

# 2019 OCSO ANNUAL REPORT

SERVICE - IT'S IN OUR DNA - NIGHT AND DAY



# A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF LARRY ASHLEY



I believe it is always important to take measure of our accomplishments and to alter our course when determining where we go from here. As we close the books on 2019 and begin the year 2020, I can't help but be proud of the organizational accomplishments of your Sheriff's Office as well as the personal achievements of your deputies and staff. It is always difficult to summarize a years' worth of the accomplishments our deputies and staff achieve on behalf of our communities. However, as my tenure as Sheriff nears its end, I want highlight a few of our achievements in 2019 as well as the past decade. There have been many obstacles overcome and many yet to come; however, there can be no testimony without a test. This is why I encourage you to read our annual report and discover just how much our people are doing to ensure the safety of our communities. Below is a brief list of some of the things we have been able to achieve in the past decade:

- Established nationally recognized physical fitness standards for our deputies
- State and National Accreditation through CFA and CALEA which are the state and national accreditation agency's for law enforcement.
- Re-organized our county from previous 2 districts of North and South to 3 districts identified as East, Central and North Districts requiring a new communications channel and zoning assignments. This resulted in better distribution of assets and human resources as well as improving our response times.
- Implemented annual audits of evidence and armory facilities and new receipt and tracking software for better processing, disposition, and purging of evidence.
- Implemented social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Nixle and others to improve transparency and feedback from our community.
- Implemented Body Worn Cameras to increase transparency and safety for deputies and citizens.
- Implemented CODY (checking on delinquent youths) programs with volunteers.
- Expanded our School Resource Officer Program to cover every public school in our county. Our SRO program is State and Nationally recognized award winners in multiple categories and has greatly assisted in formulation and passing of the Safe School Act.
- Established the "Teen Driver Challenge" which is a training program designed to train teen drivers in traffic laws and safe operation of their vehicles.
- Implemented a "Mass Notification System" in all public schools.



# A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF LARRY ASHLEY

- Founded the Sheriff's "Star Charity" to assist law enforcement families who have a member killed or injured in the line of duty. Star Charity also chooses multiple local charities to assist annually.
- Consolidated Sheriff's Office Operations by ending leased rental space for our CID and utilizing those annual savings in building a new Investigations Bureau facility and remodeling for our patrol, civil process and records divisions and locating them at our headquarters complex in Shalimar. One stop shopping was achieved.
- Consolidated County Wide Emergency Radio Communications covering police, fire, and ambulance services which created multiple efficiency improvements and cost savings.
- Have begun the acquisition and building of a state required P-25 compliant, digital, emergency radio communications system covering Okaloosa County.
- Assisted in planning and staffing during the building of two new Okaloosa County courthouses and a County Administration complex.
- Stood up a new and expanded law enforcement service contract at Okaloosa County Airports located at Eglin AFB, Crestview, and Destin.
- Implemented NARCAN and AED Training to all deputies which allow them to administer this life saving service which has resulted in the saving of hundreds of lives thus far.
- Implemented Zero Tolerance Spring Break program which greatly reduced, deaths, rapes, DUI's, and traffic crashes as a result of enforcing underage drinking laws.
- Expanded Beach Patrol and Marine Patrol capabilities and certifications to assist with safety of record breaking tourist populations.
- Assisted in ending Floating Structures and illegal alcohol sales at Crab Island resulting in fewer drownings, vessel crashes, and BUI's.
- Established Intel Threat Assessment Unit, responsible for assessing suspects having made suicidal and homicidal threats through domestic violence, social media, or any other venue. They document threats and seek court protection orders when individuals pose a clear and present danger to others. These are most applicable in regards to many enhanced Baker Act responsibilities.
- Exposed and ended Medical Examiner Program Mismanagement and began process of seeking new Chief Medical Examiner and Associate Medical Examiners for the First Judicial Circuit which includes Okaloosa County.
- In process of building a Regional Law Enforcement Training Center and Firearms Range which will greatly improve our legal, physical and mental preparations for hand to hand, firearms, less lethal, driving, and medical first aid training opportunities.



In 2019 we continued to face both long time and new challenges including the continuing opioid crisis. In 2018 our Drug Investigation Units were able to infiltrate a large drug trafficking organization operating within our county and throughout the southeastern United States. As a result of that month's long effort, they were able to seize a street value of nearly seven million dollars' worth of Heroin and Fentanyl and effect the arrest of seventeen co-conspirators at the mid-year point. Again in 2019 our Investigators have taken another large distribution organization down and seized more than twice the amount of our previous agency record from 2018. That case is still in progress and I can't report more at this time but rest assured it will help ease the number of overdoses and opioid related deaths in our community.

As usual for the second most visited county in our state, we had a large influx of Spring Breakers who came to enjoy the World's most beautiful beaches during March and April. We were adequately manned and prepared for this annual event and though we had an overall safe period with no deaths or sexual batteries, we did effect 367 arrest for underage possession of alcohol, illegal drug possession, and driving under the influence during this time.

With our continued population growth in both residents and visitors, we experienced another record numbers of calls for service in 2019. We were pleased to see that we had nearly a 2% decrease in violent crime for the year while our overall crime decreased by 11.6%. There are many variables involved in this trend; however, the more we address the opioid crises the better these numbers will become.

As your Sheriff, it has been my honor to serve alongside the men and women who combat crime and serve the citizens of our community each day. I feel privileged that we have such a beautiful place to call home. I hope you enjoy reading this year's annual report outlining our many achievements this year and over the past decade. As an agency that has earned state and national accreditation and recognition for its effectiveness and efficiency, we stand prepared to address and overcome future challenges as we move forward.

I'm convinced that no other law enforcement agency or its people are more committed to their community's safety and wellbeing than your Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

Please take time to visit our website at [www.sheriff-okaloosa.org](http://www.sheriff-okaloosa.org) and friend us on Facebook for much more detailed information about your Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office and the community we serve.

*Larry Ashley*

**Larry R. Ashley, Sheriff**  
**Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, HQ**  
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“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.” – John C. Maxwell



**A DECADE OF EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AS OUR OKALOOSA COUNTY SHERIFF!**



“Great leaders don’t set out to be a leader -  
They set out to make a difference.”





“To Whom Much is Given,  
Much Will Be Required.” (Luke 12:48)





# 2019 ACTIVITY RUNDOWN

Est. Calls 230,967

## SAMPLE OF TYPES OF CALLS

Not including Administrative calls, etc.

<b>FRAUD</b>	<b>994</b>
<b>TRAFFIC STOPS</b>	<b>25,917</b>
<b>CITIZEN CONTACTS</b>	<b>15,286</b>
<b>TRESPASSING</b>	<b>2,838</b>
<b>SECURITY CHECKS</b>	<b>46,833</b>
<b>INTOXICATED DRIVERS</b>	<b>574</b>
<b>K-9 ASSISTS</b>	<b>2,673</b>
<b>WELFARE CHECKS</b>	<b>3,892</b>
<b>DISTURBANCES</b>	<b>4,908</b>
<b>ROAD RAGE</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE</b>	<b>1,961</b>
<b>SUSPICIOUS PERSON</b>	<b>1,060</b>
<b>DISTRESSED SWIMMER</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>SHOTS FIRED</b>	<b>403</b>

# North District

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

We have a mixture of diverse and unique communities located in the North District. These communities 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 located in the Baker, Holt and Laurel Hill Communities. Many of the citizens of Okaloosa County have found comfort and peace in the many beautiful unincorporated areas in our North District.



## North District Individual Accomplishments:

### Life Saving Awards

Deputy Britt Corbin  
Deputy Joshua Kimbril  
Deputy Steven Dollar  
Deputy Jerad Mullinnix

### Certificate of Commendation

Deputy RJ Shelley

### Promotions in 2019

Corporal Kourtney Howard to Criminal Investigator  
Deputy RJ Shelley to Patrol Corporal

## North District Statistics of Interest

Calls for Service	52,612	4% increase
Traffic Stops	7446	48% increase
Warrants Services	2610	
DUI Arrest	38	
Probable Cause Arrests	855	
Narcotics Arrest	336	
Citizen Contacts	4334	

Our North District Office Clerk Robin Griffith provided assistance or services to over 2691 persons in 2019, an average of 225 persons a month. This is a 29% increase from 2018.



## 2019 North District Highlights

In a very important partnership with the City of Crestview, two members of the OCSO Command staff were asked to sit on a selection board for a new Chief of Police for the City.

After several weeks of meetings and discussions two finalists were selected and after a full day of interviews, a unanimous recommendation was made to the Crestview City Manager.

Chief Stephen McCosker was hired as the new Crestview Police Chief. Chief McCosker hit the ground running and has already made significant improvements within the City.

We look forward to the continued great community partnership we have with the CPD as we move into 2020.



The North District Office continues to see a marked increase in daily activity as North Okaloosa County grows and more people relocate here.

In late 2019, the North District was able to fill all vacant positions in patrol through the hard work of our OCSO Human Resource Unit. Our total shift manning increased to eight deputies including a Sergeant and Corporal on each squad. The addition of one deputy to each of our four squads allows supervision to diversify and control scheduling, maximizing the most deputies working during peak hours for calls for service.



In late 2019 Sheriff Ashley transitioned daily patrol leadership from our Watch Commander System. The addition of two more patrol Lieutenants created several advantages from the previous system.

- \* Better ownership of each district by supervision; the Watch Commander was responsible for the entire county, whereas now each District Lieutenant oversees two squads in the district where assigned.
- \* District Lieutenants can now work closer with their Sergeants and Corporals daily in order to provide better leadership and shift cohesion.
- \* District Lieutenants are able to take a more active role in the daily activities that are unique to each district alongside the Captain of each District.



## North District Community Service Activity in 2019

Attended and participated in Crestview Area Chamber of Commerce Breakfasts

Membership in Crestview Rotary Club

Membership in Crestview Kiwanis Club

Attended City of Crestview Council Meetings

Attended City of Laurel Hill Council Meetings

Attended Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners Meetings

Gave instruction and assistance at OCSO Citizens Firearms Classes and Academy

Served on the City of Crestview Police Chief Search Committee

Supported Local Faith Ministries

Liaison to Local Chamber Committees and Civic Groups

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

The deputies working in the North District do an amazing job supporting our area.

- \* Teaching classes in their local church or worship center

- \* Coaching organized sports teams

- \* Mentoring kids

- \* Participating in several civic organizations

- \* Donating their time to the OCSO Star Charity Committee events



## SERVICE—IT'S IN OUR DNA

The continued comradery and uplifting support within the OCSO family was demonstrated in August 2019 when two of our married employees' home was struck by lightning and had to be evacuated immediately. After the house was made safe by the Fire Department, OCSO on duty and off duty units arrived with supplies and manpower to save as many personal items as possible, providing supplies and food for the couple and their infant child.

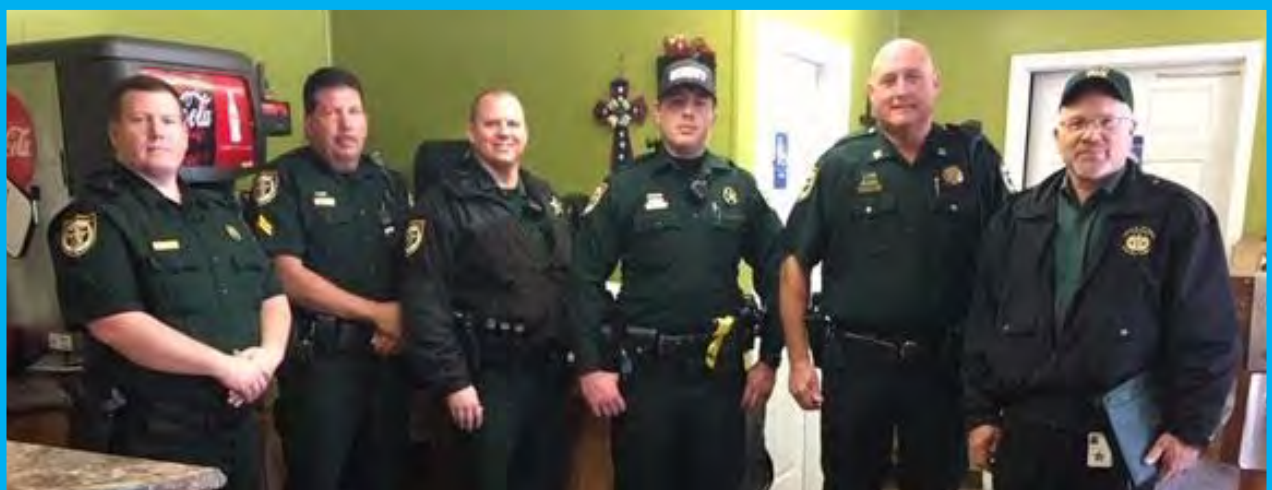
Within 48 hours a team of OCSO employees arrived on a Saturday morning to finish enclosing a storage shed on the property to secure and store family heirlooms and mementos, as the home needed to be completely reconstructed on the inside.

There were several more work days as well to help the family in rebuilding and reestablishing the home.

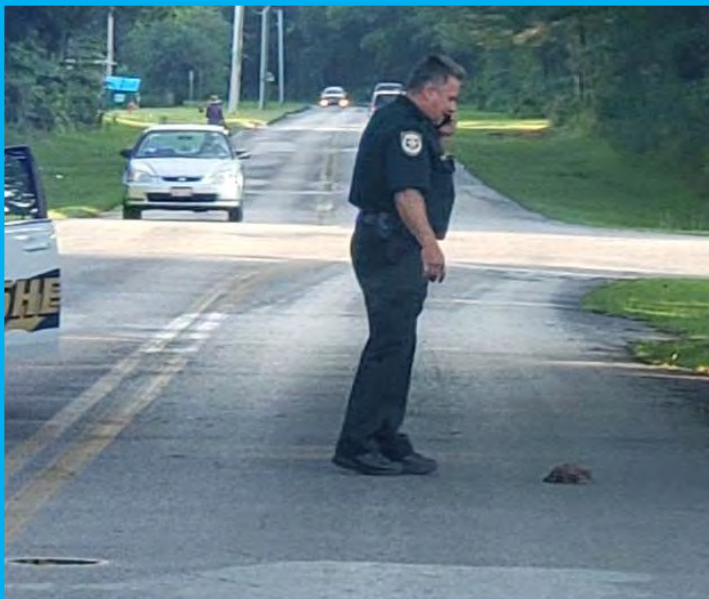
This is just one example of the family type atmosphere that is so common within the OCSO family.













# CENTRAL DISTRICT

Encompassing the southwest corner of Okaloosa County, the Central District is the most densely populated district in the county. Nearly half of the county's full-time population resides within its boundaries. Thousands of additional people commute into Central District to work at military bases, manufacturing centers, and other businesses daily. The 48 men and women assigned to Central District are committed to providing these residents and guests excellent service and protection. They strive to resolve problems safely and in a timely manner. As an example of that level of dedication, the top two awards our agency has for members of our Operations Bureau were awarded to Central District deputies for their dedicated service in 2019. Deputy Brannon Small earned the coveted Deputy Sheriff of the Year award and Deputy Todd Padilla earned the Outstanding Sworn Performer of the Year award. Deputy Padilla was also recently promoted to Investigator as a result of his hard work and talent.



During 2019, Central District deputies worked to engage with our community in meaningful ways. We held a Coffee with a Cop event at a Starbucks coffee shop within the Mary Esther community as well as a Donuts with a Deputy event at a Dunkin Donuts in Fort Walton Beach. These were advertised in advance and allowed members of the agency to meet with the public in an informal setting and to answer questions and help resolve problems. Deputies assigned to patrol the City of Mary Esther also worked with residents in two key neighborhoods to stand up Neighborhood Watch programs to improve safety and security for the residents. Deputies attended school programs to read to kids and talk about law enforcement. They supported the Feed the Need food drive for the homeless and were instrumental in helping to prepare packaging to distribute hundreds of food cartons to the homeless. Additionally, Sgt. Donald Folley has served with the Northwest Florida Big Brothers and Big Sisters youth mentoring organization. He was awarded the "Big Brother of the Month" award in December 2019 for his distinguished work mentoring our youth. Corporal Matthew Self served as a youth mentor at the Boys and Girls Club. In addition, Deputies also routinely provided citizen ride-along rides for citizens interested in law enforcement in our community.



