

OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ANNUAL REPORT



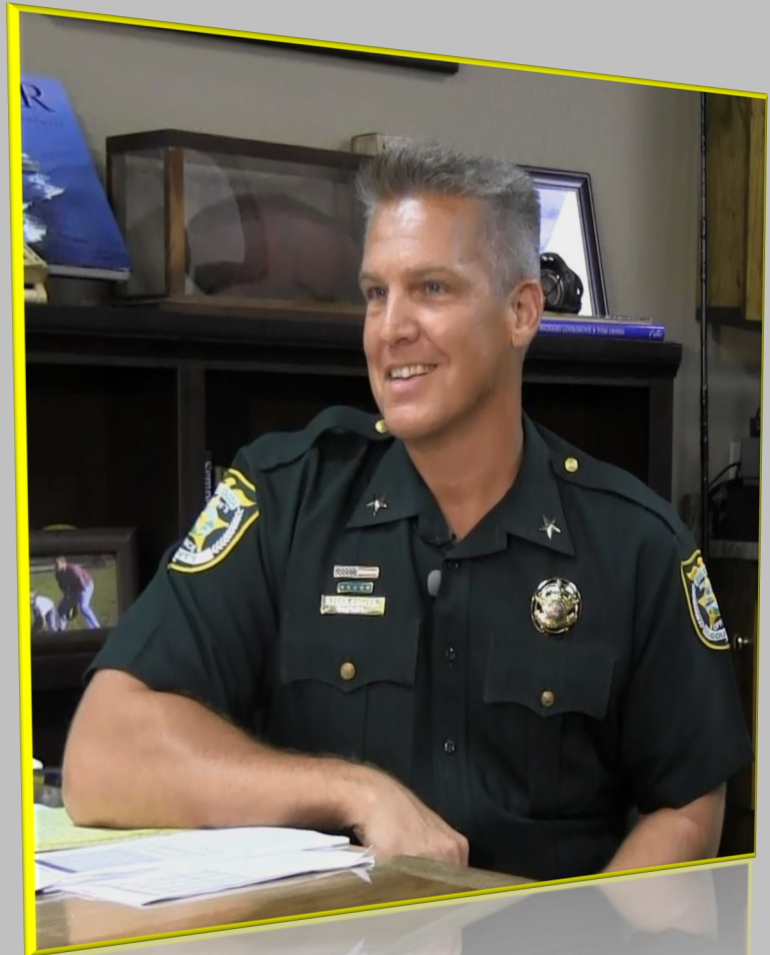
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A MESSAGE FROM OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF LARRY ASHLEY

Measuring your achievements from the past year while making resolutions for the new one is always an exercise that merits our attention. It's one of the ways we take stock of our purpose, revisit our goals and recommit ourselves to doing what is required to achieve them. 2017 was like many years before it in that our county continued its growth in both residential and tourist populations. Our agency answered a record 227,250 calls for service and accomplished many of its goals, some of which are articulated in this annual report. I continue to be amazed at the sheer volume of work completed by our people and I'm extremely proud of our organizational accomplishment, as well as the personal achievements of our deputies and staff in 2017.

Okaloosa County again ranked as the second most visited county in the state of Florida behind Disney World in Orange County. There is perhaps no better time to illustrate our popularity as when the Spring Break and tourist seasons begin. Big crowds create big demands on our law enforcement and equally stress the capacity of our roadways and other infrastructure. I don't think many of our residents particularly care for the added congestion, however our community and agency still remain the definition of southern hospitality. I'll let this annual report speak for itself in regards to our 2017 achievements. Please take the time to read it and visit our web site at www.sheriff-okaloosa.org to learn more about the daily operations and duties of your Sheriff's Office and its personnel. Follow us on our Facebook page and on Twitter to get the most up to date happenings within the Sheriff's Office and Okaloosa County.



The challenges for 2018 and beyond continue to expand at an ever increasing pace.. Our need for improved infrastructure in communications, roadways, training facilities, medical examiner services, and evidence storage cannot be overstated. National and state mass shootings have also led to the passage of the new Safe School Act which has created multiple challenges in ensuring that we have law enforcement officers (SRO's) present at every school, amending and increasing our (Baker Act) responsibilities as well as our petitions to the courts for (Protection Orders), to name but a few. We will have to greatly increase our intelligence and threat assessment abilities as well as specialized personnel to comply with the new mandates in this Act. Additional, both the homeless population and opioid epidemic continue to grow and not only taxes our law enforcement efforts but also our courts, jail, and treatment capacity.

Our calls for service on our local waterways continue to increase at an exponential pace and require we expand our marine presence to regain a sense of safety on our waterways. Floating structures and other impediments to our navigable waterways are not only an eyesore but also create multiple safety issues which currently go unregulated. Lastly, property and cyber-crimes have grown beyond our current ability to follow-up in a timely manner and will require that we expand investigative personnel numbers to address. These are but a few of the critical issues we face in the coming new year and beyond , and absent a significant increase in resources, many of these issues will go unanswered. We are committed to working harder and smarter to avoid any system failures and will continue to ensure that these challenges are voiced before becoming insurmountable.

In closing, I consider the duty of being your Sheriff an honor and the highlight of my professional career. The joy I find in serving alongside the men and the women of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office in service to our community is a blessing I do not take for granted. We all feel privileged to have the support of our community as we combat crime in our county and address the social issues that cause it. Your Sheriff's Office is a full service law enforcement agency that is the primary law enforcement provider in our county. We are Nationally and State Accredited and recognized throughout the state and country for many of our programs and initiatives.

Of one thing I'm certain, no other law enforcement agency or its people are more committed to their community's well-being and public safety than the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

Larry Ashley

Larry Ashley, Sheriff

Okaloosa County, FL





2017 ACTIVITY RUNDOWN

CALLS TO OCSO 227,250

SAMPLE OF TYPES OF CALLS

FRAUD	821
TRAFFIC STOPS	28,391
CITIZEN CONTACTS	16,155
TRAFFIC CRASHES	6,547
SECURITY CHECKS	43,045
INTOXICATED DRIVERS	946
K-9 ASSISTS	1,288
WELFARE CHECKS	3,445
DISTURBANCES	5,260
ROAD RAGE	226
SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	2,518
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	1,302
TRESPASSING	2,095
SHOTS FIRED	475

40 YEARS OF SERVICE



**POSSE CAPTAIN TERRY WATKINS AND FORMER
OCSO CAPTAIN PAUL BROWN, (WHO IS NOW THE
AGENCY'S ARMORER) HAVE ACCOMPLISHED A
RARE ACHIEVEMENT OF 40 YEARS OF SERVICE.
THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OCSO TEAM AND
THE ENTIRE COUNTY HAVE BEEN NOTHING
SHORT OF OUTSTANDING!**

CONGRATULATIONS!

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 Individual Accomplishments for 2017

Deputy Jeremiah Dowdy – Life Saving Award (2nd Life Saving Award)

Deputy Marlon Boggan – Life Saving Award

Corporal Martin Jennings – Certificate of Commendation

Sergeant Michael Rader – Certificate of Commendation

Investigator Tom Piaget – Certificate of Commendation

Deputy Tony Rigdon – Certificate of Commendation

Deputy Ronnie Valentine – Certificate of Commendation

Deputy Jerad Mullinnix – Certificate of Commendation

Deputy Amy Mertens – Certificate of Commendation

Investigator Nolan Weeks – Certificate for Outstanding Performance

Deputy Doug Schwall – Certificate for Outstanding Performance

Deputy Jason Nobles – Certificate for Outstanding Performance



North District Personnel Promotions for 2017

Deputy Doug Schwall promoted to Investigator

Deputy Nicholas Grundin promoted to Investigator

Deputy Robert Thacker promoted to Investigator

Investigator Nolan Weeks promoted to Sergeant

Corporal John Jenks honored as Supervisor of the Year



North District Community Service Activity for 2017



Attended Crestview Chamber of Commerce breakfasts

Membership in Crestview Rotary Club

Membership in Crestview Kiwanis Club

Attended City of Crestview City 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

Book Reading and Mentoring to Local School Students

Supported SOWW Hunting event for Wounded Warriors

Supported 7th Special Forces Training Group (Airborne)

Dedication of Duke Field Fly over for General Stogsdill

Anderson Columbia Dove Shoot in support of OCSO Star Charities

Supported Annual Special Olympics Torch Run- Okaloosa County

Attended Annual United Way- Fishing with a Kid Day

Community Education for Church Security and Stand your Ground Laws

Attended/Supported County wide LEO Memorial Ceremonies

Community Commitment

New methods of serving the Community with change and growth

The 32 deputies assigned to the North District work diligently every day in order to identify problem areas and establish proactive patrols to deter criminal activity and provide a safe and secure quality of life for all our citizens.

In 2017 we took a different approach as we worked to fill four vacancies from the 2106 budget year. Currently we have four squads, with two squad's working days and two squads working nights. Each squad has two supervisors and six deputies assigned. Our four new deputies have allowed us the opportunity to implement a flexible noon to midnight position. Some of the benefits of having a deputy assigned to this position are:

- *10 am -10pm generates the most calls for service in all of our patrol districts.
- *At full manning each shift should have two deputies working 12p-12a shift.
- *Maximizes manning during the busiest hours of the work day.
- *Allows for day shift units 6a-6p, to finish reports in the late afternoon in order to minimize overtime issues, 12-12 units would cover these late afternoon calls.
- *Three of these four 12-12 positions are FTO's that routinely have Deputy Trainee's assigned. This schedule exposes the trainee's to a variety of calls for service that are specific to both days and nights. This maximizes the training experience for the FTO and is a definite benefit to the Deputy Trainee.
- *During the last two hours of the 12-12 shift, FTO's can review Daily Observation Reports with the Trainee's to ensure accountability and accomplishment of training requirements.
- *12-12 shift allows the shift supervisors to more proactivity target specific areas of concern with maximum manning capabilities.



Community Commitment

Deborah Harrington retired after 25 years at the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office where she worked as the front desk clerk of the North District Office for the majority of her career at OCSO.



After 50 years of service the Okaloosa County Courthouse was demolished to make room for new growth and availability to the citizens. With Crestview being the county seat of Okaloosa County, the old courthouse lacked the space and needed upgrades to meet the growth of Crestview and our North District community.



Community Commitment



The men and woman working in the North District do an outstanding job supporting this community, in 2017 OCSO personnel gave back over 350 hours of volunteer time. We have a very unique relationship with the citizens we serve and the overall appreciation expressed to our deputies on a daily basis is overwhelming.

Okaloosa County is fortunate to have such a good partnership between the community and Law Enforcement, this equates to a quality of life in which we all strive to reach.



North District Statistics of Interest for 2017

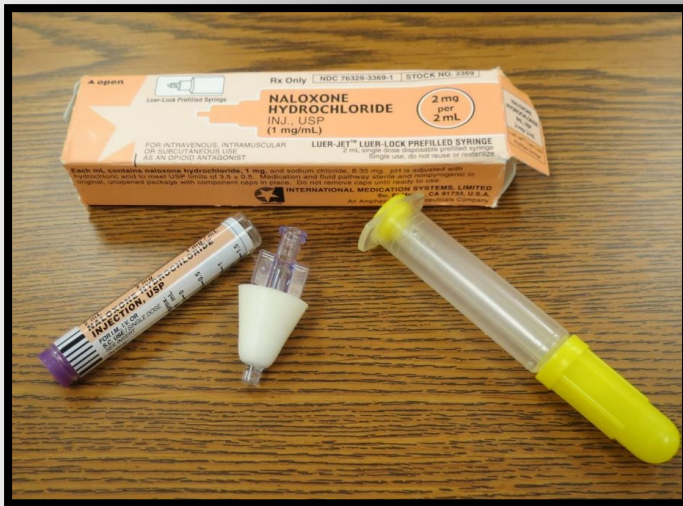
Calls for Service	55,888
Traffic Stops	7116
Warrants Services	2,462
DOMV Arrests	55
DUI Arrests	33
Probable Cause Arrests	461

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.



In addition to providing life-saving care to overdose victims, Central District deputies aggressively enforce the laws related to narcotics. In 2017, deputies generated arrests for 1,494 narcotics offenses. We attribute much of this success to each Central District deputy taking an 8-hour, college-level course focused on patrol-level narcotics investigations. However, in many instances, the incarceration of those addicted to illegal substances is neither practical nor best for the individual. Therefore, Central District deputies are equipped with referral information for those in need of counselling and intervention for addiction.

Another evidence of the benefits of Central District's intense focus on professional development is the fact several members were promoted to positions of greater responsibility and others were certified as instructors in various disciplines.

The unique combination of the population and civil infrastructure of Central District make it the busiest district in Okaloosa County. In 2017, the Sheriff's Office handled 227,250 calls for service. The Central District accounted for nearly half of those calls—104,141:

Central District Statistics of Interest for 2017

Total Offense Reports 7,795

Total Arrests 2,752

(65% Probable Cause, 26% Warrant, 9% Notice to Appear)

Traffic Stops 12,040

(82% warnings, 13% Cited, 5% Criminal charges)

911 Verifications 2,758

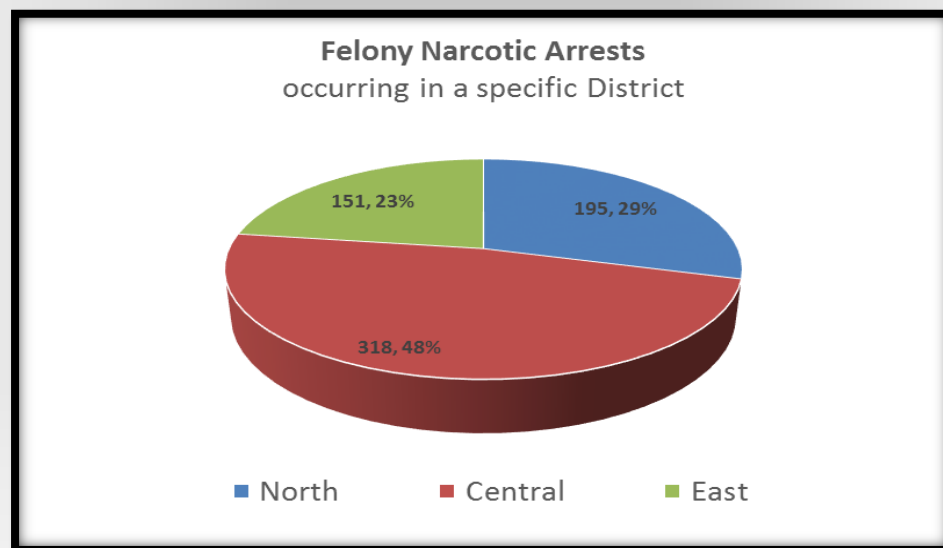
Disturbances and Fights 2,615

Alarms 2,354

Citizen Service Assists 11,235

Felony Narcotics Incident w/Arrests 191

DUI Arrests 108



Noteworthy Accomplishments and Events

Provided dignified and respectful escorts for 131 local funerals to support friends and families of the deceased during their time of mourning.

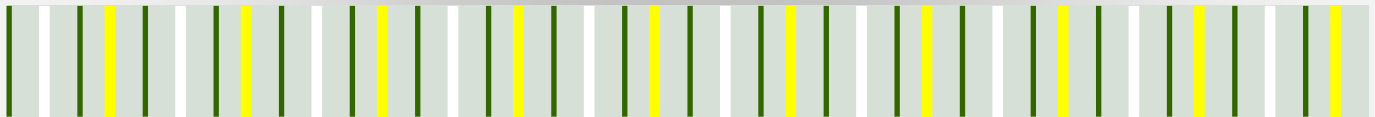
Attendance and participation in community events, city council meetings, and various fraternal organizations.

Provided support for several community events such as “Toys for Tots,” the Fallen Special Operations Airmen ceremonial escort, and a host of functions with the two military bases.

Obtained two small vessels to enhance Central District’s water-related response capabilities. These vessels are larger and more stable than the ones previously utilized and doubled the overall number available for emergencies or waterborne operations.

Central District deputies completed riot control training and were provided ready-access to 10 sets of riot control gear to quell civil disturbances when required.

All Central District deputies began an initiative to complete online training in street-level narcotics investigations as well as gang identification and enforcement.



Always Serving...Above and Beyond!

A majority of district members made charitable contributions via payroll deduction.

District members logged more than 559 hours of off-duty volunteer time:

Vice-President, North Okaloosa FOP Lodge #146

Board Member, Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute Associates

Board Member, Star Charity

Board Member, Opportunity Place Shelter

Board Member, Kiwanis Board of Directors

Counselor, Reformers Unanimous Addictions Program

Volunteer Speaker, MADD Victim Impact Panels

Volunteer Coaches for High School and Middle School sports

Volunteer, All Sports Association

Provided instruction to the OCSO Citizen’s Police Academy

Central District Individual Accomplishments

PROMOTIONS

Investigator Rodney Owens was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to Central District, Bravo Shift.

