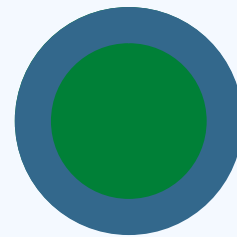




Sheriff Eric Aden



ANNUAL REPORT 2022 —





Message from Sheriff Eric Aden

With Covid exposures and illness diminished in 2022 we were able to get back to a more traditional way of conducting business; celebrating retirements, new hires, awards, and promotions with OCSO team members able to gather and share in the ceremonies together. However the new year brought with it the significant challenge of inflation, coupled with a declining economy.

The Federal Reserve increased mortgage rates at record margins in an effort to slow the inflation. This only exacerbated the already inflated housing market both in rentals and new purchases, making the American dream of owning a home seem further and further from reality.

Governor Ron DeSantis made huge strides in our career field to help lessen the blow to Florida's first responders. House Bill 3 improved benefits for law enforcement, including increasing the DROP for retirees. State funded financial benefits helped with recruitment and retention. Citing inflation and the need to stay competitive with state agencies, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office was successful in receiving the largest salary increase in our agency's history. We were also finally able to realign the Communications salary structure to become one of the top paying agencies in the region.



Our Administrative Bureau, specifically Human Resources, brought on board 27 cadets in 2022. Ten graduated during the prior year and 17 graduate in March 2023. This program has and will continue to significantly help fill the gaps on patrol. This is a vitally important resource. We averaged five sworn vacancies during 2022 compared to 14 in 2021. We also averaged 13 civilian vacancies in 2022 compared to 18 in 2021. We have improved training for first line supervisors with emphasis on critical thinking and leadership.

The on boarding of new hires and cadet graduations resulted in a large number of members in training at one time in 2022. Though this added stress to the Operations Bureau and Field Training Officers, it simultaneously provided a sense of relief that vacancies on the road had a constant flow of reinforcements. Despite averaging 20 plus deputies in training, Operations found creative ways to work more efficiently, even decreasing response times over 30 seconds from 2021 to 2022.

Our Community Resource Deputies have proven to be invaluable in multiple ways, from representing us at events to community outreach, as well as focusing on problem properties or areas such as retail theft, and working with citizens and county officials to rectify neighborhood issues.

Let's rundown some other major milestones:

The OCSO K9 Program has a renewed focus and was awarded the United States Police Canine Association's Four Man Team trophy for the first time in 17 years.

We had a record four officer involved shootings in 2022, all worked by our very own Criminal Investigations Division team with a 100% success closure rate.

We stood up a Real Time Crime Center to work in conjunction with our License Plate Readers, video camera systems, communications, analysts, drones, and other technology, which is already paying big dividends in solving crime on all levels.

We did an evidence inventory involving 123,699 items and found no missing items.

Our School Resource Officers spearheaded another successful Angel Tree program, sponsoring 144 local children with a Christmas they would not otherwise have had.



Governor DeSantis visited Okaloosa County to recognize that of the 144 schools in Florida qualifying as Purple Star Schools, 35 of Okaloosa's 40 schools make the mark. That equates to 88%. The Purple Star Schools program is for military dependent children who moved schools at least every one to three years due to a parent's military service. Again, out of thousands of schools across the 67 Florida counties, only 144 schools were selected and our county represents 24% of that number.

Communication has always been a concern and challenge for law enforcement, but we have created additional lines of communication to do all we can to try to pass down reasons certain decisions are made. It's not possible to make all 500 people at the OCSO happy all the time, but we truly take pride in trying to balance operational policies and procedures, always keeping agency members and the public we serve at the forefront of decisions.

As we look back on the many proud accomplishments of the men and women of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, we must transition to the abrupt event that ended our year so tragically, the painful and senseless line of duty loss of our brother Corporal Ray Hamilton on Christmas Eve. Corporal Hamilton's memorial service took place on New Year's Eve and we began to try to pick up the pieces of ourselves and our fellow brothers and sisters shattered by this loss. It is something we must endure, and one step towards healing has been seeing our family come together and work to strengthen each other day by day. It's our bond that makes this place so special and inspiring. I know our resilience and strength of character will continue to grow through 2023 and for many years to come.

I couldn't be more proud to serve as your Sheriff.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Eric Aden

P.S. Don't Forget to Download our OCSO App!

Download our app today!
Search: Okaloosa County Sheriff, FL

Google play
Available on the App Store

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD!

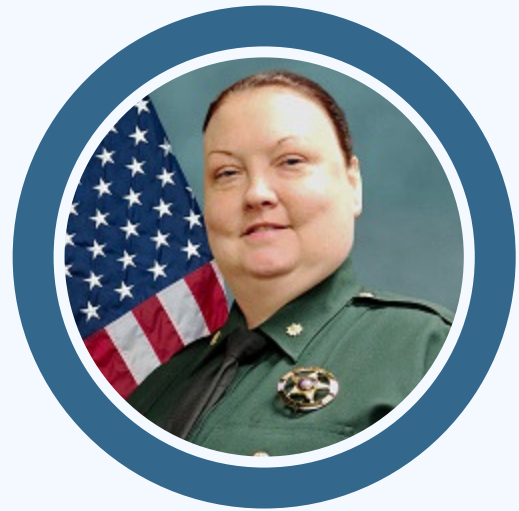
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Undersheriff Charles Nix



Chief Deputy Kenneth LaPee



Major Shannon Tait



Major David Allen



Major Michael Howell

“Try each day to be like Ray. Be the difference. Be that deputy that everyone wants and hopes shows up the next time they need help. He was special. Be special. Be like Ray”.

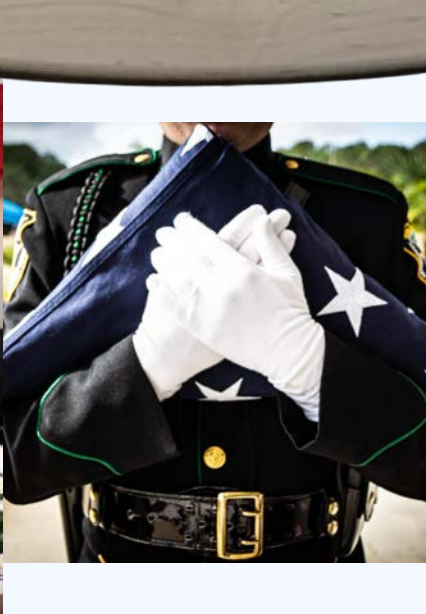
**Sheriff Eric Aden
December 31, 2022**



Honoring
**Corporal
Ray
Hamilton**

In loving memory of
Corporal Ray Hamilton
END OF WATCH DEC. 24, 2022







Oct. 13, 2022 Proclaimed
OCSO Posse Captain
"Terry Watkins Day"
in Okaloosa County



North District



The North District encompasses approximately 450 square miles in the northern part of Okaloosa County, from about Duke Field to the Alabama State Line.