Central District remains very active with calls for service and is consistently the busiest district in Okaloosa County.

107, 312 calls for service were handled by all units working within Central District. At least 61,592 of those calls were handled by Central District patrol deputies who worked hard to fight crime and assist citizens.



Deputies captured suspects with extensive criminal histories in possession of firearms and even a bullet resistant vest. Deputies caught numerous stolen vehicles, or “Rollin’ Stolen”, throughout the year as well as we saw a continued problem with vehicle burglaries, stolen vehicles, and stolen firearms. Occupied stolen vehicles are often used in the commission of other crimes and represent a special hazard to law enforcement.

This was very evident in December of 2019, when deputies on Bravo shift captured a suspect fleeing from a stolen vehicle after a car chase and he had a loaded 9mm handgun in his waistband, despite being a multiple time convicted felon and prison releasee. In another incident, several deputies from Charlie Shift responded to a structure fire with a female trapped inside the building. They used improvised battering rams to breach plywood covering a window before the fire department arrived and used themselves as human steps to assist the firefighters with entering the high window to rescue the woman. She was gravely injured, but survived the injuries as a direct result of their quick actions. This incident gained national media attention as a viral video of the rescue. Five members of the shift were awarded the Medal of Merit . One also appeared on Live PD to speak about the teamwork involved in the rescue.

In another incident, several of our deputies responded to a drive by shooting with a victim who was experiencing an arterial bleed as a result of a gunshot wound. Deputies used two tourniquets and direct pressure into the wound to stop the bleeding and save the victim’s life.



Our deputies continued to combat the scourge of narcotics in our community. They generated arrests for 738 narcotics offenses. Many deputies sought out specialized training in the investigation of narcotics offenses and put that training to work in response to citizen narcotics complaints and proactive patrols of known narcotics areas. That commitment weighed heavily in their success locating and arresting narcotics offenders.

Central District's leadership team remained intensely focused on developing professional law enforcement officers and future leaders within our organization. Members of the leadership team attended training seminars and programs including the FBI Executive Development Seminar, The National Tactical Officers Association Team Leader Development Course, FBI Supervisor Leadership Institute, Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute Florida Leadership Academy, the Law Enforcement Leadership Program, the Leadership Okaloosa Program, and many more classes. Deputies trained in specialized training to become Field Training Officers and to lead other new deputy sheriff recruits through the training process. Several members were promoted to positions of greater responsibility and others were certified as instructors in various disciplines.



The demands of being a deputy sheriff are significant, yet many of our deputies chose to serve in other specialized positions within the agency in addition to their normal duties. We had members serving on the Special Response Team, the Recruitment, Retention, and Retirement Team, the CrossFit Coaching Team, and the School Guardian Instructor Program. Each of these teams met the critical needs of the agency, and the deputies' willingness to step up and assist with the added responsibilities made the missions possible. Other deputies assisted while off-duty in their places of worship by providing armed security to make sure the congregations remained safe. Deputies also provided security for some high profile dignitary visitors to our community in response to threats they had received.

The unique combination of the population and civil infrastructure of Central District make it the busiest district in Okaloosa County, accounting for nearly half the calls for service.

### Central District Statistics of Interest for 2019

Total Offense Reports	5,372
Total Arrests	2,673
Traffic Stops	8,223
911 Verifications	3,569
Disturbances and Fights	2,089
Alarms	1,931
Citizen Service Assists	6,179
Felony Narcotics Incident w/Arrests	280
DUI Arrests	114





## Central District Noteworthy Accomplishments and Events

Provided dignified and respectful escorts for 117 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, American Cancer Society Cancer Walk, Mary Esther Veterans Day Parade and a host of functions with local military bases.



**Always Serving...Above and Beyond!**

Central District deputies and supervisors were represented on the following boards and organizations:

- \* Agency Liaison to FDOT
- \* Technical Coordinating Committee for the Okaloosa Walton Traffic Planning Organization
  - \* Crestview Youth Academy Citizen's Advisory Panel
  - \* Hurlburt Field Transitional Panel
  - \* Board Member Jobs4U
  - \* Board Member Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers
- \* Board Member Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute Associates
  - \* Board Member OCSO Star Charities
  - \* Board Member Fort Walton Beach Rotary Club
- \* Board Member County-wide Radio System Acquisition Committee
  - \* Volunteer Speaker, MADD Victim Impact Panels
  - \* Volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
- \* Speakers on DUI prevention and traffic safety topics to various military units in support of their missions

## PROMOTIONS

Sgt. Travis Topolski was promoted to the position of Special Response Team Assistant Team Commander, the #2 position on that highly trained unit.

Deputy Todd Padilla promoted to Special Response Team Assistant Team Leader

Deputy Todd Padilla promoted to Investigator

Deputy Jeff Butler promoted to Corporal

## AWARDS

*Deputy of the Year*

Deputy Brannon Small

*Sworn Outstanding Performer of the Year*

Deputy Todd Padilla

*Medal of Merit*

Cpl. Matt Self

Deputy Lance Williams

Deputy Misty Piaget

*Life-saving Award*

Sgt. Travis Topolski

Corporal Justin Boggs

Deputy Joseph Bernau

Deputy Joshua Kimbril

Deputy Brandon Mundt

Deputy Eric Swain

Deputy Cody Sanderson

Deputy John Armstrong

Deputy Todd Padilla

Deputy Cody Sanderson

Deputy Colin Savoie

Deputy Shelby Carroll

Deputy Anthony Gonzales

Deputy Royce Brooks

## SPECIAL UNIT ASSIGNMENTS

*DUI Enforcement Specialist*

Deputy Eric Sheldon

*K-9 Unit*

Deputy Royce Brooks



*Special Response Team*  
Deputy Colin Savoie

*Medal of Valor*  
Capt. Mark Raiche  
Corp. Justin Boggs  
Deputy Pierre Batiste  
Deputy Chad Biernacki









# EAST DISTRICT



The East District, also referred to as District 3, makes up the Southeast portion of the county, covering east of the Brooks Bridge on Okaloosa Island to the Walton County line, north to Duke Field, and south to Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport, and includes all southern waterways surrounding this highly visited Florida destination.

In 2019, the East District remained one of the top tourist destinations in the state of Florida with millions of visitors vacationing during the year. This area is a haven for vacationers. The sandy white beaches, emerald waters, beautiful golf courses, and fine dining restaurants are among the main attractions. During the height of the season, the City of Destin, with a population 13,000, can swell to as much as 60,000 plus during any major holiday. This massive influx of visitors creates great economic stimulation and growth for the city and the surrounding areas.

The East District is home to 3 municipalities: the City of Destin, the City of Niceville, and the City of Valparaiso. While Niceville and Valparaiso have their own law enforcement agencies, the City of Destin contracts for law enforcement services with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. These contracted services provide 21 sworn deputies, which include 17 patrol deputies, two investigators, one marine unit, and one deputy to cover the front desk.



In 2019, the calls for service for the City of Destin reached 35,477, an increase of over 7% from 2018.

In 2019, East District Patrol Services responded to 69,840 calls for service, completed 4,633 offense reports, and effected 2,194 arrests. Included in those totals were 341 DUI arrests, felony and misdemeanor narcotic cases, 247 battery arrests, 109 burglary arrests, and 13 grand theft auto arrests. In addition, deputies responded to 2,361 traffic crashes on the roadways.

Patrol units continued in their efforts to address aggressive driving behaviors by saturating problem related areas. In 2019, 2,442 citations and 1,090 warnings were issued to the motoring public.



#### East District Statistics of Interest 2019

Calls for Service	69,840
Offense Reports	4,633
Traffic Stops	8,266
Arrests/NTA	2,139
Traffic Crash Responses	2,361
Arrest Reports	2,194
Warrant Attempts	879
Watch Orders	2,548
911 Verifications	6,400





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 Spring Break and summer months. It is our goal to continue to provide the highest level of law enforcement services to our visitors, whether they are traveling through or vacationing.

Once again in 2019, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office continued its partnership working with the of the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners and the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority with major traffic related issues from tourists arriving on Saturdays during the busiest time of the summer. White Point Road no longer experiences the traffic related issues residents voiced concern about in previous years. Funded by the Tourist Development Council (TDC), the detail was carefully planned with Okaloosa County Staff, Mid-Bay Bridge Authority, and the Sheriff's Office. The detail was a success and solved the majority of the traffic concerns with no major delays or accidents being reported. During the detail patrol units made 138 traffic stops and issued 40 citations.







Our goal in the East District is to continue to stress the need for proactive enforcement practices and encourage our citizens and visitors to report crimes or suspicious activities. We want our visitors to feel comfortable and safe as we continue maintaining an atmosphere of hometown policing. Assigning each deputy to his or her particular areas on a consistent basis helps provide stability and create partnerships as they get to know their shop owners, neighbors, and business leaders. Our continued commitment to build community relationships only strengthens our abilities to communicate and provide the best law enforcement services to the citizens we serve.



## EAST DISTRICT COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITY

\*Attended of Chambers of Commerce meetings, Destin and Niceville City Council meetings.

\*United Way board member

\*Kiwanis member

\*Over 475 volunteer hours with multiple charitable and civic endeavors

\*Sponsored multiple families at "Operation Angel Tree"

\*Participated in judging the Hospice tree decorating contest

\*Units participated in the Destin Christmas Parade

\*Provided instruction for OCSO Citizens Academy

\*Volunteer coaches for all sports

## EAST DISTRICT INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

\*Sgt. Jason Fulghum promoted to Lieutenant

\*Sgt. Todd Watkins promoted to Lieutenant

\*Sgt. Nesli Suhi-Moore promoted to Lieutenant

\*Cpl. Dave Finke promoted to Investigator

## FIVE DEPUTIES EARNED LIFE SAVING AWARDS

\*A-Shift Deputy Josh Hamilton

\*A-Shift Deputy Chris Lybrand

\*B-Shift Deputy Niklas Mlynarski (2 LSA's)

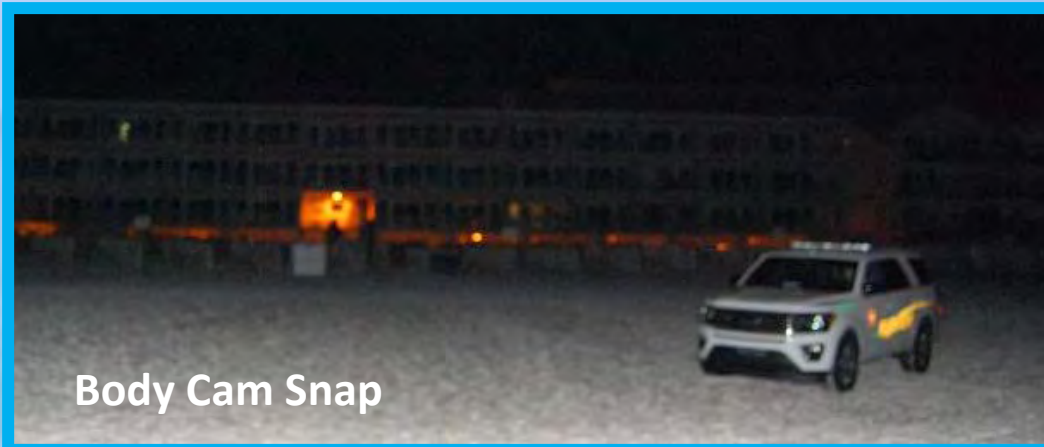
\*D-Shift Deputy Tavish Frederick

\*D-Shift Deputy Michael Esneul

\*Deputy Dan Williams

\*Deputy Matthew Macbeth

\*Deputy Jacob Racer





# SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

## **Consolidated Emergency Communications Center:**

In January 2019, the OCSO consolidated law enforcement dispatch services with Okaloosa County Public Safety dispatch services. OCSO accepted responsibility to take over the handling of all law enforcement, EMS, and FD calls for service. The consolidated Emergency Communications Center handles all emergency and non-emergency calls for service for the following agencies: Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, Northwest Florida State College Police Department, Shalimar Police Department, Okaloosa County EMS, and all Fire Departments except Crestview Fire Department throughout Okaloosa County.

**The consolidation included adding 20 dispatchers and 2 E911 administrative positions.**

One of the two main challenges of the consolidation was to change EMS and FD dispatching operations over to SmartCop solutions. This required a complete overhaul of transferring records from one records management software to SmartCop. This change allowed all dispatchers to process all emergency and non-emergency calls to one system. The change also allowed every dispatcher, law enforcement agency, EMS, and Fire Departments in Okaloosa County to see each other's calls for service from a mobile computer terminal which allowed faster response times to emergencies. The second challenge was implementing a cross training program that would require over 50 Communications Officers to be able to handle law enforcement, EMS, and FD emergency calls. We successfully completed this cross-training which has had two major impacts. First, we have dramatically reduced overtime costs as a result of cross training. Secondly, any dispatcher in the center can now process any type of emergency call without the delay of transferring the call which has helped improve response times.



Our dispatch center received and processed approximately 287,667 non-emergency calls and 105,741 emergency 911 calls for a total of 393,408 calls for service in 2019. That accounts to approximately 1,078 calls being handled per day by our dispatchers.

As we continue to provide daily services to our community we have established two simple goals for 2020 which are improve our quality of performance and successfully complete the reaccreditation process through FLA-TAC.

# 911 CONSOLIDATED DISPATCH



911 Consolidated Communications  
Here to answer your call for help



Law Enforcement Dispatch Service for  
Okaloosa Sheriff and participating Police Departments



Fire Dispatch Service for Participating  
Fire Departments



Emergency Medical Service Dispatch for all  
Okaloosa County EMS Ambulances



## Marine and Beach Unit/Dive Team

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit continues to surpass annual objectives and yearly goals. In 2019, the Marine Unit delivered aggressive patrols and ensured the safety of those recreating on the waters of Okaloosa County.

Calls for Service 4,229	56% Increase
Vessel Stops 1,494	53% Increase
Security Checks 833	63% Increase
Boating Citations 273	28% Increase
Arrests 172	126% Increase
Distressed Swimmers 90	8% Increase
Life Saving Awards	2





The Marine Unit fosters boating safety through continued participation in several national boating safety campaigns which endorse education and outreach. Members participated in "Designated Skipper" which is a national program through the Sea Tow Foundation. This program promotes safe boating practices nationwide. Additionally, the Marine Unit participated in the "Wear It" campaign which is a worldwide effort focused on responsible boating. It encourages boaters to always wear a life jacket while on the water.

Boating Under the Influence (BUI) enforcement in Okaloosa County is always a primary focus and continued into 2019. Members of the Marine Unit participated in wet lab training for enhanced BUI detection with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. This specific training and diligence of the members of the Marine Unit has resulted in over 40 BUI arrests during 2018-2019 and an overall increase for the second consecutive year. In 2019, Okaloosa County ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the State of Florida for BUI arrests.



During the summertime, county waterways swell with both local boaters and rental vessels. Over the years, Crab Island has evolved to become a local party spot that swells with tourists, locals, and businesses. During 2018, the Marine Unit partnered with the Fort Walton Beach Medical Center and began an initiative to reduce both Boating Under the Influence and Spinal Injuries in Okaloosa County. This initiative continued through 2019 and was garnered “Recognize The Signs/ Think Before You Dive.” Throughout the summer, educational material was provided to both the boating public and floating business around Crab Island. This partnership resulted in a major decrease in spinal injuries, with zero being reported in 2019.



The Marine Unit participated in the 2019 Operation Dry Water which consisted of 22 participating law enforcement agencies within the State of Florida. Operation Dry Water is a national event hosted by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators targeting Boating Under the Influence.

The members of the Marine Unit are essential in supporting the Emerald Coast Poker Run, Emerald Coast Powerboat Poker Run, and the annual Billy Bowlegs Pirate Festival. All of these events draw vessels to Okaloosa County from across the nation. The Billy Bowlegs Pirate Festival is one of the nation's longest-running and most popular pirate festivals. The Marine Unit again was tasked during this event to address the unsanctioned events occurring in the shallow waters between the Fort Walton Beach Landing and the Intracoastal Waterway. These unsanctioned activities attract approximately 1,000 vessels and upwards of 10,000 people.

A large number of summertime marine violations occurring within Okaloosa County are committed by rental vessels. In an effort to help reduce these violations and increase boating safety, Marine Unit members continue to meet with local Personal Watercraft liveries to ensure compliance of boating state statutes. These continued efforts will ultimately help reduce marine violations and increase safety for their customers and other boaters. For the second consecutive year, Okaloosa County ranked #4 in Personal Watercraft crashes statewide.