Corporal Sterling Eslinger and Deputy Casey Isenbarger were promoted to the rank of Investigator and assigned to the Investigations Bureau.

AWARDS

Medal of Valor (the Sheriff's Office highest award)

Sergeant Grady Carpenter and Deputy Aaron Pitman were awarded Medals of Valor for service to the community by risking their lives in the performance of a hazardous duty.

Life-saving Award

Deputies Brannon Small and Daniel Echols were awarded Life-saving Awards.

Certificate of Commendation

Deputies Ian Arrington, Amanda lane, and Aaron Pitman were awarded Certificates of Commendation for outstanding performance.

ASSIGNMENTS

Street Crimes Unit

Deputies Brandon Jennings, Jessica Keel, and Raphael Brown were selected for the Street Crimes Unit.

School Resource Officer Unit

Deputies Kaitlin Pereira and Patrick Legions were selected for the School Resource Officer Unit.

Traffic Unit

Deputy Eric Stinson was selected for the Traffic Unit.

Special Investigations Section

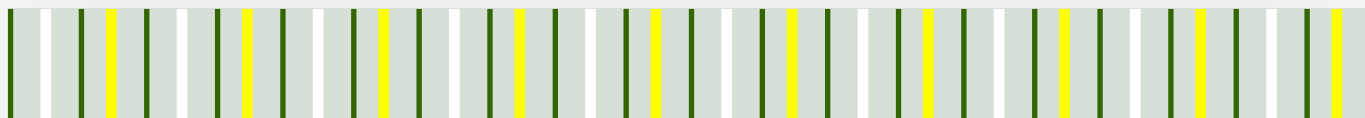
Sergeant Grady Carpenter was selected as the Special Investigations Section Sergeant.

K-9 Unit

Deputy Cutler Petersen was selected for the K-9 Unit as a handler.

Special Response Team

Deputies Pierre Batiste, Todd Padilla, and Aaron Pitman were selected for the Special Response Team.



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 millions of visitors vacationing during the year. Tourists enjoy the white sandy beaches and the breath taking emerald green 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.

Total Arrests	2,194
Narcotics Arrests	386
DUIs	178
Battery	157
Burglary	57
Grand Theft Auto	16



East District Statistics of Interest 2017

Calls for Service	67,992
Offense Reports	5,180
Traffic Stops	8,866
Traffic Crash Response	2,704
Arrest Reports	2,194
Warrant Attempts	900
Watch Orders	3,056
911 Verifications	2,717



We continue to emphasize proactive enforcement practices and encourage our citizens and visitors 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. Our continued commitment to build community partnerships creates a line of communication between our office and the citizens we serve.

In 2017, Destin ranked 27th out of 116 Florida cities for traffic crashes involving alcohol and injuries. Speed and aggressive driving places Destin 20th on the list of 116 cities of similar size. Distracted driving puts Destin in the top 10 of 116 cities of similar size as a contributing factor for traffic crashes. Our units continued in their efforts to address such driving behaviors by saturating problem related areas. 1,518 citations were issued in 2017, while 6,607 warnings were issued to the motoring public.

The East District remains the major artery for visitors traveling through the panhandle and still remains one of the most visited areas in the state throughout the Spring Break and summer months. It is our goal to continue to provide the highest level of law enforcement services to our visitors, whether traveling through, or vacationing.

EAST DISTRICT COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITY

Over 218 volunteer hours with multiple charitable and civic endeavors

Sponsored multiple families at "Operation Angel Tree"

Participated in Hospice tree decorating contest

Attended dozens of Chambers of Commerce meetings, Destin and Niceville City Council meetings,
and other civic functions

Participated in the Destin and Niceville Christmas Parades

Provided instruction for OCSO Citizens Academy

Provided volunteer coaches for Little League baseball, soccer and softball teams

Served as Sunday School teachers



EAST DISTRICT INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*D-Shift received Certificates of Commendation for Operation Juggernaut

*Deputy Kourtney Spruill promoted to Corporal

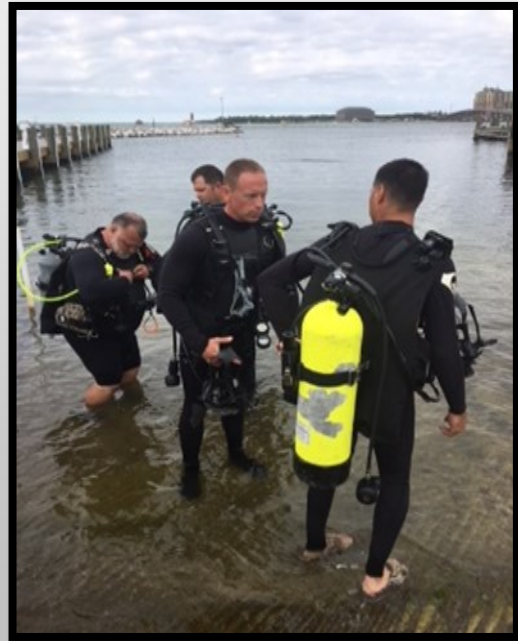
*Deputy Michael Kruger promoted to Investigator

TWO DEPUTIES EARNED LIFE SAVING AWARDS

*Deputy Wes Haggan saved suicidal subject

*Deputy Jaret Bristol saved suicidal subject

Marine, Beach & Dive Unit



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 4,622 calls for service during Spring Break and 100 days of summer, effected 398 arrests, issued 194 Notices to Appear, and issued 186 boating citations. These assets were also responsible for assisting numerous distressed swimmers throughout the spring break and summer period.



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit completed one of the busiest years on record for 2017. During this time, two additional marine positions were funded through the City of Destin and the Tourist Development Council (TDC). As a cost saving measure, a \$258,000, 25' SAFEBOAT previous owned by the US Coast Guard, was acquired through the GSA Excess Property Program for \$40,000 and added to the fleet through funding from the Tourist Development Council. The addition of these positions helped ensure waterway safety through the enforcement of applicable state laws and municipal ordinances.



Throughout 2017, the Marine Unit concentrated its efforts towards boating safety and education while delivering the following numbers:

Calls for Service	2,801
Vessel Stops	1,081
Boating Citations	261
Arrests	34
BUI Arrests	3
Distressed Swimmers	50+
Waterway Security Checks	485
Life Saving Awards	2
Letters of Commendation	1

The members of the Marine Unit were pivotal in ensuring waterway safety throughout the Emerald Coast Poker Run and the Billy Bowlegs Pirate Festival. The Marine Unit also participated in the 2017 Operation Dry Water which is a national event hosted by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. Members of the Marine Unit continued to be highly visible around Crab Island throughout the busiest tourist season on record and major holidays. In preparation for the 2017 summer, the Marine Unit deputies met with the many Personal Watercraft liveries within Okaloosa County. These meetings were an initiative to help reduce marine violations and increase safety for their customers and other boaters.

The contracted marine position for the City of Destin, was tasked with regulating the floating structures occupying the city waterways and enforcing the recently enacted anchoring ordinance. Deputy Robert Wagner was instrumental in removing these floating structures from the Destin Harbor and working with local residents regarding boating complaints specific to the bayous and waterways of Destin. Deputy Wagner in this capacity handled over 870 calls for service and generated 270 security checks.



The contracted TDC marine position remained engaged this summer monitoring the popular boating "hot spots." Deputy Corbitt was a consistent presence around Crab Island overseeing the large crowds and the many boaters. Deputy Corbitt balanced 1,202 calls for service and generated 190 security checks. Deputy Corbitt also continued to be a familiar face within the "Snowbird" community by speaking at their meetings on topics such as trending crimes, crime prevention, and personal safety.

The Marine Unit continues to build upon our working relationships with the United States Coast Guard, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the United States Customs Marine Interdiction Unit. Together we shared invaluable maritime information and conducted tactical marine training in the local waterways. Outside of law enforcement, the Marine Unit continued to foster relationships with local boat captains and the recreational boating community. These community contacts continue to provide information on law and ordinance violations, resource violations, and safety concerns.

Following the summer of 2017, all three members of the Marine Unit were recognized with agency awards. Daryl Culberson was presented with a Life Saving Award after locating a boater who had become separated from his Personal Water Craft during a storm. Deputy Culberson observed an object swaying on top of Marker 61, located in the middle of Choctawhatchee Bay, approximately 1/2 mile from the nearest shoreline. Deputy Culberson soon realized this swaying object was a human being perched at the top of the marker. He made his way to the stranded individual and proceeded to rescue the subject from the navigational marker. The subject was in fair shape, but had numerous cuts and abrasions from climbing the barnacle filled marker. Deputy Culberson provided immediate first aid while ascertaining his physical wellbeing and finding out how the individual ended up on top of the navigational marker.

The man relayed that he had been thrown from his rental PWC hours earlier and was unable to get it back as the wind and current steadily pushed it away from him. Once he realized he was not going to be able to get the PWC back and starting to get tired, he decided to swim to a nearby navigational marker so he could get out of the water and hopefully flag down some help.

By the time Deputy Culberson found the individual it was late in the evening and getting dark. Several thunderstorms were forecast for that evening involving high winds, lightning, and temperatures dipping into the low 50s. Combine all that weather with the fact the subject was only wearing a bathing suit and was clinging to a pole in the middle of the bay, it would have been a miracle if he made it through the night. The PWC was found approximately 1.5 miles from his location on Marker 61.





Deputy Kyle Corbitt and Deputy Culberson were also provided Life Saving Awards for their actions after receiving a distress call over their vessel marine VHF radio. Both deputies responded utilizing the 29' Ambar patrol vessel and located the partially submerged vessel in rough seas within the East Pass. On scene they immediately observed one male subject in the water without a life jacket clinging to the stern of the sinking vessel. With Deputy Culberson piloting the Ambar, Deputy Corbitt began acquiring lines and flotation devices. Deputy Corbitt was able to fasten a line to a life ring and successfully throw it to the man in the water. As the man in the water became separated from the sinking vessel, he grabbed ahold of the life ring and was quickly pulled to the Ambar by Deputy Corbitt. At this point, USCG arrived and began tending to the sinking vessel and the other occupants.

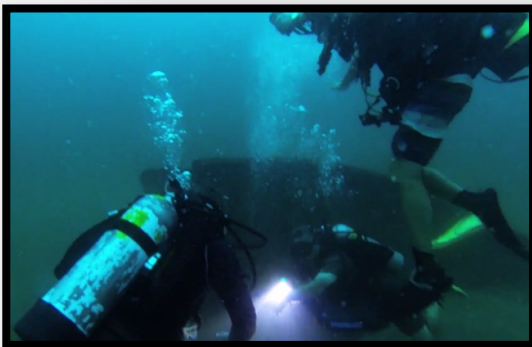


Due to the male's size and an injured arm, he was unable to climb up the boat's ladder and was having trouble maintaining a grip on the Ambar. Several times he lost his grip and began to float away in the water current. Deputy Corbitt maintained his composure each time and successfully provided the life ring without hesitation. After several minutes it was obvious the man's size, injury, and exhaustion were going to prevent him boarding the patrol vessel in a normal manner, but Deputies Culberson and Corbitt were not about to give up. The two continually developed new plans on how to rescue this individual and eventually came up with a successful solution to the problem. This solution kept the subject from losing grip and floating away. At this point, the male was becoming increasingly weaker and having trouble keeping his head above water. Finally, with the assistance of two members from the United State Coast Guard, the subject in distress was able to be pulled onboard the Ambar and brought safely back to shore.

Deputy Wagner also received a Letter of Commendation for his selfless efforts in ensuring the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office navigated a successful onsite inspection by the Florida Telecommunications Accreditation Commission in September 2017.



The Dive Unit is primarily composed of members from both the Marine Unit and the Special Operations Division. During 2017, the Dive Unit increased its capabilities by partnering with the FBI-Miami Field Office and Dive -SAR for additional training. Members of the Dive Unit became certified in Advanced Open Water, Public Safety Diver, Rescue Diver, and Enriched Air. In accomplishing these certifications, each member was tasked with conducting over 20 SCUBA dives and well over 40 hours of academic studies. Utilizing these skills coupled with the additional capabilities, Dive Unit members were called upon to assist in deceased person recoveries, submerged evidence recoveries, and vessel fatality investigations.



Traffic Unit

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Traffic Unit was restructured and implemented in 2017. The unit consists of 4 deputies conducting traffic enforcement on county roadways and handling traffic complaints within residential neighborhoods. The Traffic Unit was busy during the previous months targeting school zones and areas with an increased number of traffic accidents.



The Traffic Unit continues to conduct enforcement by leading with education. Unit members only cited 35% of the violators they encountered and produced the following numbers:

Traffic Stops 2,313

Traffic Citations 810

Arrests 113

Traffic Complaints 443

Sobriety Checkpoints 2

DUI Arrests 30

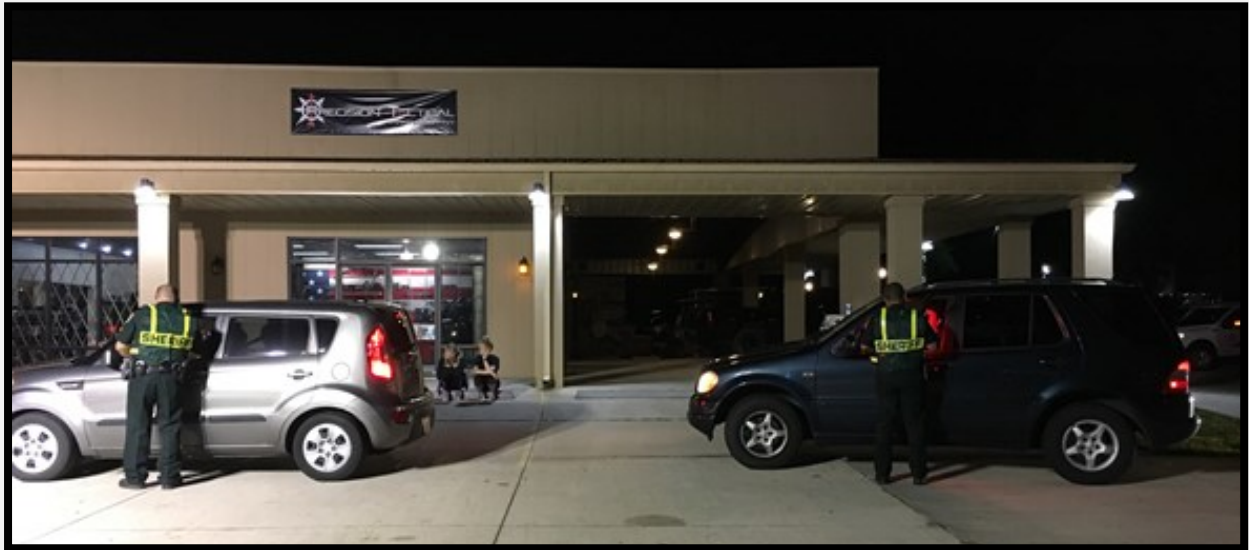
MADD Awards 2

The Traffic Unit participated in several special DOT initiatives consisting of the Law Enforcement Challenge, Click it or Ticket, and Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. These endeavors were to increase traffic safety education and enforcement in conjunction with community partners, to reduce motor vehicle crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities upon local roadways.



The members of the Traffic Unit continue to conduct traffic safety briefings and participate in local community events. During 2017, Traffic Unit members provided safety briefings at Eglin Air Force Base and Hurlburt Air Force Base. These presentations addressed motorcycle safety, safety belt usage, distracted driving, and impaired driving. Unit members are also regular speakers for the Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy Classes and often make appearances at local educational facilities. Operation Hot Spot was a Florida Sheriff's Task Force Operation dedicated towards identifying high crash intersections and directing traffic enforcement to those "Hot Spot" areas. These resources would attempt to reduce traffic crashes and increase traffic safety. In Okaloosa County these intersections were identified as Highway 98 / Calhoun Avenue and Highway 98 / Santa Rosa Boulevard. Over a four week period, the Traffic Unit was highly visible in these locations targeting law violators and reducing traffic crashes.

A goal of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is to promote safety for motorists using the public roadways and to provide a deterrent for those who violate laws which regulate motor vehicle traffic. In order to achieve these goals during 2017, several Sobriety and Safety Checkpoints were conducted. The first checkpoint was conducted in May on Highway 85 in the unincorporated areas of Crestview. During this checkpoint, 141 vehicles were contacted and inspected for law violations. The operation received many positive comments from the public and culminated with four arrests. Another checkpoint was conducted in September on Beal Parkway in the unincorporated area of Fort Walton Beach. Throughout this checkpoint, 138 vehicles were contacted and inspected for law violations. Again, positive comments were received from the public regarding the location of the checkpoint and our efforts towards DUI enforcement. This checkpoint resulted in three arrests.



