim met with foul play. Developments in the case led them to search spots in South Walton County off Chat Holley Road, where the body was discovered in a wooded and swampy area.



-Investigators arrested another child predator in an undercover sting targeting offenders who prey on minors via electronic communications. 54-year old Nicholas Iolo contacted an undercover OCSO Investigator who was posing online as a minor. Iolo sent the undercover Investigator sexually explicit messages seven times and explicit photographs three times. He also agreed to meet the minor at a pre-designated location August 16th for the purposes of engaging in unlawful sexual activity.



-A tip to Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers helped lead to the arrest of Jordan Reeves who was wanted in connection with a fatal shooting August 9th, 2015 at the New Green Frog on Okaloosa Island

-An investigation of child abuse led to the arrest of Ashley Carnely on charges of aggravated child abuse in connection with injuries suffered by a five month old baby. Investigators say 25-year old Ashley Carnley was high on heroin when she violently shook the infant at her home. The baby, who had facial bruising when brought to Fort Walton Beach Medical Center, suffered severe and traumatic brain injuries which will leave him permanently disabled, including blind and deaf.

-After conducting a death investigation involving Barbara Briann Thomas who overdosed on heroin Investigators were able to develop information that led to a warrant for William Kendall for committing murder while engaged in a felony offense.

-Murder/Suicide on Goldsby Way Destin: Investigation determined it was a Murder/Suicide involving an elderly husband and wife. Case closed by death of offender.

-Assisted Marietta, Georgia authorities with a cold case murder arrest: Investigation resulted in the interview and subsequent arrest by warrant of a cold case shooting homicide suspect from Marietta, Georgia.



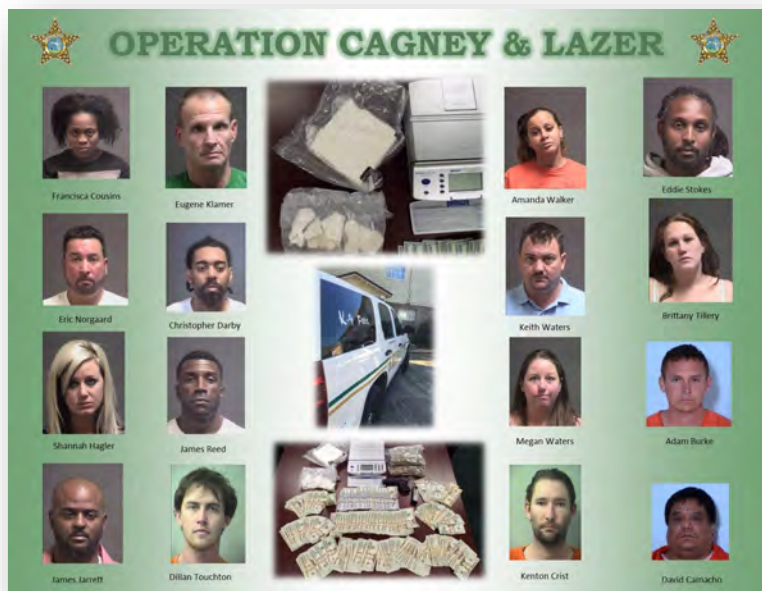
- Established the Major Crimes Squad
- Partnered with federal law enforcement agencies—FBI, ATF and IRS—to better serve Okaloosa County residents in the investigation of state and federal crimes.

## Evidence Purge

-52,511 total items were purged this year including from the Drug, General, Found Property, Tapes, and Documents Rooms. Total Weight of the purged evidence was 14,400 pounds and total cost to burn it was \$1,147.57.

## Special Investigations Section: 2016 Highlights

- Over 500 arrests related to narcotics investigations and violent fugitive apprehensions.
- Over 100 search warrants served.
- Approximately 156 cases assigned and 114 cases closed which accounts to a 75% case closure rate.
- Approximately \$138,700.00 in asset forfeitures seized and awarded.
- Narcotics seized with approximate street value: Marijuana \$281,955.00; Cocaine \$263,830.00; Methamphetamine \$1,154,748.00; Heroin/Opiates \$149,890.00.
- Approximately 17 arrests related to Possession of Firearm by a convicted felon or possession of a stolen firearm.
- In February completed Operation Cagney and Laser, a wiretap investigation which resulted in the arrests of 23 suspects and the successful prosecution of all. Case resulted in the seizure of over one kilogram of cocaine and six pounds marijuana.
- Heroin initiative resulted in the arrests of approximately ten known heroin traffickers operating in our area.
- Arrested Saul Ceron-Salazar with approximately 1.25 kilograms of cocaine.
- Arrested Daron Downing with approximately ½ a kilogram of heroin and seized approximately \$49,000.00 in US Currency.
- Fugitive Task Force personnel arrested multiple suspects wanted for homicide or other violent felonies who came from other jurisdictions or states.
- Lieutenant Shannon Tait promoted to Captain; Sergeant David Allen promoted to Lieutenant; Investigator Heath Hehl and DJ Fields promoted to Sergeant.





# JUDICIAL SERVICES

## COURT SECURITY/DETENTION



In April 2016 the Crestview Courthouse was closed pending demolition and the construction of a new courthouse projected to be completed in July 2018. The closure created many challenges for both the Court Security and Detention sections of Judicial Services. Along with manning the OCCAE (Okaloosa County Courthouse Annex Extension), Court Security is responsible for the stand alone Clerk's Office in Crestview, and the Brackin Building in Crestview to accommodate traffic hearings, small claims and other civil hearings which affect North End residents. It is also responsible for security at the Water and Sewer Building in Ft. Walton Beach on a daily basis to accommodate miscellaneous hearings. Court Security oversees staffing the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioner meetings in Crestview and in Shalimar.

Since the closure of the Crestview Courthouse, all hearings involving inmates are being held at the OCCAE. This change has increased court transports significantly. Detention relies on assistance from the Okaloosa County Jail, which previously had the responsibility of transports to the Crestview Courthouse, to facilitate the increase.

In 2016, the Detention Section processed 19,789 subjects into the OCCAE Booking Facility. The section also transported 11,140 inmates including those scheduled for court. That is an increase of 2,831 from 2015. It also registered 1,385 felony/sexual offenders in 2016.

Court Security North handled 5,175 cases or hearings through March 2016. They screened 13,849 individuals through the Single Point of Entry during this period. In addition, they seized 26 items of contraband or weapons.

The Water and Sewer Building handled 694 cases or hearings since April 2016 and screened 1,758 individuals through the Single Point of Entry. No items of contraband were seized.

The Brackin Building in Crestview handled 638 cases or hearings since April 2016 and screened 472 individuals. No items of contraband were seized.

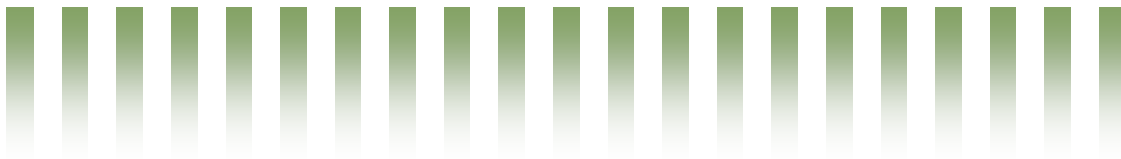
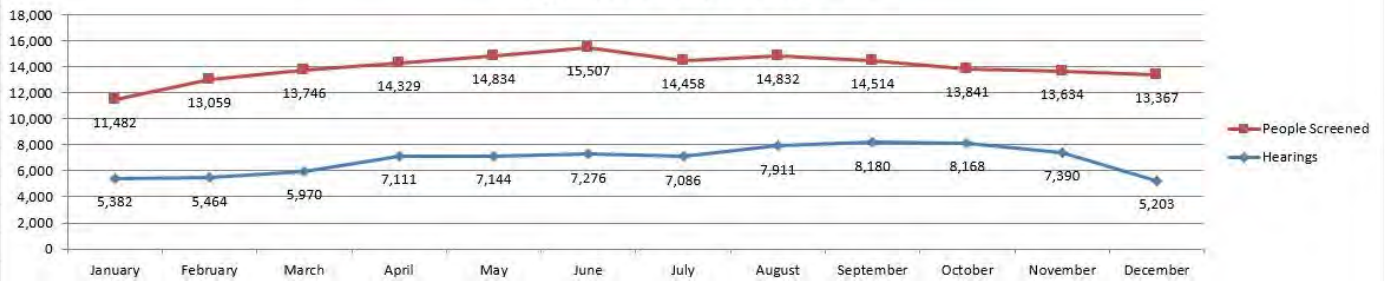
Court Security South handled 82,285 cases or hearings, an increase of 26,435 cases from 2015 figures. It screened 167,603 citizens through the Single Point of Entry; up 16,249 from 2015. (This number equates to 644 people per day or 71 per hour.) There were also 309 items of contraband or weapons seized during this period.