Marine Unit participated in and was instrumental in Operation Safe Pass. A joint effort with the United States Coast Guard targeting illegal marine charters occurring in Okaloosa County waters. Over 26 illegal charters were identified and cleared during this initiative.





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. Again in 2019, the Marine Unit joined forces with the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Mobile Sector. During the busy weekends of the summer, the USCG deployed additional boarding officers to Okaloosa County to assist as a marine force multiplier. This provided additional law enforcement resources to assist with BUI investigations, arrests, and disturbances.

## BEACH UNIT

Year after year, Okaloosa County continues to be a “Hot Spot” for Spring Break activities. This year was no different. In 2019, the members of the Beach Unit were tasked with managing the busy Okaloosa County beaches and ensuring safety for locals, tourists, and spring breakers. The 2019 Spring Break encompassed a period of 57 days. During this time, four deputies patrolled the beaches of Okaloosa Island and Destin. These daily patrols addressed underage possession of alcohol, narcotics, and miscellaneous calls for service. Over the course of the 57 days, the members of the Beach Unit initiated over 500 arrests. This number of arrests was 74% of the total 677 arrests initiated during Spring Break and a 52% increase from 2018.

Throughout the 100 days of summer, the Beach Unit traversed the beaches of Destin and Okaloosa Island. These members maintained high community relations and worked closely with Destin and Okaloosa Island Beach Safety. During 2019, Deputy Dustan Rice and Deputy David Bazylak acquired Lifeguard Certifications through the United States Lifesaving Association. These certifications will help them appropriately respond if needed to critical incidents on the beach.



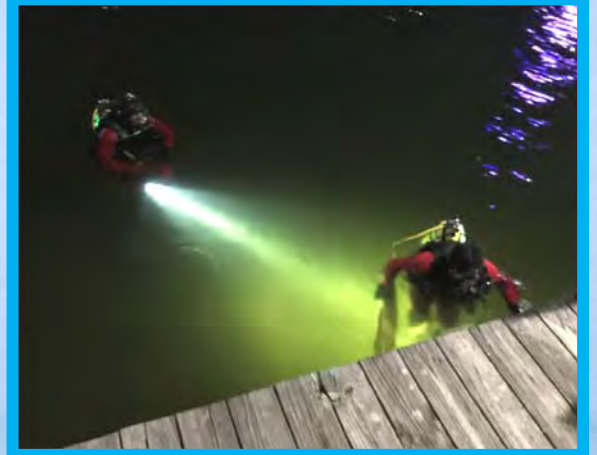
## DIVE UNIT



The Dive Unit consist of eight agency members encompassing additional duties in addition to their regular assignments. In 2019, these members received advanced training in several diving specialty courses and culminated the Divemaster curriculum logging over 170 training hours. Divemaster is a professional level certification that increases a diver's knowledge of leading dive operations, physics, and physiology, as well as increases a diver's proficiency with scuba diving skills. Additionally, one member is attending a professional scuba diving academy where they will become a Padi Specialty Instructor. This will allow the Dive Unit to continue with advanced training and stay current with evolving underwater practices. The Dive Unit will soon begin Emergency Response Diver 1 training through Emergency Response Diving International.

In 2019, Dive Team members were essential in recovering two drowning victims from within Okaloosa County waters. One victim was recovered submerged in approximately 50 feet of water near the rock jetties of the Destin Pass. The second victim was recovered near Crab Island in approximately 15 feet of water. Unit members are regularly called upon to locate evidence for criminal investigations and submerged items for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. During 2019, several members were recognized by the Crestview Police department for their underwater assistance in the furtherance of a Homicide Investigation.







# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) is comprised of the following sections: Criminal Investigations Section (Violent/Special Victims Unit, Property Crimes, Crimes against Children, Financial Crimes and Polygraph), Special Investigations Section (Sheriff's Narcotics Unit, Fugitive Warrants, Street Crimes Unit and Internet Crimes against Children/Cyber Unit), Intelligence/Homeland Security Unit (Intel Investigations and Crime Analyst Unit) and the Evidence/Crime Scene Section.

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

Criminal Investigation Section (CIS)

For 2019, CIS Investigators conducted over 1400 investigations ranging from homicides, missing persons cases, special victims/violent crimes (includes crimes against children) and economic/property crimes.

In March 2019, 3-year old Frederick Franken Jr. was stabbed to death by his father at their home in Bluewater Bay. Franken Sr. attempted to take his own life as well, but was unsuccessful. He was charged with the murder of his son.

Between April 2019 and July 2019, thirty-three (33) mail related thefts were reported where personal checks were stolen from residential mailboxes. A suspect was developed during the investigation and Charlie Rhodes was subsequently arrested. Rhodes is believed to be responsible for financial losses of almost \$40,000 in Okaloosa County alone.

In May 2019, Cordell Smart was shot and killed outside of a Ft. Walton Beach home. Smart was an innocent bystander during a drug deal gone bad. Seven people were subsequently arrested for 3<sup>rd</sup> degree murder. All the defendants took plea deals.





In June 2019, Christopher Broxson was killed on the front porch of his home. Emanuel Colley, whom was living on the same property, was ultimately charged with Broxson's homicide.

In July 2019, Christopher Black was shot and killed during an altercation outside of his home in Mary Esther. Eugene Bradley was charged with Black's homicide.

Also in July 2019, two Atlanta area residents were arrested after they solicited and forced a victim to go to three financial institutions to cash fraudulent checks. Suspects were also charged with false imprisonment when they refused to allow the victim out of the vehicle.

In August 2019, a man visiting a child's birthday party at a home on Miller Street in Ft. Walton Beach, was struck with a bullet during a drive-by shooting. Stephen Cordova and Trevon Fitzgerald were charged with attempted homicide.



**Body Cam Snap**

In September 2019, William Sims surreptitiously entered the Sheriff's Office Evidence Impound Lot and smashed the window of a seized vehicle. After retrieving something that was concealed in the vehicle, he used an accelerant to set the vehicle ablaze. Sims was charged with several Federal and state charges to include Arson, Burglary and Tampering with Evidence.

In November 2019, two homicides were investigated just days apart from one another. Jacob Price was charged with shooting and killing his mother and father, as well as two dogs, while they slept in their Crestview home.



Less than a week later, Edgar Jennings was shot and killed outside of his home in Ft. Walton Beach during a home invasion. Carissa Parker and Jordan Phillips were charged with Jennings' murder which is believed to have stemmed from a child custody issue Parker and Jennings were involved in.





## **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**

### **Criminal Investigation Section (CIS)**

In 2019, Al Vafides our certified Polygraph Examiner/Investigator, conducted 133 polygraph examinations for both criminal cases and pre-employment purposes. In addition, he investigated 60 criminal cases ranging from fraud, sex offenses, death investigations and missing persons.

### **Intelligence Unit/Homeland Security**

In 2019, the Crime Analyst Unit put together 270 bulletins for distribution, conducted 225 employee background checks and compiled 202 photo lineups. In addition, the analysts reviewed 750 Baker Act reports and created 69 intelligence reports for threat assessments.

In addition, the Intelligence Unit completed 11 Risk Protection Orders (RPOs) and conducted 87 threat assessments/Investigations.



### **Special Investigations Section (SIS)**

SIS Investigators were responsible for investigating over 389 cases involving drug trafficking organizations, violent crime/fugitive apprehensions, covert operations and cybercrimes. This included investigating dangerous predators who engaged in distributing and/or possessing child pornography or exploitation of minors. Investigators seized over \$480,000 in combined asset forfeitures/seizures as well as recovered 39 firearms in Okaloosa County either reported as stolen and/or used by drug offenders in furtherance of drug trafficking offenses.

**TOTAL DRUGS SEIZED BY SIS INVESTIGATORS IN OPERATIONS = \$6,298,604.**



The Street Crimes Unit (SCU) handled 3,031 service incidents, generating 363 arrests, 21 Notice to Appear (NTAs) and 151 warrant services. SCU seized over 2.3 kilograms of illegal drugs totaling approximately \$144,736 (estimated street values) as follows: Marijuana = \$11,726; Cocaine = \$22,600; Heroin = \$5,750; Fentanyl = \$17,500; Methamphetamine = \$68,520; and other illegal controlled substances or opioids valued at approximately \$18,640 (932 dosage units).

\* The numbers are separate and in addition to the above numbers seized by SIS\*

SIS revised task force operations using direct partnerships with local police agencies, including Fort Walton Beach Police Department and Crestview Police Department. The task force combined manpower and strategies via a team of dedicated police officers (task force officers), deputies, school resource officers, analysts and investigators. This group engaged in field operations and it implemented information sharing strategies designed to combat trends in illegal criminal gang activity, drugs, burglaries and related crimes in Okaloosa County.





Below are specific examples of casework conducted by SIS members in 2019:

Throughout the year, SIS members engaged in extensive drug enforcement operations and multi-agency missions targeting higher-level drug trafficking organizations in Okaloosa County. The most notable operations were **Operation(s) Songbird and Neighborhood Smackdown**. These operations were joint missions executed through partnerships with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)/HIDTA, Fort Walton Beach Police and Crestview Police, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office, Gulf Breeze Police Department and Florida Highway Patrol. The operations focused primarily on disrupting and dismantling larger-scale drug trafficking networks and related criminals in Okaloosa County.

### OPERATION SONGBIRD

Operation "Songbird" was a joint mission by the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office along with members of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Pensacola. The investigation focused on drug trafficking offenders responsible for distributing multi-kilogram quantities of heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and fentanyl throughout Okaloosa County. Investigators infiltrated the illicit drug network and it culminated with the arrests of primary drug traffickers and conspirators, as well as the recoveries of stolen vehicles, firearms and large quantities of illegal drugs. Case agents executed search warrants leading to seizure(s) of approximately 12 kilograms (over 28 pounds) of methamphetamine, 4 kilograms of heroin, 3 kilograms of cocaine and 1 ½ kilograms of fentanyl.

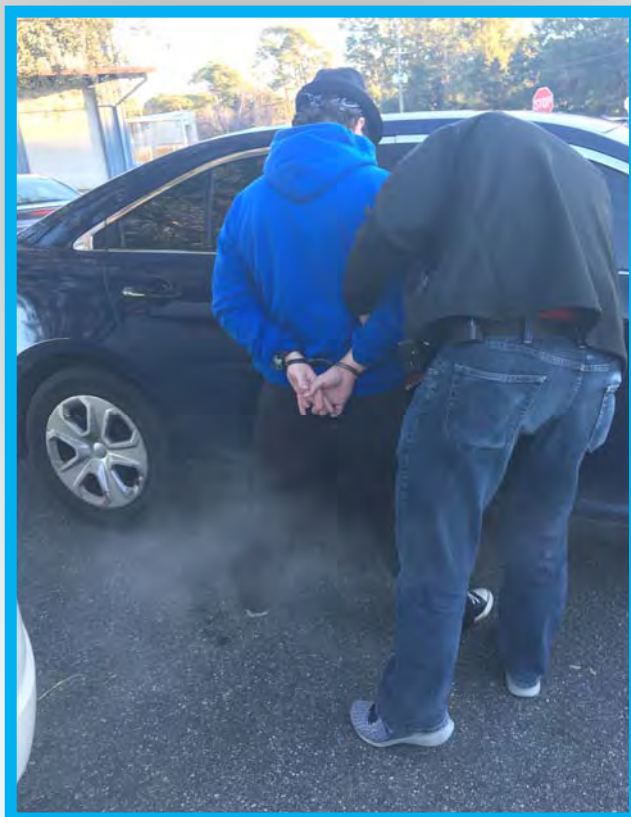


## NEIGHBORHOOD SMACKDOWN

An operation named “Neighborhood Smackdown,” was a joint agency mission targeting a sophisticated drug trafficking network operating across several counties in Florida. The case culminated with tactical arrests and drug seizures, including, but not limited to, over one (1) kilogram methamphetamine, large quantities of heroin, along with over 1,000 tablets of MDMA (Ecstasy) and recovery of significant stolen property (vehicles) and other illegal assets.

In 2019, the Cybercrimes Unit engaged in various “sting” operations targeting dangerous predators attempting to exploit underage children for sex. Their casework led to successful prosecutions, including, but not limited to, one notable predatory sex offender, Ronald Roscoe of Michigan. In late 2019, Roscoe was sentenced to life in federal prison after he previously traveled to Okaloosa County from Michigan, intending to engage in illegal sexual activity with who he believed was a twelve year old juvenile.

Members of the Fugitive Warrants Unit are highly skilled and experienced Investigators. In 2019, this team of investigators proactively tracked and apprehended a variety of dangerous felons in Okaloosa County. Their work targeted fugitives, violent crime offenders, homicide suspects, drug dealers, burglars, criminal gangs, sexual predators and more. Some notable examples of their work involved tracking high-profile homicides suspects as well as suspects involved in a drive-by shooting that occurred at a child’s birthday party in southern Okaloosa County. SIS/Fugitive Warrant Investigators also tracked and apprehended multiple sexual offenders, to include one fugitive who fled from Tennessee to Okaloosa County. These investigators also assisted the U.S. Marshals Task Force locating federal fugitives.





## Evidence/Crime Scene Unit

2019 end of the year total amount of items stored within the Evidence Unit: 114,895; Total amount of evidence items received in 2019: 19,049; Total amount of evidence items purged/destroyed: 7,640.

Total requests via Help Desk tickets: 2,599. 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: 565. FDLE Firearm Eligibility System Checks completed: 221. Court Orders Executed: 18.



# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

## Individual Accomplishments

Nesli Suhi-Moore promoted to Lieutenant

John Merchant promoted to Lieutenant

Demeika McClendon promoted to Sergeant

Sterling Eslinger promoted to Sergeant

Joseph Gordon promoted to Sergeant

Raphael Brown promoted to Sergeant

Joseph Trimboli to Investigator

Sonya Shepard promoted to Investigator

Dustan Rice promoted to Investigator

Paxton Shelton promoted to Investigator

David Finke promoted to Investigator

Kourtney Howard promoted to Investigator

Michael Hogan promoted to Investigator

Todd Padilla Promoted to Investigator

#OCSOPromotionProud



# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIVISION

## Chaplaincy

Calendar year 2019 was a banner year for the Chaplaincy in achieving success on all planned programming. The annual Angel Tree toy and clothing drive achieved new levels of success - nearly 100 children were sponsored at a value of approximately \$18,000.00 in donated funds from the men and women of the Sheriff's Office. The Annual Hospice Tree Program was also a huge success with more trees decorated and donated to hospice patients this year than any of the previous four years.

A self-imposed staffing goal was achieved in 2019 resulting in two chaplains assigned in each district, the first time since the inception of the chaplaincy. The additional chaplains were crucial in providing support to the increasing number of employees and their families. These dedicated volunteers answered support calls for service ranging from unattended deaths to employee hospitalizations. OCSO Chaplains continue to provide around the clock service in an always-on-call capacity.

Not only did our Chaplains respond in times of crisis, they provided training to over 97 police chaplains from around the state with interactive training seminars. Their level of professionalism, expertise, and desire to serve has benefited countless individuals.



## Crime Prevention Unit

In 2019 the OCSO Crime Prevention Unit worked to keep the citizens, businesses, and visitors safe in Okaloosa County by providing various safety presentations, free kid's and women's self-defense classes, neighborhood watch meetings, safety tip alerts, and numerous community events where safety information was distributed. The Crime Prevention Unit attended the 2019 Southern States Crime Prevention Conference, attained crime prevention certification through the Florida Attorney General's Office, and attended specialized trainings on topics including: Reducing Vandalism and Break-ins, School Rampage and Active Shooter, The Colorado Cannabis Experience, Workplace Violence, Child Abuse Prevention, and Cyber Safety. These trainings helped, and will continue to help, the Crime Prevention Unit provide the most up to date safety information to Okaloosa County citizens and tourists.



### 2019 Accomplishments

- Gave 79 various safety presentations.
- Reaching approximately 3,020 citizens in Okaloosa County.
- 20 presentations educating senior citizens on how to prevent becoming a victim of ID theft, fraud, and scams throughout the county.
- 3 New Comers briefings for new military members and families in the community.
- Attended 45 community events throughout the county handing out various safety information to citizens and visitors.