Traffic Unit members continue to further their education and regularly attend advanced training specific to their mission. Throughout 2017, members completed over 300 hours of advanced training relating to Traffic Homicide, Pedestrian / Bicycle Crash Investigations, and Advanced Roadside Impairment Detection (ARIDE). Additionally, Deputy Glenn Hand attended the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Training Program and became a certified DRE. The International Drug Evaluation and Classification Program defines a DRE or Drug Recognition Expert as a “deputy, officer or trooper, trained to recognize impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol.” The DRE program is a rigorous course of study requiring over 80 hours of academic studies, 12 field evaluations encompassing 48 hours, and a 9 hour final exam.

Sergeant Brian Parkton and Deputy Pereira attended and graduated the Northwestern University Police Motor School. For almost two decades, Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc. and the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety have worked in partnership to present the nation's premier training programs for police motorcyclists. This 80 hour course focused on various practical exercises that stress low speed maneuverability, evasion techniques, and high-speed braking skills.



Deputy Jose Pereira and Deputy Hand were recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for their efforts in removing intoxicated drivers from the roadways of Okaloosa County in 2017. Deputy Pereira received his 8th consecutive award while Deputy Hand received his 3rd consecutive award. Both deputies played major roles in the agency's aggressive enforcement of DUI and also conducted 7 Drug Recognition Expert evaluations in 2017.



Criminal Investigations

The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) is comprised of three sections: Criminal Investigations Section (Major Crimes, Property Crimes, Crimes against Children, Financial Crimes and Polygraph), Special Investigations Section (Sheriff's Narcotics Unit, Fugitive Warrants, Crime Analyst Unit and Internet Crimes against Children/Cyber Unit) and the Evidence/Crime Scene Section.



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION
Criminal Investigations Section (CIS)

For the year 2017, the 16 Investigators assigned to CIS followed up and investigated approximately 1688 cases. These crimes occurred within all three districts in Okaloosa County and included Property, Major, Child and Economic Crimes and Missing Persons. Below are some of the highlights for the year:

During an extremely busy 4th of July weekend, with multiple call outs, Investigators were called to the homicide of Robert Mayall within a Destin park. The investigation subsequently led to the arrest of William Reed.



During the same 4th of July weekend, a shooting occurred on Okaloosa Island. The victim and suspect worked together, and had been feuding over personal and drug issues. The suspect forced his way into the victim's residence and brandished a firearm, intending to scare the victim. However, the victim shot the suspect twice with his own firearm.

Three-year old Adelynn Merrell was tragically murdered by her mother's boyfriend and dumped in a wooded area near her home in Crestview in November. Investigation revealed she and her two brothers were being withheld food for punishment as well. Cory Hagwell and Destinee Merrell have been charged and are awaiting trial.



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Criminal Investigation Section (CIS)

Barbara Wozniak was arrested for the homicide of her husband, Alfred Wozniak after she shot him, wrapped him in plastic and then built a make shift brick wall to hide his body in with in their home in Shalimar. Barbara Wozniak is awaiting trial.

Three Okaloosa County School employees were arrested after an investigation revealed a teacher battered a special needs child and two other employees were aware of the incident and failed to report it.

Longtime employee of the Okaloosa Water and Sewer Department, Kathy Nelson, was arrested after a forensic audit revealed she had stolen over \$225,000.

Four armed teenagers (ranging in ages from 15-19) were arrested for attempted home invasion and attempted kidnapping in Baker. Their plan was thwarted by the 17 year old victim whom they planned to kidnap. The story was featured on Good Morning America.





20-year old, Devonte Williams was shot multiple times at a home in Ft. Walton Beach. Williams succumbed to his injuries several days later. Two suspects, Jaurice Williams and Justin McDougald were arrested for the homicide and are awaiting trial.

For 2017, our certified Examiner/Investigator conducted 127 polygraph examinations for both criminal cases and pre-employment purposes.

For 2017, the Crime Analyst Unit put together 239 bulletins for distribution, conducted 146 employee background checks and compiled 216 photo lineups.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Special Investigations Section (SIS)

Over 450 arrests and 150 search warrants executed related to narcotics investigations, apprehension of violent fugitives and suspects involved in the distribution and/or possession of child pornography or exploitation of minors.

Approximately \$165,000.00 in US Currency seized and awarded as a result of drug investigations. Narcotics seized with approximate street values: Marijuana: \$1,537,130.00; Heroin: \$253,980.00; Methamphetamine: \$248,460.00; Cocaine: \$58,810.00; Illicit drugs: \$65,775.00; and MDMA: \$8,775.00.

GRAND TOTAL STREET VALUE ILLEGAL DRUGS SEIZED: \$2,172,930.00

In June, members of OCSO SIS and Northwest Florida HIDTA Group consisting of members of DEA, ATF, IRS, FDLE, and other local police and Sheriff's departments conducted a wiretap investigation into a methamphetamine trafficking group operating primarily in the north end of Okaloosa County. "Operation Arcos Dorados" targeted members of the group who were involved in trafficking large quantities of methamphetamine. Federal and state indictments issued in these investigations.

Members of SIS successfully investigated and established probable cause to arrest multiple suspects involved in a Human Trafficking organization which exploited women to include a juvenile aged 16 years old.

Fugitive Task Force members implemented standard operating procedures for the documentation of criminal gangs operating in Okaloosa County. They also conducted agency wide training on the detection and identification of criminal gang members.

In February, "Operation Shady Lane" - a wiretap investigation which targeted a heroin trafficking organization resulted in 36 total arrests. The case also assisted in the recovery of a murder weapon and successful indictments on two suspects for homicide. Total seizures included a kilogram of heroin, half a kilogram of cocaine, multiple pounds of marijuana, and multiple firearms.



Members of SIS conducted multiple operations throughout the year targeting and arresting suspects involved in the exploitation of underage kids who were seeking to have sexual relationships with children they believed to be between the ages of 12-15 years old.

Sheriff



Larry Ashley, Okaloosa County Sheriff
Headquarters: 50 2nd Street, Shalimar Florida 32579-1234
Phone: (850) 651-7410, Email: Sheriff@sheriff-okaloosa.org

OPERATION NIGHTSTALKER



Matthew R. Richard



Jacob W. Long



Jordan K. Walker



John T. Guzalak



Andrew A. Folkes

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION Evidence/Crime Scene Unit



Total pieces stored within Evidence Unit **88,945**

Total requests via Help Desk tickets **2,352**

(This includes requests to check out and review evidence, analyze/process evidence, evidence supply requests, records expungements orders, releasing evidence to owners, entry into impound lot, etc.)

ATF gun traces conducted **510**

FDLE Firearm Eligibility System Checks **20**

Court Orders Executed **9**



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Individual Accomplishments



Lenny Holloway promoted to Lieutenant - Criminal Investigations Section

William Griffith promoted to Lieutenant - Crime Scene/Evidence Unit

Investigator Kyle Lowrey promoted to Sergeant

Investigator Daniel Genrich promoted to Sergeant

Investigator Nolan Weeks promoted to Sergeant

Investigator Rodney Owens promoted to Sergeant

Doug Schwall promoted to Investigator

Jessica Trimboli promoted to Investigator

Casey Isenbarger promoted to Investigator

Michael Kruger promoted to Investigator

Joseph Gordon promoted to Investigator

Demeika McClendon promoted to Investigator

Sterling Eslinger promoted to Investigator

Robert Thacker promoted to Investigator

Nicholas Grundin promoted to Investigator

Katie Parker promoted from Junior Crime Analyst to Crime Analyst

Street Crimes Unit

During the summer of 2017, the Street Crimes Unit (SCU) was re-constituted with the primary focus of targeting high crime areas and disrupting street level crimes through directed patrols and concentrated efforts. This handpicked team is comprised of experienced proactive deputies who operate as a cohesive unit to combat criminal elements throughout the county with a focus on gang activity, burglaries, violent crimes, and street level narcotic violations.

For the last six months of 2017, the SCU has been busy:

Over 2,000 proactive calls for service

More than 1000 Traffic Stops

Over 200 Citizen Contacts

Over 260 Offense Reports

Over 250 Arrests

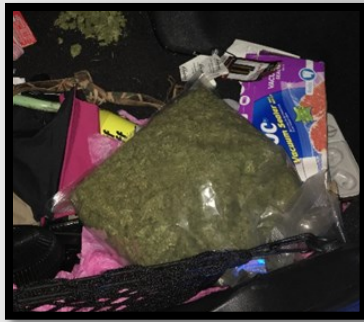
Over 50 Arrest Warrants Served

14 Search Warrants

Seized over \$74,000.00

Seized over 3,500 grams of narcotics

Seized 15 guns

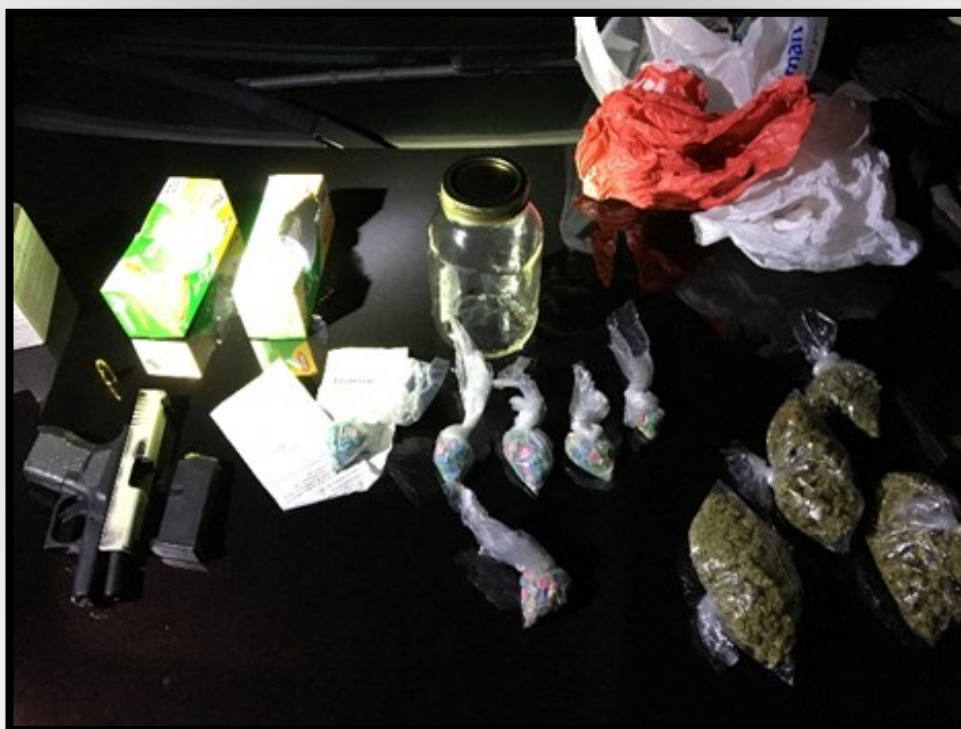




Some of the highlights of SCU's accomplishments and contributions are listed below:

On July 1, 2017 the SCU received information that a homicide involving a firearm occurred in Destin and that the suspect was possibly a vagrant who was still at large. Information was developed that lead to the identification, location, and subsequent arrest of the homicide suspect. Without the use of SCU as a "force multiplier" in covering such a large geographical area, there was no doubt that the resolution of this case would have taken longer to reach

On July 13, SCU conducted a security check at Bella Vista Apartments at 312 NE Monahan Dr, FWB. The odor of marijuana was detected in this area as well. K9 responded and alerted to the three vehicles. The narcotics unit was contacted and briefed on the parties involved and they adopted the case due to the extensive investigative efforts needed for the proper resolution of the case. Subsequent searches of the vehicles yielded drugs, illicit currency, and two firearms. Thus far, the seizure total from this case is 76g of marijuana, 1g of cocaine, 2 pills, 12 items of paraphernalia, 2 firearms, and \$69,279 in illicit currency. The main suspect in this incident has been federally indicted and is set for trial which could land him in prison for more than 30 years if convicted.



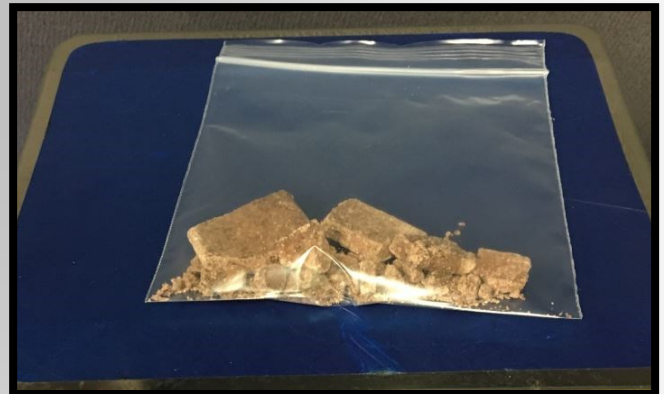
During June and July, several complaints in the area of Bob Sikes and Denton Blvd. were brought to the attention of the Sheriff's Office in reference to the open use and sale of drugs in neighborhoods. Saturation patrols resulted in numerous drug arrests and at least one weapon seizure from a suspected drug dealer. A business owner recently commended an SCU member for relieving the headache he had been experiencing around his property. The citizen advised that he has heard complaints from some of those involved that SCU keeps stopping and arresting people and they were scared to be out after dark.

SCU has been tasked with gathering intelligence in reference to gang activity/recruiting at local public functions. Events in Fort Walton Beach and Crestview have resulted in the identification of several gang members and associates. The assistance of the SROs has been crucial in the identification of those wearing gang logos, flying bandanas, and associating with the like. SCU Gang Intelligence Liaison has been tracking the information, photographs, and videos and supplying it to the investigators involved at CIS and SIS.

In November, SCU members were at a local problem hotel when they encountered two subjects acting suspiciously. One of the suspects was found to be in possession of drugs and arrested while further investigation revealed the other suspect hid two firearms upon spotting law enforcement. The guns were recovered, one was stolen and the other was an illegal short-barrel shotgun.

Also in November, a gang member ran upon contact with SCU and was chased down. He was found to be in possession of a stolen handgun along with being a person of interest in a recent homicide.

In December, SCU continued their focus on narcotics activities and seized more than 2 pounds of marijuana on a single traffic stop and approximately 90 grams of MDMA (Ecstasy) on another.



Along with patrolling the community looking for criminals, illegal weapons, and drugs, SCU members attend advanced training to further hone their skills. During this year, all 5 deputies were certified in Clandestine Laboratory Response in order to handle hazardous drug labs. Tactical schools were attended along with Search Warrant preparation and Search and Seizure seminars to aid in the safety and quality of criminal cases presented by the SCU.

To cap off a great year Sergeant Michael Rader was selected as the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Supervisor of the Year and Deputy Brandon Jennings was named the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Deputy of the Year!

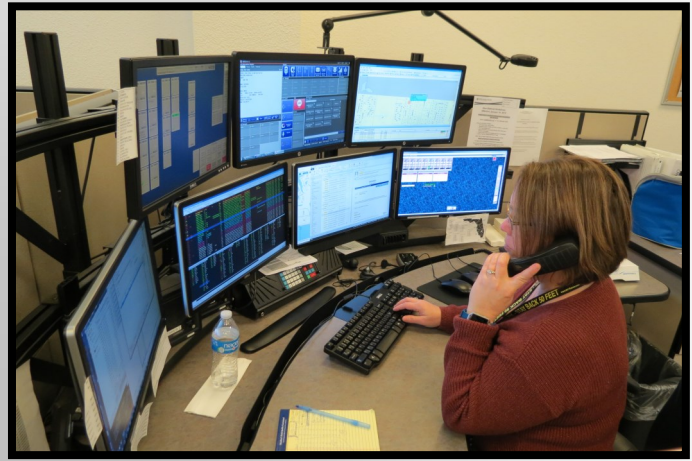
The Street Crimes Unit looks forward to continued opportunities to provide service in the community and to contribute to the safety and security of honest citizens by pursuing the predators in Okaloosa County.

Communications

As Communications processes all calls for service our total numbers are different than those included in the annual report. After removing non-reportable calls the total number is 227250 (numbers received from IT). The total administrative calls received is missing two months as there was an equipment glitch at the county level.