The section collected and processed 741 state mandated DNA samples from court and detention, which were submitted to FDLE. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is currently at a 99% collection rate which is up from 98% previously reported.

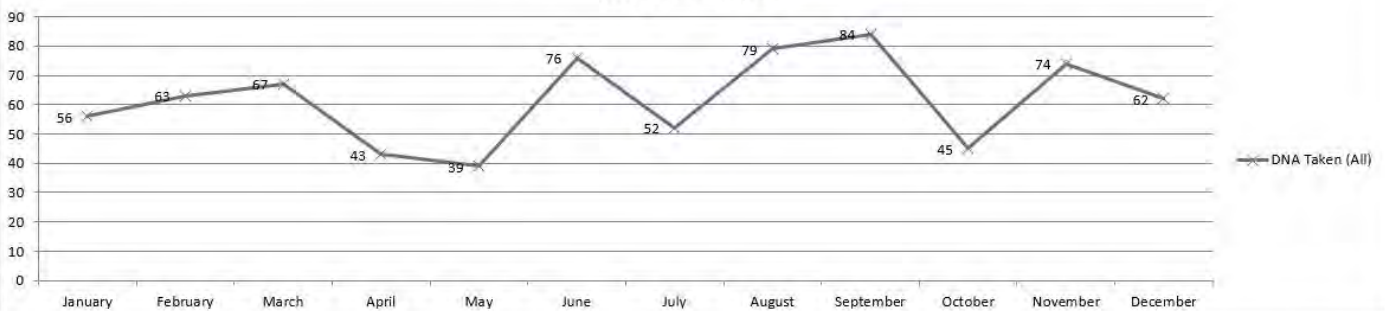
## 2016 South Court Security Totals

Topic	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Hearings	5,382	5,464	5,970	7,111	7,144	7,276	7,086	7,911	8,180	8,168	7,390	5,203	82,285
People Screened	11,482	13,059	13,746	14,329	14,834	15,507	14,458	14,832	14,514	13,841	13,634	13,367	167,603
Contraband Seized	22	19	26	28	34	41	31	29	20	21	19	19	309
DNA Taken (All)	56	63	67	43	39	76	52	79	84	45	74	62	740

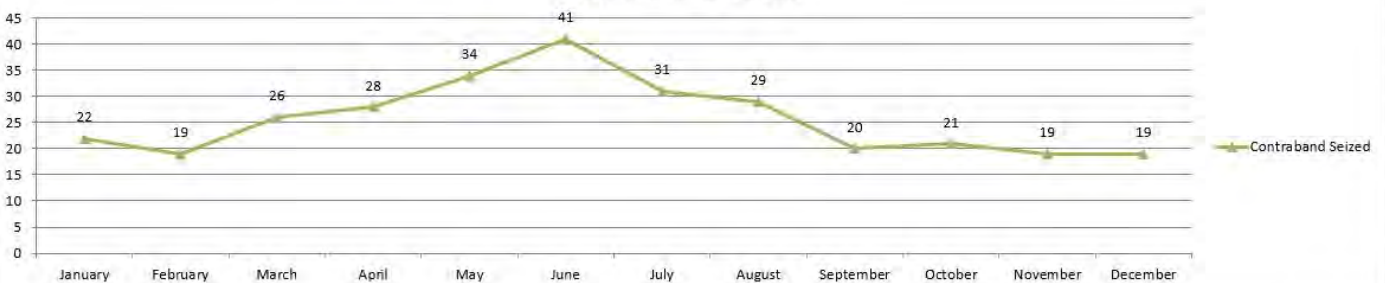
### People Screened /Hearings Held



### DNA Taken (All)



### Contraband Seized

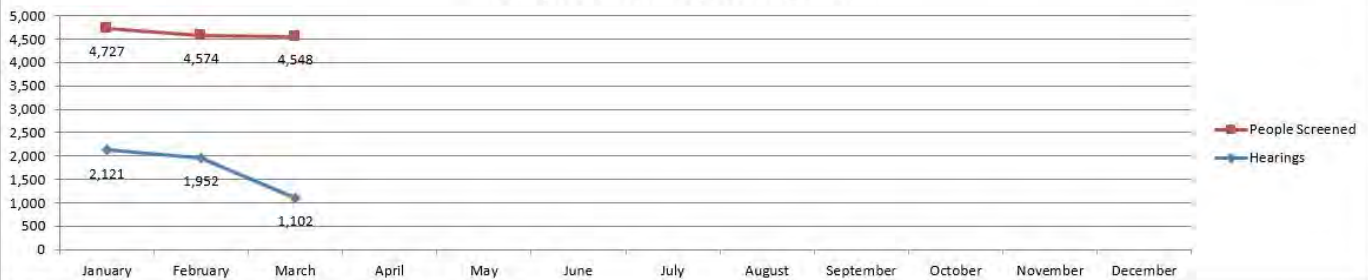




### 2016 North Court Security Totals

Topics	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Hearings	2,121	1,952	1,102										5,175
People Screened	4,727	4,574	4,548										13,849
Contraband Seized/Found	13	6	7										26

#### People Screened /Hearings Held



### 2016 Water and Sewer Building Court Security Totals

Topic	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Hearings				92	43	82	108	94	101	53	78	43	694
People Screened				202	118	272	229	177	179	252	214	115	1,758
Contraband Seized													0

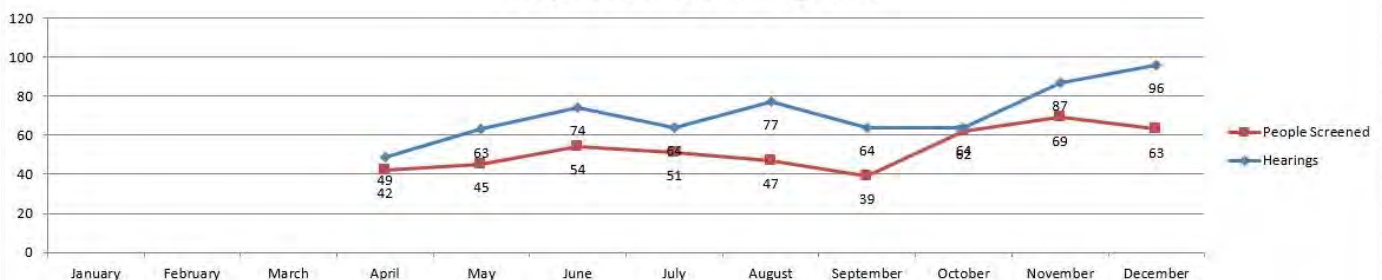
#### People Screened /Hearings Held



### 2016 Brackin Building (Ward's Crestview Hearings) Court Security Totals

Topic	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Hearings				49	63	74	64	77	64	64	87	96	638
People Screened				42	45	54	51	47	39	62	69	63	472
Contraband Seized													0
DNA Taken (All)													0

#### People Screened /Hearings Held



## Warrants

The Warrants Unit processes all agency arrest warrants and civil commit orders issued by the courts in Okaloosa County. They also intake warrants and civil commits issued by other jurisdictions where the defendant may be in Okaloosa County. The Warrants Unit coordinates with other agencies for the execution of warrants outside of Okaloosa County and arranges transport of prisoners from other jurisdictions. They also transport and/or coordinate transportation of prisoners housed in confinement institutions outside of Okaloosa County for judicial hearings. During 2016 the Warrants Unit processed more than 6,680 warrants. 4,265 warrants were executed and 651 prisoners were transported at a cost of \$139,402.48.