- Worked with 15 local Churches on developing their church safety and security plans. The Crime Prevention Unit is proud of the Church Safety program which includes all forms of safety and prevention including medical emergencies, burglaries, domestic violence and active shooter. The meetings and security surveys help churches better protect their staff, members and visitors.
- Pastor Range Day for 20 pastors and organization staff.
- Organized and conducted three Neighborhood Watch meetings educating residents on how to report suspicious activity and ways to deter crime in their neighborhood.
- Yellow River Plantation Home Owners Meeting
- Northgate Neighborhood
- Mary Esther Manor and Page Bacon Road Community Meeting. The August meeting was a joint neighborhood watch meeting with FL Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Sheriff's Office where over 100 residents attended to learn how to deter crime and bears.
- Held a 14 week long Citizens Academy with 55 graduates.
- Attended 68 community networking events, chamber breakfasts, luncheons, and Businesses Empowered meetings.
- Provided Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) security surveys.
- Rocky Bayou Christian School
- Gulf Dune Condo
- Town of Cinco Bayou parks
- Partnered with Nextdoor.com to improve communication about crimes occurring in neighborhoods. Nextdoor.com is a private social network for individuals to communicate about issues happening in their neighborhood. Using Nextdoor.com, over 29 thousand residents in 275 neighborhoods were reached throughout Okaloosa County in 2019.
- Advertised, scheduled, and organized 12 Teen Driver Challenge classes teaching 140 students



## Crime Prevention Member Highlights

Ashley Bailey is the Crime Prevention Manager with the OCSO. She has worked in the Crime Prevention Unit for fourteen years and has started numerous programs and services throughout her career such as the Take Me Home Program, Fraud and Scams for seniors, ID theft education program, and CODY where volunteers check on delinquent youth. Ashley has a passion for church safety and security. She wants all citizens, staff, and visitors to be safe while attending church in Okaloosa County. Her goal for 2020 is to continue to educate churches on church safety and security to ensure a safe environment for all attendees. She also plans on educating parents with kids in elementary or middle school on internet safety and what parents can do to keep their kids safe while online. Ashley loves to serve the community of Okaloosa County. She is hardworking, dedicated, and diligent to provide the community with exceptional service in hopes of preventing crime in Okaloosa County.



Carla Von Kaenal merges the duties of managing Secondary Employment (off duty details) and Crime Prevention in order to offer a full range of resources to our customers. She brings to the Crime Prevention Unit great organization and people skills and a heart to serve the community. Carla has contributed great ideas for a new crime prevention program. Her goal is to start a new camera registration program in 2020 which will help deputies solve crimes and protect the citizens in Okaloosa County.



## Volunteers



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office volunteers completed a total of 2,247 volunteer hours in 2019! The Crime Prevention Unit could not provide all the free programs and services to the citizens, businesses, and visitors of Okaloosa County without our wonderful volunteers.

- The 30 OCSO general volunteers gave a total of 1,389 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. Participants were able to choose between the Fort Walton Beach or Crestview classes which were offered in the spring, summer, and fall.
- 10 RSVP volunteers gave 72 hours performing 10 CODY Checks on 133 juveniles on probation in the Central District.
- RSVP volunteer Ed Robbeloth was promoted to a team leader and trainer.
- Mrs. Sandra Gainey, an Okaloosa County teacher, volunteered with the OCSO in 2019 teaching deputies and civilians a course in Advanced Report Writing and Grammar Training.
- On April 15, 2019 the United Way of Okaloosa and Walton Counties recognized the following 2 OCSO Volunteers for outstanding public service contributed to the community through the Stakeholder Partnerships, Education and Communication (SPED for volunteer income tax assistance program assisting employees for the Sheriff's Office with their taxes: Al Haberbusch and Fred Dallas
- The 28 Mounted Posse volunteers gave a total of 952 hours. They promoted goodwill and created a positive impression for Law Enforcement. They enjoy seeing the smiles on the faces of children, as well as the adults. The Mounted Posse attended 8 community events, two meetings and five training sessions.

## Secondary Employment

In 2019, 202 OCSO deputies covered 6670 secondary employment jobs totaling over 42,993 hours. This represents a 6% increase in jobs and an 11% increase in hours from 2018. These jobs represent requests from the community for off duty services in neighborhoods, condominiums, local businesses, highways, churches, entertainment venues, and schools. March again proved to be the busiest month for requests with over 760 jobs scheduled. The secondary employment coordinator does a great job arranging coverage with over 90% of requested assignments being filled.

## Accreditation

2019 was a year of accomplishment in regards to accreditation. Onsite assessment cycles for both the Florida Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) and the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) coincided this year requiring detailed planning and preparation. The hard work paid off with reaccreditation awarded by CFA in June followed by a spectacular onsite assessment by CALEA assessors in October. The OCSO will go before the CALEA Commission in March 2020 for reaccreditation. These accomplishments are a testament to the quality of service and professionalism exhibited day in and day out by the many dedicated members of your Sheriff's Office and something only 5% of all law enforcement agencies in the United States have achieved.





## Professional Development and Training Section

Office of Professional Standards, Professional Development Unit, and the Career Development Program provide career guidance, recognition of accomplishments, and financial incentives for non-supervisory deputies and communications officers 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.

**In 2019 Deputy Michael Peters achieved Career Deputy 1 status**

**In 2019 Ryan Jaycocks achieved Advanced Communication Officer status**



## Professional Development and Training

In 2019 the following attended advanced leadership training:

Major Eric Aden - FBI National Academy

Major Kenneth Lapee - FCJEI Executive Leadership Seminar

Captain Mark Raiche - FCJEI Executive Leadership Seminar

Captain David Allen - FCJEI Senior Leadership Program

Inspector William Jerard - FCJEI Senior Leadership Program

Sergeant Jason Folley - FCJEI Florida Leadership Academy

Sergeant Kyle Lowrey - FCJEI Florida Leadership Academy

Sergeant Daniel Genrich - FCJEI Florida Leadership Academy

Sergeant Tom Piaget - FCJEI Florida Leadership Academy

Sergeant Rodney Owens - FCJEI Florida Leadership Academy

Sergeant Marcus O'Sullivan - FCJEI Florida Leadership Academy

Sergeant Joseph Milonas - FCJEI Florida Leadership Academy

Lieutenant Lenny Holloway - NWFSC Leadership Okaloosa

Sergeant Jeremy Gilbert - NWFSC Leadership Okaloosa

Deputy Sheriff Brit Corbin - NWFC Criminal Justice Leadership Academy

Deputy Sheriff Matthew Langer - NWFC Criminal Justice Leadership Academy

Corporal Justin Boggs - NWFC Criminal Justice Leadership Academy

Corporal Robert Robinson - NWFC Criminal Justice Leadership Academy

Corporal Branden Walters - NWFC Criminal Justice Leadership Academy

Corporal Tyler Williamson - NWFC Criminal Justice Leadership Academy

Investigator Kourtney Howard - NWFC Criminal Justice Leadership Academy

Investigator Richard McCoy - NWFC Criminal Justice Leadership Academy

Investigator Jessica Keel - NWFC Criminal Justice Leadership Academy

Investigator Paxton Shelton - NWFC Criminal Justice Leadership Academy

Sergeant Sterling Eslinger - NWFC Criminal Justice Leadership Academy

Sergeant Joseph Gordon - NWFC Criminal Justice Leadership Academy

Sergeant Demeika McClendon - NWFC Criminal Justice Leadership Academy

Sergeant Joseph Milonas - NWFC Criminal Justice Leadership Academy

Sergeant Nolan Weeks - NWFC Criminal Justice Leadership Academy



## Intra-Agency Training

In 2019, the agency obtained 1.4 million dollars to construct a Regional Law Enforcement Training Center at the firearms training facility. Range improvements included the addition of a third range, a dedicate state of the art firearms simulator, and all ranges were upgraded to include a bullet catchment system to protect the environment.

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 four two-day Citizens Firearms Safety Courses, training 59 citizens.

### OCSO COMMUNITY KUDOS



### **CITIZENS FIREARM SAFETY COURSE**

**"Today, I attended the Firearms safety class at your local firing range. What an experience! The entire staff was welcoming, pleasant, informative, and so willing to help us no matter what our experience level.**

**I just moved here from Texas, have had CHL for twenty years, and THIS was the most well coordinated range training I have ever attended.**

**I tip my hat to you, Sir and all you do for this county."**



**Okaloosa County  
Sheriff's Office  
Community Kudos**





## Intra-Agency Training



In 2019, OCSO employees attended 17,328 training hours outside of our agency and 8,622 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.

4,314 hours of online training programs were completed through various websites outside of the agency. Internally, our own PowerDMS virtual training system provided 3,308 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 2019

\*Continued partnering with Fort Walton Beach Medical Center to be an American Heart Association Training Site, offering classes to all employees on Basic Life Support to include CPR, the use of AEDs and Stop the Bleed. Stop the Bleed is a nationally recognized course endorsed by the White House to help educate the public on the dangers of bleeding. FWBMC generously provided the materials and supplies to support this project.

\*Partnered with the Northwest Florida State College, Criminal Justice Training Center, to support and host several training courses specific to the area of law enforcement education. Continued an annual training program for all sworn members in the area of Active Shooter/ Active Threats. Partnered with the Okaloosa Healthcare Coalition to start agency supervisors on Incident Command and the National Incident Management System.



\*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. 51 sworn members entered the program. Recruited and helped develop successful Field Training Officers as part of OCSO FTEP.

## Other Professional Development Accomplishments in 2019



The Training Unit added a second Sergeant position responsible for the training and certification of the agency's various K9 units working to protect the citizens of Okaloosa County.

Facilitated the 2019 promotional process for Corporal, Investigator, and Sergeant. With the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, Consolidated Dispatch added the position of Communications Supervisor to the promotional process.

Began offering advanced training to agency members and recognized the need to offer no-cost training to other law enforcement agencies in the region. This advanced training included but was not limited to Low Light Encounters, Ballistic Shield Training, Basic and Advanced Rifle classes, etc.

Established a Coach Aaron Feis Guardian Program. The guardian program allows the sheriff to appoint as school guardians, without the power of arrest, school employees who volunteer and hold a valid license under s. 790.06, F.S., who complete 132 total hours of comprehensive firearm safety and proficiency training conducted by CJSTC-certified instructors, and who successfully complete at least 12 hours of a certified nationally recognized diversity training program. Once all statutory requirements have been met, participants received their certification as a School Guardian.



## 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 325 sworn members and over 125 non-sworn civilian employees. The unit also partnered with the Professional Development Section to facilitate the promotional processes for Corporal, Investigator, Sergeant, and Communications Shift Supervisor.



During 2019 the OCSO HR unit was responsible for filling 64 sworn deputy vacancies. The unit culled through approximately 181 applications to ensure only the most qualified person was hired. The unit also sorted through about 232 applications in order to fill 46 non-sworn civilian member vacancies. On average, it took about 30 days to fill a vacant position. Through the efforts of the HR Unit, the OCSO filled all of its sworn vacancies in November. The HR unit continues to work tirelessly to keep a high quality pool of applicants available to fill positions as they become available. The Unit was also instrumental in facilitating the smooth employment transition of county employees acquired through the consolidation of the Fire/EMS/Law Enforcement Communications Section and the Airport Operations Center.







# Judicial Services

## Court Security/Detention



Calendar year 2019 was exceptional for the Court Security and Detention Sections.

Tested Hard and Scored “A+!” Court Security and Detention greatly exceeded all expectations when they passed all of their accreditation and compliance inspections with flying colors: Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. (CFA), and Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) Site Visit. The CALEA inspector’s comments on Court Security summed it up best, “I’ve never seen an organization so well-liked by its community partners. It’s not like this anywhere else.”

In January, the County Courthouse in Crestview, Florida, reopened and all judicial and Clerk of Court functions resumed at that location. Several security enhancements were made at both the County Courthouse and the Okaloosa County Courthouse Annex Extension to provide the upmost in security and safety for the court and visitors.

Many personnel changes occurred in 2019, to include the retirements of Sergeant Harold Ma-son and Deputy Kathy Naumann after years of selfless service to the Sheriff's Office and citizens of Okaloosa County.



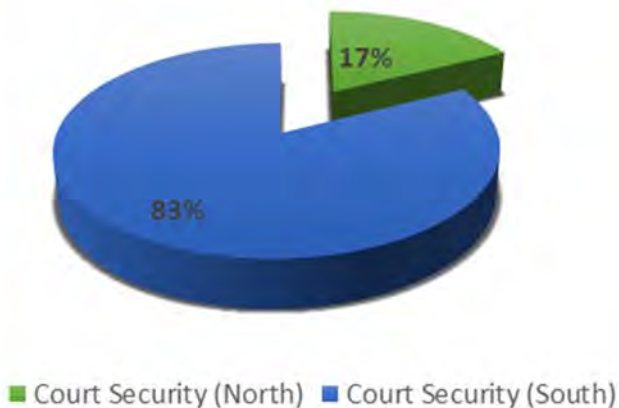
Aside from transitioning to a new courthouse and preparing for inspections, the units contin-ued to stay extremely busy with their daily workloads.

Court Security (North) handled 13,675 cases or hearings, screened 66,477 individuals through the Single Point of Entry, and seized 22 items of contraband or weapons.

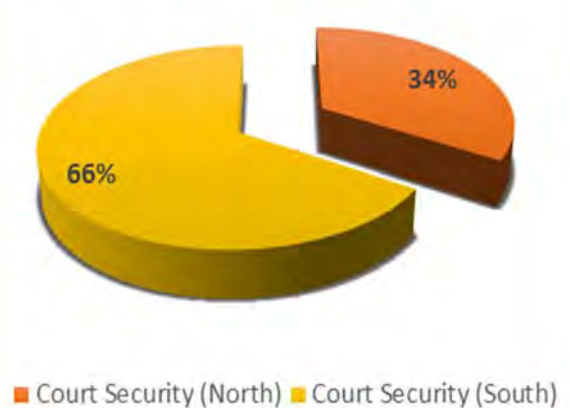
Court Security (South) handled 64,585 cases or hearings, screened 130,341 citizens through the Single Point of Entry, and seized 255 items of contraband or weapons.

\* *Of note, the number of people screened at this location equates to 357 people per day.*

**Cases and Hearings**

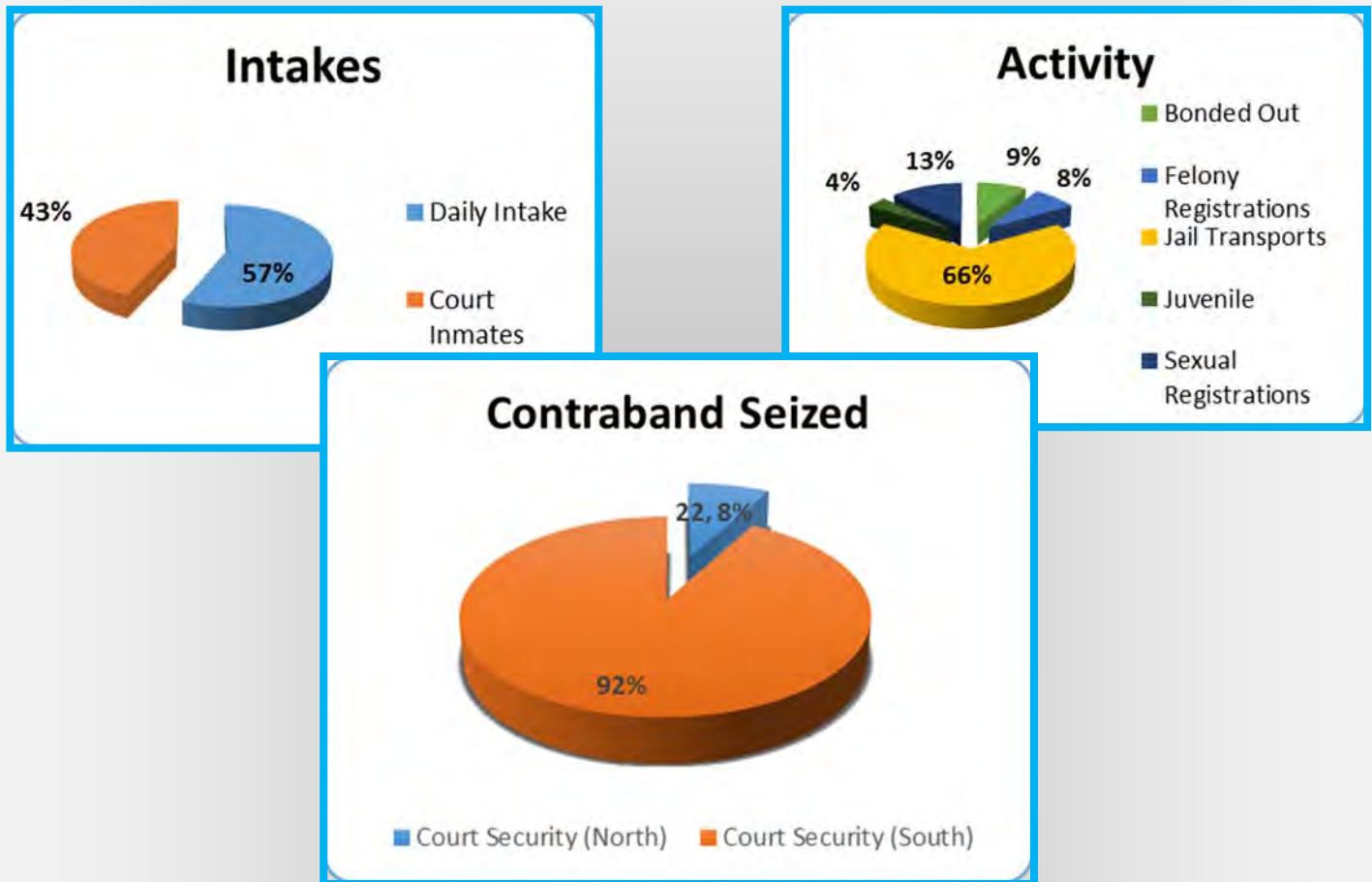


**Individuals Screened**





Court Security and Detention processed 1,577 state-mandated DNA collections for submission to FDLE. OCSO is at a 100% collection rate as of the latest FDLE statistics.