North District includes multiple small communities, with the larger ones being Baker, Holt, Milligan, and the cities of Laurel Hill and Crestview. The District includes many acres of farm land, horse ranches, and urban residential homes. There are several areas of development in the works to add more homes and businesses to the North Okaloosa County area.

North District Individual Accomplishments 2022:

Life Saving Awards

- Corporal Mark Justiss
- Deputy Ray Hamilton
- Deputy Anthony Jennings
- Deputy Christina Keyes
- Deputy Wesley Barnhill
- Deputy David Daniels
- Deputy Trevor Valentine
- Corporal Ethan Elsasser

Medals of Valor

Corporal Caden Downing

Deputy Joey Haun

Medals of Merit

Sergeant Martin Jennings

Deputy Harald Dewit

Certificate of Commendation

Deputy Elliott Howard

Deputy Trey Brooks

Deputy Kris Staley

Sergeant Martin Jennings

Corporal Caden Downing

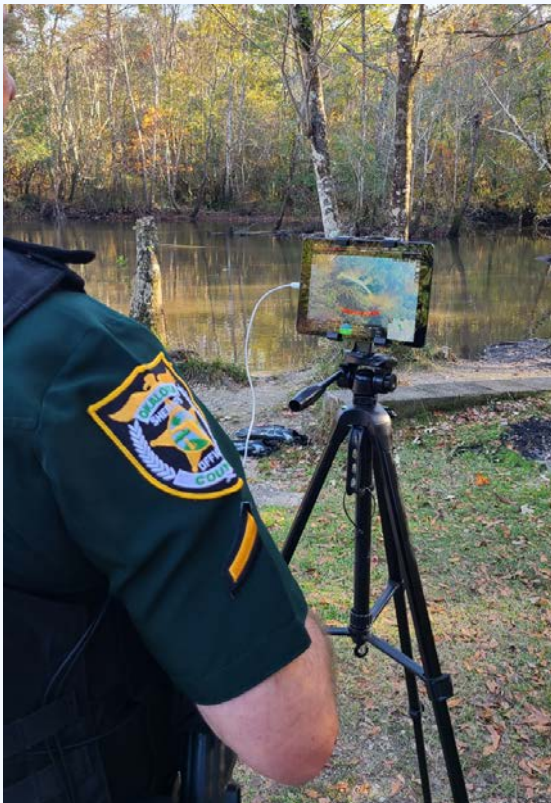
Deputy Kris Staley



North District

Promotions

- Deputy Ray Hamilton promoted to Corporal
- Corporal Kristen Genrich promoted to Investigator
- Corporal David Cain promoted to Investigator
- Deputy Wes Barnhill promoted to Corporal
- Deputy Nate Bowen promoted to Investigator
- Deputy Robert Willis promoted to Corporal





North District

T



North Community Resource Deputies (CRD)

The CRD Deputies have been engaging the community, increasing our presence, and making an impact. Currently, the CRD Unit is working with "Keep Okaloosa Beautiful" and Okaloosa County Code Enforcement to clean up an area in Laurel Hill that citizens have been using to dump trash for many years.





North District

North District Statistics of Interest for 2022

(These numbers represent calls for service worked by all agency members within the District.)

Calls for Service	48,150
Traffic Stops	6,166
Warrants Services	1,494
DUI Arrests	36
Probable Cause Arrests	1,105
Narcotics Arrest	363
Citizen Contacts	4,106

North District Highlights

01/25/2022 - Central District responded to a shots fired call. Central units pursued the suspect vehicle into North District. Sgt. Martin Jennings, Cpl. Caden Downing, and Dep. Kris Staley set up on Hwy 85 and deployed their stop sticks, resulting in a successful spike on the suspect vehicle. With the teamwork between both districts, three felony suspects were taken into custody.

04/24/2022 - Cpl. Caden Downing attempted to stop a vehicle, which fled. Cpl. Downing deployed his Starchase and got the agency's first successful deployment. The suspect was located hiding in a tree by Deputy Joey Haun and his K9 after he fled from the vehicle. The shift assisted with perimeter.

06/18/2022 - Information was received of a suspect being pursued by WCSO on Interstate 10. The suspect was shooting at officers. Cpl. Caden Downing, Sgt. Martin Jennings, and Dep. Harald Dewit, staged along Interstate 10. All three had successful spikes on the suspect vehicle and then assisted with a pursuit. As the suspect vehicle came to a stop at the 53 mile marker of I-10, the male suspect exited the front passenger side of the vehicle and fired a handgun at the officers. Dep. Joey Haun and Cpl. Downing returned fire and the suspect were taken into custody without any law enforcement officers being harmed. Cpl. Downing and Dep. Haun received the Medal of Valor. Sgt. Jennings and Dep. Dewit received the Medal of Merit.





North District

06/21/2022 - The Fire Department requested assistance in reference to two 18 year olds and one 12 year old stranded on the Yellow River. The trio had gone tubing but it got too dark for them to see. They believed they were surrounded by alligators. An OCSO small boat was launched, operated by Deputy Elliott Howard and K-9 Handler Brooks. The boat made it a mile and a half, before the river became impassible. Both deputies got out, walked the shores, then swam up river to locate the three stranded individuals. All three were found and escorted safely back to the boat launch.

11/01/2022 - A homeless male stabbed a hiker 18 times on the Florida Natural Scenic Trail. Deputies were summoned to the Eglin Reservation by Eglin Range Patrol and assisted getting the patient out of the woods to an ambulance. OCSO assumed the investigation and with the assistance of the Crestview Police Department, the suspect was found several miles away with a bloody knife. He was arrested and the victim survived. The suspect will be prosecuted for Attempted Murder.