## Records

The records unit processes all reports, videos, traffic citations, DUI's and Crash Reports for the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. This unit is the custodian and point of contact for all records related information for internal, public records requests, agency produced videos, and judicial process such as court and DUI administrative hearings. They also conduct quality assurance on offense reports and compile the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) statistics.

### Records processed:

- 16,159 Offense Reports**
- 6,713 Uniform Traffic Citations**
- 2,447 Written Warnings**
- 1,281 Traffic Crash Reports**
- 392 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) cases**
- 22,193 Scanned entries into Offense Reports**
- 6,060 Records merged**
- 91,890 Video records currently being managed**



The Records Unit responded to 9,137 emails and numerous telephone inquiries for public record requests.



## Civil Process

The Sheriff or his deputies are required by the Florida Constitution and state statutes to serve orders from the court. Civil Process receives and processes all enforceable and non-enforceable orders. This includes but is not limited to Domestic Violence and other protective orders, summons and complaints, criminal and civil subpoenas, Writs of Possession, Replevin, Garnishment, Attachment, and so on. Civil Process also collects the applicable service fees required by statute. Civil Process deputies execute evictions, child custody orders, Levy's and Replevins, seize property, and hold sales of property seized from Levy's.

### During 2016 the Civil Process Unit:

**Managed more than 2,220 Domestic Injunctions and protection orders**

**Processed and served more than 13,790 pieces of civil process**

**Processed and served 1,372 domestic violence and other protective orders**

**Processed and served 7,196 criminal subpoenas**

**Collected more than \$156,400 in Sheriff's Fees**

## Community Service and other Activity

In 2016, OCCAE hosted four Building Partnership Aviation Capacity Seminars. The portion of the seminar held at the OCCAE is spearheaded by Judge Patt Maney and has a goal of enhancing the knowledge of foreign military members in the laws and processes of the United States. Sheriff Larry Ashley speaks at these seminars and the OCSO K-9 unit provides a demonstration. Various static equipment displays are presented throughout the year to highlight our agencies capabilities.

In November, Court Security for the second year sponsored a blood drive with "One Blood" through the efforts of Deputy Steve Baldwin.

The men and women of the Judicial Services Division had a total of 269 volunteer hours for 2016.

Court Security Supervisors are active board members of the Public Safety Coordinating Council and the Court Emergency Management Team.









# YOUTH SERVICES

The Youth Services Unit SRO's are funded by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office with Safe Schools money provided by the Okaloosa County School District and a COPS grant. In 2014, Okaloosa County Sheriff Larry Ashley made the statement, "Unless they defund the entire Sheriff's Office, the first forty positions we fund are going to be our School Resource Officers." Sheriff Ashley set the standard high with his philosophy, "Our mission is to protect and serve, and I can think of no more critical public safety goal than protecting our most precious resource and working to help them become good citizens."

The unit is responsible for 38 public and private schools and serves a student population of 33,000 students, along with 2,500 faculty and staff. Sheriff Larry Ashley has ensured that all public schools will maintain an SRO on their campuses.





Each officer embraces the concept of being a law enforcement officer, teacher, and counselor and applies it daily at his or her schools. Our SROs prepare curriculum and provide quality instruction to students throughout the school year on a variety of topics such as Anti-Bullying, Texting and Driving, Teen Dating and the Dangers of Drugs. In addition the SRO program continues to introduce programs such as “Books to Badges” and “Character Counts”, as well as Community Service and Leadership Programs. Our SROs provide instruction to students on law enforcement topics, character traits, and leadership through our Sheriff’s Explorer Program, all facilitated by our SROs. These topics are taught in accordance with the Florida Basic Recruit Training Program and Learning for Life Curriculum.

A new program was adopted in cooperation with MADD, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, geared at educating youth as well as the public on the dangers of drinking and driving. In partnership with MADD the Sheriff’s Office has designed three new patrol cars to educate the public on the danger of driving or operating a vehicle under the influence. They will be unveiled in 2017.

Okaloosa School Resource Officers serve year-round as instructors for the agency Teen Driver Challenge (TDC), a classroom and driving range course designed to boost the driving skills of young drivers. The students who participate in the Teen Driver Challenge are paired with a specially trained tactical driving instructor who is also a SRO. The SRO who rides in the vehicle with the student encourages and guides him or her through a driving course that includes a variety of road conditions and emergency situations they may encounter in real life.



Members of the unit volunteer each summer at the Florida Sheriff's Association Boys Ranch (Caruth Camp). The officers spend a week interacting with the youth in small groups and one on one during camp led activities. The SROs also assist the OCSO Chaplains in overseeing the organization, collection, and distribution of gifts for students under the "Sheriff's Star Charities Angel Tree" program with an estimated \$14,000 in contributions last year. These efforts resulted in gifts, clothing and other essential items being provided to approximately 100 students and their families.



The Youth Services Division has an impressive and wide-range of capabilities and training methodologies. The SROs are not only the frontline protection for our children in schools, they are also responsible for sexual offender/predator verifications and investigations. They enable each deputy to become familiar with the home locations, faces and backgrounds of all offenders and predators living or working in proximity to schools and related student activities. In addition to the random monthly face to face checks made with each offender, the unit also does "sweeps" at least twice a year when all offenders are contacted on the same day and all vital information confirmed. This past March, 343 checks were attempted in one day.



SROs are required to maintain physical fitness standards, evaluated bi-annually in the completion of a Physical Abilities Test. SROs attend ongoing Use of Force training to include proficiency training with lethal and non-lethal weapons. This training is in addition to our bi-annual weapons qualifications course. Our SROs receive annual training and certification in Non-Violent Physical Crisis Intervention, Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) for schools and proper use of restraints for ESE and Emotionally & Behaviorally Disabled (EBD) students. We attend monthly training days throughout the school year which cover a variety of topics from investigating cyber-crimes to application of body worn cameras, the use of which is required for all Okaloosa County SROs. During the summer break, SROs attend a week long (40 hour) training with the whole unit dedicated to high risk topics such as active shooter and force on force scenarios using the MILO system (MILO - Multiple Interactive Learning Objectives).

Deputy Danny Dean was awarded SRO of the year for 2016.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Youth Services Division will continue its high standards as being named 2015 National Model Agency. The unit will continue to reach out to our youth and serve as role models, creating an atmosphere to cultivate good citizenship and respect for people, property, and the community we serve.









## K-9



The Okaloosa K-9 unit responds to a variety of calls, including commercial and residential burglary alarms. It assists with traffic stops, high risk warrant services, searches for persons or evidence and, of course, narcotics detection. Each of the Okaloosa K-9's is certified in narcotics detection as well as patrol operations.

In 2016 K-9, "Kilo" was retired and a new K-9, "Gunner" was brought into the unit. The K-9 unit is utilized by the Okaloosa County public schools to help in the fight against drugs in Okaloosa county schools. In addition to his detection duties, K-9 Gunner and Deputy Mark Nucci provide another avenue for education of our students.

The K-9 unit was busy for 2016. It brought in six new dogs and three new handlers for an unprecedented changeover rate of 75%, while maintaining services to the entire county. The Unit was still able to make vital and significant contributions while operating at just over 50% manning for most of the year.