## 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 3,583 outstanding warrants and orders to take into custody for the arrest of fugitives

During 2019 the Warrants Unit processed more than 6,593 warrants, 3,956 warrants were executed and 649 prisoners were transported at a cost of \$156,105.13



## 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 Emails – 11,382**

**Scanned Entries – 26,463**

**NTA's – 738**

**MI Records Merged – 3,054**

**Mug shots upload by Records – 3846**

**Video Compiled for SAO, DUI Review Board or Public Records Request – 6049**

**BWC Videos uploaded 2019– 212,931 uploaded – 101,085 still active**

**Offense Reports – 19,245**

**Arrests only (does not include NTA's, Warrants, or Summons) – 5,042**

**DUI Citations – 330 in MobileForms**

**Traffic Crash Reports – 1,277 in MobileForms**

**Traffic Warnings – 5,716 logged in MobileForms;**

**21076 calls closed 78-0 M-Verbal warning, not written**

**Traffic Citations – 5,284 logged in MobileForms**

\* All Offense Reports and Arrests/NTA's are reviewed for UCR data daily.

\* DOMV Reports are sent on a daily basis to Shelter House

\*All new MI entries are reviewed for duplicates daily and merged if needed



## 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, Attachment, and so on. 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 2019 the Civil Process Unit:**

**Manages more than 2363 Domestic Injunctions and protection orders**

**Processed more than 14,036 and served 13624 pieces of civil process**

**Processed and served 1,308 domestic violence and other protective orders**

**Processed and served 7,366 criminal subpoenas**

**And collected more than \$138,000 in Sheriff's Fees**







## Community Service/ Activities and Achievements

In 2019, the Okaloosa County Courthouse Annex Extension (OCCAE), hosted three Building Partnership Aviation Capacity Seminars. This portion of the military relations project is spearheaded by Judge 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 fifth year sponsored a blood drive with “One Blood” through the efforts of Deputy Steve Baldwin. 2019 was the first year we ran simultaneous blood drives; one at each courthouse.





The men and women of the Judicial Services Division had a total of 655.5 volunteer hours for 2019. Judicial Services employees are members of or volunteer for the following organizations/activities:

Public Safety Coordinating Council  
Court Emergency Management Team  
OCSO Teen Driver Challenge  
OCSO Sheriff's Star Charities  
AMI Kids Emerald Coast  
Emerald Coast Motorcycle Challenge  
Safe Connections  
Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run  
Fraternal Order of Police  
Mental Health Association of Okaloosa/Walton Counties  
Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers  
Okaloosa USO  
Vitas Healthcare (Hospice Care)  
PATHS (Liza Jackson)  
Guardian ad Litem

Congratulations to  
Deputy Steven Williams  
for being selected as  
Administration Bureau  
Sworn Outstanding  
Performer of the Year!









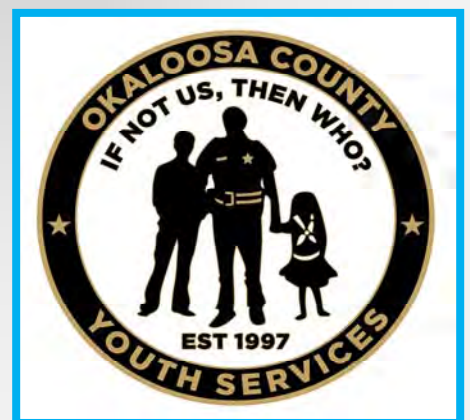
# Youth Services

The Youth Services Division is responsible for providing sworn law enforcement and school safety for 40 public and private schools and serves a student population of 33,000 students, along with 2,500 faculty and staff. Sheriff Larry Ashley and the Okaloosa County School District have ensured all public schools maintain an SRO on their campuses.

2019 was an amazing year for the Youth Services Division. One of the highest honors of doing ones job and doing it right is being recognized for your outstanding efforts. Deputy Cullen Coraine was awarded Florida's SRO of the Year for 2019. Being named Top SRO did not come as a surprise to those who know Deputy Coraine. He is an amazing SRO and amazing person.

The Youth Services Division also once again stood out in the state of Florida, taking home the top award as Florida's School Resource Officer Unit of the Year for 2019.

They truly embody "Service Above Self"!



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Youth Services Division is, by design, a very diverse and purpose driven unit. The selection process is rigorous and the training extreme because we do not compromise in the defense of our schools. We achieve our goals by recruiting uniquely trained deputies who bring next level skills and experience to our team and through relentless tactical and threat readiness training. They amassed 4,886 training hours in the 2018-2019 school year.

The OCSO Youth Services Division is the leading SRO unit in Florida because it's built on an extremely strong foundation of experience, skill and commitment.

- 36 invested parents with 41 kids on campuses daily in our school district
- 55 rifle qualified SROs carrying M4's in schools and at campus events
  - 6 SWAT trained members (former SWAT operators)
    - 3 Certified Crisis/Hostage Negotiators
  - 2 NOSA certified Sniper and certified Sniper Training Officer
    - 10 Tac Medic/ Combat Lifesaver certified officers
  - 1 FLETC trained Active Shooter and LINPIN Instructor
    - 10 plus Stop the Bleed Instructors
    - 45 ALICE Instructors
- 5 CPTED trained Officers (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design)
  - 1 Defensive Tactic Instructor
- Over 175 combined years of military training and advanced leadership experience
  - Over 300 combined years of law enforcement experience
    - FTO Program
  - Designated Tactical Security Officer Squad
    - Dedicated K-9 Team
  - CPTED Assessment Team





When it comes to school safety and service to youth, the Okaloosa County SRO Unit is a trend setting unit. It does not lie in wait for what might come. SROs envision what could happen and prepare for it. They are the tip of the spear and are ever sharpening it...for if not us, then who?

Since the beginning of school, all students have received training in ALICE Safety Procedures and an ongoing plan and implementation is in place to train all students/teachers on Stop the Bleed procedures. A safety assessment was conducted on every campus and a written report presented to the school district with plans in motion for upgrading safety.

Our SRO's receive annual training in Non Violent Physical Crisis Intervention, Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) for school and proper use of restraints for ESE and Emotionally & Behaviorally Disabled (EBD) students for working with a special population such as those students with autism. SRO's attend monthly district trainings to maintain and refresh their skills in various areas such as investigating sexting cases, child abuse cases and interviewing children.



Our SRO's lead by example when it comes to teaching positive character traits. Community Service is a primary tenet of the Youth Services program and each SRO takes this concept to heart by initiating and/or participating in numerous school and community based events and programs.

In 2018-19 our SRO's represented the Youth Services Division with 959 volunteer hours outside of school hours:

<b>TOTAL OFFENSE REPORTS</b>	<b>2030</b>
<b>THREATS TO SCHOOLS</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>BAKER ACT SCREENINGS</b>	<b>172</b>
<b>CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS</b>	<b>557</b>
<b>INFORMATION/INTELLIGENCE REPORTS</b>	<b>488</b>

One of 2019'S highlights was a Fall Festival where SRO volunteers provided dinner and fun to the Niceville Community. It was a great time and our chance to give back to our community.



This group of Deputies never stop doing. They also participated in the annual Trees for Hospice. The SROs along with their schools decorated 150 trees to be presented to patients who are currently in hospice care.





The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Youth Services Division will continue its high standards. The dedicated personnel 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.

We will continue to improve our readiness and abilities to respond to any emergency situation.

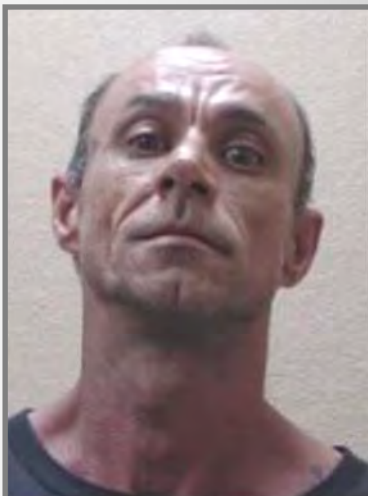


## Sexual Offender/Predator Unit

In 2013, the Sex Offender Predator Unit was realigned into the Youth Services Division based on the philosophy and best practice that the school resource officer (SRO) is the most effective and efficient resource to monitor offenders/predators residing and/or located within Okaloosa County.

The Sexual Offender/Predator Unit (SOPU) is comprised of members of the Youth Services Division who are tasked with the monitoring, tracking, and verifying of all sexual offenders/predators within Okaloosa County, Florida. They go out to offenders/predators residences and verify they are reporting the correct information on their sex offender registrations and also arrest non-compliant offenders/predators.

More than fifty SROs, spread across three districts, diligently worked to verify approximately 360 offenders/predators within Okaloosa County. From January 2019 to November 22, 2019, 1060 verifications were attempted or verified, 24 reports generated with potential violations with more than eight arrests falling under the category of FSS 943.0435 (failure to register) and at least one more currently under investigation.



**Timothy Wayne Simmons**  
Date of Image : 07/29/2019



**Michael Leroy Zehfus**  
Date of Image : 09/17/2019



**Billy Wayne Morrison**  
Date of Image : 01/07/2020



**CASEY AARON THOMPSON**  
Date of Image : 11/01/2019

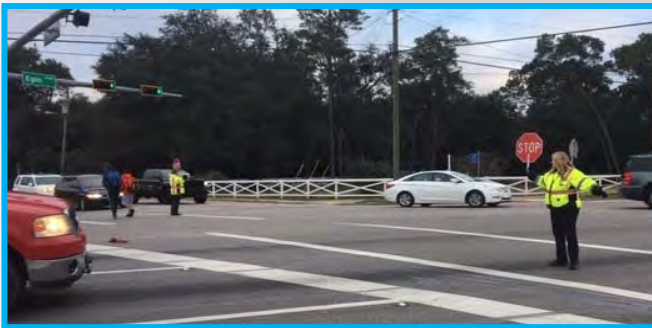
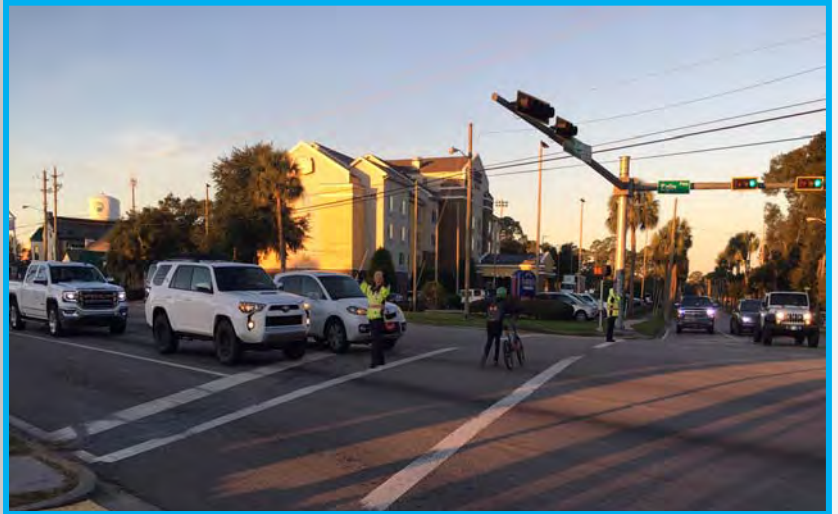
Partnerships have been fostered with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Office of the State Attorney and U.S. Marshals Service in this significant task. These relationships have assisted with maintaining statutory requirements, offender compliance, and continuing training. These men and women excel at what they do, while maintaining a standard unsurpassed in their primary function – school based policing.



## School Crossing Guards

As of December 3 2019, the Okaloosa County Crossing Guards have worked a year's average of 600 hours. In addition, they have worked a grand total of 56,410 hours as of the abovementioned date. There are currently a total of ten part-time civilian employees assigned to Youth Services Division of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office who work four hours a day during the start and dismissal times of school.

As a result of a steadily growing county population combined with a related increase in traffic flow, large numbers of children are put at risk attempting to cross intersections in order to attend school. School Crossing Guards will assist students safely and expeditiously across busy streets at designated school crossing guard sites. School Crossing Guards are a vital part of the Youth Services Division.





On February 14, 2018 a gunman opened fire at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FLORIDA – killing seventeen students and staff.

We endeavor to honor their memory by our deeds.