North District





North District

Most Importantly....BE MORE LIKE RAY!
#NeverForgotten





Central District

Central District, also known as District 2, is located in the southern portion of Okaloosa County. It is densely populated with four municipalities including Fort Walton Beach, Mary Esther, the Town of Shalimar and the Town of Cinco Bayou. The district boundaries begin south of Okaloosa Regional Airport, with portions of State Road 85 and 123, expanding southbound along Highway 98 between Okaloosa Island and the Santa Rosa County line. It includes areas surrounding Hurlburt Air Force Base, home to the U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command and the 1st Special Operations Wing, as well as portions surrounding Eglin Air Force Base and the U.S. Air Force Armament Museum. Central District 2 runs adjacent to the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway and includes inlets of Choctawhatchee Bay, Cinco Bayou and more. It also includes the executive headquarters building for the Sheriff's Office, as well as two sub-stations used for daily operations.

Central District 2 has 49 full-time law enforcement positions, supported by an essential group of civilian employees. In 2022, the staffing levels varied, but strengthened to approximately 86% by December, with only five vacancies. Some current employees migrated from other agencies across the United States, seeking to work as deputies in Florida.

In 2022, the district had a total of 105,855 incidents/service calls. Of these, 75,582 were handled specifically by members working or assigned within the district, generating 7,262 offense reports, resulting in 1,250 arrests.

Central District Statistics of Interest 2022

Offense Reports Generated	7,262
Arrests / Notice-to-Appear	1,250
DUI Arrests	107
Traffic Stops	7,577
Traffic Crashes	1,513
Warrant Served/Attempts	1,610
Florida Baker Acts	254
Drug Overdoses	155
Homicides	4
Robberies/Assaults	139
Burglaries	270
Drug Violations	1,286
Watch Orders	4,661



The Sheriff's Office also provides law enforcement services to the City of Mary Esther. This includes two full-time deputies who work in the city's incorporated areas. In 2022, OCSO deputies handled a total of 6,172 service calls/incidents within these city limits. This included 346 traffic crashes and 118 arrests and/or notices to appear against criminal suspects. Further, deputies handled 508 watch orders and security checks throughout the city at various businesses and private properties.

Promotions

Promotion - Deputy Chad Bernacki promoted to Corporal

Promotion - Deputy Joseph Hart promoted to Corporal

Promotion - Deputy Lance Williams promoted to Corporal

Promotion - Deputy Taylor Woodard promoted to Corporal

Promotion - Deputy Tia Frembgen promoted to Investigator

Promotion - Deputy Daniel Echols promoted to Investigator

Promotion - Deputy Colin Savoie, assigned to SCU, promoted to Investigator

Promotion - Deputy Cutler Peterson promoted to Investigator

Promotion - Deputy Kevin Looney selected as member of Special Response Team (SRT)

Deputy Mathew Langer selected to Street Crimes Unit (SCU)

Deputy Lacy Stinson was selected to Street Crimes Unit (SCU)

Deputy Gabrean Grundin selected to Street Crimes Unit (SCU)

Deputy Brian Muhlbach selected as Community Resource Officer/Performer of Year

Deputy Eric Sheldon selected as Community Resource Officer/MADD/DUI Top Performer



2022 Significant Case Examples:

Case #22-002064 - Patrol deputies worked together with Fort Walton Beach Police Department officers during a homicide case response and investigation, quickly locating suspects after a shooting at the FWB Recreation Center on Jet Drive. Due to quick responses by deputies and good communication between the agencies, the case resulted in the capture of suspects along with recovery of evidence shortly after the shooting occurred.



Case #22 - In July 2022, a woman called 911 to report the upstairs portion of her home was on fire. She could not locate her 10-year-old son who was on the second floor. Deputy Joseph Hart and Deputy Deja Riley arrived prior to the Fire Department. They immediately encountered the frantic mother and her other children in the front yard. The mother told deputies her ten year-old autistic son was still inside. The fire had grown and the entire interior was filling with smoke. Realizing urgent action was needed, Deputy Hart and Deputy Riley went in and tried to go up the stairs, however they were unable due to toxic smoke and heat. They quickly formed a plan to attempt to filter the smoke through towels hoping this would allow them access to the second floor to rescue the child, but were able to only physically go a short distance upstairs without additional equipment. Shortly after the second attempt the Fire Department arrived and were able to locate and remove the child from a bedroom upstairs without significant injury. Deputy Hart and Deputy Riley were taken to HCA FWB-Destin Hospital where they were successfully treated for smoke inhalation.

Central District

Case # 22-4695 - On March 30, 2022 an adult female was shot in the back by 87-year old Robert Rice following a domestic related incident. A witness called 911 and deputies quickly responded to the area in efforts to locate Rice. They confronted Rice outside in a yard where he was arrested. The residence was secured as a crime scene and a search warrant was obtained in conjunction with partnering members of the Sheriff's Criminal Investigation Section (CIS). Officers found a .22 caliber handgun inside the home that was used in the incident. The female was transported to the Fort Walton Beach Medical Center. Rice was charged accordingly.



Case #22-006541 - Deputies responded to a local gas station after employees reported suspicious activity involving a female at the store. When they arrived, they found the female along with a male suspect in a vehicle. The investigation revealed the female had been kidnapped in Alabama and was terrorized by the male suspect during the trip to Florida. Deputies observed blood on the suspect's hand and clothing and noted the female had visible facial injuries. Deputies detained the suspect and secured the vehicle as a crime scene. The suspect was arrested in coordination with members of the Sheriff's Criminal Investigation Section (CIS) and other agencies.



Central District



Case #22-012979 - Deputies apprehended three suspects after a vehicle pursuit and recovery of a loaded firearm. Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office deputies pursued and stopped a stolen car fleeing from the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office into Okaloosa County. The 2014 Honda Accord had been reported stolen out of Fort Walton Beach on September 5th. An OCSO Sergeant spotted it at Anchors Street and Hill Avenue but the driver, later identified as 25-year old Sebastian Orr of Fort Walton Beach, refused to pull over. Another OCSO deputy successfully deployed "spike strips" near Green Acres Boulevard and Beal Parkway and Orr ultimately stopped on Yancey Street. Deputies found a loaded revolver under the driver's seat with one spent shell casing inside the vehicle. Orr was charged with felony fleeing and eluding and driving with a suspended or revoked license. Deputies say Orr's license had been suspended since October 2012 for a fleeing and eluding charge. Front seat passenger 21-year old Kaitlin Burnett of Fort Walton Beach was charged with grand theft of a motor vehicle. She was wanted in Santa Rosa County for aggravated battery with a deadly weapon. A passenger in the back seat, 19-year old Jamal Thompson of Pensacola, was charged with carrying a concealed firearm and resisting an officer without violence.