### Over 6000 calls for service, 365 arrests

**290 Narcotic checks**  
**159 Suspect searches**  
**Suspects located 1,212 Traffic stops**  
**900 K-9 assists**  
**1,445 Security checks**  
**561 Citizen contacts**  
**72 Suspects located**  
**71 Warrant services**  
**19 K-9 demonstrations**





## K-9

The new K-9s brought on this year include Axle, Esuda, Titan, Miro, and Rico. New handlers include Deputies Zachary Putnam, Joseph Trimboli, Cutler Petersen and the return of Tony Kelly as unit supervisor.

K-9 Dax was lost in the line of duty in February 2016, after falling over 30 feet through an attic floor while searching for burglary suspects. Dax faithfully served the community for over nine years and was an award winning dog. Rest in peace Hero.

K-9s Diesel, Bak, Ranger, and Forg were retired.



# K-9

## Operation Overwatch 2

Once again the Sheriff ordered Operation Overwatch into action. Named Operation Overwatch 2, it once again consisted of a multiagency task force, placed into operation for approximately four weeks in August and September of this year. Its mission was to address street level criminal activity throughout the County, paying particular attention to areas with a high level of activity, most notably narcotics. As in 2015, this operation was a resounding success. After just sixteen days of activity the unit produced the following numbers;

**Over 1,100 self-generated calls**

**More than 450 traffic stops**

**Over 130 arrests**

**Six Felonies**

**33 Misdemeanors**

**29 Warrants served**

**Eight guns taken off the street**

**Other miscellaneous arrests**



### Promotions:

Sgt. James D. Duval from K-9 Unit Supervisor to Lieutenant Special Operations

Investigator Anthony Kelly from Investigator to Sgt. K-9 Unit Supervisor

Deputy Sterling Eslinger from K-9 Handler to Corporal Central District

Deputy Jon Duenas from K-9 Handler to K-9 Unit Trainer/Handler

### Awards:

Deputy Jon Duenas Operations Bureau Outstanding Performer of the Year 2016



# SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

Newly approved budget for 2016-17 allowed Sheriff Ashley to re-establish a Special Operations Division which includes Street Crimes, K-9, Traffic Enforcement, Marine Patrol and the Award winning School Resource Officer Program

## Street Crimes Unit

Plans were made for the gradual re-implementation of a Street Crimes Unit to fight criminal activity at the street level within Okaloosa County. Unit members will be responsible for conducting proactive patrol and criminal investigations. The Street Crime Unit also will assist and coordinate with other departmental units and law enforcement agencies utilizing a geographically based enforcement strategy involving investigations of all crimes against persons and property.

This Unit is to be comprised of experienced proactive deputies who possess the ability to adapt to the ever-changing atmosphere and mode of operations of criminal elements within Okaloosa County. The deputies who will be assigned to the unit typically concentrate on quality of life crimes such as, disorderly conduct, public intoxication, prostitution, criminal gang activity, property crimes, theft, burglary, violent crime (robbery, assaults, etc.) and street level narcotic offenses. Unit members will gather intelligence, make arrests and in actuality saturate specifically targeted areas to combat crime. The goal of the Street Crimes Unit will be to reduce crime and to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Okaloosa County.



# FINANCE

The Finance Department administered seventeen grants last year which included timely reports and successful audits to the state. In 2016, the OCSO was awarded several new grants including the renewal of Continue Driving Sober in Destin, Stonegarden, MetaData, Fusion and various Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance grants.

2016 was a busy year for Finance. The department worked closely with Human Resources to streamline processes. It also assisted in developing and updating policies and operating procedures for the agency. In addition, one of the team members accepted responsibility over the supply division as a result of the recent agency reorganization.

The Finance Team continues to serve in various areas within the agency and volunteers for multiple organizations in our community.

It is a dynamic team with strong ethics and focuses on being customer service oriented. All of these qualities contributed to another successful audit at the end of 2016.





# FLEET MAINTENANCE

The Fleet Division maintains agency vehicles in the highest standard to ensure officer safety and performance.



60 new vehicles were purchased and put into service

34 surplus vehicles sent to auction

Three donated to non-profit organizations

Mechanical repairs

1025 completed work orders. (Not included are computer scans, tire monitor system relearns, and many other no parts or cost involved repairs)

Emergency equipment repairs and installations

31 complete installs of electronics and safety equipment

235 repairs and/or partial installs of electronics and equipment

246 speedometer certifications

Within this year the majority of fleet personnel have obtained certifications through both EVT [Emergency Vehicle Technician Commission] and ASE [National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence] within their area of the workplace.



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



## **Help Desk Numbers:**

**All tickets entered for 2016: 3366**

**IT Tickets: 3277 (2015=3128)**

**Facilities Tickets: 89**

## **Projects Completed during 2016:**

- Purchased and oversaw installation of the Evidence and Investigations camera surveillance systems located at headquarters, also created a web based access page to view several cameras on the system at one time
  - New AFIS Fingerprint system installed at the Courthouse Annex Extension
  - Replaced all of the workstations and monitors at EOC with new equipment
- Negotiated new contract with Microsoft expanding our system to include many new features, such as Mobile device management, Sharepoint and single sign on for our users
  - Implemented network storage for agency personnel
  - Installed new Penlink server for Investigations
- Equipped 84 patrol cars with new printers and headrest mounts
  - Upgrade 132 Patrol vehicles with new Getac S400 Laptops
  - Upgraded 40 SRO laptop computers
- Docuware server upgraded and all client computers updated in the Judicial Process unit
  - Upgraded MCT software with current county ESRI mapping
  - Replaced 40 desktop computers with new computers
  - Upgraded and replaced 100 existing agency cell phones
  - Upgraded and replaced 60 MiFi internet appliances



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



- Upgraded and replaced our Radar certification equipment to include an electronic form and historical information database
- IT took responsibility for the annual inventory which included extensive record cleanup in Issued Property, the creation of several electronic web based forms, one for reports, one for individual submissions and another for agency location submissions to help streamline the annual inventory reconciliation process in the future
  - Upgraded HR's in-house Employee Action Form program
- Created a web based program for officer subpoena submissions that creates all needed forms and emails the end product to the officer and their immediate supervisor
  - Installed a panic alarm system at headquarters
  - Restructured, HQ building alarm systems
- Continued our IP Telephone system cutover to the County's telephone system, which included the Brackin Street and Wright offices.
  - Installed county fiber at the Sylvania Heights office and the K-9 training facility
  - Setup and installed new Crime Scene / Evidence Support Desk system
- Purchased, setup and installed the Investigations network storage system for use by their forensics lab
  - Upgraded our VMWare server farm to current software versions
- Crestview Courthouse move to the Water and Sewer temporary location

# OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

## Professional Development Section

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 2016, Bill Jerard was promoted to Inspector and assumed the duties of managing the Professional Development Section.

In 2016 the following deputies achieved Career Deputy 1 status:

- Deputy James Burnham
- Deputy Marney Hudson

The following completed leadership training in 2016:

- Undersheriff Steve Harker – Chief Executive Seminar and Sheriff's Academy
  - Jay Jones – Senior Leadership Program and Leadership Okaloosa
  - Lt. Mark Raiche – Senior Leadership Program
  - Lt. Eric Aden – Executive Leadership Seminar
  - Sgt. Gary Venuti – Commander's Academy and Leadership Okaloosa
  - Inspector Ron Kimble – Leadership Okaloosa
  - Investigator Neslihan Suhi-Moore – Florida Leadership Academy
  - Lt. Sean Lynch – Leadership Okaloosa
  - Tatiana Abernathy – Leadership Okaloosa
  - Brian Parkton – Florida Leadership Academy
  - Mike Rader – Florida Leadership Academy
- 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 2016, Bill Jerard was promoted to Inspector and assumed the duties of managing the Professional Development Section.





## Intra-Agency Training

In 2014, the agency obtained permanent access to a firearms training facility on the outskirts of Crestview. Range improvements continue to take place and a second Physical Abilities Course will soon be built on the OCSO Range Property.