**We will never forget those we have lost at MSDHS.**





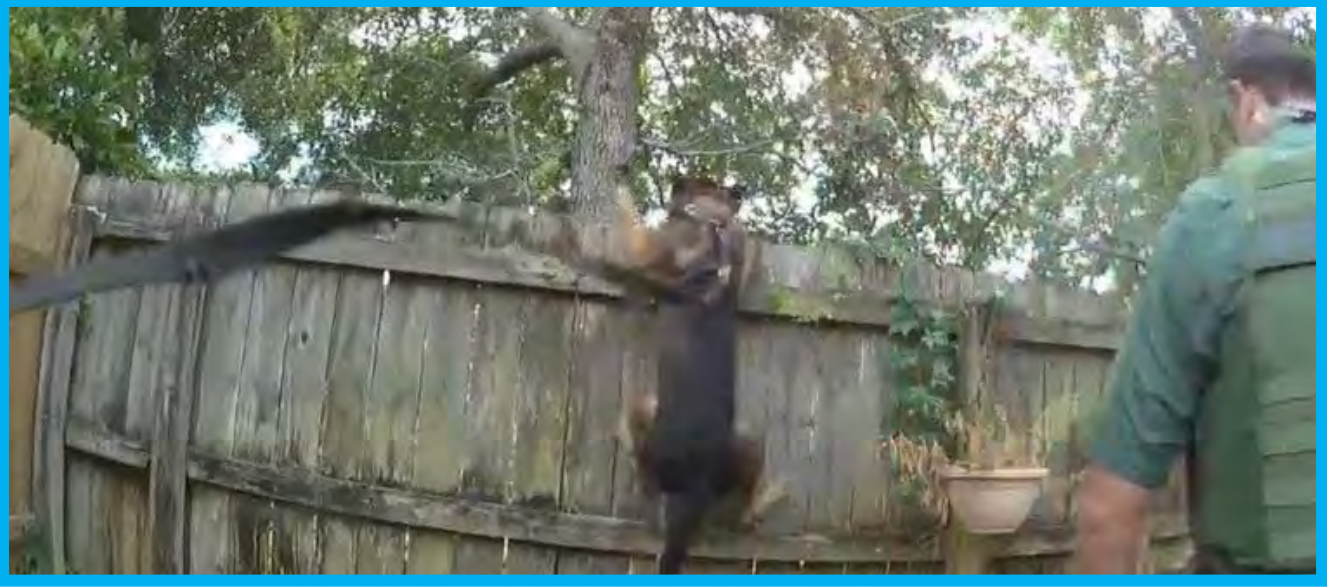






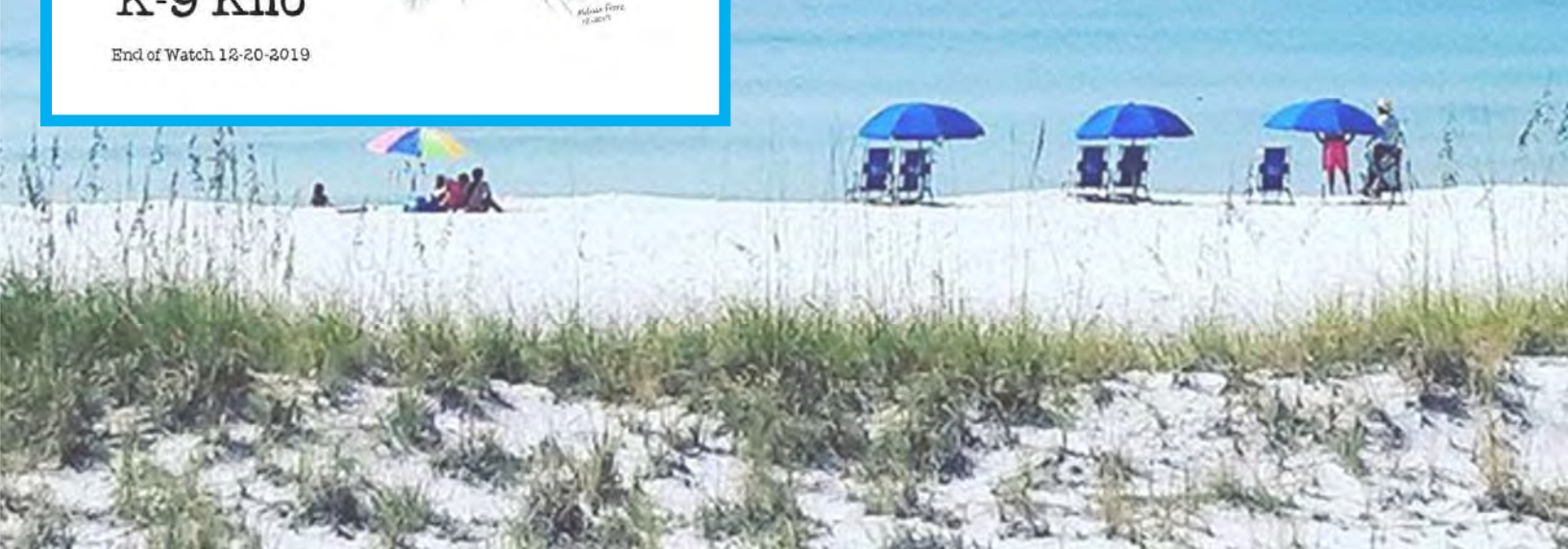


# K9 UNIT



**K-9 Kilo**

End of Watch 12-20-2019







# 2019 USPCA NATIONAL FIELD TRIALS

November 3-8, 2019  
Destin/Fort Walton Beach, Florida



## Monday, November 4th

- **Obedience, Agility & Boxes**
  - **8:00 am - 4:00 pm**
  - **MORGANS SPORTS COMPLEX**  
(4200 Indian Bayou Trail, Destin, FL 32541)

## Tuesday, November 5th

- **Obedience, Agility & Boxes**
  - **8:00 am - 4:00 pm**
  - **MORGANS SPORTS COMPLEX**  
(4200 Indian Bayou Trail, Destin, FL 32541)



## Wednesday, November 6th

- **Apprehension Without Gunfire**
  - **8:00 am - 2:00 pm**
  - **MORGANS SPORTS COMPLEX**  
(4200 Indian Bayou Trail, Destin, FL 32541)

## Thursday, November 7th

- **Apprehension With Gunfire**
  - **8:00 am - 2:00 pm**
  - **MORGANS SPORTS COMPLEX**  
(4200 Indian Bayou Trail, Destin, FL 32541)
- **Public Demonstration-**
  - **6:00 pm**
  - **Etheridge Stadium**
  - **110 Racetrack Rd NW, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547**



**MORGANS SPORT COMPLEX**



Proudly Hosted by:  
**Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office**













# Airports Security Unit

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, Airport Security Unit (ASU) was created by a contract and agreement between the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners and the Okaloosa County Sheriff dated April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, for the purpose of developing and operating a law enforcement unit. The Airport Security Unit continuously endeavors to surpass previous levels of professional public service by always offering assistance while maintaining order throughout the airport property. As one of the first faces of the community, deputies are often looked to for assistance with addressing the misfortunes of the traveling public ranging from issues such as lost/missing bags or missing property to criminal investigations. Deputies are ever vigilant in ensuring the visiting public (1.6 million in 2019) is met with courteous and informative deputies who are trained and experienced in solving distressing issues.

The Airport Security Unit is funded solely from revenues generated by the Okaloosa County Airport System. Operating revenues are generated from commissions received from a percentage of gross sales, public parking fees, car rentals, retails/concession sales, aircraft landing fees and rental agreements.



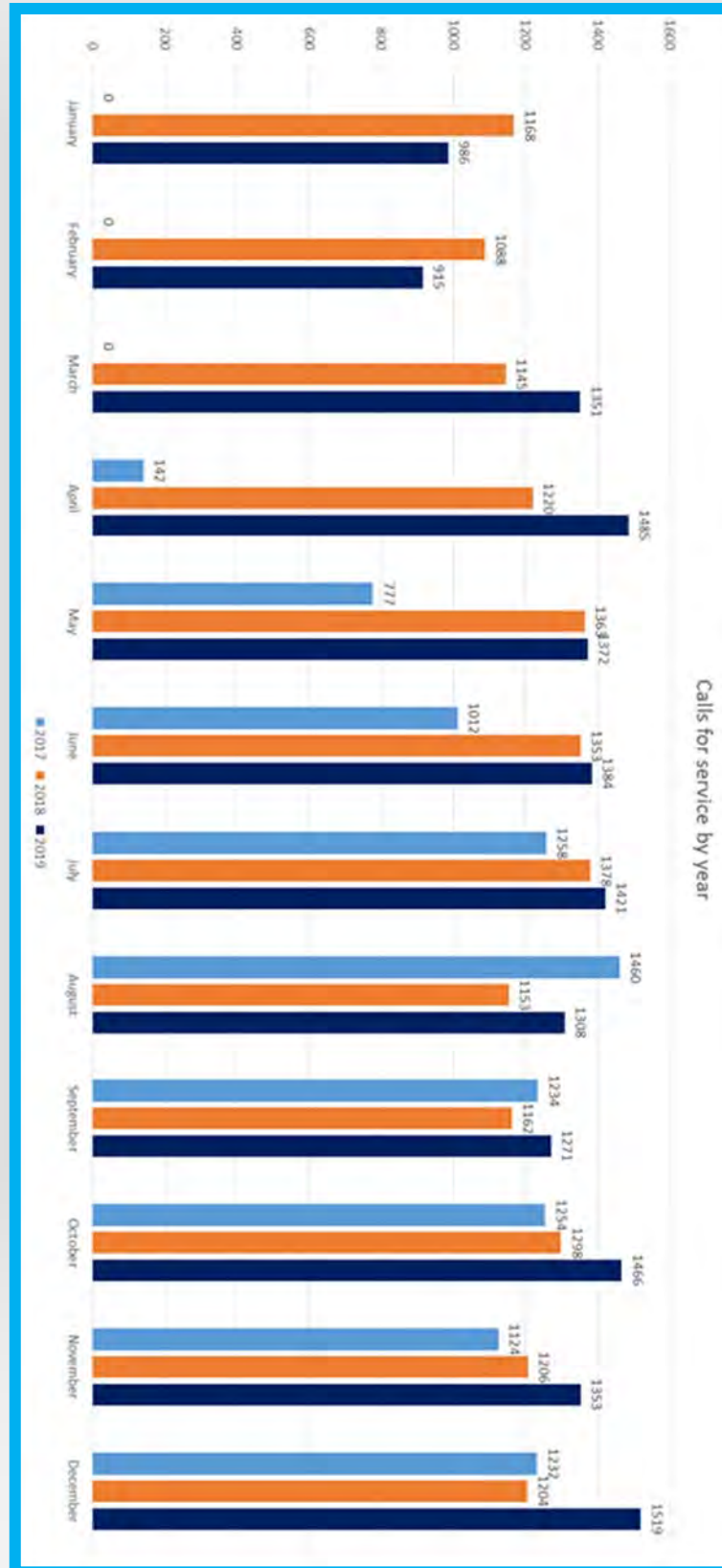
**Airport Security Unit, calls for service by year, 9,493 (2017), 14,738 (2018) and 15,831 (2019).**

# Airports Security Unit

Airport Security Unit, calls for service by year — 9,493 (2017)

14,738 (2018)

15,831 (2019)





Public safety is the Airport Security Unit's top priority. To that end, we highlight some new initiatives and programs to keep you and our airports safe.



### 2019 Year in Review

This year, the Airport Security Unit celebrated its second full year providing law enforcement services for the Okaloosa County Airport System. In 2019, the Airport Security Unit answered 15,831 calls for service an increase of 1,093 calls for service in 2018. The Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport (VPS) continues to grow each year, exceeding 1.6 million passengers in 2019, an increase of 18% from 2018. Since 2017 passenger loads have increased by 50% at VPS.

In addition to answering calls for service, Airport Security Unit is tasked with managing the traffic flow of vehicles coming and going from the main terminal. Deputies worked 61 traffic crashes at VPS during 2019.



# Airports Security Unit

Activity	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Calls for Service (VPS)	901	838	1252	1406	1337	1338	1371	1237	1196	1296	1251	1415	14838
Calls for service (CEW)	42	33	43	32	17	25	11	28	34	99	41	41	446
Calls for service (DTS)	43	44	56	47	18	21	39	43	41	71	61	63	547
Secure Area Patrol (90)	109	94	126	163	131	129	140	127	137	141	136	128	1561
Non-Secure Area Patrol (91)	167	145	210	141	188	197	212	207	197	225	225	213	2327
Sterile Area Sweep (92)	31	28	31	30	31	30	31	31	30	31	30	31	365
Random Access Point (93A)	80	64	94	129	134	132	129	143	125	124	122	147	1423
Random Access Point (93B)	73	62	96	106	103	108	117	101	92	93	93	112	1151
Gate Access Point (94)	72	73	108	104	98	104	113	106	108	108	100	111	1205
Sterile Area Patrol (95)	48	38	155	177	154	148	142	128	126	148	127	162	1553
SIDA Violations (96)	4	3	5	4	4	4	5	3	2	1	8	2	45
TSA Assist (97FFDO)	43	30	65	60	80	70	98	62	38	41	41	38	666
TSA Assist (97LEO)	14	15	42	57	58	42	51	28	28	21	26	31	413
Airline Assist (98)	0	3	6	4	7	6	2	4	0	4	4	3	43
Vehicle/Vendor Inspection (99R)	9	14	21	13	4	10	11	14	8	14	13	12	143
Vehicle/Vendor Inspection (99)	169	157	155	173	190	185	140	162	151	198	172	217	2069
Traffic Crash	4	1	6	2	2	13	4	10	2	9	7	1	61
Medical Emergency	4	6	9	5	4	9	8	7	3	5	14	4	78
Ordinance Violation	9	13	13	18	10	6	13	8	5	5	7	5	112
Arrest	1	2	2	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	12
Passengers (VPS)	75,917	77,484	116,515	122,904	167,248	219,478	234,314	185,160	133,668	133,569	107,057	99,912	1,673,226



Public safety is the Airport Security Unit's top priority. To that end, we highlight some new initiatives and programs to keep you and our airports safe.

## New Initiatives

Deputy Sheriff Brian Beyhl and K-9 Skye graduated from Explosives Detection Training on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The Explosives Detection Team are the newest members of the Airport Security Unit. Skye is a year and a half old Dutch Shepard Malinois mix and is full of energy. The addition of the Explosives Detection Team is an active deterrent to those who would target for potential acts of terrorism.

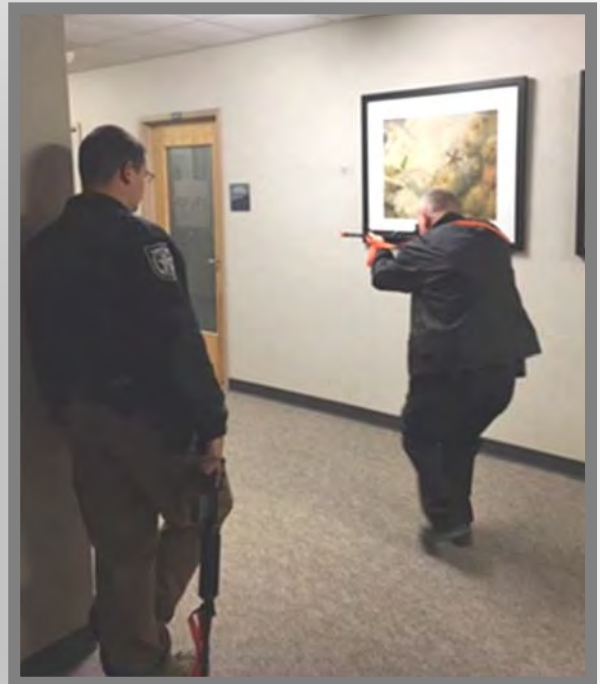


In 2019, Airport Security Unit assumed management responsibilities for the Airport Operations Center (AOC). The addition of the AOC is a significant improvement to public safety. With the addition of the AOC, communications within the unit have been streamlined and are more efficient, accurate, and timely. This is evident in day-to-day operations and will serve to improve communications during major incidents such as plane crashes, security breaches, mass casualty events, etc.



## ASU Training

Airport Security Unit members participated in Active Shooter Training held at the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport. This on-site training allowed deputies to apply tactics and procedures in the environment in which they work. The training was realistic, scenario-driven training designed to enhance deputies' situational awareness of threats that could be encountered in the airport and how they should respond to eliminate those threats.





Airport Security Unit members participated in Customs and Border Protection Ramp Inspection Training. Deputies sharpened their skills and improved their knowledge in reference to General Aviation airport security. Topics discussed included human trafficking, illegal drug trafficking, domestic terrorism, etc. and more importantly how to respond to potential threats.

### **Destin Executive Airport (DTS)**



### **Bob Sikes—Crestview (CEW)**

















# FINANCE



The Finance Department had a busy year. The department managed 13 grants, 10 contracts and 6 surtax projects. There were 330 purchase orders processed and a total of 158 check batches processed. The payroll administrator processed payroll for 450+ employees per payday.

The department oversaw a successful conversion of financial software which began 2/1/19 and completed on 3/1/19. It met the challenge of learning the new software without missing a check run or payroll in the process.

The merger of OCSO dispatch and EMS/Fire dispatch affected every role within finance; expanding duties within Payroll, Accounts Payable, Budgets, Purchasing and Assets. The team also completed the updating of financial, travel, and inventory tracking policies.

The Finance team continues to volunteer with various organizations and committees such as the Mounted Posse, Christmas Trees for Hospice, OCSO Employee Council, Healing Paws for Warriors and Cinco Bayou Town Council.

It added a new member to the team in December, bringing staff levels back to the same number as 10 years ago. Finance is a very dedicated team working well together to provide financial services to all members of the agency and the community.

Members say they look forward to another year of serving!

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Help Desk Tickets

2713 IT Tickets were entered for 2019



## Projects

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 2019.

New firewall device deployed. Barracuda firewall appliance has been configured and deployed to bolster cyber security measures.

Body Worn Camera System Contract renewal. Completed negotiations on a new 5-year contract providing 320 cameras, associated cabling, attachments, 85 stationary docks, and 283 TASER weapons. As of this writing the agency is storing 688,279 electronic files with a storage space of 131.20 Terabytes.

New financial system. Installed three new servers; two physical and one virtual. Supporting the configuration and deployment of new financial software allowing consolidation of multiple financial disciplines into one system.