Case #22-000728 - A traffic stop led to the arrests of four people, the recovery of a stolen Glock 9mm handgun, 49 THC cartridges, 360 grams of marijuana and more than \$8,000 in cash.

Case #22-014286 - A traffic stop led to the seizure of cocaine and marijuana ready for distribution. Deputies found more than 40 grams of cocaine packaged for sale, as well as over 130 grams of marijuana packaged for sale, two THC vials, and one digital scale.



Central District

Case #22-07746 - Almon Lawhon was alerted by a neighbor that his vehicle was being burglarized. Lawhon saw a male and female leaving the area and followed them to near Racetrack Road and Michael Avenue. Sergeant John Jenks observed Terry Stone and Salena Salazar walking south on Michael Street. Stone fled upon contact, running south on Michael Avenue with Sgt. Jenks giving chase. Stone eventually ran to 116 Michael Avenue. DST Jennings then chased the subject into the back yard where he attempted to jump a privacy fence. While scaling the fence Sgt. Jenks deployed his Taser but it was ineffective. DST Jennings caught Stone on the north side of the fence after stone had partially fallen into a pool. After a brief scuffle he was detained. Salazar fled and was located hiding within the curtilage of another home. Stolen property was located in Stone's possession which linked him to burglaries at 509 North Avenue, 207 Newcastle Drive, and 617 Spencer Drive. Stone was charged with Vehicle Burglary, Theft, Resisting an Officer, Possession of a Controlled Substance, and Introduction of Contraband. Salazar was charged with Loitering and Prowling and Violation of Probation.

Case #22-012183 - Deputies located a robbery suspect wearing a ballistic vest. A 15-year old male entered a local store and told the clerk he was going to "rob" it. When the clerk backed away in fear, the male took items from behind the counter. During the robbery, the male dropped three crossbow arrows from his backpack. He later fled the store, but was apprehended by responding deputies nearby. Deputies discovered the male was wearing a ballistic vest. During the investigation, he confessed to the robbery and was charged accordingly.



Case #22-001655 - Deputies conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle and the driver discarded a bag of pressed Fentanyl pills. A passenger was found concealing a loaded Glock 9mm, with an extended magazine under the seat. Both suspects were arrested accordingly. During a vehicle inventory, deputies discovered methamphetamine along with a bag containing over 90 oxycodone pills.

Case #22-014286 - Deputies made a traffic stop leading to the discovery of over 40 grams of cocaine packaged for sale, as well as over 130 grams of marijuana packaged for sale, two THC vials, and one digital scale.

Case #22-9038 - A June 19th traffic stop led to Drug Charges, Resisting Arrest, Assault on Law Enforcement Officer and Attempted Destruction of Evidence. Deputy Chad Bernacki, Deputy Shelby Carroll, and Sgt. Richard McCoy conducted a traffic stop. The driver fled on foot and deputies pursued and tased him. The suspect began to discard methamphetamine and threw it into the face of Deputy Biernacki. The driver was charged with six felonies and two misdemeanors involving 147 grams of methamphetamine and 67 grams of codeine syrup.

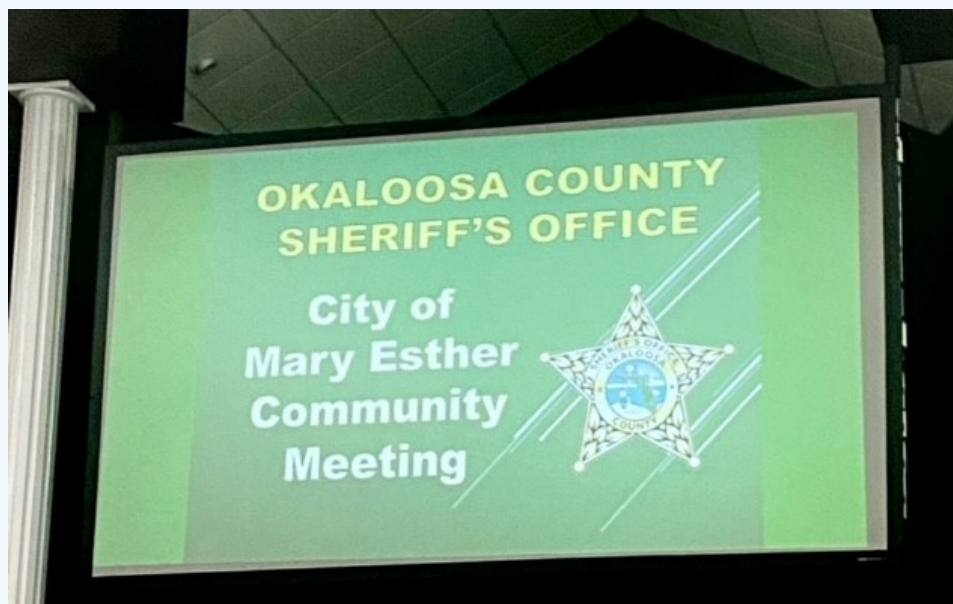
Case #22-3558 - Deputy Chad Bernacki and Sgt. Richard McCoy conducted a traffic stop and the suspect was found to be in possession of 19 grams of “crack” cocaine. The suspect provided false information and the investigation revealed he was wanted for questioning regarding a double homicide in the City of Niceville.

Case #22-11866- Deputy George Vasquez, Deputy Andrew Geoghagan, Deputy Gabrean Grundin and Sgt. Richard McCoy of Delta shift responded to a Robbery to a Business. Upon arrival, they located the potential suspect within five minutes. Investigation revealed the suspect did commit the robbery and was later arrested.