Grand Totals

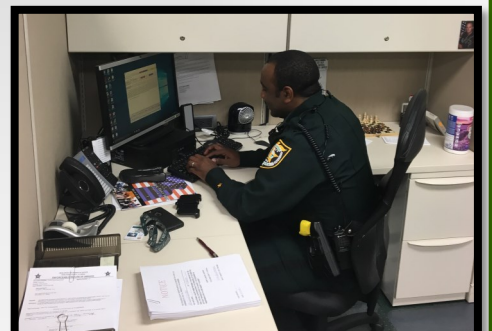
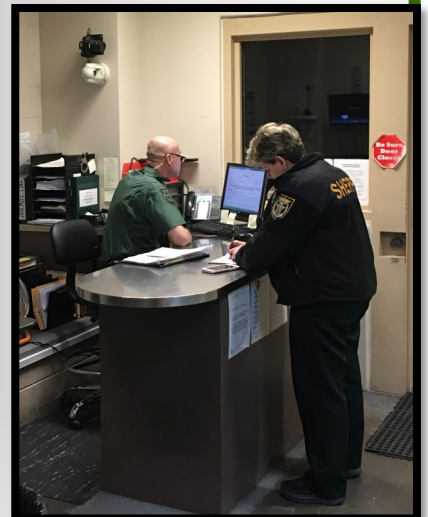
243488	Calls for Service
4042	Tow Entries
1830	Watch Orders Created
39	Alert Tone Tests
118	Fin Tests
758	Nixle Notifications
37	FCIC Certification
53	PST Certification
36	DAVID
88	Other Training
0	Reserved
646	Validations
150805	Admin Calls Received



Communications attained accreditation through the Florida Telecommunications Accreditation Commission. Our Communications Center is one of eight communications centers accredited in the state of Florida. The assessment team inspected policy and procedures, interviewed communications staff, and assessed the overall operations of the communications center.

In 2017, Communications referred 190 individuals to LifeNet Health for organ transplants. Out of the 190 referrals, 27 were suitable for donation. Out of the 27 suitable, 9 donations were made, 8 cornea donors and 1 tissue donor.





Judicial Services

Court Security/Detention

In 2017, both North and South Court Security personnel have continued working from the FWB Courthouse, The Okaloosa County Water and Sewer Building and The Brackin Building in Crestview due to the April 2016 Crestview Courthouse closure. The closure has continued to produce many challenges to both the Court Security and Detention sections of Judicial Services due to the multiple manning locations and the large inmate transports. Okaloosa County Jail personnel have been vital in assisting with the added court transports.

The new Crestview Courthouse is expected to be fully operational by October 2018.

In 2017, the Detention Section processed 21,135 subjects into the OCCAE Booking Facility an increase of 1,346 from 2016. The section also transported 12,013 inmates including those scheduled for court which is an increase of 873 from 2016. It also registered 1,364 felony/sexual offenders in 2017.

Cashless bonding was implemented in September of 2017 and an electronic prisoner transport list was recently created with a collaborative effort between Detention personnel, The Clerk of Courts and Okaloosa County Information Technology Sections.

The Water and Sewer building handled 1,362 cases or hearings in 2017 and screened 1,993 individuals through the Single Point of Entry. One item of contraband was seized.

The Brackin Building handled 261 cases or hearings in 2017 and screened 472 individuals. No items of contraband were seized.

Court Security South handled 88,091 cases or hearings; this is 5,806 more than in 2016. They screened 171,751 citizens through the Single Point of Entry; up 4,148 from 2016. This number equates to 660 people per day, or 82 per hour. They also seized 287 items of contraband or weapons.

The section also processed 777 state mandated DNAs from court and detention which were submitted to FDLE. OCSO is currently at a 99% collection rate.



Judicial Services

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 or coordinate transportation of prisoners housed in confinement institutions outside of Okaloosa County for judicial hearings. The Warrants Unit is currently managing more than 3552 outstanding warrants and orders to take into custody for the arrest of fugitives. During 2017 the Warrants Unit processed more than 7,113 warrants, 300 warrants were executed and 622 prisoners were transported at a cost of \$142,344.60.

An E-Warrants system is currently being developed with the Sheriff's Office Information Technology Systems Section from programming received from the 13th Judicial Circuit. When completed, this program will speed the approval process of search warrants and arrest warrants saving critical man-hours within the agency and judiciary.



Okaloosa's Wanted Persons

Search WANT/WARRANT

Last Name:

First Name:

Middle Name:



There are no records matching the specified criteria.

Judicial Services

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.

Public records request emails 9,734

Scanned Entries 24,381

Notice To Appear (NTA) 782

(Records has to enter all of these into the arrest module and if they are for underage drinking they have to enter the offense report and then the NTA. 720 of these are for underage drinking)

Master Name Index Records Merged 3,397

Mug shots upload by Records 2,760

Videos Compiled SA, DUI Review Board, or Public Records Request 4,318

BWC Videos uploaded 2017 224,674 uploaded 166,724 still active

Offense Reports 17,902

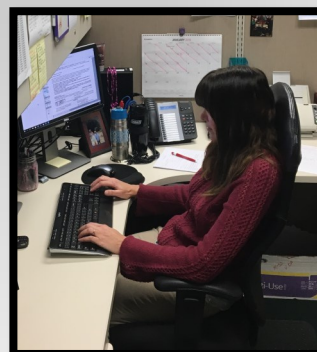
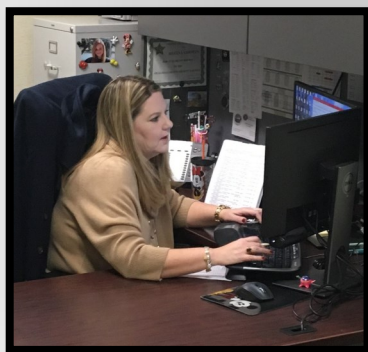
Arrests only (does not include NTA's, Warrants, or Summons) 4,813

DUI Citations 360

Traffic Crash Reports 1,428

Traffic Warnings 3,676

Traffic Citations 6,481



In 2017 the records section worked to streamline its processes more by beginning the electronic transmittal of records to the clerk of courts saving man hours and of course paper. The section with the help of Court Security and light duty personnel is converting needed older records to digital format and purging non-essential records which have met retention laws, saving thousands in storage costs. Records personnel also conducted 1,446 pre-employment/background fingerprint scans at no cost to the citizens.

Judicial Services

Civil Process

The Sheriff or his deputies are required by Florida Constitution and statutes to serve orders from the court that are delivered to him. Civil Process receipts in and process all enforceable and non-enforceable orders from the court. 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 and Attachment. Civil Process also collects the applicable service fees required by statute. Civil Process deputies also execute evictions, child custody orders, Levy's, and Replevins, seize property, and hold sales of property seized in Levy's. These are a few examples of their day to day duties.

During 2017 the Civil Process Unit:

Currently manages more than 2,076 Domestic Injunctions and protection orders

Processed and served more than 14,068 pieces of civil process

Processed and served 1,379 domestic violence and other protective orders

Processed and served 7,881 criminal subpoenas

And collected more than \$158,800 in Sheriff's Fees



Community Service and Activity

In 2017 The Okaloosa County Courthouse Annex Extension (OCCAE), hosted four Building Partnership Aviation Capacity Seminars. This portion of the military relations project is spearheaded by Judge P. Maney and has a goal of enhancing the knowledge of foreign military members to the laws and processes of the United States of America. Sheriff Ashley speaks at these seminars and our K-9 unit provides a demonstration. Various static equipment displays are presented throughout the year to highlight our agencies capabilities.

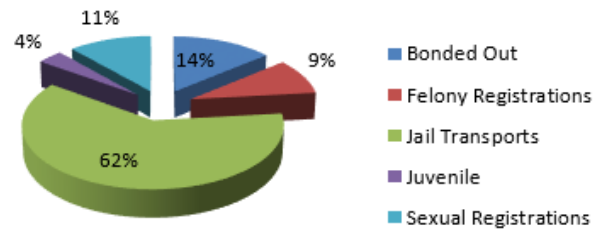
In November Court Security for the third year sponsored a blood drive with "One Blood" through the efforts of Deputy Steve Baldwin.

The men and women of the Judicial Services Division had a total of 874.5 volunteer hours for 2017. Judicial Services employees are members of or volunteer for the following organizations/activities:

Public Safety Coordinating Council, Court Emergency Management Team, First Judicial Circuit Law-Enforcement Association, OCSO Teen Driver Challenge, OCSO Sheriff's Star Charities, Guardian ad Litem, Safe Connections, Elder Services/Alternative Living, Mental Health Association of Okaloosa/Walton Counties, Crime Stoppers, Fraternal Order of Police, Shoal River Middle School Football, PATHS (Liza Jackson), Crestview High School Baseball, Baker Area Youth Association, City of Crestview Softball, USSSA Travel Softball; Okaloosa USO and Crossfit Okaloosa.

Judicial Services

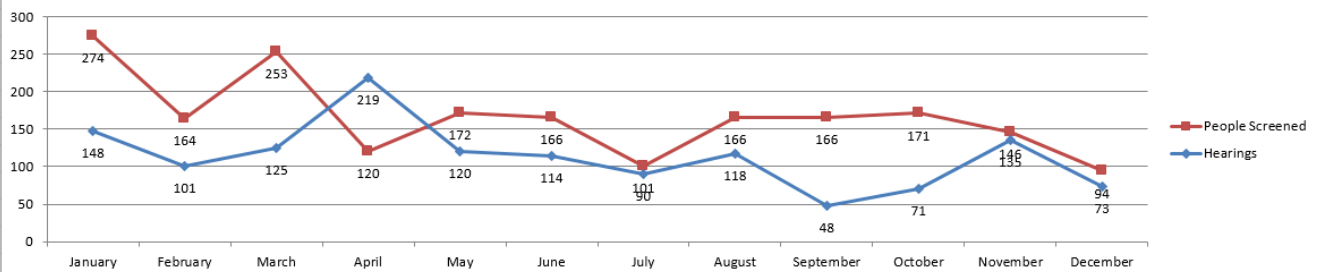
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Daily Intake	445	489	663	519	536	509	629	636	572	570	483	561	6612
Bonded Out	73	76	81	64	84	70	77	75	77	93	67	75	912
Felony Registrations	51	47	57	43	39	50	51	70	38	59	55	52	612
Jail Transports	299	301	318	340	336	309	411	395	357	339	288	345	4038
Court Inmates	567	604	579	632	706	693	687	862	662	657	712	614	7975
Juvenile	21	18	40	14	16	17	12	23	23	26	9	15	234
Sexual Registrations	44	47	71	58	59	59	82	62	79	53	64	74	752
Total Per Month	1500	1582	1809	1670	1776	1707	1949	2123	1808	1797	1678	1736	21135



2017 Water and Sewer Building Security Totals

Topics	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Hearings	148	101	125	219	120	114	90	118	48	71	135	73	1,362
People Screened	274	164	253	120	172	166	101	166	166	171	146	94	1,993
Contraband Seized/Found	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

People Screened /Hearings Held

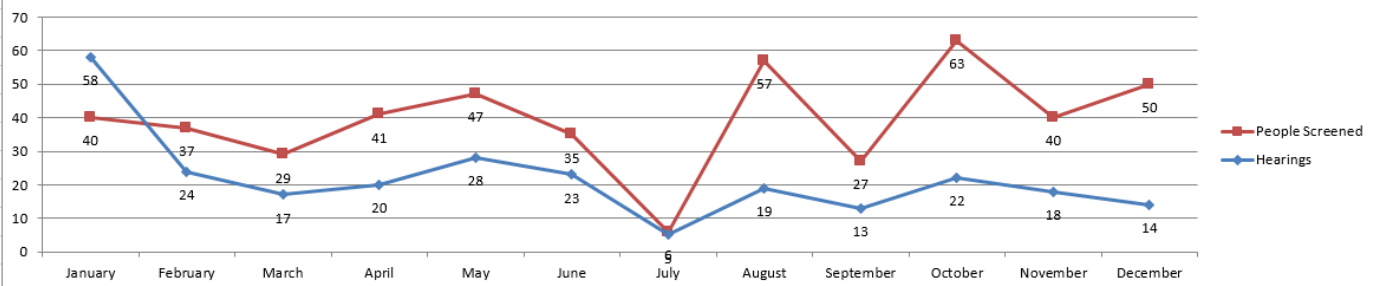


Judicial Services

2017 Brackin Building (Crestview) Security Totals

Topics	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Hearings	58	24	17	20	28	23	5	19	13	22	18	14	261
People Screened	40	37	29	41	47	35	6	57	27	63	40	50	472
Contraband Seized/Found	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

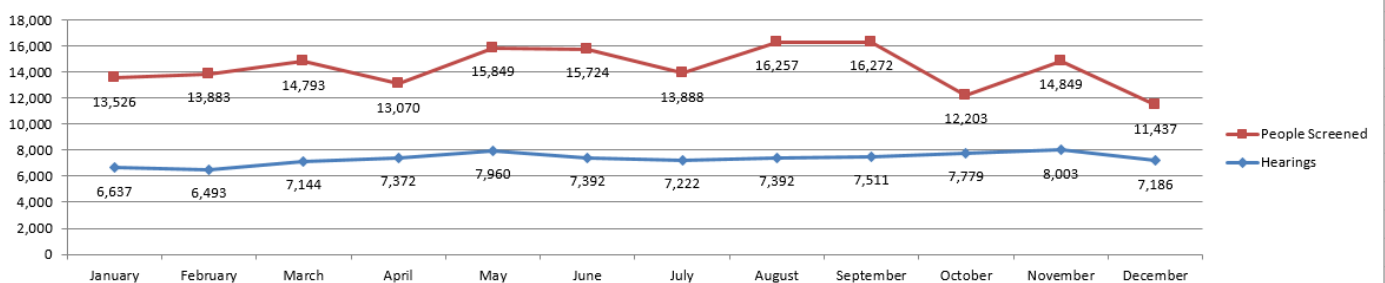
People Screened /Hearings Held



2017 South Court Security Totals

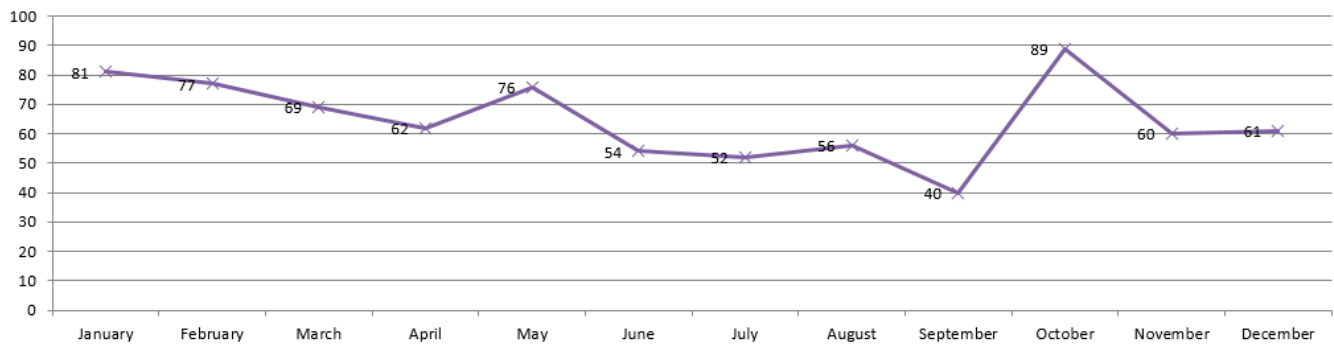
Topic	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Hearings	6,637	6,493	7,144	7,372	7,960	7,392	7,222	7,392	7,511	7,779	8,003	7,186	88,091
People Screened	13,526	13,883	14,793	13,070	15,849	15,724	13,888	16,257	16,272	12,203	14,849	11,437	171,751
Contraband Seized	19	35	23	28	24	19	21	20	27	23	26	22	287
DNA Taken (OCSO)	81	77	69	62	76	54	52	56	40	89	60	61	777
DNA Taken by OCJ	55	41	64	50	53	49	27	42	37	35	39	27	519

People Screened /Hearings Held

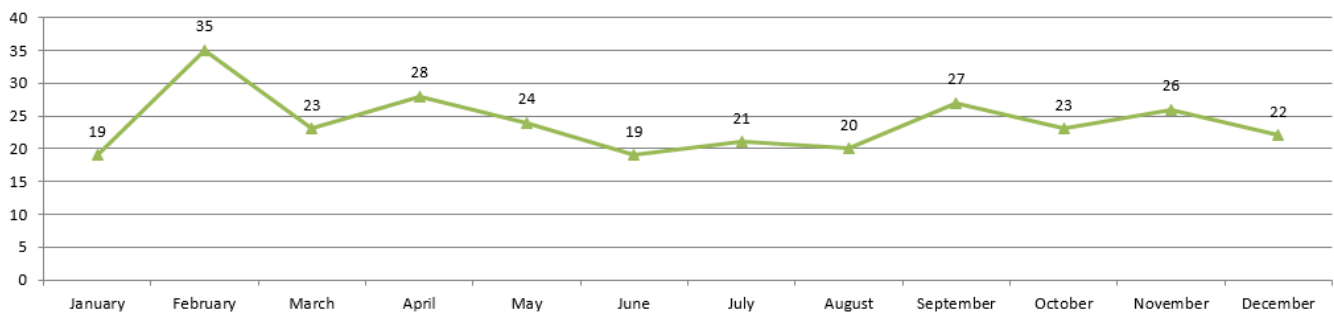


Judicial Services

DNA Taken (OCSO)



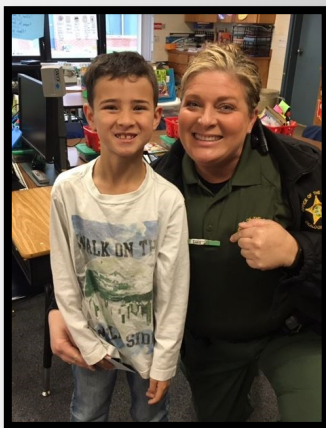
Contraband Seized



Youth Services

The Youth Services Unit School Resource Officers (SROs) 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.