As with prior years, the unit continued to provide Citizen Firearms training to the citizens of Okaloosa County which facilitates the training necessary to obtain a Concealed Weapons Permit. The unit conducted seven two-day Citizens Firearms Safety Courses, training 193 citizens.

In 2016, OCSO employees attended 12,363 training hours outside of our agency and 6,955 hours within the agency. This training included a variety of topics such as firearms, defensive tactics, crowd control, vehicle operations, less lethal weapons, Physical Abilities Testing, leadership courses, CrossFit, Crime Scene training, major crimes, interviewing, and other specialty instruction.

3,968 hours of online training programs were completed through various websites outside of the agency. Internally, our own "PowerDMS" virtual system provided 2,121 hours of online training, saving the agency literally thousands of dollars in tuition, travel and instructor costs, while also reducing manpower shortages. Savings estimated of \$42,000 in personnel costs by using DMS.



## Professional Compliance Section

The OCSO's second on-site assessment for reaccreditation with the Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission took place April 26. Sheriff's Office staff demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the process. Their efforts led to the agency's second reaccreditation in which 100% of all applicable standards were met with no corrective actions, waivers, or elective exemptions.

The OCSO continued to demonstrate compliance with applicable standards established through its participation in the National Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) program. As part of the ongoing process for reaccreditation, the OCSO completed its first year remote assessment December 1st, where operations and compliance with standards were evaluated by a CALEA compliance service member without issue.

As the OCSO faced command level vacancies due to retirements and organizational growth, Professional Compliance Unit members were tapped to fill these positions. Inspector Robert Norris was promoted to Captain of the Office of Professional Standards, taking on additional duties of managing the HR Unit. Captain Ron Gay, former OPS commander, was promoted to Major of the Administration Bureau. Also in 2016, Ron Kimble was promoted to Inspector and assumed the duties of managing the Professional Compliance Section.





## Human Resources Unit

The OCSO Human Resources Unit (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 division provides advice and service in Strategic Management, Employee Benefits and Reward Systems, Policy, Classification and Compensation, Employee Relations, 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, 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. 2016 saw the OCSO implement a more robust recruiting campaign in response to an increasingly challenging recruitment environment nationwide.

Tuition paid for all OCSO applicants! Call 850-609-2017!

**WE ARE HIRING** Starting Salary **\$37,500**

**GEAR UP TO PROTECT & SERVE AT THE OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE!**

**BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY AT NORTHWEST FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING CENTER**

Apply On-line! Visit: [Sheriff-Okaloosa.org](http://Sheriff-Okaloosa.org) - Click on Join Us - Learn about our nationally accredited team & go to [nwfsc.edu](http://nwfsc.edu) for info on NWFSO Law Enforcement Basic Recruit Training Academy.

The OCSO is an Equal Opportunity Employer



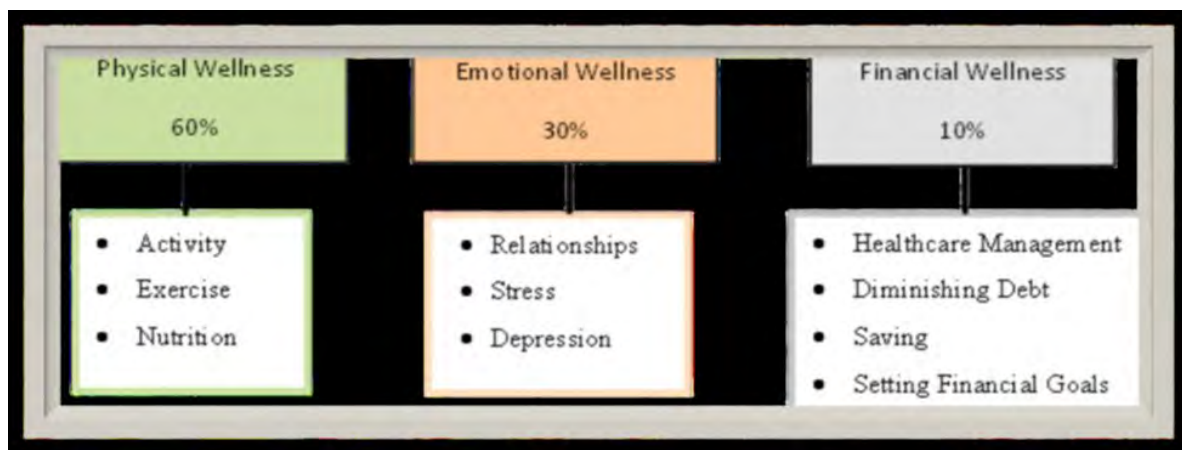
During 2016, the OCSO HR unit was responsible for filling forty-seven vacancies. OCSO HR facilitated the promotional processes for Corporal, Investigator and Sergeant. On average, it took 36 days to fill a vacant position. Fifteen (15) New Employee Orientations were conducted.

**Compensation & Classification:** The 2017 Fiscal Year budget allowed OCSO employees to receive a 3% Cost of Living Adjustment. 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 has evolved so that we may compensate employees fairly in relation to their performance.

**Benefits:** The enactment of the Affordable Care Act has required HR to implement a new module to record the benefit requirements for employees and their dependents. The installation and maintenance of the module will ensure IRS healthcare reporting is processed within specified timelines

**Accreditation:** HR updates, maintains, and implements work practices for thirty-five (35) HR related General Orders.

**Wellness Program:** The Wellness Committee is committed to providing the OCSO employees the opportunity to engage in physical well-being. The Wellness Committee developed a three-prong approach to improve employee well-being. The areas of focus are physical well-being, emotional well-being and financial well-being. Here are the components of each wellness category:





## Chaplaincy Program



The volunteer Chaplain Corps provides training and counseling to all department personnel, as well as citizens seeking help when in contact with a deputy. OCSO Chaplains handle death notifications, funerals, weddings, and baptisms and are also present for official functions.



Combined hours of service to Sheriff's Office 3,465 hours

Calls for service 232

Annual Angel Tree Program—99 Children served, Sponsors spent average of \$150.00 per child with total estimate of effort reaching \$14,000.00

Annual Coats for Kids - 115 coats collected for United Way

Chaplains participated in (officiated) three weddings

Chaplains planned/officiated four funerals

Hospital Visitation (employees 25 hours)

Conducted thirteen newcomers briefings.

Organized Annual Law Enforcement Luncheon— Guest speaker—Congressman Jeff Miller

Conducted Life Lessons Over Lunch—attendance 111 in attendance for nine meetings

Held Devotional Group—41 Members

# PUBLIC INFORMATION



The Public Information Office produced nearly 300 news releases for the media's consumption in 2016 but also produced or shared thousands of posts on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to try to inform, educate, and support the mission of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. To that end, the PIO also produced more than 45 videos for the agency's YouTube Channel in 2016, adding to a collection that is nearing 250,000 total views since its inception. In addition, the agency's Facebook page added an additional 10,000 fans, bringing the total number to nearly 38,000. The number of Twitter followers surpassed 4000 in 2016.

The focus of our outreach is on providing the public with access to significant information on OCSO day to day operations, as well as to show the human side of law enforcement's impact and the vital role the OCSO plays in supporting community service.

The PIO coordinated countless interviews between local news media outlets and the personnel who are subject matter experts on topics ranging from opioid overdoses to school safety. The Unit also provided information on sexual predator new address notifications, crime prevention tips, and helped produce the "Okaloosa Eye on Crime" television show for Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers.



Find us on  
Facebook



## CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

The OCSO has two certified employees that make up the Crime Prevention Unit. 2016 was a year of change for the Crime Prevention Unit as Elizabeth Forgette left the agency in July and moved to Germany with her husband. Weston Moreno is the new addition to the Crime Prevention Unit and joined in July. Weston completed training and his certification on November 18, 2016. The Florida Attorney General's Office certification requires practitioners to complete three 40 hour classes which are: general crime prevention, as well as residential and business security classes. Weston was top of the Attorney General's Office Crime Prevention class and has become a valuable asset to the Crime Prevention Unit. Ashely Bailey is the Crime Prevention Manager and has worked Crime Prevention for twelve years. Ashley attended the 2016 Southern States Crime Prevention Conference, Bike Safety certification, Active Shooter Training, and the Leadership Summit. The training helps the Crime Prevention Unit provide the most up to date safety information to the citizens of Okaloosa County.