Case #22-005437 - On April 13, 2022 members of Bravo Central responded to the intersection of Newcastle Drive and Manchester Road regarding a shooting. 21 year old Shea Jones was subsequently charged with Attempted Murder, Firing a Weapon into an Occupied Conveyance, and Felon in Possession of a Firearm. 16 year old Natorian Hinson-Brown was charged with Attempted Murder and Firing a Weapon into an Occupied Conveyance. The victim reported that Shea Jones got out of a blue Cadillac sport utility vehicle and pointed a firearm at her while she was seated inside her vehicle with a passenger and an 11 month old child. Shea Jones and Natorian Hinson-Brown then fired multiple shots at her vehicle, shattering the front passenger window. The victim sped away from the scene. She told deputies she had been involved in an ongoing argument with Jones prior to the incident.



Central District



Other/Community Resource Deputy Program Highlights

Community Meetings:

To address concerns and improve communication with the community, CRD organized and held multiple community meetings (Cinco Bayou, Stillwell Park, Mary Esther, Omega Lodge, and Okaloosa Lodge) throughout the year. CRD held one additional meeting specifically for business owners in Mary Esther to address resources and solutions about loitering and panhandling around businesses.

Coffee With a Cop Events:

In addition to community meetings, CRD organized and held two Coffee With a Cop Events. One of these events was held at three different locations (FWB, Niceville, Crestview) on the same day and encompassed each district.

Narcotics Complaint & Arrests:

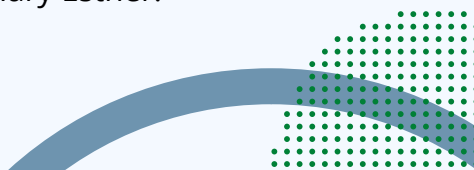
After self-initiating contact with a citizen regarding a neighborhood speeding complaint in the area of Massachusetts Ave. and Lowery St. in March, CRD was contacted again by the same citizen in May with information regarding ongoing narcotic activity at a residence in the same neighborhood. The citizen felt confident in sharing information after his previous traffic concerns were addressed. After working with residents and gathering intel, CRD enlisted the assistance of the Patrol Division which resulted in an arrest for charges of possession of methamphetamine, cocaine, and marijuana with intent to distribute, possession of controlled substances, and possession of paraphernalia, and the recovery of a significant amount of narcotics.

Citizen Concerns after Shooting Incident:

In April, a shooting incident occurred near Stillwell Park. It drew a considerable amount of citizen concern expressed through social media and generated several subsequent calls for service regarding safety concerns in the area. CRD and Crime Prevention personnel organized and held a neighborhood meeting at Stillwell Park May 3rd. It was well-attended by citizens who brought up a number of concerns. After the meeting, CRD met with Code Enforcement to discuss several of the concerns which fell under their purview. CRD also conducted a CPTED survey at the park and forwarded suggestions for improvement to the Okaloosa County Parks Division. CRD conducted daily foot patrols at the park on an ongoing basis and regularly engaged with citizens. While working on this project, CRD found several areas of gang-related graffiti in and around the park. With the assistance of Crime Prevention Manager Ashley Bailey, CRD held a clean-up day and removed all of the graffiti in the area. Since working on this project and establishing a working relationship with the neighborhood, criminal activity has significantly reduced and citizens have expressed ongoing appreciation for the needed change.

Interacting with School Children

CRD held three pre-school presentations (Little Angels Pre-School, St. Simons Pre-School, and Cinco Bayou Baptist Church) where CRD introduced young children to law enforcement and discussed child safety. CRD also held a bicycle safety event for a Cub Scout group in Mary Esther.



Central District

CPTED Surveys:

Community Resource Deputy Brian Muhlbach conducted four CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) surveys at four businesses throughout Central District and worked with business owners and property managers to implement improvements.

Community Engagement:

CRD attended several community festivals and events to include a Community Carnival hosted by the Fort Walton Beach Police Department where CRD manned a coloring booth for children and met with numerous citizens. This event was attended by hundreds of citizens from throughout the county. CRD also attended seven other community festivals and events in 2022 including Memorial Day and Christmas gatherings and parades at Bob Hope Village, where CRD led the parades and took the opportunity to engage with senior citizens.

In May, the City of Fort Walton Beach vacated a large homeless camp off Hollywood Blvd. which resulted in a significant amount of trash and debris left behind. CRD attended a community clean-up event and worked with Erase the Trace Okaloosa and over a dozen members of the community to remove trash from the property.

In August, CRD held a training presentation for faculty and staff at Calvary Christian Academy to discuss active shooter response and school safety, as this school is not manned by a School Resource Officer.

In November, CRD participated in the national "Faith & Blue Weekend" by holding a community panel at Sylvania Heights Baptist Church. The event was a problem-solving dialogue and informal roundtable made of law enforcement officers, pastors, and community resources. It resulted in a productive discussion about drug abuse and violence in Okaloosa County. CRD have since worked with one of these community resources and is in the process of planning future events to help address these issues.



Neighborhood Dispute Resolution:

CRD responded to seven neighborhood disputes or ongoing complaints which were generating significant repeated calls for service. By meeting with residents and mediating concerns, CRD was able to help resolve several ongoing issues and reduce calls for service. Many of these issues were relatively trivial in nature, but by offering the Sheriff's Office as a mediation resource, conflicts were resolved.



Central District

Vagrancy Complaints:

CRD responded to several vagrancy complaints throughout the year. One notable complaint involved a trailer park at 678 Denton Blvd. The OCSO had responded to over 80 calls for service within the first few months of the year to include a drug overdose. Transients were squatting in vacant units and despite efforts, cooperation could not be gained from the property owner by the Patrol Division. CRD met with the property owner and discussed the concerns which resulted in their full cooperation in implementing several improvements to the property and authorizing a blanket trespass, which resulted in numerous arrests. Since working on this project, there have been no further serious calls for service or narcotic-related incidents at this property.

Additionally, CRD worked with the Town Manager of Cinco Bayou regarding concerns of vagrant activity throughout the town. Deficiencies were discovered in the town's current ordinances related to loitering and other vagrancy issues, which are in now the process of being revised to assist in our enforcement efforts.

Response to Traffic Complaints:

In 2022, Deputy Brian Muhlbach conducted 146 traffic stops and logged 58 responses to traffic complaints, where significant time was spent in areas to provide high visibility to address citizen complaints. CRD also regularly provided visibility in school zones throughout the district. Additionally, CRD regularly deployed radar trailers and met with citizens to discuss traffic concerns.

Nuisance Properties & Other Disputes:

Worked with Code Enforcement on issues surrounding 34 9th Avenue in Shalimar.