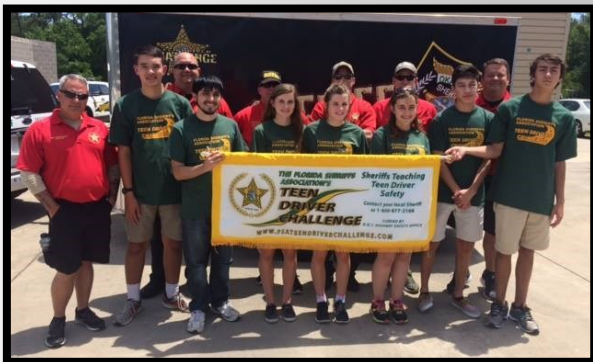
2017 turned out to be another award winning year for the Youth Services Division with Deputy Demeika McClendon winning Florida's SRO of the Year, and Deputy Sonya Shepard winning National Association of School Resource Officers Exceptional Leadership Award. Deputy Danny Dean was awarded Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office SRO of The Year. These make five state and national awards in five years for the unit.

Youth Services

The SRO program operates on multiple levels. The first priority will always remain to be the front line protection of students, staff and school property. Additionally, the SRO's remain 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 Office Explorer Program, Okaloosa Youth Week, Florida Sheriff's Association Caruth Camp, Teen Driver Challenge, School Safety Patrol, Character Counts, Books to Badges and in 2017 a new program "Pop into Reading" The unit also participated in the departments "Angel Tree" program raising over 15,000 dollars in gifts at Christmas time. In 2017, we added a coat drive, "Coats for Kids," we partnered with students and staff and were able to donate over 2,000 coats to Okaloosa County United Way.



In 2017, the unit continued its educational responsibilities by instructing in the classroom on a wide variety of subjects to include: Cyber Safety, Anti-Bullying, Texting and Driving, Teen dating and the dangers of drugs. In addition, the SRO program continued to introduce programs such as: "Books to Badges", "Character Counts", Community Service and Leadership Programs and "Pop in to Reading". SRO's travel with local students to Caruth Camp where they participate in two one' week camping sessions designed to "Bridge the Gap" between law enforcement and our youth.

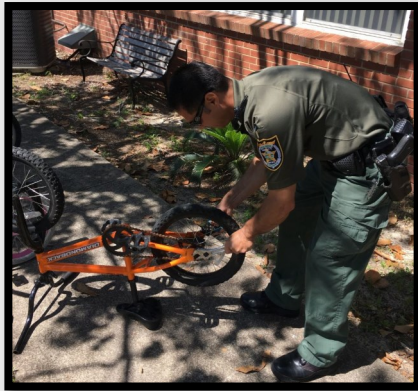


Okaloosa School Resource Officers serve year-round as instructors for the agencies "Teen Driver Challenge" (TDC), a classroom and driving range course designed to boost the driving skills of young drivers. The students who participate in the TDC are paired with a specially trained tactical driving instructor who is also a SRO. The SRO who rides in the vehicle with the student, encourages and guides them through a driving course that includes a variety of road conditions and emergency situations they may face in real life. 2017 brought a few changes with this already successful program. ZT Motors of Fort Walton Beach has partnered with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office by providing a 2017 Toyota Tundra truck and also an in kind monetary donation. This will enable us to bring even more awareness to the dangers our young drivers face. We are also working on adding an additional course utilizing impaired driving goggles.

Youth Services

In addition to protecting schools, OCSO SROs continue to monitor and verify more than 350 registered sex offenders within Okaloosa County. No other SRO unit in the state of Florida does the monitoring of offenders. Sheriff Larry Ashley turned this program over to the SRO's because who better to run it and the importance of SRO's knowing who the offenders are by facial recognition. There was 1,096 verifications attempted and over 700 offenders verified during 2017.

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.

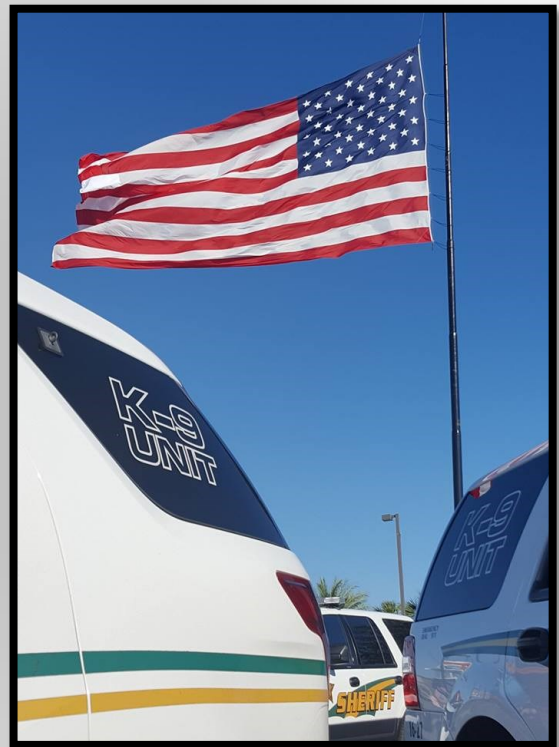


Youth Services Statistics of Interest for 2017

Offense reports generated	349
Child Abuse Investigations	202
Campus security checks	1,068
Sex Offender verifications	1,096
Teen Driver Challenge	123 Teens trained

Youth Services





K-9

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office K9 Unit currently consists of eight certified teams. Seven of the teams are dual purpose canines certified in patrol work (Search and Apprehension) as well narcotics detection. The eighth team is a single purpose canine certified in narcotic detection and is attached to the Youth Service Division.

7484	Calls for Service
1682	Traffic Stops
1288	K-9 assists
1735	Security Checks
488	Citizen Contacts
449	Narcotic Checks
170	Suspect Searches
97	Suspects located.
103	Warrant Services
516	Arrests
30	K-9 Demonstrations



As noted above the K9 Unit had a busy and productive year. In addition to protecting the streets of the county, the K9 Unit received numerous accolades from various community partners. One partnership formed was with Petland of FWB. Since partnering with the Sheriff's Office last year, Petland has provided unparalleled support for our canine partners. During the last year Petland has provided a savings of over \$1000 in food and supplies.

K-9



During the first part of 2017, the three newly acquired canines, K9 Nico (Handler- Derek York), K9 Rico (Handler- Sgt. Tony Kelly), and K9 Miro (Handler- Cutler Petersen) all completed their rigorous training schools and obtained state certification. The teams quickly took to the streets and began making a noticeable impact in the community.



K-9

In March of 2017, the United States Police Canine Association Field Trials were held in our neighboring county of Santa Rosa. The event brought more than 70 K9 teams from all over the southeast to the area to participate in a week long competition/certification. K9 Axel (Handler- Jon Duenas), K9 Bady (Handler- Elliott Howard), K9 Esuda (Handler- Joe Trimboli), and K9 Titan (Handler- Zach Putnam) competed and certified in both Patrol and Narcotics, while K9 Nico (Handler- Derek York) and K9 Gunner (Handler- Mark Nucci) competed and certified in Narcotics during the highly competitive event. K9 Axel and K9 Bady won trophies in Narcotics and Patrol.



These were not the only awards received by the K9 Unit this year, Deputy Duenas, Deputy Howard and Deputy Trimboli were recipients of multiple OCSO Outstanding Performance Awards for various cases they were instrumental in solving. Deputy Cutler Petersen was the recipient of two lifesaving awards for his quick actions resulting in the perseverance of life throughout the year.

K-9



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Deputy Howard and K9 Bady traveled to Daytona in November to attend in a National Narcotic Detector Dog Association seminar and competition. After the three day event, K9 Bady was awarded the "Top Dog Award" for the event, outshining 80 other teams from across the Nation.

K-9

The OCSO K9 Unit mourned with our brothers at the Okaloosa County Department of Corrections as one of their own canines, K9 Freckles, passed away while assisting us with a search for a wanted subject in May.



It was with great sadness, that we said good bye to three of our retired K9 partners this year. We wiped back the tears and waved farewell to K9 Drako, K9 Diesel and K9 Bak.



K-9

*Deputy Howard with a few thousand dollars,
some illegal narcotics,
and a stolen gun
he took from a drug dealer
during a traffic stop.* →



*Deputy Jon Duenas and K9 Axel, along with
Deputy Zach Putnam getting a little maritime
training in
← with our marine unit.*

*Deputy Petersen and K9 Miro
perfecting their
waterborne operations.* →



K-9

*It's a bird, it's a plane....
nope it's just K9 Rico
closing in on his target .*



*K9 Bady modeling his
new ballistic vest.
The vest was donated by
the Emerald Coast Chivers.*



*Deputy Petersen and K9 Miro
perfecting their
waterborne operations.*



K-9



← Deputy York and K9 Nico.

K9 Esuda with his
eye on the prize.

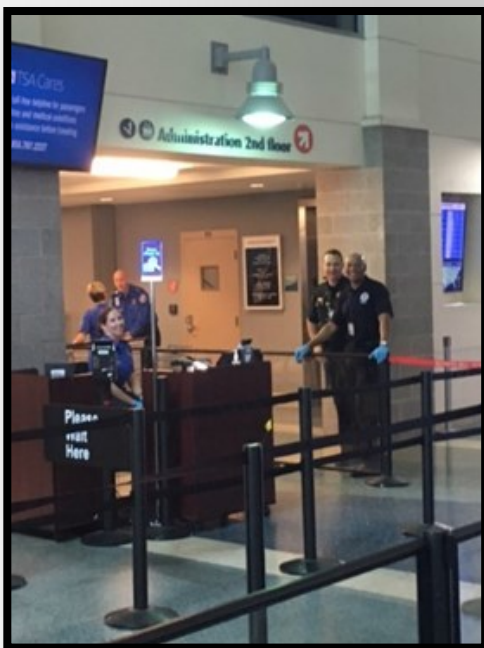


← K9 Rico taking a break from training.

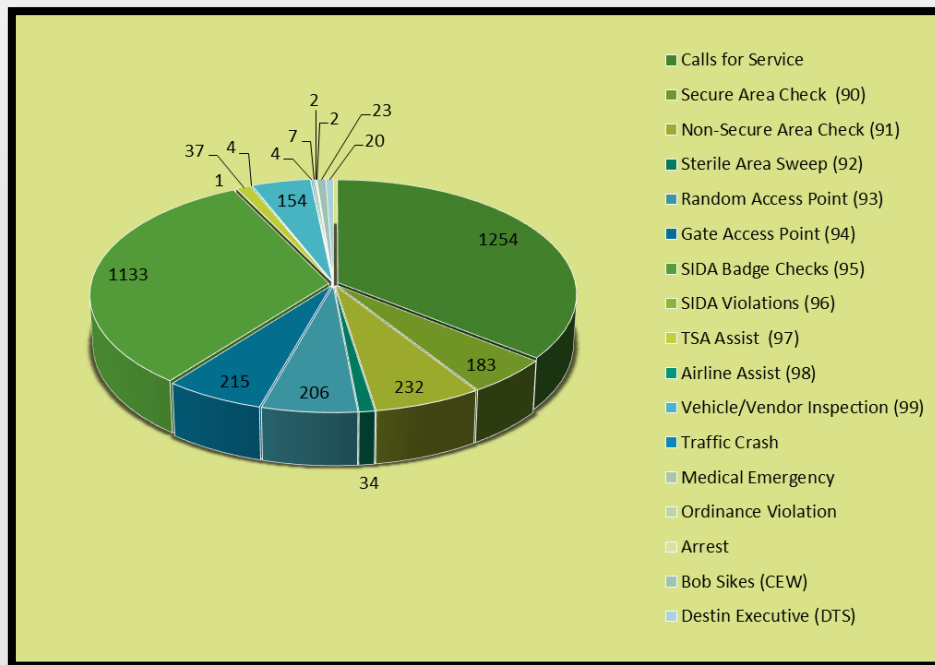
Airports Security Unit



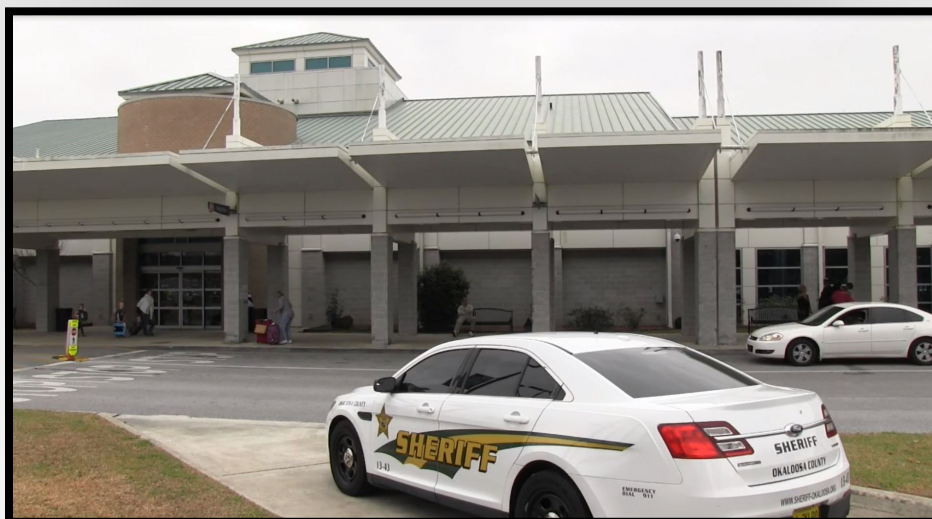
The Airport Security Unit assumed law enforcement/security responsibilities on April 1st, 2017 for all Okaloosa County Airports. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, Airport Security Unit protects and services citizens, employees, employers and travelers who transverse the Okaloosa County Airports. Members of the Airport Security Unit operate within Okaloosa County's system of three public use airports consisting of Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport (VPS), Bob Sikes Airport (CEW), and Destin Executive Airport (DTS). The Federal Aviation Administration has recognized the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport as the fastest growing airport in the US with a 30% increase in passenger traffic for 2017. The Airport facilitated over 1.1M passengers with 5 airlines and service to 26 cities.



Airports Security Unit



In 2017, during the nine months of operation, deputies assigned to Airport Security Unit responded to 9,840 calls for service, completed 98 offense reports, effected 14 arrests and recovered 4 stolen vehicles with an estimated value of \$72,600.00. Included in those totals were 446 Transportation Security Administration (TSA) assists, 1,636 Random Access Point (RAP) checks, 1,626 Gate Access Point (GAC) checks, 22 Traffic Crashes, and 60 Ordinance Violations. The OCSO-Airport Security Unit operates under an annual contract with the Airport System. The airport funds the contract through revenues generated from aviation leases, commissions, and fees, without any revenue from ad valorem or general sales taxes. Airports Director Tracy Stage said, “The OCSO-ASU transitioned and stood up operations in short time, assumed a tremendous responsibility in a critical time of record growth and most importantly, the ASU exceeds the expectations daily in professionalism, customer service and enforcement. Capabilities, law enforcement and the sheer presence of professionals changed overnight on April 1!”