User email migration. Completed migrating all user email to the Microsoft Office 365 platform allowing consolidated management and protection of agency email.

Continued standardization of file storage and processes. File services have been consolidated to a central repository allowing the removal of aged servers for the same purpose and allowing incremental backup of the data housed.

Consolidated Okaloosa County Fire/EMS dispatch into the Sheriff's Office Communications. Added additional computer aided dispatching (CAD) software licensing to current law enforcement computer aided dispatching software. Installed and setup a training server for Sheriff's Records Management and CAD software for the purpose of cross training Communications personnel in three disciplines, Law Enforcement/Fire/EMS call taking and dispatching. Coordinated with Okaloosa County Information Technology to transfer assets as a part of the consolidation. This also included the maintenance of the State Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) utilized by Fire and EMS.

Consolidated Okaloosa County operated Airport Operations Center into the Sheriff's Office. Installed computers and other equipment necessary to access the Sheriff's Office network. Recommended and oversaw the installation of additional security measures required for law enforcement agencies.

Added additional security cameras to the Headquarters Building in Shalimar. Added security cameras to the Livingston and North District Offices in Crestview and the Destin District Office.

Worked with Okaloosa County and Okaloosa County School District Information Technology personnel and established access to cameras in schools from the Sheriff's Communications Center.



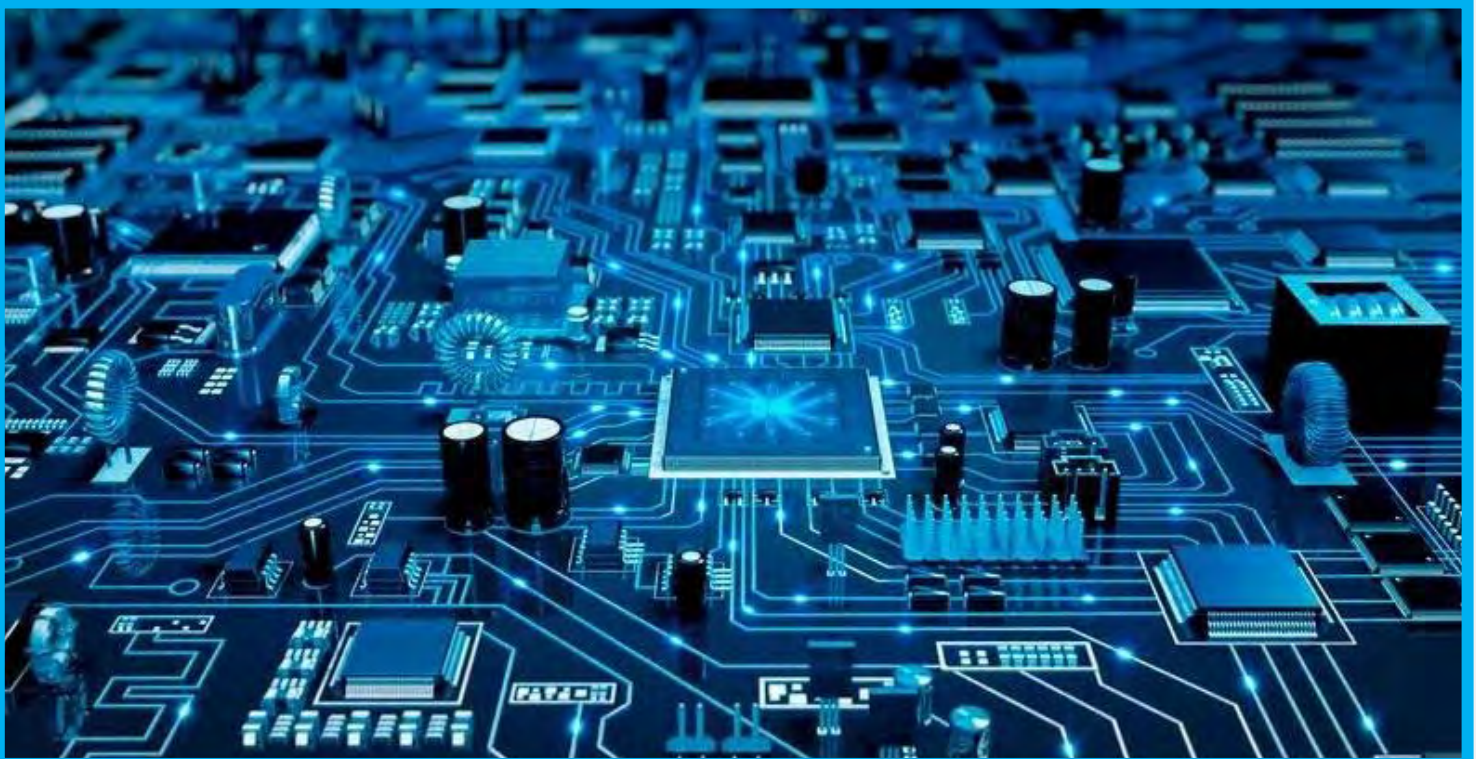
Purchased 56 new digital portable radios for all school resource officers (SRO). Coordinated with Okaloosa County School District communications personnel as they migrated to digital mobile radio repeaters in schools in programming channels into the digital portable radios used by the SRO's to communicate with their assigned school and other law enforcement agencies.

## Hardware Deployments

101 new desktop computers were deployed

195 new mobile computers deployed

2 new servers deployed





# Public Information



One of the highlights in 2019 for the Public Information Office was the opportunity to document the impressive work of the OCSO School Resource Officer Unit and SRO Deputy Cullen Coraine through video award submissions for the winning Florida SRO Unit of the Year and winning Florida SRO of the Year.

The videos helped showcase the remarkable success of our SROs due to their dedication to the mission, personal and professional commitment, and their overall proactive nature.

The videos were two of more than three dozen produced by the PIO Office for our YouTube channel alone. Many of the videos were picked up by national and international television production companies to feature on shows ranging from PD Cam and Frontline Police to National Geographic.

Public Information created approximately 215 news releases in 2019 as well as thousands of posts for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram around the clock including nights, weekends, and holidays since social media never sleeps!

Facebook followers topped the 87,000 mark in 2019 and Twitter approached the 10,000 mark with more than 21,600 subscribers now on our OCSO YouTube Channel and 8200 followers on Instagram.

# 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.



## 2019 YEAR IN REVIEW

**1,397 Tips Received**

**71 Arrests**

**97 Cases Cleared**

**\$18,150 Rewards Approved**





# Okaloosa Posse

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

The number of Posse hours are 6,148 total hours. The hours for 2018 were 7,630. The fewer hours for 2019 are due to lower Posse membership and the Emerald Coast Convention Center not using the Posse for special event security for most of 2019.

A breakdown of the duties the Okaloosa Sheriff's Posse performs that are not listed under special details are:

Guarding hospital prisoners	Serving civil papers `	Front desk at HQ and Destin
Crime scene security	Prisoner transport	Marine Unit backup
Teen court bailiff	Court security	
Church security	Traffic problem callout	

Other details covered by the Posse are:

Parade traffic control	Football traffic control	Special events
Runs throughout the county	Funeral escorts	Guarding plane crashes

In 2019 the Posse responded to 93 Special Details. Many of these details, required from 4 to 10 Posse members or more. The Posse hours for Special Details for 2019 were 2,510.5 hours and 1,844 hours for other details such as front desk, headquarters reception, guarding prisoners in the hospital, civil paper service, and court security.

The most requests for service were in March (11), April (12) and October (16).

Posse members completed all required training (305 hours). Members attended monthly meetings, special detail briefings, and administrative meetings (338 hours). The hours for vehicle repair, uniform issue/exchange, and required paperwork are included in the total hours.





# Mounted Posse





# OCSO Explorer Post 543

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Explorer Post 543 doubled in size in active Explorers and Jr. Explorers. The Explorers have worked at several local events held within the community and raised over \$6,000 on their annual 5k Mudbug run. The Explorers and a team of Advisors traveled to Orlando in June where they participated in the State Explorer Conference and Competition. Multiple awards and achievements were won with several being first and second place in the state.

They are also in the process of becoming Stop the Bleed certified as two Stop the Bleed training kits were recently donated to the program by a valued community sponsor. New computerized pistol training kits were purchased by the Explorers this year to assist them in becoming better marksmen for upcoming shooting competitions. They are currently coordinating a day trip to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Pensacola Office and Crime Lab to tour the facility and take part in multiple presentations to learn what functions they serve.

This group has also recently been invited to conduct a similar trip to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and Jail to tour those facilities and have an opportunity to view the many functions of such a large agency.

It has been quite an awesome year watching this amazing and dedicated group as they are developing into tomorrow's leaders.









# TEEN DRIVER CHALLENGE

The Florida Sheriffs Association's Teen Driver Challenge (TDC) was created in 2007 to address the primary factors affecting teen drivers – speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, texting while driving and distracted driving. The program is offered at no cost to teen drivers in 39 counties across the state and led by sheriffs' deputies licensed as commercial driving school instructors. The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to the program and the teen drivers of Okaloosa County. Each year, over 120 teens attend the two-day course to become better, more aware, defensive drivers - making our roads safer for us all. To date over 2,000 students have been trained.

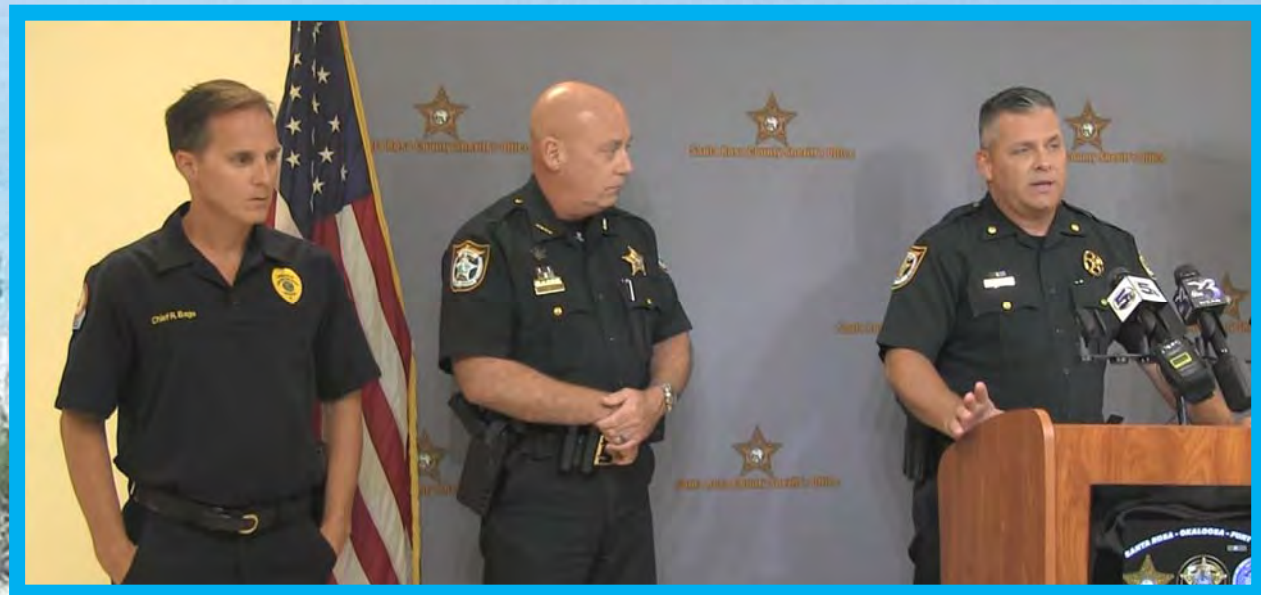
One parent whose son attended the course said, "Anthony had a great experience! We will encourage our friends to look into this course for their children and grandchildren."

Be sure to pass on to the instructors who gave their time so generously, our heartfelt thanks too. We really appreciated your instructors taking the time to teach our children how to check the oil. Anthony's transmission fluid was low and his car stopped during the course, and it became a learning opportunity for him!

The instructors are great!"



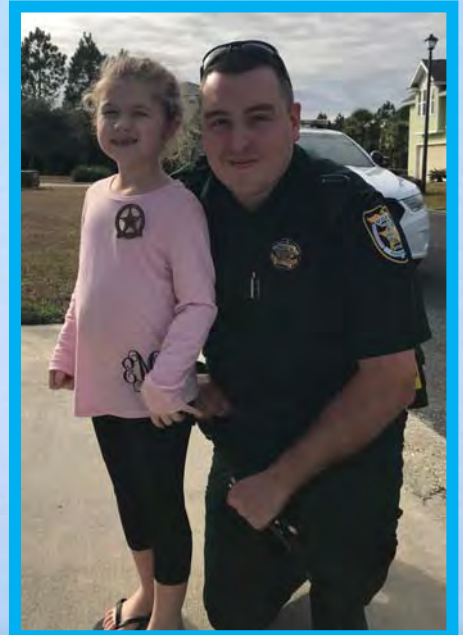






















# *Employee Recognitions*

## *DEPUTY OF THE YEAR*

### **BRANNON SMALL**

Deputy Brannon Small is assigned to Bravo Shift in the Central District and has served as a deputy since August 2017. Prior to joining the OCSO, he served honorably in the United States Marine Corps.

**In 2019, Deputy Small responded to 3,150 calls for service, made 194 arrests, wrote 225 offense reports, and seized 16 firearms resulting in arrest. His efforts resulted in the seizure of substantial quantities of Meth, Crack and powder Cocaine, Heroin, prescription pills, marijuana and THC cartridges. He is the first to assist his coworkers and the last to complain. He is self-driven and a motivated team player. Deputy Small does not believe in providing anything less than 100%, whether it's his investigation or assisting a coworker.**

Deputy Small's selfless service goes beyond what is required of him as a patrol deputy. In February 2019, he became a Field Training Officer and assisted in the training of 11 newly hired deputies. His trainees arrested an additional 40 law violators. He ensures each trainee understands how to perform their job effectively, why each element is important, and the role proactive policing plays on reducing crime.

Based on Deputy Small's ability to establish a rapport with citizens, he was able to cultivate several informants for the Special Investigations Section which resulted in the seizure of 6.5 pounds of Marijuana, Cocaine, 26 bottles of Codeine, 6 firearms and \$3,000.00. The assistance also resulted in multiple arrests and warrants. This relationship continues to pay dividends currently and into the future.

Deputy Small also understands the concept of "To whom much is given, much is required". As such, he volunteered hours of his personal time to support the Nehemiah Project benefiting housing for veterans, the Outlaw Two Gun Shooting Match benefiting OCSO Star Charities and the Elliott Point Read-a-thon benefiting law enforcement relations with elementary aged students.

Deputy Small's commitment to excellence routinely exceeds what is expected of a patrol deputy. He is an asset to his shift, the agency and is the role model of professionalism. He has proven himself to be among the best of our profession.





# INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR

## INVESTIGATOR MIKE EVANS



In 2019, Investigator Evans led the way in specialized assignments, operations and inter-squad support. His skills propel the agency's top cases and he is known as "the oracle" in cyber-related missions. His casework typifies advocacy for special victims, including the most vulnerable children. He is a tenacious investigator who works to protect these children from life-altering exposures to sexual exploitation. When asked how, he often replies, *"I will endure it each time so maybe one less child is victimized."* This defines the very nature and importance of his work.

**As an example, Investigator Evans was responsible for orchestrating or participating in a series of proactive cyber investigations targeting dangerous criminals online. One operation, dubbed "Operation Spring Cleaning," used social media to identify and target sex offenders who attempted to lure or exploit children. Operation Spring Cleaning ultimately led to the arrests of eight (8) predators in Okaloosa County as well as many other ongoing cases involving criminals secretly trying to entice children into unlawful sex acts.**

In a separate case, Investigator Evans was instrumental in successfully prosecuting a 56 year old sex offender who had traveled to Okaloosa County from Michigan intending to victimize a 12 year old female. The offender was arrested immediately upon arriving at the Okaloosa County Airport before he had a chance to perpetrate his crimes. The offender received a life sentence in federal prison. U.S. Attorney Larry Keefe, was quoted as saying: *"It's hard to imagine the level of depravity that leads someone to try to entice an child into a sexual encounter."* Unfortunately, this is routine example of the casework endured by Investigator Evans, and his partners on a daily basis.