East District

The East District (District 3) makes up the Southeast portion of the county, spanning approximately 196 square miles from Duke Field to the Gulf of Mexico, east of Brooks Bridge across Okaloosa Inland, through the City of Destin to the Walton County line. It includes most waterways within Okaloosa County.

The East District is home to three municipalities: the City of Destin, City of Niceville and 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 16 patrol deputies, two investigators, one marine unit, one community resource deputy, and one deputy assigned to the Stahlman Office front desk.

The beaches, emerald waters, golf courses, and fine dining restaurants are main attractions. The City of Destin encompasses approximately 7.53 square miles with nearly 27.38 waterfront miles and has an approximate population of 14,000. During the height of the season, the tourist population in Destin can swell to as many as 60,000 plus visitors during any major holiday. This massive influx creates great economic stimulation and growth for the city and surrounding areas.

In 2022, calls for service in the City of Destin reached 36,175.





East District



EAST DISTRICT STATISTICS OF INTEREST

District 3 Calls for Service 68,272

Offense Reports 3,591

Traffic Stops 9,146

Arrests/NTA 2,273

Traffic Crash Responses 1,996

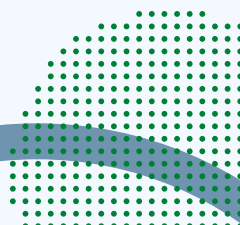
Warrant Service/Attempts 664

Narcotics Offenses 280

Burglaries 231

Homicides 1

Watch Orders 4,330





East District Deputies continuously balance the importance of proactive enforcement practices and community oriented policy. With all the statistics documented in our Annual Report there is one statistic we will never capture; that is the number of crimes prevented by our presence alone. Our continued commitment to building community partnerships strengthens our abilities to communicate, educate, and provide the professional law enforcement services our citizens expect.

EAST DISTRICT COMMUNITY SERVICE

Attended Chambers of Commerce meetings for Destin and Niceville
Attended City Council meetings
Provided a United Way Board Member
Over 558 volunteer hours with multiple charitable and civic endeavors
Participated in the Destin and Niceville Christmas Parades

COMMENDATIONS

Deputy Ezekiel Dixon - Medal of Valor and Deputy of the Year
Deputy Eric Cason - Medal of Valor
Corporal Cutler Petersen - Outstanding Performance
Deputy Ben Haines - Medal of Valor
Deputy Taylor Joiner - Medal of Valor
Corporal R.J. Shelley - District Performance
Deputy Tavish Frederick - District Performance

PROMOTIONS

Lt. Jason Fulghum promoted to Captain
Corporal Rex Thompson promoted to Sergeant
Corporal Cutler Petersen promoted to Investigator



East District

On June 3, 2022, Deputies Ben Haines and Taylor Joiner responded to the Okaloosa Island Boardwalk in reference to an armed disturbance. Upon arrival, Haines and Joiner found a male armed with a machete who had already attacked a man and his wife. The male victim had been cut across his shoulder blade. Haines and Joiner confronted the armed suspect, who was located under the Boardwalk's west end pavilion. Despite multiple attempts by Deputies Haines and Joiner to convince the suspect to drop the machete and surrender, the suspect charged at them with the machete in hand. Left with no other options, they fired, stopped the attack, and preventing injury to themselves and other members of our community. For their actions, Deputies Haines and Joiner received the Medal of Valor.



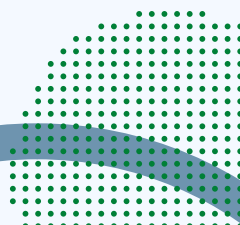
On September 21, 2022, Deputies Ezekiel Dixon and Eric Cason responded to Sailmaker Lane in Destin in reference to a male with a firearm. The man was holding a female hostage in a home under construction. He told the female she was either continuing their romantic relationship or they were both going to die. When Deputies Dixon and Cason arrived on scene, the female ran from the residence, followed by the suspect. When the suspect saw Dixon and Cason he retreated into the residence and fired one round. Dixon and Cason had the female move behind a wall with several other bystanders and then took cover near the front of the residence. Moments later the suspect exited the rear of the resident, approached the wall where the female was located, and began firing at the female and other bystanders. Cason fired upon the suspect causing him to retreat and turn his fire away from the female and towards Cason and Dixon. Dixon fired two rounds stopping the suspect's attack and saving the lives of the female and other members of our community. For their actions, Deputies Dixon and Case received the Medal of Valor.