## **The Crime Prevention Unit Completed:**

**71 Various Safety Presentations reaching approximately 3,497**

**47 Community Events**

**10 Neighborhood Watch Meetings**

**12 week Citizens Academy with 40 graduates**

**Attended 72 Community, Chamber breakfasts, luncheons, networking events, and Businesses Empowered Meetings**

**The Crime Prevention Unit also attended monthly meetings for Department of Juvenile Justice Community, Anti-Drug Coalition, Rocky Bayou Christian School Safety Committee, Emerald Coast Public Relations Organization, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI,) Okaloosa & Walton County Sexual Assault Inter-council, and AMI Kids Board from January to June 2016**

**Five Home, One Condo, and Two Business Security Assessments**

**Thirteen Church Security Surveys and Emergency Plans Review**

**A firearms training day at the OCSO firing range for 32 Pastors**

**Assisted nine citizens on receiving and reviewing Free Credit reports**

**10 Newcomer's Briefings at Hurlburt Field**

**21 Take Me Home Program entries**

**Ten Teen Driver Challenge Programs**

### **OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE CITIZENS ACADEMY**

#### **LEARN ABOUT YOUR OCSO!**

- \*Sexual Predator & Gang Unit**
- \*Criminal Investigations & Crime Scene**
- \*Narcotics Enforcement**
- \*Traffic & Teen Driver Challenge**
- \*Ride-a-long with a Deputy**
- \*Tour the Courthouse Annex Extension, Communications, the upgraded OCSO firing range and much, much more!**



**January 5th through April 5th 2016**

**Tuesday nights from 6 to 9 p.m.**

**Sheriff's Office Headquarters Building  
in the Training Room**

**50 2nd Street Shalimar**

**For more information contact**

**OCSO Crime Prevention Unit**

**850-651-7410**





# OCSO GENERAL AND RSVP VOLUNTEERS

Thirty-eight Okaloosa Sheriff's Office Volunteers completed a total of 2,473 volunteer hours!



OCSO volunteers helped with office work, as well as assisting with the OCSO Citizens Firearms Class, Hostage Negotiations Unit, Investigations with Leads-on-Line, and Crime Prevention Unit.

Volunteer Master Joe Cayer provided four free Women's Self-defense Classes and ten Kids Self Defense Classes in the south-end of the county

New Volunteer Master Tom Gordon provided a Women's Self-defense Class and a Kid's Self-defense class in Crestview.

Ten RSVP volunteers performed fourteen CODY Checks for juveniles on probation in East and Central Districts.

# MOUNTED POSSE



The Mounted Posse is made up of citizen volunteers who give freely of their time, their horses and the equipment to provide a first class service in support of community events and civic functions. To participate in a single activity Posse members donate countless hours of their time in preparation and training to ensure a safe and successful event. This is all done at no cost to the taxpayers

In 2016, the Mounted Posse volunteered 1,232 total hours.

The twenty-eight Mounted Posse volunteers promote goodwill and create a positive impression for Law Enforcement. They enjoy seeing the smiles on the faces of the children, as well as the adults. They attended nine community events, one meeting and seven training sessions.





# EMERALD COAST CRIME STOPPERS

Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers is a nonprofit organization operated on a local level; it is built on a solid partnership between law enforcement, the media, and a team of volunteers working together to solve crime. The organization encourages citizens to become involved in solving crimes. It offers cash rewards and anonymity to those who furnish valuable information leading to the arrest and/or indictment of criminals.



**2016 YEAR IN REVIEW**

**1,240 TIPS RECEIVED**

**58 CASES CLEARED**

**\$14,300 REWARDS APPROVED**



# OKALOOSA SHERIFF'S POSSE

The Okaloosa Sheriff's Posse is a group of civic-minded citizens who donate their time to assist the Sheriff's Office in a multitude of functions. Members of the Posse wear uniforms similar to those of a Deputy and they are authorized to wear badges and carry firearms.

In 2016 the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Posse averaged between 26 and 30 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 133 details last year, a slight decrease from previous years. Those details included festivals, runs, special events at the Emerald Coast Convention Center, holiday patrols, guarding crime scenes and/or prisoners at the hospitals, beach patrol, parades, back-up patrols and more.

The Posse volunteered 10,686 hours of service in 2016, and they continue to support the many different entities within the agency by augmenting personnel within the School Resource Officer Program, Civil Process Division, Booking and the Traffic Division.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Posse continues to be a good training ground for law enforcement officers, as several have been hired by either the OCSO or other agencies during 2016.





## **BREAKDOWN OF POSSE TIME:**

MEETINGS: Monthly Posse meetings, Detail meetings, Admin meetings.

SPECIAL DETAILS: Events, festivals, runs, traffic control many are annual request

TRAINING: All training, classroom, DMS, seminars etc.

PATROL: Posse backup patrol and Christmas Mall patrol

ADMIN: Vehicle repair, uniform exchange paperwork of all kind

OTHER: Not covered above include; civil paper server, booking, traffic unit etc.

### **TOTAL SPECIAL DETAILS ONLY -**

January ----- 2 details

February ----- 14 details

March ----- 7 details

April ----- 15 details

May ----- 18 details

June ----- 2 details

July ----- 5 details

August ----- 13 details

September ----- 18 details

October ----- 15 details

November ----- 15 details

December ----- 9 details

**Total details – 133**

**Total detail hours – 3,902**



2016 Average Posse membership level is – 26 with 18 Auxiliary members certified to carry a weapon.

## **TOTAL POSSE HOURS FOR 2016 – 10,686**



## OCSO EXPLORER POST 543



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Explorers organization, created in the late fall of 1978 by Retired Deputy Sheriff Ray MacGrogan, is one of many law enforcement exploring programs in the nation. As a deputy for the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, he undoubtedly had insight into the needs of youth and wanted to provide a respectable outlet for ideas and energy. The post was officially chartered with the Boy Scouts of America In January, 1979. Law Enforcement agencies across the country have followed this idea, and today there are approximately 40,000 law enforcement Explorers in nearly 2,000 posts in the United States. The Explorers continue to set an example by providing invaluable services to the community, and to the country.

Teenagers in our community are often faced with many important decisions concerning their future. What career they will choose and how they will interact with society are questions that are constantly asked of them. They can turn in many directions for a peer group, and they may not always make the right decision. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Explorers program is a way to help teenagers make the right decisions and at the same time they get to experience firsthand how a Sheriff's Office functions.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Explorers is a program that offers pride and self-esteem for community minded young men and women in Okaloosa County. The Explorers organization not only sets a teen on the right track of becoming a concerned law abiding citizen, but also provides the chance for these young men and women to explore a possible career choice. Many teens that participate in the Explorer program choose law enforcement as a career once they are older. The skills they learn while a member of the Explorers aids them in their careers regardless of the career they may choose.





## 2016 A YEAR OF AWARDS!



# EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS

## 2016 DEPUTY OF THE YEAR



Deputy Jose Pereira tallied 2,246 calls for service in 2016. He prepared 145 offense reports, cleared 72 cases, and made 94 arrests. He is extremely diligent and the top performer in removing intoxicated drivers from our roads, initiating 46 DUI arrests within 2016. Due to his diligence he has received recognition from MADD or Mothers against Drunk Drivers for eight consecutive years.

In 2015, Deputy Pereira was selected as the sole law enforcement officer from our agency to attend the Drug Recognition Expert Training Program. A D-R-E is defined as a “deputy, officer or trooper, trained to recognize impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol.” Last year he completed five DRE evaluations of arrested persons with .000 alcohol concentrations; three were for other law enforcement officers whose DUI arrests presented a .000 alcohol concentration and were believed to be under the influence of drugs. On all of the DRE evaluations it was determined the arrested subjects were under the influence of at least one to seven drug categories.