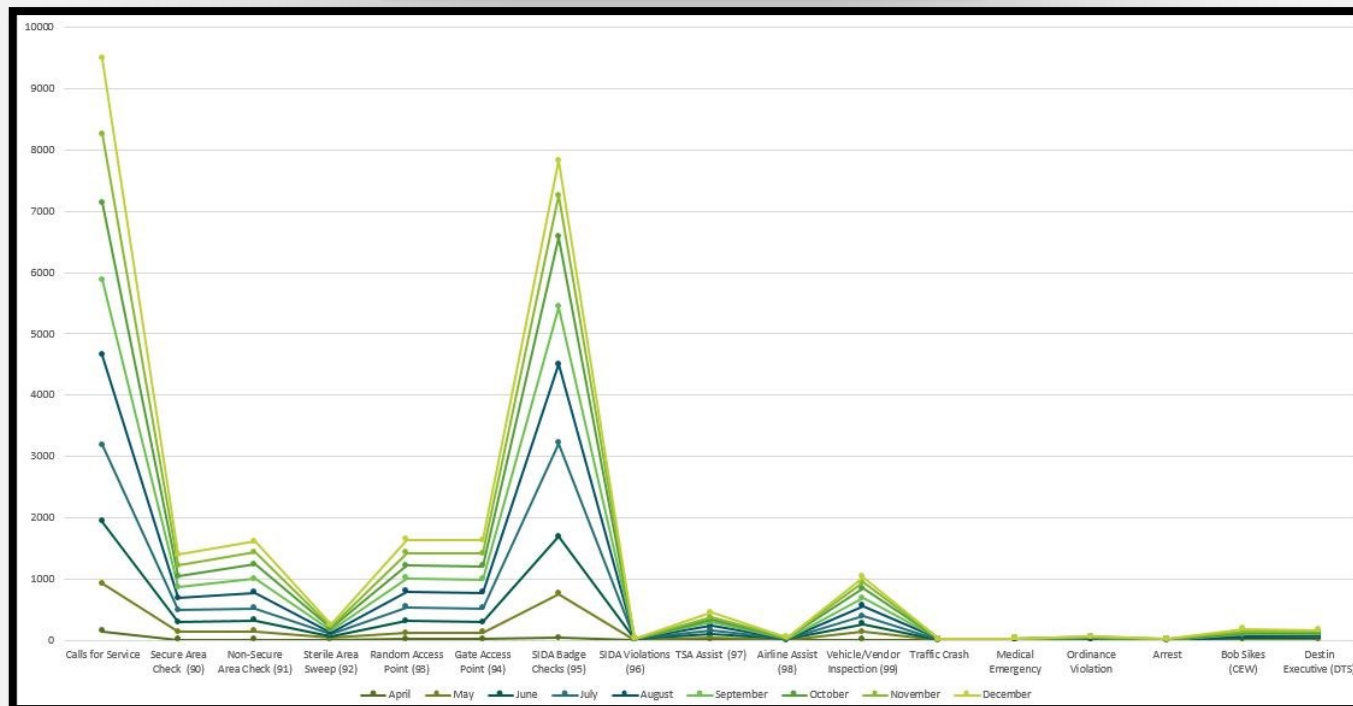
Activity	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Calls for Service				142	777	1012	1258	1460	1234	1254	1124	1232	9493
Secure Area Check (90)				9	131	154	197	199	172	183	176	175	1396
Non-Secure Area Check (91)				9	139	172	200	254	230	232	198	180	1614
Sterile Area Sweep (92)				7	27	32	32	33	30	34	31	31	257
Random Access Point (93)				18	100	197	227	257	213	206	210	208	1636
Gate Access Point (94)				19	104	166	227	254	218	215	211	212	1626
SIDA Badge Checks (95)				42	717	931	1520	1293	938	1133	686	563	7823
SIDA Violations (96)				4	7	4	0	6	1	1	1	4	28
TSA Assist (97)				5	40	58	67	73	52	37	42	72	446
Airline Assist (98)				1	9	6	6	5	5	4	4	5	45
Vehicle/Vendor Inspection (99)				12	126	126	123	167	136	154	100	82	1026
Traffic Crash				2	4	3	3	2	0	4	4	0	22
Medical Emergency				3	5	3	3	6	3	7	0	2	32
Ordinance Violation				4	5	3	16	10	7	2	9	4	60
Arrest				0	4	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	14
Bob Sikes (CEW)				11	20	5	19	9	32	23	23	39	181
Destin Executive (DTS)				7	25	17	22	19	16	20	21	19	166
Passengers (VPS)	56,061	62,481	84,915	88,343	113,648	136,265	142,328	130,878	98,528	108,399	81,967	72,081	1,175,894

Passenger Activity Level

2015 - 776,767

2016 - 915,650

2017 - 1,175,894



Fleet Maintenance

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

63 new vehicles were purchased and put into service
9 surplus vehicles sent to auction
4 donated to non-profit organizations



Mechanical Repairs

1,093 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

19 complete installs of electronics and safety equipment
173 repairs and/or partial installs of electronics and equipment
221 speedometer certifications



Finance



The Finance Department administered 17 grants last year which included timely reports and successful audits to the state. In 2017, the OCSO was awarded several new grants including the renewal of Drive Sober, COPS, Stonegarden, MetaData, Fusion and Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance.

2017 was a busy year for Finance. The addition of Fleet and Supply to our department last year kept us all on our toes as we juggled the multiple priorities this fast-paced environment demanded. We provided information that helped our agency negotiate new contracts. We assisted in developing and updating policies and operating procedures for the agency. We added another Certified Fraud Examiner to our ranks and continued to seek opportunities for self-improvement.

One of our team members left the agency after six years to follow another path. We were sad to see her go, but were happy to add another Payroll Administrator to the team. In addition, we said good-bye to our Supply Clerk who passed away unexpectedly at the beginning of December. She did so much for the agency and touched many people's lives. We will miss her for a long time to come.



In Remembrance of Cheryl Taylor
June 7th, 1961 -
December 9th, 2017

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

During the various changes, we maintained a high standard of service and professionalism. The smooth transition within our team during the spring kept us on track for another successful audit at the end of 2017.

Information Technology

Help Desk Tickets

3,399 IT Tickets were entered for 2017

Projects

Bi-Annual CJIS Audit Performed by FDLE. Overall report successfully passed with only minor adjustments required and the understanding that funding is limiting deployment of hardware at physical locations.

Netmotion Servers Updated. New Virtual Windows 2012 Servers built with the latest Netmotion VPN solution and FIPS 140-2 certificates updated. Servers were deployed with dual Internet access for redundancy.

New Virtual Server Environment Created. Deployed Latest version of VM Ware using four physical servers and a Compellant Storage unit to move 18 virtual servers and provide growth for future servers.

New SQL Server deployed. The aging server was replaced with new hardware with greater performance. Data was transferred to the new system and was designed to be standalone rather than multiple systems for the overall operation and performance. The system was further updated later to support the growth of data required by SmartCOP applications.

Body Worn Camera System Update. 5-year contract provides a technology and Hardware replacement program at the middle term of the contract. 325 cameras and associated cabling and attachments plus 35 stationary docks were replaced. As of this writing Evidence.com is storing 431,000 files with a storage space of 51 Terabytes.

Airport Unit Created. The Airport moved their security services back to the Sheriff's office. New unit required multiple desktops, printers and mobile computers to support the new team for airport command. Shortly after the installation, the entire office relocated from the main terminal to the Baldwin Building on Airport property.

Testing and Evaluating New Crash Diagram Software. Deployment scheduled for 2018 after compatibility and integration with the SmartCOP software families.

New Domain Controller. Physical hardware mounted and initial system requirements built. System will replace existing Active Directory server as the primary and take over DHCP/DNS services for the enterprise.

Annual Inventory. The in house written program for inventory input was updated from past experience to enhance the features and make input easier to update. Overall inventory was completed before the end of 2017.

Two New File Storage Servers deployed. Synology file servers have been deployed as part of a standardization of file storage. As this system is utilized, file services will be relocated to a central repository allowing the removal of multiple servers for the same purpose and allow redundancy of the data housed.

Information Technology

Several Servers Relocated. Mission critical servers have been relocated from Headquarters to more secure locations. Should a hurricane pose a threat to the area, having our mission critical servers at these locations minimizes the threat of failure due to the environmental effects.

Initial Microsoft Office 365 Rollout. IT has been working on the migration of the MS Office software to the cloud at Microsoft through the Azure secured environment. Two servers have been deployed to facilitate the migration and IT has been transitioned to Office365 to test the rollout process.

Windows 10 deployment. IT has been updating the core Windows operating systems on all machines with a goal of standardizing all systems available to end users. At this time 170 system are Windows 10 with a roughly 330 remaining systems.

Color printer Deployment. Substation locations have color printers added for minimizing the need to travel to a main office for color printout requirements.

District Office Expansion. District offices updated to allow for individual desktops for shift sergeants and growth of corporals.

Hardware Deployments

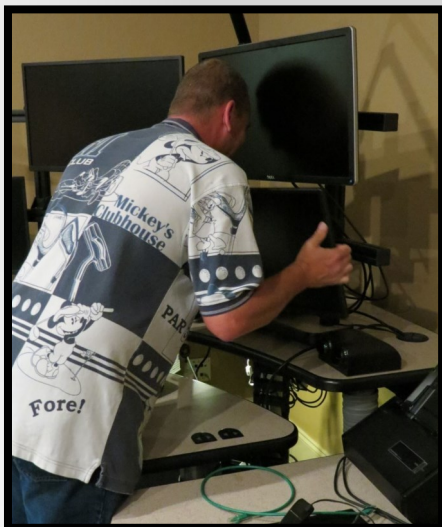
20 New desktop computers were deployed.

49 Dell Rugged mobile computers deployed.

60 Thermal mobile printers for new vehicles and retirement of ink jet type printers.

Deploy scanners for use with the agency imaging system. Additional staff have been given scanners for document entry into the imaging system.

Six Dell Network switches. These were deployed with the addition of the Airport into the network. Additional switches were added to the main distribution points due to the aging electronics at these locations.



Information Technology

Radar Certifications

166 OCSO Radars certified and another 99 certified for nine other agencies.

2017 Employee Hires Moves and Terminations

91 New Hires. New users require the creation of user accounts in Windows, SmartCOP, Home Drives, Evidence.com, phones and so on. MCT's for Deputies are prepared and simple training provided to accompany the new equipment.

151 employee moves (Include FTO to Assignments/Promotions/Transfers). Requires account changes, permissions set, and peripheral equipment assigned or collected to support the new position.

Facilities

Normal maintenance of all 14 Sheriff's office facilities. 188 Facilities help desk tickets.

Major accomplishments for 2017:

Headquarters main lobby expansion.

Water intrusion abatement at Headquarters.

Firing range, renovation of the berms on the small arms and rifle range. Replacing aged railroad ties with approximately 255 new railroad ties.

Relocating a building on the range property for future use.

Moving agency physical abilities course (PAT) from NWFSC to the range property. An area of the range property had to be cleared for the course. With help from the Training section the course layout, size of obstacles and distance between the obstacles the area was mapped out at the new location.



Office of Professional Standards

Professional Development Unit

Office of Professional Standards Professional Development Unit and 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 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 2017 the following deputies achieved Career Deputy 1 status:

Deputy Michael Jacobs
Deputy Randall Joiner
Deputy Sonya Shepard
Deputy TJ Bye
Deputy Trey Ellison

In 2017 the following deputies achieved Career Deputy 2 status:

Deputy James Reeves

The following attended advanced leadership training in 2017:

Captain Charlie Nix – FCJEI Senior Leadership Program
Communication Supervisor Marcia Wolford - FCJEI Florida Leadership Academy
Sergeant Grady Carpenter – FFCJEI Florida Leadership Academy
Sergeant Dennis Fields – FCJEI Florida Leadership Academy
Sergeant Chad Rewis – FCJEI Florida Leadership Academy
Sergeant John Merchant – NWFSC Leadership Okaloosa
Lieutenant William Griffith – NWFSC Leadership Okaloosa
Lieutenant Kevin Kirkpatrick - Florida Sheriff's Association Commander's Academy



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 has now been 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 five two-day Citizens Firearms Safety Courses, training 107 citizens.

In 2017, OCSO employees attended 14,000 training hours outside of our agency and 6,385 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.

3,256 hours of online training programs were completed through various websites outside of the agency. Internally, our own "PowerDMS" virtual training system provided 2,682 hours of online training, saving the agency literally thousands of dollars in tuition, travel and instructor costs, while also reducing manpower shortages and/or overtime costs.



Other Professional Development Accomplishments in 2017

Partnered with Fort Walton Beach Medical Center to become an American Heart Association Training Site, developed in-house instructors, and began offering classes to all employees on Basic Life Support to include CPR and the use of AEDs.

Partnered with the Northwest Florida State College, Public Safety Department, to host an Auxiliary Law Enforcement Academy for citizens who were interested in seeking to become auxiliary law enforcement officers. This was the first such academy in over 7 years and required over 320 hours of training per citizen. OCSO supported NWFSC by sponsoring citizens who expressed an interest in joining the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Posse, providing uniforms and ammunition, and agency adjunct instructors who volunteered their time to teach the required Auxiliary Law Enforcement Officer courses.

Collaborated with OCSO Homeland Security Inspector to update the Active Threat Policy, update current tactics being taught to law enforcement and coordinated with local fire departments and Emergency Medical Services the develop Tactical Rescue Team Training. Funding was also allocated to provide all sworn Deputy Sheriffs with ballistics rifle plates, helmets and trauma kits to deal with active threat situations.

Managed the Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP), which is the initial on the job training program for newly hired deputies. The FTEP is a court tested and E.E.O.C. consistent program because it is part of the selection process. It reduces civil litigation alleging negligent hiring and retention of trainees and is a cost-effective way of eliminating non-effective, non-productive personnel. 70 sworn members entered the program in 2017. Recruited and helped develop successful Field Training Officers as part of OCSO FTEP.

Professional Compliance and Accreditation Section 2017

Accreditation

In November, the Sheriff's Office Communications Section received its initial accreditation award through the Florida Telecommunications Accreditation Commission. Accreditation team members prepared proofs of compliance for inspection by FLA-TAC assessors during their September onsite visit. This award required compliance with 80 standards emphasizing best practices for communication centers. All members demonstrated skillful command in their area of responsibility enabling the assessment to conclude with a "100% in compliance" stamp of approval.

Agency-wide, the OCSO prepared for and completed its 2nd year remote assessment by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), a national accrediting body. No issues were noted during this assessment by a CALEA compliance service member as the OCSO continued its commitment to best practices and the accreditation process.



Chaplaincy

The Sheriff's Office volunteer Chaplain Corps continues to serve the members of the organization and community alike. Through services such as counseling and training, the chaplains build rapport and address the emotional needs of first responders. Programs such as Angel Tree and Coats for Kids allow the chaplains to interact with the community in a positive way.

In 2017, our Chaplains coordinated the sponsorship of 105 children in need through the Angel Tree program and the collection of 2350 coats for kids! This amazing feat was made possible by participation agency wide. The Chaplains contributed over 2800 hours of service which included officiating four weddings, facilitating the Life Lessons Over Lunch program, hospital visits, and death notifications.



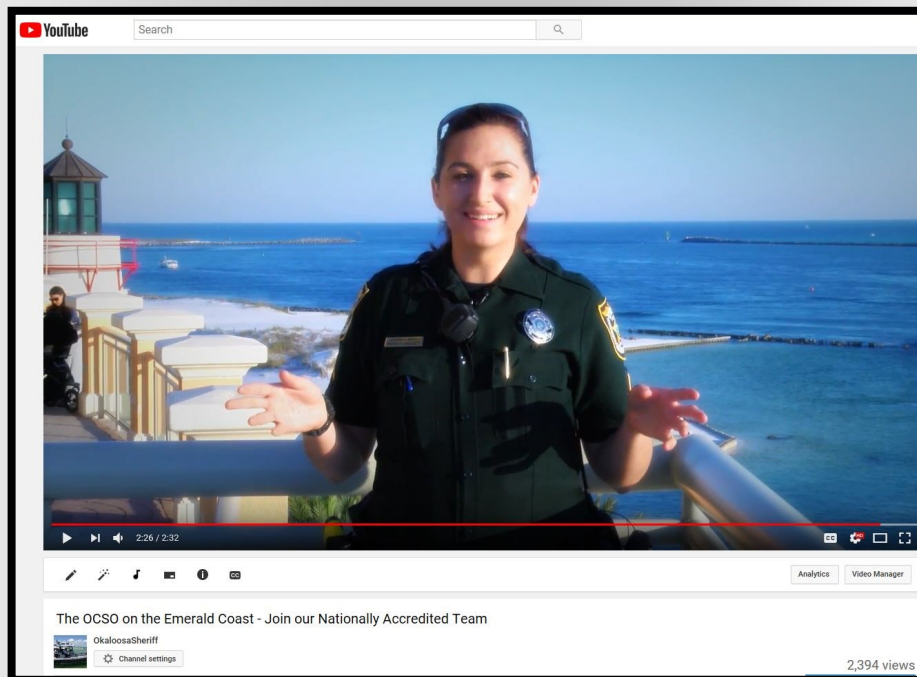
Human Resources Unit

The OCSO Human Resources Unit (HR) is committed to the effective design of regulated systems that ensure a pool of talented employees was available to provide the law enforcement needs of Okaloosa County. OCSO HR unit 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 to over 300 sworn members and about 100 non-sworn civilian employees.

During 2017 the OCSO HR unit was responsible for filling 66 sworn deputy vacancies. The unit culled through approximately 254 applications to ensure only the most qualified person was hired. The unit also sorted through about 155 applications in order to fill 24 non-sworn civilian member vacancies. On average, it took about 30 days to fill a vacant position. The unit also facilitated the promotional processes for Corporal, Investigator, and Sergeant.