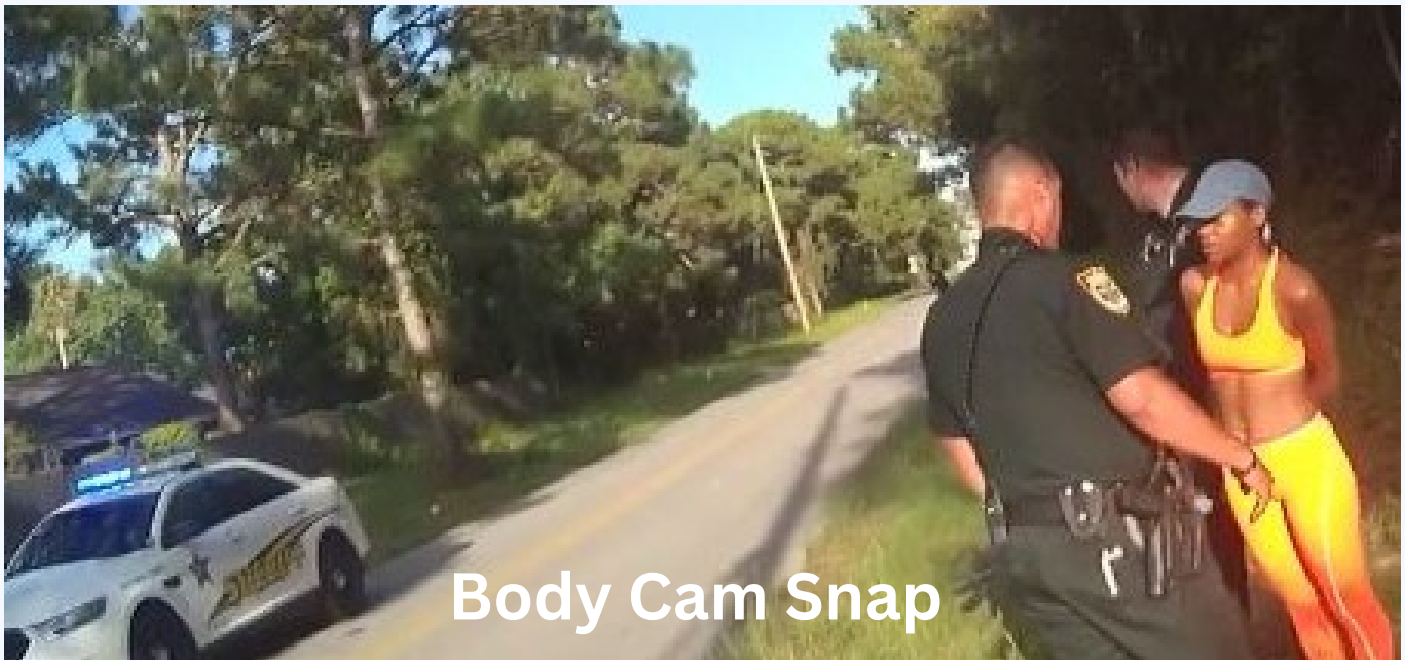
East District

After being assigned as the Destin Community Resource Deputy, Shane Bininger realized organized retail theft in the East District had risen by fifty percent over the previous year, 2021. In response to the increase, he created the Holiday Organized Retail Crime Initiative. Deputy Bininger met with retailers in the Destin area and provided them training on how to recognize retail theft suspects and what to do in the event a theft was occurring. In addition, Bininger made sure the retailers were utilizing a web based application which distributed information of organized criminal activity taking place throughout the Southeast. Once the retailers were on board, Deputy Bininger utilized one member from each shift as well as members of the Beach/Marine Unit to target organized retail theft groups during the holiday shopping season. He trained the participating deputies on recognition of organized retail theft suspects, proactive patrol techniques, and on how to access the above mentioned application. The Holiday Organized Retail Crime Initiative resulted in the identification of 28 offenders. 15 of these offenders were connected to other regional groups. A total of seven arrests were made and an additional seven warrants obtained. Over \$11,500 dollars in stolen merchandise was recovered, and several cases from other jurisdictions were closed.





East District



Body Cam Snap



Harriet Hall



Dewayne Shelton



William Davis Jr.



Charley Bautista



Brittney Robertson



Michael Spears

Special Operations Division

Consolidated Emergency Communications Center



The Consolidated Emergency Communications Center receives all emergency and non-emergency calls for the Okaloosa County Emergency Medical Services (EMS), all Fire Departments in Okaloosa County except Crestview Fire, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, Northwest Florida State College Police Department, and the Shalimar Police Department.

Maintaining a proficient and professional communications center requires constant training of the fifty-four full-time employees, five part-time employees, and one Lieutenant who runs the communications center.

The Sheriff's Office Communications Division ensures professional dispatching and call answering services by complying with accreditation standards, strict training protocols, and a formal Quality Assurance Program.

The Sheriff's Office Communications Center is accredited through FLA-TAC whose mission is to "award accreditation to compliant Florida Communication Centers in the law enforcement, fire rescue, and emergency medical series disciplines. The Commission strives to improve the ability of Florida Communication Centers to deliver professional public safety services."

The Communications Center has an ambitious and robust training program. The ECC remains strategic and purposeful in their pursuit of advancing technology, leadership skills and peer support as well as maintaining high proficiency within current standards and protocols. In 2022 alone, the center logged over 9,400 training hours in pursuit of this standard.

The Quality Assurance Program is a formal assessment process by which actual performance behavior and outcomes are compared against established standards to ensure compliance, consistency, and accuracy in delivering services. All efforts are taken to ensure standards and procedures are upheld, providing the highest quality service to all those in need reaching out to the center.

Special Operations Division

Consolidated Emergency Communications Center

In 2022, the communications center answered 114,989 emergency 911 calls and 196,122 non-emergency calls. Combined, this means communications officers received 855 calls a day dispatching EMS, Fire, and Law Enforcement within Okaloosa County to keep our residents and visitors safe.

Okaloosa Emergency Communications values community engagement and support, operating internally and externally with focus of inclusion and team mentality.

Hurricane Ian Deployment

Communications has a proud history of telecommunications emergency response. In September 2022 following the landfall of Hurricane Ian, our Telecommunications Emergency Response Team (TERT) deployed two teams to Charlotte County, Florida for two weeks. Our team is trained and equipped to self-sustain in the most dire of disasters. The mission is to provide help and support for dispatchers, whether it be working side by side, or providing coverage so they can make it home to their own families. Communications Supervisors Ryan Jaycocks, Mona Ciurleo and Communications Officers Casey Bilbrey and Jennifer Cabral volunteered without hesitation, deploying in just over 24 hours after landfall. It's all about helping and helping is what our Communications Unit does.



Special Operations Division Beach/Marine Unit



The East District is home to several specialty units to include the Beach/Marine Unit and the Dive Team.

BEACH UNIT

Calls for Service 1,488

Arrests 368

Spring Break Arrests 660

Distressed Swimmers 55

MARINE UNIT

Calls for Service 8,480

Arrests 254

Vessel Stops 3,699

Security Checks 1,656

Boating Citations 307

Distressed Swimmers 195

BEACH/MARINE UNIT AWARDS

2022 MADD Agency Award

2022 MADD Underage Drinking Prevention (Deputy Lecocq)

2022 MADD DUI Dirty Dozen Award (Deputies Maltais, Williams, Downing, and Donovan)

Lifesaving Award (Deputy Bazylak)

Destin Home Town Hero Award (Deputy Williams)

Destin Home Town Hero Award (Deputy Bazylak)

NASBLA National Marine Officer of the Year (Deputy Williams)



Special Operations Division Dive Unit

The Dive Unit consists of twelve agency members encompassing additional duties in addition to their regular assignments.

In 2022, several new members received advanced training in diving specialty courses. Members received training and certifications in advanced open water, rescue diver, dry suit, full face mask, emergency first response, emergency O2 provider, and Nitrox. They also participated throughout the county in several clean-ups (removing trash from the underwater environment) dives with non-profit organizations. The clean-up dives were conducted at the Okaloosa Island Pier, Destin Harbor, and the East Jetty.




The Dive Team assisted in the recovery of two stolen vehicles in the Yellow River.