Deputy Pereira attended the IPTM Impaired Driver Symposium and DRE Recertification training for 2016. He also attended Crisis Intervention Team training in 2016, and has used his training to help build rapport with suicidal and mentally ill individuals. He is a member of the Traffic Homicide Investigation unit and a regular contributor to DUI enforcement within the City of Destin.

Deputy Pereira is a family oriented man who has been married for 27.5 years and has three daughters. He devotes his personal time to assisting the Crestview High School Band and assisting with the youth ministry at the Eglin Catholic Chapel. Deputy Pereira is also a member of the St. Michaels Catholic Church.



## 2016 INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR



Investigator Michael Evans has served with distinction since 2008, and has excelled since his promotion to Internet Crimes Against Children Investigator. Last year he conducted nearly 70 successful investigations involving sexual predators and was recently selected to join a Federal Bureau of Investigation Task Force. His work has been recognized around the State and he is praised repeatedly for his expertise by agencies he assists.

In one national case, Investigator Evans uncovered evidence of a father and son team in possession of multiple images of child pornography. Investigator Evans arrested them and found one was previously arrested in another jurisdiction for targeting children.

In another case, he identified a local victim and charged the suspect with Lewd or Lascivious Molestation of a victim under 12 as well as Promotion of Sexual Performance by a Child. That work prevented future victimization of a local child.

In April, Mike was the lead on a disturbing email case threatening school violence in Okaloosa County. He and his team worked all night to analyze multiple IP addresses, encrypted e-mail files, overseas internet servers and websites. The sender of the e-mail went to great lengths to disguise his identity. After working 24 hours, he traveled to the Escambia County Sheriff's Office to conduct an interview with the person of interest. He determined that the subject was likely a victim of cyber-bullying, and the incident was a hoax designed to attract law enforcement attention. His outstanding and timely work in this case quickly relieved the community's concerns about the threats.

Investigator Evans is also active in youth sports, coaching and serving on the board of the Baker Area Youth Association for T-ball and Football. He served as the Child Protection Volunteer and completed background checks on all program volunteers. He dedicated 173 hours of his time to area youth.

## 2016 SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR



A 20 year law enforcement veteran, Corporal John Jenks has spent most of that time in patrol. He is a subject matter expert on traffic enforcement and patrol operations. John has a great reputation as a leader, mentor and a seasoned street cop. He demonstrates a total commitment to the safety of the public and the safety of his fellow officers.

In August, John responded to a shots fired call in progress. His experience and instinct lead him to choose a tactical, quiet approach. As he neared the home he could hear screams of fear echoing in the darkness. He was able to discern it was a victim, pleading for his life. Soon John was able to see the victim cowering on the front porch as the armed suspect stood over him. John took a tactical position and verbally challenged the suspect. Surprised, the suspect then threw the gun to the ground and fled into the home. The suspect was arrested and the investigation revealed the suspect had threatened and beaten the victim and had fired 5 rounds as they struggled over the gun. Corporal Jenks may well have prevented a homicide that night.

John is a gifted trainer and is constantly passing his knowledge along to the next generation of officers. Many employees could give testimony on how John has mentored them and developed them into productive, satisfied team members.

John Jenks is one of the best first line supervisors this agency has. He takes ownership of his responsibilities and is committed to see that his squad gets the support it needs. He has earned the respect of his peers and supervisors. Corporal John Jenks is our 2016 Supervisor of the year.



## 2016 SRO OF THE YEAR



Deputy Danny Dean's commitment, work ethic, and caring demeanor is second to none.

The Youth Services Division was fortunate to get Deputy Dean in 2013 when he transferred into our Unit as the Sheriff expanded the SRO Program to include all elementary schools. A year later, Deputy Dean requested a challenge and transferred to Shoal River Middle School, home of the Mustangs and the busiest middle school within Okaloosa County.

During the 2015-2016 school year, Deputy Dean investigated over 150 criminal complaints that occurred on his campus or involved his students. Those investigations included, but are not limited to: Baker Acts, Disturbances, Harassment, Threats, Criminal Mischief, Trespassing, Assaults, Batteries, Sex Offenses, Narcotics, Child Abuse, and Thefts. Deputy Dean investigated each of those complaints as if the victim(s) were his own children. Many times, before school or after school, Deputy Dean was called to or overheard dispatch sending units to calls involving his students. Deputy Dean wouldn't hesitate to respond to assist or take over the investigation. Deputy Dean would always handle each case with the student's best interest in mind.

One thing that has always stood out with Deputy Dean, is his caring demeanor. But it's not just the students, it's the community that benefits from his service. He has been known to purchase pizza and other items for the kids out of his own pocket, because he cares.

Deputy Dean is the epitome of the SRO. He rarely, if ever misses work and he gives it one hundred ten percent each and every day and needs little supervision. He never complains and is a true professional in all aspects of his life. He has built a positive rapport with the students, staff, parents, and community.

## OPERATIONS BUREAU OUTSTANDING PERFORMER OF THE YEAR



Deputy Jonathan Duenas is a distinguished member of the Sheriff's Office K-9 unit, and SRT. He and his new partner, Axle, spent the first 3 months of this year training for certification as a brand new team. While doing this, he maintained his retiring K-9 in an active status, allowing them to provide unprecedented coverage and service to the community during the transition.

During this year Jon was also responsible for training 2 new dogs and 2 new handlers from March – June of this year, a very time consuming process. Yet despite training his own dog, 2 new teams, and planning training days for the rest of the unit, he still managed to take over 1000 calls for service during 2016. He and his partner were directly responsible for 51 K-9 free air sniffs, 20 ending with positive alerts and 31 arrests. He conducted over 275 traffic stops, over 200 K-9 assists, and 16 tracks. This hard work resulted in the capture of more than 19 suspects who would have otherwise evaded immediate capture. Of that 19 all were apprehended without force (no dog bite) a great testament to the training and control D/S Duenas has over his assigned K-9.

These statistics show a lot of proactivity in a short period of time. Most of these are not assigned calls, but self-generated activity. He knows his job, does his best to seek out criminal activity, and is not afraid to take action when warranted, leading the rest of the unit towards the path of success.

Deputy Duenas has been instrumental in the training of the unit and because of that; he has assumed K-9 unit trainer duties. During 2016, Jon spent many off-duty hours formulating information, developing advanced training (never before accomplished by the unit), and coming up with “real world” scenario based training individualized for each handler. These “hands-on” training scenarios have increased the unit's ability to make split second real-world decisions that aid in a safe and liability free apprehension.

Jon has given of himself too. He spearheaded and was instrumental during the 2016 Fudpoker Run where the K-9 unit “Captained” one of the stop locations. He made sure all provisions were in place and the stop had all the supplies necessary to make the K-9 stop a success. All proceeds went to Star Charities and Children in Crisis.



## JUDICIAL SERVICES OUTSTANDING PERFORMER OF THE YEAR



Booking Deputy Dan Hallberg is our Judicial Services Division Outstanding Performer of the Year.

He's been employed with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office since 1998. For 18 years, Deputy Hallberg has served in Detention/Booking, where he is responsible for both the welfare and security of inmates being temporarily housed at the Okaloosa County Courthouse Booking facility. He is also responsible for booking new arrestees and transporting them to the county jail, registering sex offenders and felony offenders, as well as collecting and submitting criminal DNA.

Deputy Hallberg has created an informal field training program for booking and trains all new deputies assigned to the unit. He ensures they have all the proper credentials and access to specific databases. He serves as a mentor, teaching them everything they need to know about booking. Deputy Hallberg has also established the standard operating procedures regarding the weapons currently assigned to booking. These are just a couple of the countless contributions Deputy Hallberg has made to the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Booking Unit.