In summary, these types of operations highlight the importance of an experienced case agent like Inv. Evans. They are essential in the 21st Century and they are ONLY possible because of highly-skilled and dedicated case agents like Investigator Mike Evans.

Investigator Evans is a versatile, smart and humble investigator. He is reliable and he quickly volunteers for assignments or stays at work until the job is done. He operates commensurate with a Senior Investigator and he has applied for a special deputization with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



# *SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR*

## **SERGEANT HEATH HEHL**

Sgt. Heath Hehl started his career in law enforcement in 2006 with the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office. In 2010, he came to work with the OCSO where he quickly adapted, became proactively involved in his position and took on the task of peer leadership. These attributes were soon recognized and he was selected as the 2011 Deputy of the Year. This trend would not stop as he continued to hone his craft both as a law enforcer and leader. Again, Sgt. Hehl was nominated for Deputy of the Year in 2012 and 2013.

**In 2014, he was promoted to the rank of Investigator and following a successful two year assignment, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Sgt. Hehl's impact as a leader and mentor are evident in his shift's performance. His approachable nature and morale building skills have empowered his shift to "want to work for him" rather than be obligated to. In 2019, his shift wrote 672 reports and had an 88 percent closure rate, with only about 11 percent of cases forward to Investigations. Sgt. Hehl holds his shift in high regard and has forged a bond with each member. He's keenly aware of their strengths and weaknesses and provides mentorship when needed to strengthen the team.**

Sgt. Hehl also gives back to his community. He currently serves as a board member for the OCSO Star Charities, is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Crestview, an agency liaison for the Boys and Girls Club of America and Relay for Life of Crestview. He also coaches Crestview Little League and Niceville PAL Soccer. He and his family are also members of Dorcas Baptist Church. Professionally, he is pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice and recently graduated for the Florida Criminal Justice Executive Institute's Florida Leadership Academy.

Sgt. Hehl leads from the heart and treats everyone fairly. He has laid the foundation for his team to reach success and projects what a law enforcement officer and supervisor should be. His leadership, insight, commitment and vision are all above expectation.

Sgt. Heath Hehl represents the highest standard of professionalism and dedication and we are proud to present him as the OCSO Supervisor of the Year.





# *SRO OF THE YEAR*

## **DEPUTY JERRY HOOKS**



SRO Hooks joined the OCSO in 2017 and was assigned as a School Resource Officer at Choctawhatchee High School in February 2018. He is responsible for protecting a student body of more than 1,800 students and staff members.

During his assignment to the SRO Program Deputy Hooks has responded to more than 1000 calls for service, including child abuse, school threats, narcotic violations and locating reported runaway/missing juveniles. He consistently goes out of his way to assist students after hours, whether it's getting them school supplies, giving them a ride home or making sure they are safe from being bullied in school.

He's also called upon to interpret for Spanish-speaking students, and is an interpreter for us, and other local law enforcement agencies. He is involved in the English Language Learner Parent Night where he assists with Spanish speaking parents regarding their students' progress reports, and has also assisted the Drivers Education class in creating Spanish DMV pamphlets. He has also been a volunteer coach for a little league soccer team for the past 6 years.

**SRO Hooks also plays a vital role for the OCSO Gang Task Force in identifying known gang members and suspects for many high profile investigations and works in conjunction with Juvenile Probation Officers. SRO Hooks' 7 years of military service has been an asset to the SRO program. He is one of the lead instructors for tactical training in the unit and is the tactical trainer for his District. He instructs monthly tactical training and is a role model to his peers. He has assisted his Principal in developing operational plans and strategies to prevent dangerous situations in his school. He often provides guidance to students and staff outlining what to do if a crisis should occur during a school activity.**

SRO Jerry Hooks is proactive, professional, compassionate and consistently goes above and beyond what is expected of him.



# *ADMINISTRATIVE SWORN OUTSTANDING PERFORMER*

## **DEPUTY STEVE WILLIAMS**

Deputy Steve Williams started his career with the OCSO in 2006 and is currently assigned to Court Security/ North. As Lead Bailiff for the Honorable Judge Michael Flowers, he sets the example by maintaining a safe courtroom on a daily basis. He is a motivated leader who's always willing to ensure the unit's mission is completed.

Deputy Williams is a team player who is seen by both his supervisors and coworkers as an informal leader resulting in his coworkers referring to him as "Corporal." Without fail or complaint, Deputy Williams volunteers to fill-in for his coworkers for lunch coverage, court hearings and to conduct the requisite security sweeps.

Since opening the Okaloosa County Courthouse in January 2019, he's utilized his knowledge of computers and electronics to make numerous repairs to the computers and microphones in all four Courtrooms which prevented at least 16 interruptions or cancellations.

**Due to his work ethic and attention to security details, Deputy Williams was selected to conduct the National Sheriff's Association Physical Security Inspection for the County Courthouse. This is vitally important as it provides Judicial Services supervision with the information needed to improve security processes and identify weaknesses. He identified 8 security concerns during the inspection.**

Deputy Williams consistently thinks outside of the box. He crafted a solution to help eliminate a volatile environment in the Domestic Violence waiting areas by playing relaxing videos on the monitors. This small change resulted in an overall calmer environment with no more explosive incidents.

Deputy Williams also volunteers for Vitas Healthcare which provides hospice care in our area. Volunteering more than 16 hours doing household repairs for a hospice cancer patient.



## *OPERATIONS SWORN OUTSTANDING PERFORMER*

### **DEPUTY TODD PADILLA**



After serving in the US Marine Corp, Deputy Padilla began his law enforcement career with the OCSO in 2016. Assigned to the Operations Bureau, Central District, Deputy Padilla immediately demonstrated his willingness to learn by studying agency policy, Florida Statutes, and taking advanced training courses. During 2019, Deputy Padilla completed over 400 hours of advanced training which made him a great source of information for other members of his shift who sought out his assistance on a daily basis.

**Based on his work ethic, Deputy Padilla was selected as a Field Training Officer. He willingly accepted this additional duty and during 2019, logged more than 900 hours training newly hired deputies. Deputy Padilla's trainees were responsible for 1,508 calls for service, 144 self-generated offense reports and 116 arrests. He did all of this while handling an additional 1,718 calls for service, 125 offense reports and 122 arrests on his own. Deputy Padilla closed out 2019 with an impressive case closure rate of 87.2%.**

Deputy Padilla also serves as an agency instructor for firearms, low light weapons tactics and ballistic shield training, and was selected as an instructor for the new School Guardian Program. He dedicated 50 hours of instruction time to training school employees how to protect our children during an active shooter incident.

During the month of November, Deputy Padilla was promoted to the position of Assistant Team Leader for the Special Response Team, not only for his tactical knowledge but also on his work ethic, as well as the respect other SRT members have for him. He also tested and was selected for both the promotional list for Corporal and Investigator and was ultimately promoted to the rank of Investigator.

Deputy Todd Padilla demonstrates the very essence of what a deputy sheriff should be. He is an exemplary deputy who displays strong ethics, values, common sense, respect for others, and possesses an appreciation for the criminal justice system which cannot be taught.



# *ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR*

## **KRISTIE HOFFMAN & LISA HUGHEY**

Kristie Hoffman started as a Crime Scene Technician in 2004 and Lisa Hughey began in June 2007. Both Kristie and Lisa are steadfast to their duties and respond to any request for crime scene assistance with enthusiasm.

During 2019, together they responded to 270 requests for crime scene assistance involving the investigation of major crimes to include 7 homicide incidents. These responses required approximately 3,000 hours of work to correctly document the scenes through photography, mapping, sketches and report writing. They also packaged evidence collected from the scenes and entered into the evidence system to maintain the chain of custody. They attend all autopsies for the deaths that occur during the weeks they are on-call and provide assistance to evidence clerks concerning the identification and destruction of evidence which is no longer required to be retained for trial.

Kristie Hoffman's and Lisa Hughey's performance during 2019 demonstrated an exceptional level of performance and dedication to the accomplishment of the Crime Scene Sections' mission, which confirms their loyalty to upholding the traditions and lofty expectations of employees of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.



# COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER OF THE YEAR

## RYAN JAYCOCKS



Ryan began his career with the Sheriff's Office Communications Center in 2006 and has served as both a training officer and relief supervisor. Ryan possesses advanced technical knowledge of radio systems and was selected in 2019 to serve as a board member on the Okaloosa County Radio Acquisition Committee. This committee is comprised of countywide stakeholders who will decide on a new multi-million dollar radio system.

Ryan is also a volunteer firefighter and Deputy Chief of the Almarante Fire Department. His training and experience as a firefighter has been a great benefit to the Com Center. He is also the Chair of the Communications Committee which serves as a liaison to the fire service and provides recommendations for operating procedures and best practices. He serves in this capacity as a fire department representative but applies his knowledge and experience as a communications officer.

**Last year, Ryan completed all the requirements of the Communications Career Development Program and has been selected as an assistant shift supervisor. In September, Ryan fully cross-trained on every discipline: Law, Fire and EMS which has been vital to the operations of the Communications Center.**

Ryan constantly looks for ways to improve the operational capability of the center and is currently developing a mobile communications unit. He is passionate about public safety and has dedicated his life to serving others. His hard work is recognized by his peers and appreciated by his supervision.



# *OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR*

## **HASHER FIGAR**

Hasher Figar started his volunteer career with the Sheriff's Office in September 2017 after he completed the Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy. Hasher immediately became a valuable asset with the Crime Prevention Unit and was always available to help whenever needed. He helped set-up and work many community events throughout the year.

Hasher has exceptional people skills which he uses to communicate effectively and professionally with citizens and other volunteers. He also joined the Reserve Sheriff Volunteer Program, which 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 volunteer program. In 2019, Hasher contributed 105 hours to the Sheriff's Office and the citizens of Okaloosa County.

Hasher Figar is an eager volunteer who is a role model for other volunteers. He is professional, polite, and willing to help wherever needed.



# *POSSE MEMBER OF THE YEAR*

## **JOHN THOMPSON**



John Thompson joined the Posse in 2007 and serves on the Posse Board of Directors as the Sergeant in the North end of the county. John has volunteered for a wide variety of Posse details, including traffic control for parades, high school football games, holiday fireworks, early morning charity runs, crowd control at concerts, as a bailiff for Teen Court, and security for other special events. John has also volunteered for short notice, hard-to-fill details, such as guarding a prisoner in the hospital. His service in 2019 consists of more than 255 volunteer hours.

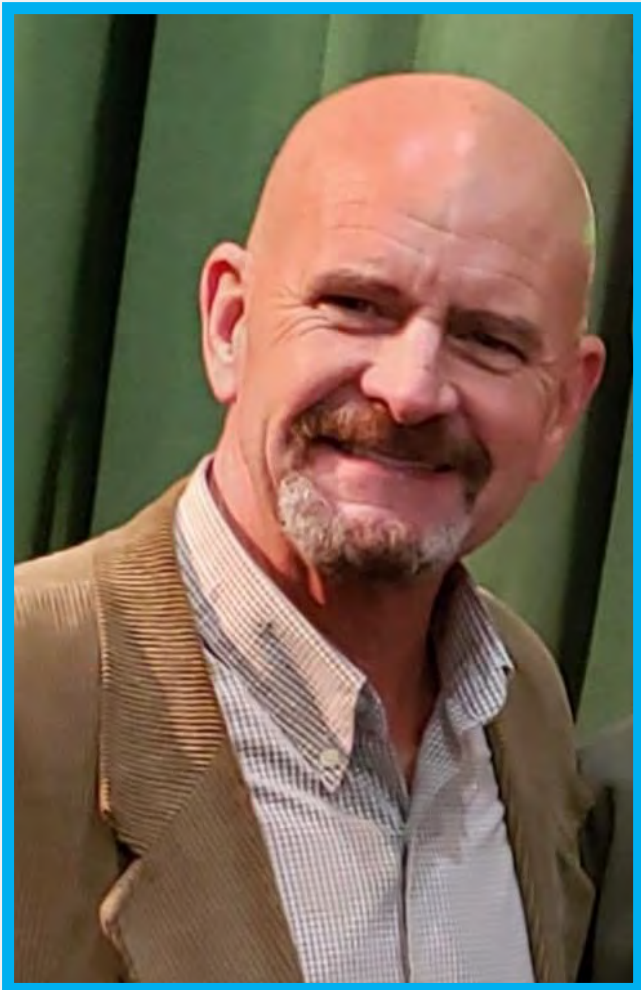
**John brings a variety of skills, along with many years of life experience, to the Posse. He has served as a police officer in the Pensacola and Crestview Police Departments. In 2018, John retired from his position as a supervisor for the State of Florida Parole and Probation Services. He is a U.S. Army veteran and also volunteers as the leader of the Male Youth Ministry at his church.**

For his tireless efforts, John Thompson is presented the 2019 Posse Member of the Year Award.





# *In Memory of our Beloved Friend and Co-Worker Hank Bruns /Feb 7 2019*



Hank Bruns was the type of person that elevated the spirits and the outlook of everyone he came in contact with. His kindness, his laughter, his desire to help others are all things we will always not just remember, but cherish.

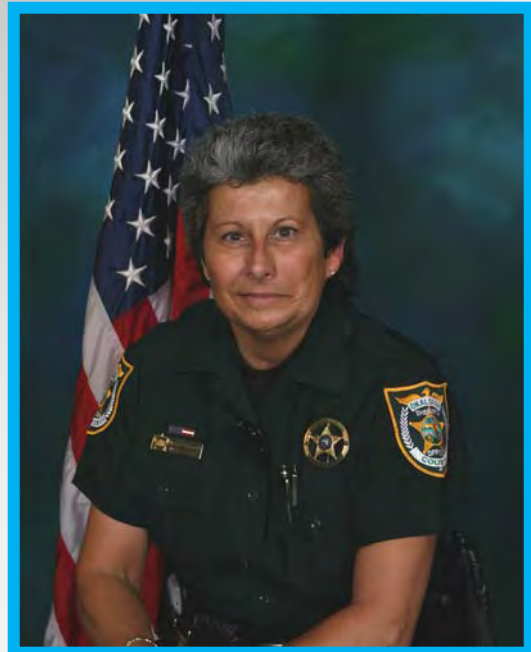
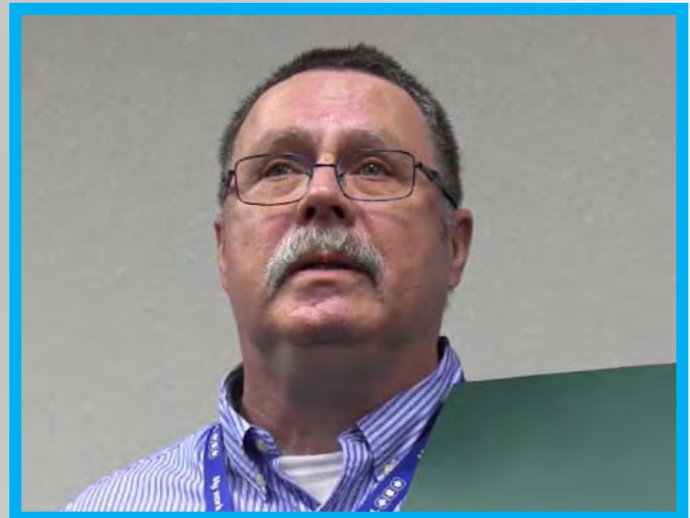
Many of us called him our cheerful Good Morning Greeter. He was a gentleman, a proud husband and father, a humble servant, an enthusiastic LSU and Choctaw fan, a musician, a nationally ranked swimmer, an Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers volunteer (alongside his wife Shari), a hard worker, and an absolute joy to be around.

At his Celebration of Life at First Baptist Church in Fort Walton Beach Sheriff Larry Ashley said "Hank lived what he believed. He exhibited kindness everyday, to everyone he met. When he came on board at the Sheriff's Office six years prior, he was instantly beloved."

Hank, we miss you and that constant smile so much already, but we are forever grateful for having known you. You enriched our lives.



# WELL EARNED RETIREMENTS



SERVICE - IT'S IN OUR DNA - NIGHT AND DAY



"ENSURING FAIR AND EQUAL  
ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAW,  
SAFEGUARDING CIVIL LIBERTIES  
AND PRESERVING PUBLIC SAFETY;  
DOING SO WITH PROFESSIONALISM  
AND UNITY OF PURPOSE,  
WHILE BEING GOOD STEWARDS  
OF THE PUBLIC'S TRUST."