Secondary Employment

In 2017, 204 OCSO deputies covered 5,635 secondary employment jobs totaling over 34,000 hours. These jobs represent requests from the community for off duty services in neighborhoods, condos, local businesses, highways, churches, entertainment venues and schools. July proved to be the busiest month for requests with over 600 jobs scheduled for the month. The secondary employment coordinator does a fabulous job arranging coverage with less than 0.07% of these voluntary assignments going unfilled.



Recruiting

All members of the OCSO, knowingly or not, participate in recruiting as they perform their responsibilities with a level of professionalism and esprit de corps coveted by career seekers in the field of public safety. However, 44 have completed specialized training preparing them to represent the agency at various events and venues across the southeast. In 2017, recruitment teams attended 26 job fairs, 24 law enforcement academy and equivalency of training classes, along with several venues with an emphasis on diversity in the workforce. The OCSO continues to seek qualified candidates to “Be the Difference” in our community through service in sworn or civilian roles within the agency. Are you up for the challenge?

Crime Prevention

2017 was a year of challenges for the Crime Prevention Unit. In March, the OCSO lost long-time volunteer Frank "Pop" Spinella and in December, Jack Howard. The positive impact and selfless service given by these two will be remembered.

The OCSO Crime Prevention Unit is made up of two certified Crime Prevention employees, Ashley Bailey and Natasha Hall. Crime Prevention Manager Ashley Bailey has worked in the Crime Prevention Unit for thirteen years and has started numerous programs and services. She attended the 2017 Southern States Crime Prevention Conference, certification class for Crime Prevention Practitioner, National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children training class, 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.

In 2017 the Crime Prevention Unit completed:

65 Various Safety Presentations reaching approximately 2,330 citizens in Okaloosa County

60 Community Events

8 Neighborhood Watch Meetings

13 week Citizens Academy with 44 graduates

Attended 68 Community, Chamber breakfasts, luncheons, networking events, and Businesses Empowered Meetings

Attended monthly meetings for:

Department of Juvenile Justice Community

Anti-Drug Coalition

Emerald Coast Public Relations Organization

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Bear Biologist (Quarterly)



Crime Prevention

The Crime Prevention Unit assisted Sheriff Ashley in contacting all churches in Okaloosa County for church safety and security meetings in November. Approximately 200 church pastors and security team members attended the meetings. Sheriff Ashley gave information on what churches can do to protect themselves from crime. In addition, the unit worked with 16 local churches to develop church safety and security plans based on an assessment of their specific venue. The Crime Prevention Unit conducted security assessments of other properties including businesses and county and municipal buildings as well.

The Crime Prevention Unit partnered with Nextdoor.com to improve communication about crimes occurring in neighborhoods. Nextdoor.com is a private social network where individuals can communicate about issues happening in their neighborhood. Participation in Nextdoor.com has surpassed 12,870 residents throughout Okaloosa County.

The Crime Prevention Unit aided in promoting and scheduling 10 Teen Driver Challenge sessions where 119 Okaloosa County students learned defensive driving skills from deputies co-certified as DHSMV driving instructors.

The Okaloosa Sheriff's Office Volunteers completed a total of 3,019 volunteer hours for the year! The service-oriented mindset of Okaloosa County residents is truly appreciated. Much can be accomplished when many contribute.

The OCSO General volunteers gave a total of 1,811 hours helping the Sheriff's Office with office work, the Citizens Firearms Class, Hostage Negotiations Unit, and the Crime Prevention Unit with numerous community events.

Volunteers Master Joe Cayer and Master Tom Gordon provided 3 Free Women's Self-defense Classes and 3 Kid's Self-defense Classes. Individuals were able to choose between the Fort Walton Beach or Crestview classes.

8 RSVP volunteers gave 56 hours performing 6 CODY Checks on 95 juveniles on probation in the East and Central Districts.

Mrs. Sandra Gainey, an Okaloosa County school teacher, volunteered with the OCSO in 2017 to teach 22 deputies an Advanced Report Writing course.



Public Information



2017 was an award-winning year for the Public Information Office. The Northwest Florida Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association named it the 2017 Non-Profit Communicator of the Year for its Image Innovation Awards. The PIO Unit was honored for providing essential communications to the public in way that “shows law enforcement in a positive light” with content that included a post that garnered more than 13 million views on Facebook alone.

The section worked with a producer out of Pensacola to put together a new agency recruitment video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wBL5rAEOhoo>, disseminated approximately 250 news releases, and approached 60,000 followers on the agency Facebook page as well as nearly 6000 on Twitter. More than forty new videos were uploaded to YouTube which now tops 9,500 subscribers and has acquired more than five and a half million video views.

In addition to assisting local, state, and national news media with local stories, the PIO Unit also took part in supporting numerous agency involvements with non-profit organizations.



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.



Record-breaking number of tips received: 1,249

Cases Cleared: 78

Arrests: 69

Rewards Approved: \$19,875

Property & Narcotics Recovered: \$193,345



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 2017 the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Posse averaged between 26 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 101 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 9,718 hours of service in 2017, 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 2017.



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. Halloween and Christmas Neighborhood Patrols

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 ----- 7 details

February ----- 5 details

March ----- 4 details

April ----- 16 details

May ----- 13 details

June ----- 10 details

July ----- 3 details

August ----- 5 details

September ----- 12 details

October ----- 14 details

November ----- 7 details

December ----- 5 details

Total details – 101

Total detail hours – 1,455



2017 Average Posse membership level is – 20 Auxiliary members certified to carry a weapon.

TOTAL POSSE HOURS FOR 2017 – 9,718



Mounted Posse

The 28 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 while contributing more than 1,200 total volunteer hours.

12 community events

12 Meeting

7 trainings



OCSO Explorer Post 543



In 2017 OCSO Explorer Post 543 stayed busy with community service projects. The Explorers continue to set an example by providing invaluable services to the community, and to the country. Every year an annual conference is held in the state of Florida. During this conference the Explorers are tested on a wide range of law enforcement topics. In 2017 Okaloosa County Explorers brought home numerous first place trophies. We are excited as we look into 2018 where we will be hosting the annual conference. We currently have 19 Explorers in the post.



2017 Awards!



Employee Recognitions

2017 DEPUTY OF THE YEAR



In June 2017, Deputy Brandon Jennings elected to transfer from Patrol to the proactive and fast-paced work of the newly reconstituted Street Crimes Unit. This unit is tasked with targeting predator offenders within the county. The majority of the work is self-generated and demands highly motivated personnel. Deputy Jennings' new responsibilities include surveillance, identifying, investigating, interviewing, and ultimately arresting criminals responsible for drug dealing, gang activity, burglaries, and robberies. Deputy Jennings' work ethic and selflessness have greatly contributed to the success and impact of his new unit.

In 2017, Deputy Jennings conducted more than 180 traffic stops, investigated over 120 criminal complaints and made more than 100 arrests. These numbers portray a very active deputy but are even more impressive given that Deputy Jennings spent five of the last twelve months training six new deputies, logging nearly 700 hours of field training.

Since being assigned to SCU, Deputy Jennings has continued devoting himself to the community and his fellow deputies. Several coworkers have expressed their appreciation for Deputy Jennings' assistance and hard work by staying several hours past the end of shift to help them with cases, several of them involving gun seizures and narcotics trafficking. It does not bother him to work an 18-hour day just to return a few hours later to start all over again.

Deputy Jennings led this very active unit with 400 calls for service in 2017. He was the top performer in traffic stops, narcotics investigations, probable cause arrests, security checks and warrant services.

Employee Recognitions

2017 DEPUTY OF THE YEAR

Knowing that our County has experienced a wave of gang related, violent crimes, Deputy Jennings volunteered to become the SCU Gang Liaison. In this role he communicates with other members of the Sheriff's Office and local law enforcement agencies to gather intelligence and collaborate efforts to combat gang activity. Local residences and businesses have been identified for gang member locations due to his efforts. Deputy Jennings has authored numerous reports related to gang intelligence and counter measures that he and his fellow SCU deputies have undertaken. Using various investigative techniques at his disposal, he was able to coordinate the surveillance and photographing of gang members in different settings which led to their identification. As a result, 20 local gang members have been identified along with 8 gang members being arrested for various drug and gun charges. With this intelligence, he and his fellow deputies have seized 15 firearms, more than 3500 grams of narcotics, and \$74,000 in illicit currency in just six months.

In addition to Deputy Jennings' regular law enforcement duties, he is also a member of the OCSO Honor Guard which proudly represents the Sheriff's Office at law enforcement Line of Duty Death funerals and dignitary functions across the Southeast. This assignment is very physically and emotionally taxing, but Deputy Jennings does not shirk his duty to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice. During 2017, Deputy Jennings has attended 5 LODD funerals and Presentation of the Colors events and conducted dozens of hours of training for these noble occasions.

Deputy Jennings does his fair share of locking up the bad guys and he takes the time to mentor less-experienced deputies. His devotion to the safety of the community is well-evidenced by his high productivity and dedication to making sure the job gets done. Deputy Jennings epitomizes the best that the Sheriff's Office has to offer and is our 2017 Deputy of the Year.



2017 INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR



Kelly is a “Rock Star” Investigator! She is consistent, professional, and thorough. She is assigned to the Crimes Against Children Section and is tasked to investigate the most difficult cases we encounter. In 2017, she investigated 55 Child Abuse cases, 4 unattended deaths, 2 homicides, 1 home invasion robbery, 23 sexual batteries (20 involved child victims) and 16 Lewd/Lascivious molestation cases all involving children, some as young as 3 years old.

In November she was tasked as the lead investigator into one of the most difficult cases in recent memory, the murder of three-year-old Adelynn Merrell. Initially dispatched as a possible abduction, Kelly took on the tasks of assessing the scene and interviewing the mother. She quickly realized the scene did not support the abduction theory and saw through the mother's story. She challenged the mother with the facts and convinced her to tell her the truth. Her outstanding interview skills and empathy led the mother to confess that her boyfriend had murdered the child and dumped her body in the woods. While this was a team effort, Kelly's tenacity and ability to remain focused and calm, while under extreme pressure, directly lead to the solving of this case and the quick arrest of all guilty parties.

Less than a week later, she was selected to take the lead in a second homicide, where the suspect hid the victim's body behind a makeshift wall in the home. While still juggling the tasks associated with the previous case, she took the lead and was able to work through this very confusing case and develop probable cause to believe the suspect murdered her husband. Kelly's ability to multi-task, stay focused, and see the investigation through to the end led directly to the solving of this homicide.

Given the timeline of these two cases, Investigator Henderson testified in both cases before the Grand Jury on the same day. That is an incredible feat! Both of these offense reports were approximately 75 pages in length with over 1850 pieces of evidence. Her astonishing intellect and ability to recall information and convey facts in a convincing and understandable manner directly led to first-degree murder indictments in both cases.

Investigator Henderson is hardworking, conscientious, and sincere and gives 100% of herself in all endeavors. She makes sound decisions and takes the initiative to take on the most difficult investigations. Kelly is the epitome of our profession. She is a great representative of what an investigator should be to the community and she is our 2017 Investigator of the Year.

2017 SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

Sergeant Mike Rader was assigned to the Special Operations Division Street Crimes Unit in December 2016 and tasked with standing up the new unit. Although not fully staffed until June 2017, his unit has made a year's worth of impact in its six months of existence.

Mike did not spend his time idly waiting. He spent 6 months working with the Narcotics Unit, preparing for his team, arranging training, researching problem areas and people, forming Operating Procedures, and obtaining equipment.

Through Sgt. Rader's leadership and innovation the Street Crimes Unit has noticeably impacted violent crime in Okaloosa County. They initiated more than 1800 proactive calls including 750 traffic stops, 200 citizen contacts, 190 narcotic violations, and 90 warrant services, netting over 200 arrests. They have seized large quantities of dangerous drugs, \$75,000 in cash, and taken 6 guns off the street. They also identified 20 possible gang members arresting several for various gang related crimes.



His team has been tasked with narcotics and burglary suppression, riot control duties, called on to assist Patrol, Fugitive Warrants, and the Narcotics Unit. They have seen great results. They were directly responsible for attempting over 90 warrants, capturing 45 of these individuals. An outstanding 50% capture rate of persons attempting to avoid arrest.

Sgt. Rader has coordinated with local municipalities and initiated an Information Sharing network that has allowed agencies to work together to fight street level criminal activity in our communities. This cross-flow of information has increased effectiveness across jurisdictional lines. This effort has led to the formation of a dynamic Joint Task Force concentrating on the criminal element who don't recognize borders.

2017 SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

Sergeant Rader has personally trained each member of his unit. He has taken six experienced patrol deputies and formed a cohesive and highly effective element that rapidly adapts to each mission they have been handed. He has sent each member to courses that brought asymmetric skills to the unit. Mike himself attended courses, completed self-study, and attended the Drug Unit Commander Course.

He is constantly involved in educating and training. He stays current on case law and law enforcement techniques and researches local and national trends. Sgt. Rader personally set up a 4th Amendment Search and Seizure training seminar that brought in the Florida Prosecuting Attorney's Association to educate nearly 100 law enforcement officers and prosecutors from around the state on case law and trends involving Search and Seizure. This seminar was lauded as being timely, relevant and helpful in clearing up issues and confusion created by ever changing case law.

Sgt. Rader is a counselor and mentor committed to developing his team members, preparing them for advancement. In fact 3 out of his 5 assigned personnel are now on the promotion roster for investigations.

To top it all off, Sgt. Rader has been mentoring a troubled student, acting as a role model and spending his own time and money in an effort to turn the tide for this young man.

Sgt. Mike Rader is an exemplary leader and is our Supervisor of the Year for 2017.



2017 SRO OF THE YEAR



Deputy Sonya Shepard has served with the sheriff's office since 2004 and as an SRO since 2013. She has proven to be the essence of what a School Resource Officer is. Deputy Shepard has founded several community service and civic clubs within Destin Elementary School that merit mention:

The Junior Deputy Leadership Posse is for students who have earned membership through a selection process that involves parents and key staff members. These students meet with Deputy Shepard quarterly to consider conditions at school and they assist with organizing events like Science Night, Reading Under the Stars, Fall Festival, Field Day, and the Color Run. Deputy Shepard has successfully mentored 100 future leaders through this program.

The AAA National Certified School Safety Patrol Program is comprised of 26 students per year who have various responsibilities throughout the day. These students assist Deputy Shepard in the walkways and bus ramps by reminding other students to be safe. These Safety patrol students are role models and peer mentors for others.

The Character Counts Program. A student showing good character at school is rewarded with a Character Coin by staff members. 3 coins gets the student into Deputy Shepard's treasure box. 5 coins gets them a day wearing "Junior Deputy for the Day" vest with a Jr. Deputy Badge. They meet with Deputy Shepard in the morning for foot patrol, take pictures with her and the Principal and in the patrol car. They are interviewed by the media club and highlighted in the school morning show. 175 students have been recognized in this way.

Books 2 Badges is a parent community service role modeling program. By volunteering in the school library, parents or other adults close to a student demonstrate community service and the importance of giving back. When a parent logs 20 hours on their Dolphin Stamp card, their student can be Jr Deputy for the Day. As a result, the School has logged almost 1,400 volunteer hours in the library to date.

These are just three of Deputy Shepard's programs that are still running strong today. She also takes time to teach on various topics and reads to the children on a daily basis.

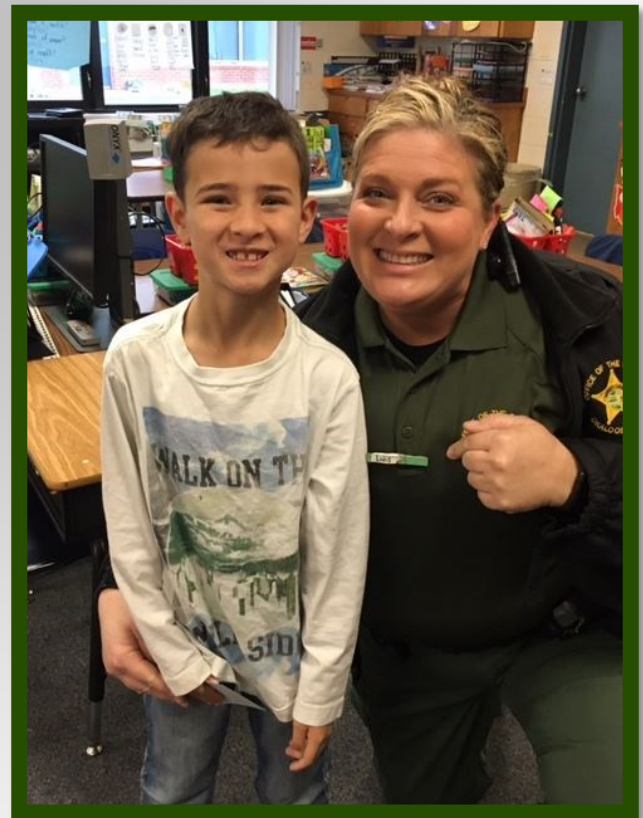
2017 SRO OF THE YEAR

Recently, Deputy Shepard became aware of a school family who had escaped a domestic violence situation in another state and had moved into an apartment in Destin. Deputy Shepard reached out to the family and found that they were in desperate need. They had been forced to flee with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Deputy Shepard immediately began working with her many community partners. In three days, she was able to provide them with all necessary household goods, clothes, gas cards, gift cards and much more. This is but one example of Deputy Shephard's huge heart, resolve and organizational abilities.