Deputy Hallberg has proven himself loyal not only to the Sheriff of Okaloosa County but also to the men and women who serve alongside him. He is a long-time resident of Okaloosa County who cares about and takes pride in his community. He gives back to his community each year by volunteering his time to assist with the annual Fudpucker Jet Ski Poker Run, which raises money to benefit the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Star Charity and the Children in Crisis.

## NON-SWORN OUTSTANDING PERFORMER OF THE YEAR



Jeff Igram is the Non-Sworn Employee of the Year. When the IT department took ownership of the agency's annual inventory project, Jeff volunteered to take the lead. The project proved to be a daunting task, as there were thousands of records to be reconciled. Here are some of the statistics:

Total property records in system: 12,788

Total active, unarchived inventory items: 6,069

Total items archived since 2015 inventory: 4,019

Total Computer inventory: 757

Total Radar inventory: 175

Total Radio Inventory: 1,312

During the process Jeff was able to archive thousands of records that were for disposable items and/or items that had depreciated past their worth. Each of those archived records needed the proper paperwork attached before they could be archived. With Jeff's help, Adam Bader put together a program to help with the inventory process. Jeff worked with everyone to help them reconcile their personal and departmental inventories. Because of his dedication we were able to finish the annual inventory on time. Jeff continued to work on the inventory project to streamline the process for the future. Other projects included the replacement of most of our deputy MCT laptop computers. He was instrumental in ordering new laptop computers, testing hardware and software, negotiating the pricing, receiving and inventorying the new laptops, imaging them and then deploying them to deputies.

Another project is his ongoing dedication to the Taser body worn cameras. Jeff has continued to work with Taser to help them develop their interface software into something that is more user friendly and functional at the same time. He is also working with Taser to get some of our patrol cars fitted with vehicle cameras systems which are capable of linking together with other agency owned cars and body worn camera in the area.



## NON-SWORN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Linda Dye has worked in the Records Department for approximately 12 years.

During her 12 years of employment Linda started as a Call Taker and then transitioned to a Records Clerk with the elimination of the Call Taker Program. Ms. Dye easily transitioned from one position to the other.

She is a hard worker; if you give her a project, there is no stopping her until it is completed. Linda maintains our Master Index database and literally merges thousands of names a year in order to keep this system as accurate as possible in addition to her other Records duties.

She has been involved in processing over 16,000 offense reports, with thousands upon thousands of documents scanned and cataloged. She responds to public records requests, and deals with other organizations and individuals on a day to day basis with courtesy and professionalism. One of her additional duties is formulating operational plans.

Linda attended the CJIS Symposium and two advanced Records Management Classes to further her training, job knowledge and skills.

She serves as a back-up supervisor for the Records Division when the Records Supervisor is away from the office. Linda demonstrates the ability to handle this level of responsibility with a high degree of professionalism and courtesy. Her co-workers frequently ask for her assistance and she is willing to help them in any way possible.

Linda is the back up for AFIS printing, as well as a member of the Employee Council representing the Judicial Process Section.

She is truly an asset in the Records Division, as well as an asset to the Sheriff's Office.

## COMMUNICATIONS OUTSTANDING PERFORMER OF THE YEAR



Angie Barrow has consistently excelled in her responsibilities since being hired in 1997. She quickly established the skills and demeanor required to be a successful dispatcher and has continued to build on them through the years. She readily accepts additional responsibility and training and has a positive attitude.

Angie is not only a Communications Officer, she is also a Communications Training Officer and acting Supervisor as needed. She takes on these added responsibilities without complaint. Her attention to detail and ability to multitask sets her apart. She sees a task through to completion and offers assistance to others ensuring that all job goals are met.

Her demeanor is a credit to the Sheriff's Office as Angie is professional, courteous and has a great sense of humor. She is well liked by not only her peers within the Sheriff's Office but also with the agencies and civilians that she deals with on a regular basis. She easily establishes a rapport with people which assists in getting her job done quicker and often with less stress.

Not only has Angie met her goals within the Communications Center, but she has recently branched out to attain a personal goal, also within law enforcement, when she attended the Police Academy at Northwest Florida State College in Niceville. In addition to being dedicated to her job, Angie also has a loving heart and giving nature. She initiated and spearheaded taking on 4 Angel Tree children this year. She coordinated with other members of the Communications Center to ensure all their wishes were met. In addition, she also encouraged and assisted with dayshift decorating 6 Christmas trees for Hospice this year.



## COMMUNICATIONS OUTSTANDING PERFORMER OF THE YEAR



Rhonda Buckner has been a Communications Officer for five years. Over the last year she has proven to be an excellent employee, working extremely well with her co-workers and other personnel. She follows policies and holds herself to a high standard.

Rhonda works each position with professionalism. She is always polite, courteous and helpful with everyone she assists. When working the phones position, she makes sure to gather all necessary information.

When Rhonda works a radio position, her foremost thought is for officer safety. She makes sure responding Deputies are given all information of the situation prior to arrival. If a call warrants the need for emergency traffic, she does not hesitate. She will initiate and make sure all transmissions are documented in the call.

Rhonda was asked a few months ago by Sgt. Carpenter to come to his shift briefing to talk about how communications operates. She is always willing to assist the road supervisor's or deputies. Rhonda is also the liaison for Communications at the Employee Council Meetings.

Rhonda has taken on the responsibility of Officer In Charge when her supervisor is off. She will answer any questions by a fellow co-worker. She completes NCIC/FCIC entries and cancellations and ensures the shift is operating in accordance with agency policy and procedures.

Rhonda is an outstanding employee. She has a good work ethic and is a great asset to the communications center.

## 2016 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Ed Robbeloth has been selected as our 2016 Volunteer of the Year. Ed started his volunteer career with the Sheriff's Office in July 2015 and has become a valuable asset to the Crime Prevention Unit. He has dedicated many hours setting up and working numerous community events throughout the year. Ed has exceptional people skills which he uses to communicate effectively and professionally with Okaloosa County citizens and other OCSO volunteers. Recently, Ed joined the RSVP (Reserve Sheriff Volunteer Program). This program requires spending time during the evening hours checking juveniles on probation to make sure they are where they should be. His innovative thinking, character, and readiness to serve are an enormous gift to the Sheriff's Office. In 2016, Ed contributed 101 hours to the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Okaloosa County.

Ed Robbeloth is an eager volunteer who is a role model for other volunteers. His dedication to the Civilian Volunteer Program and the agency is commendable. We wish to thank him for his service to the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.



## POSSE MEMBER OF THE YEAR



David Howes is the Outstanding Posse Member of the Year for 2016. He has been a Posse Member since January 2002 and each year is a very active participant in the program.

In support of what was a smaller Posse in 2016, with an increasing request for service from the public, David volunteered for a wide range of Posse details, including traffic control for early morning charity runs throughout Okaloosa County, crowd control at festivals, and security at the Emerald Coast Convention Center and other sites. In fact, he has frequently worked two different details in one day to provide service to the agency and to our community. Most notably, he regularly volunteers for hard-to-fill, short notice details. His service in 2016 consisted of 164 volunteer hours.

David makes these contributions of his time despite working fulltime at Walmart as a technician in the automotive department.

David has performed all of his duties in a professional and courteous manner. He is both dependable and highly motivated and truly worthy of being named the 2016 Posse Member of the Year.

## MOUNTED POSSE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Tom Moody has been a member of the Mounted Posse since its inception in 2011, and has volunteered almost 500 hours to the Posse. He is always eager to volunteer for all events the mounted posse is doing whether it be static displays, the SRO's Youth Day or riding in local parades. In addition to mounted posse events, Tom and his horses also participate in family events held at the Army Ranger Camp and with the Special Forces Group on Eglin AFB.

For his dedication to the OCSO Mounted Posse, Tom Moody is being presented as the Mounted Posse Volunteer of the Year for 2016.























OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
BRAVO SHIFT EAST DISTRICT  
2016





**OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
MISSION STATEMENT:**

**"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 TRUST."**