Deputy Shepard is the lead every year in the scheduling, recruiting & organizing vendors for the annual Youth Week. Also, Deputy Sheppard collected over 300 Coats for Kids this year for the United Way. This inspired one of her Character Counts students to donate all of her birthday money to purchase 20 new coats.

Through her program implementation, teaching and mentoring, Deputy Shepard has maintained a high level of respect from the students, parents and staff of her school. She continues to tirelessly and selflessly commit herself to the safety and development of her kids.

Deputy Shepard has achieved Career Deputy 1 and proudly serves as a Crisis Negotiation Unit Negotiator. Deputy Sonya Shepard is our 2017 School Resource Officer of the Year.



SWORN OUTSTANDING PERFORMER OF THE YEAR



Deputy Robby Naylor was hired in 2012 assigned to C-shift Central. Deputy Naylor has been a Field Training Officer since 2014 and in 2017 he trained 11 newly hired deputies accumulating 1,812 training hours. Due to his commitment and skill he is relied upon as a premier agency trainer. Deputy Naylor has also instructed many inter-agency training & orientation classes for newly hires to prepare them for their careers. His expertise as an FTO and trainer was also recognized by the State of Florida when he was selected as a member of FDLE's training committee. This committee hosted a seminar to assist in reforming the Basic Recruit Training Program for the entire state developing curriculum for 40 Criminal Justice Training Centers.

Notwithstanding D/S Naylor's efforts in training the next generation, he also creates time for his own professional development and completed 160 hours of specialized career development training in 2017.

In addition to Robby's training commitments, he has arrested 31 law violators and generated 68 offense reports. He responded to or assisted in approximately 2,046 calls for service in addition to those calls his trainees received credit for under his tutelage. His activity is amazing considering nearly 83% of his duty time in 2017 was spent as an FTO.

Deputy Naylor is also assigned as a member of the Clandestine Laboratory Response Team responding to dismantle illicit narcotic laboratories and dispose of hazardous materials.

Robby is also active in the community as a member of the All Sports Association benefitting the area youth.

For these reasons and more, Deputy Sheriff Robby Naylor is our Sworn Outstanding Performer of 2017.

JUDICIAL SERVICES OUTSTANDING PERFORMER OF THE YEAR

Candice Gilbert has worked for the Sheriff's Office since 2011. She started as a Communications Officer and then transferred to the Records Department as the digital media clerk.

Ms. Gilbert is the sole clerk responsible for the review, building and sharing of evidence.com cases. In 2017 she managed more than 225,000 video uploads. She compiled a total of 4,818 cases, an average of 401 a month.

Ms. Gilbert also processes all criminal, DUI and handwritten citations for the agency - there were 714 this year. For criminal citations and DUI's, she manages evidence.com video files, mug shots and arrests reports. For DUI's specifically, she compiles all evidence and burns it to DVD format for the Bureau of Administrative Review. Ms. Gilbert also had to manually convert all 327 handwritten citations into our Mobile Forms System.

Ms. Gilbert ensures each arrest record contains a mugshot in our Master Index. Any arrests where the suspect has their photo taken at the jail, require Ms. Gilbert to obtain the mugshot from the jail and import it into our system. In 2017, she added 2,393 mugshots into Master Index.

Ms. Gilbert is currently working on a project with IT to reconcile records in Mobile Forms with their respective Master Index jacket dating back to 2012. This includes almost 500 crashes and multiple other Mobile Forms files that failed to link to local jackets at the time of creation. She has since implemented a daily redundancy check system with IT to catch failures to maintain the most accurate records.

Ms. Gilbert responds to public records requests and interacts with other organizations and individuals on a daily basis with courtesy and professionalism. These requests require astute attention to detail, as she must watch every second of video to determine what needs to be redacted to comply with Florida's Public Records laws.

Candace Gilbert is truly an asset to our agency and is our 2017 Judicial Services Division Outstanding Performer of the Year.



NON-SWORN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



Amber Milonas is assigned as a Human Resources (HR) Generalist and has demonstrated extraordinary professionalism and dedication performing her duties.

After a reorganization of the HR Unit, Mrs. Milonas stepped forward as a peer leader. Although assigned to HR for less than two years she never wavered in making sound decisions involving the Unit as it served the agency and its members.

Entering 2017, there was a serious shortfall in sworn member staffing. As a member of the Sheriff's Office Recruiting committee, Amber assumed a key role in identifying recruiting sources and projects. She analyzed the recruiting and hiring process which was taking about three months to complete. She identified a more effective and timely approach could be implemented in completing hiring tasks. She worked with all involved entities, bringing them together to complete the process in as little as a month. By the end of 2017, not only were all the sworn positions filled, but the agency had pool of applicants ready to fill positions as they occurred. She is currently working a similar project to fill the staffing shortfalls in the Communications Section.

Mrs. Milonas is a dedicated member of the agency who does not use the time clock to dictate her priorities. She has been known to routinely arrive early and stay late until the job is done. She is tireless and never lets the stressfulness of her duties become evident or affect her attitude. She can always be found with a smile on her face. As the peer leader, she selflessly takes time from her own duties to train the other members of the HR Unit to ensure they can complete their tasks.

It's obviously important to Amber that our many employees and volunteers receive the utmost care and committed service. As an example, she worked with the agency's insurance carrier and obtained a new dental and vision plan which saved members in premium costs without a degradation of services. She gives whatever time is needed to ensure our members receive a resolution to concerns and are treated as family. Employees can routinely be found requesting her assistance, in a time of need. When they drop by without notice, Ms. Milonas sets her normal tasks aside to provide compassionate assistance to ensure the member does not leave without a resolution. She is agency's go-to person for anything dealing with personnel matters.

She also volunteers at Plew Elementary School as the class coordinator, assisting with fund raising. Mrs. Amber Milonas is our 2017 Non-Sworn Employee of the Year.

OPERATIONS BUREAU NON-SWORN PERFORMER OF THE YEAR

Robin Griffith's duty title is North District Clerk but that falls short in describing the duties and responsibilities she has taken upon herself.

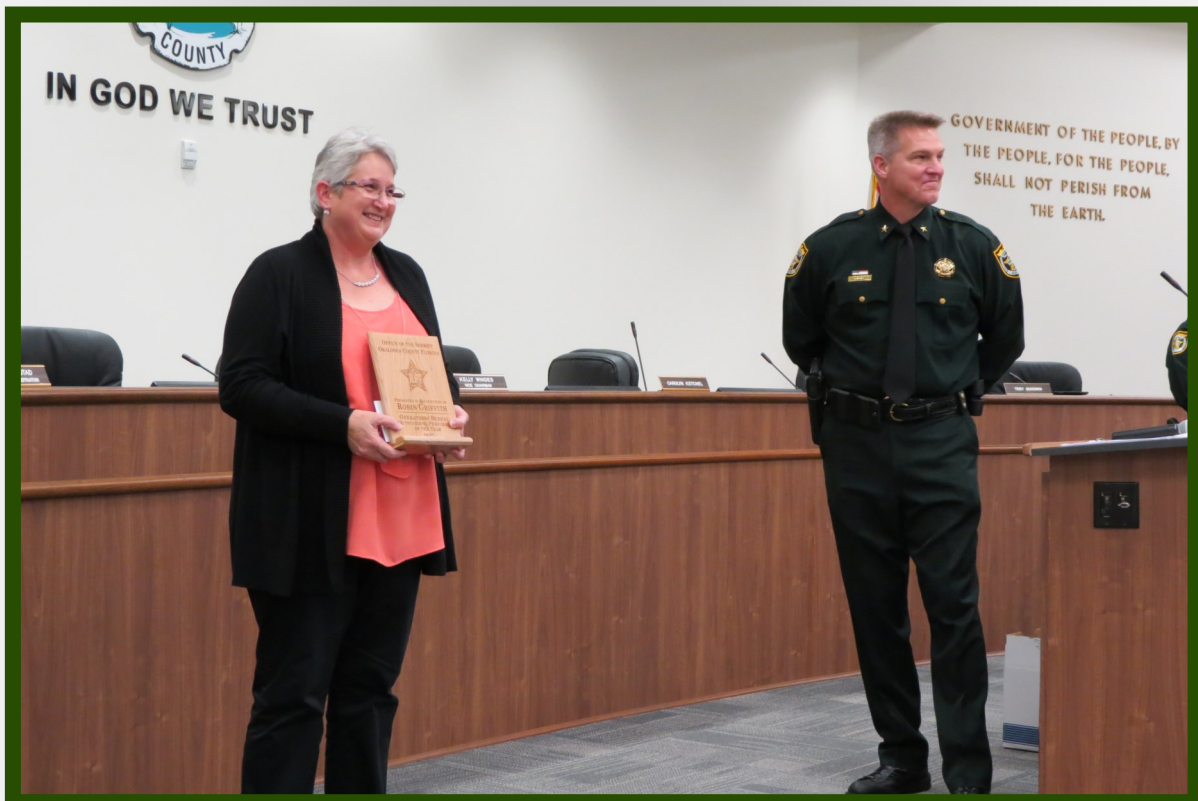
Mrs. Griffith moved to the Livingston Office in Crestview in early 2017. She hit the ground running and has not slowed. She quickly identified methods to operate more efficiently and safely and implemented changes. For example, she changed the offender registration room configuration to provide a safer environment for interacting with convicted felony offenders. Her methods resulted in more effective and accurate data gathering and recording.

Robin is one of a select few civilians authorized to take criminal complaints from victims. In 2017 she completed 58 administrative and criminal offense reports. Her reporting allows road deputies to remain on patrol instead of responding to the office. Her expertise provides a solid foundation for follow up investigations.

In 2017, Mrs. Griffith singlehandedly attended to 2,426 citizens who signed in for service. These included background checks, employment finger prints, referrals and requests for various documents. She is solely responsible for all District Sex Offender and Felony Offender registrations. In 2017 she processed 688 of these registrations. She notifies the Sex Offender Unit of those who violate the terms of their registration, often resulting in their arrest.

Mrs. Griffith assists Records by scanning documents and Evidence Reports into case files. She cross checks offense reports to ensure found or recovered items are documented and updated in the report. This assistance was not part of her position, she simply saw the need.

Mrs. Griffith is a valued member of this agency who is dedicated to her position and an invested team player. For these reasons and more Mrs. Robin Griffith is the 2017 Operations Bureau Non-Sworn Outstanding Performer of the Year.



ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU OUTSTANDING PERFORMER



Tatiana Abernathy has served our agency since 2011. Tatiana consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic and unselfish devotion to her job and the success of her coworkers. Known as a problem solver, co-workers often seek her advice and support and she is always there for them. She believes strongly that her work is a direct service to the agency, its employees and the community at large.

Tatiana is a bold advocate for the sheriff's office and has immersed herself in the agency. For example, she attended and graduated from our Citizen's Academy as a means of gaining a broader perspective.

She promotes the agency and its various programs to the community by posting flyers and educating those she encounters. Her investment into our organization can be seen in many ways. She serves on the Recruiting Committee and sends care packages to employees that are deployed. She coordinates meals for the Chaplain's Life Lessons over Lunch program and organizes the Christmas Trees for Hospice events.

Tatiana serves her community by volunteering with Healing Paws for Warriors and the NW Florida USO. She is treasurer for her owner's association and is a Councilwoman for the Town of Cinco Bayou.

Tatiana goes above and beyond personally and professionally and is steadfast. She continues to improve controls within the agency and enhance her skills. In 2017, Tatiana achieved the designation Certified Fraud Examiner and joined the ranks of a select few around the world.

For all of her contributions to the agency and her community, Tatiana Abernathy is our 2017 Administration Bureau Outstanding Performer of the Year.

COMMUNICATIONS OUTSTANDING PERFORMER OF THE YEAR



Dale Blackwood has been a valued member of the Sheriff's Office since 1995, where he served as a deputy sheriff in the Patrol division before transferring to the Communications section in 1999.

Dale has been a Communications Officer, Supervisor, Communications Training Officer, Training/Quality Assurance Coordinator, DAVID administrator, and most recently achieved Accreditation Assessor certification. He is currently attending the Florida Leadership Academy.

In 2017, Dale helped accomplish a goal set by Sheriff Ashley, which was state Accreditation for the Communications Division. He worked tirelessly with the agency accreditation manager to ensure all General Orders and Communications Standard Operating Procedures were current and accurately reflected the day-to-day policies and procedures of the Communications section. He also ensured Communications personnel were prepared for the assessment. On November 2, 2017, his efforts culminated in the Communications section successfully receiving accreditation through the Florida Telecommunications Accreditation Commission.

Dale has proven himself time and again to be an integral part of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. His work ethic and dedication to the Sheriff's Office is beyond reproach. Dale has taken on each new assignment or task with enthusiasm and sees it through to completion. He is also a positive influence to new employees and senior personnel alike. Dale Blackwood is our 2017 Communications Section Outstanding Performer of the Year.



2017 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Fred Dallas started his volunteer career with the Sheriff's Office in June 2014 and has become a valuable asset with the Crime Prevention Unit. He has dedicated many hours setting up and working a variety of community events throughout the year. Fred has exceptional people skills and communicates effectively and professionally with Okaloosa County citizens and other OCSO volunteers. Recently, Fred joined the Reserve Sheriff's Volunteer Program (RSVP). This program requires spending time during the evening hours checking on 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 2017, Fred contributed 160 hours to the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Okaloosa County.

Fred Dallas is an eager volunteer who is a role model for other volunteers. He has great commitment to our Civilian Volunteer Program and the agency. We wish to thank him for his service and recognize him as our 2017 Volunteer of the Year. (Photo unavailable.)



POSSE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Larry J. Hunter has been named the outstanding Posse Member of the Year for 2017. Larry has been a Posse member since 1992 and on the Posse Board of Directors for 15 years. He currently serves as the Posse Sergeant in the south end of the county and is a strong leader who leads by example. His service in 2017 consisted of over 400 volunteer hours. He has volunteered for a wide variety of details throughout the year, including traffic control for early morning charity runs, football game security, managing the traffic for parades, crowd control at festivals and security details at the Convention Center and other sites. In addition, he has served as bailiff at Teen Court for 20 years. He has regularly volunteered for the hard-to-fill short notice details, responding to Sheriff Office requests for Posse support during emergency situations such as assisting with Booking during the Billy Bowlegs activities. He also escorts out-of-county prisoner transports.



Larry retired from the U.S. Air Force, having served for 26 years. His wartime service included a tour in Vietnam from 1971 to 1972. He organizes reunions for the AC119 Gunship Association in which he holds the Chaplain position. He also retired from Eglin Range Patrol after serving 15 years. He is a member of the International Order of the Blue knights.

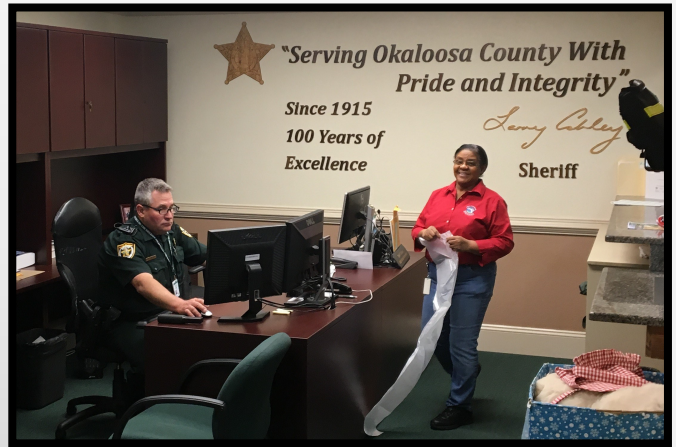
Larry hunter is a true professional in all aspects of his life. He was the Posse Member of the Year 18 years ago. His tireless efforts in support of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Posse make him an excellent choice for Posse Member of the Year for 2017.

MOUNTED POSSE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Pat Rocha has been a member of the Mounted Posse since its inception in 2011 and has volunteered approximately 500 hours. She is always eager to attend a variety of events whether it be static displays, Youth Day for the Sheriff's Office or parades. Horses are naturally skittish animals and it takes a lot of patience and time to introduce them to new things. Pat's horse "Dolly" has risen to the occasion and they have proudly carried the American Flag in our parades.

We appreciate her dedication to the Mounted Posse and recognize her as the 2017 Mounted Posse Member of Year.







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."**