Dive Team members were needed for the search and recovery of several drowning and vessel crash victims. Members were able to recover one drowning victim near Crab Island and assisted FWC with searching for several vessel fatality victims.





BEACH WARNING FLAGS

				
WATER CLOSED	HIGH HAZARD	MEDIUM HAZARD	LOW HAZARD	MARINE LIFE

ALERTOKALOOSA.COM



Criminal Investigations Division

Criminal Investigations Section

The Criminal Investigations Section is made up of one Lieutenant, two Sergeants, five Senior Investigators and 13 Investigators. The section is divided into two specialties: Major Crimes/Special Victims Unit and Major Fraud/Property Crimes Unit. There is one full time and one part time Polygraph examiner. There are two full time and one part-time civilian clerical Investigative technicians that assist with background investigations for new employees, crime prevention, and much more.



The CIS conducted approximately 1,779 felony criminal investigations. Of the 1,779 investigations opened, 1,399 cases were closed for a 79% case closure rate.

Investigators made 283 arrests in 2022. Polygraph Examiners conducted three criminal and 125 pre-employment polygraph examinations. Criminal Investigations Section investigated nine homicides in 2022, closing eight for a homicide closure rate of 89%.

Over the past year there were four Officer involved shootings in Okaloosa County. All of these were investigated by the CIS. 100% were successfully closed.

Criminal Investigations Division

Criminal Investigations Section



During 2022 Deputies Barnhill, Cain, Petersen, Bowen, and Wilde were promoted to Investigator.

Investigator Pitman was promoted to Senior Investigator.

Investigators Butler, Williamson, and Robinson were promoted to Sergeant.

Investigator Eric Swain was recognized as the 2021 Deputy of the Year.

Senior Investigator Michael Hogan was recognized as the 2021 Investigator of the Year.

Criminal Investigations Division

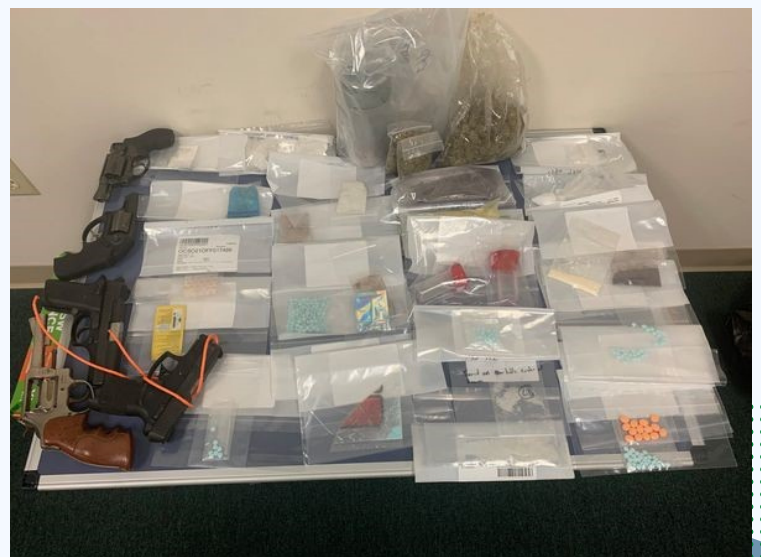
Special Investigations Section

The Special Investigations Section is made up of one Lieutenant, three Sergeants, three Senior Investigators, ten Investigators, and five deputies. The section is divided into five specialties: Multi-Agency Drug Task Force, Fugitive Warrants, Cyber Crimes/Homeland Security, Street Crimes (SCU) and Real Time Crime Center (RTCC). There are four civilian employees that are employed within the RTCC.

In the year 2022, members of SIS continued joint operations with regional, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to combat illegal drug activity and other felony criminal activity in the region. These joint operations were executed through partnerships with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Marshal's Service, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Fort Walton Beach Police Department, Crestview Police Department, Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office, Florida Highway Patrol, and other agencies.

These operations focused on the disruption and dismantling of problematic large-scale narcotics trafficking networks affecting the Gulf Coast region. Here are a few examples of specific casework conducted by members of SIS in 2022:

- **SIS Multi-Agency Drug Task Force Investigators conducted 192 investigations involving drug trafficking organizations, fugitive apprehensions, and covert operations with a total of 205 arrests. Investigators authored 216 search warrants in casework, with 57 of those search warrants being residential. Investigators received 192 Crime Stoppers/intelligence tips from citizens in reference to suspected criminal activity. 109 Crime Stoppers tips were closed during this year. Investigators recovered 55 firearms from narcotics violators and/or weapons-related offenders.**



Criminal Investigations Division

Special Investigations Section



- The Street Crimes Unit (SCU) recorded 1,614 calls for service during 2022 despite only working half of the year. SCU members generated 299 offense reports, resulting in 186 arrests. Members of SCU closed 286 investigations, resulting in a 95% case closure rate.
- Total narcotics/contraband by investigators in operations = \$739,444.00.
Current estimated weights: Marijuana (79 pounds); Methamphetamine (6.5 kilograms); Heroin (1.2 kilograms); Fentanyl (3 kilograms); Cocaine (1.7 kilograms).
The above figures do not include SCU totals. Asset forfeitures/seizures were valued at approximately \$489,565.41.
- The Fugitive Warrants members successfully tracked, targeted, and/or apprehended suspected criminal gang members and/or felony offenders wanted for homicide, aggravated battery, weapons offenses, sex crimes, narcotics trafficking, burglary, probation violations, and more.



Criminal Investigations Division

Special Investigations Section

- The Cyber Crimes Unit/ Homeland Security Unit executed multiple “sting” operations, as well as multiple multi-jurisdictional operations targeting perpetrators and sex offenders who were attempting to exploit children online.

Investigators conducted a total of 708 forensic extractions or downloads of cellular devices, handheld devices, and/or computers.

In addition, Investigators initiated 309 investigations, executed 13 residential search warrants, conducted 315 electronic search warrants, and served 24 Risk Protection Orders, resulting in 44 arrests.



Criminal Investigations Division

Special Investigations Section

- The Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC) was established in the middle of 2022 and is currently staffed by four full-time Criminal Analysts that specialize in information/intelligence gathering. In the event of an emergency, analysts in the RTCC are able to view surveillance cameras as well as body-worn cameras and provide deputies with real-time information to assist in the investigation. The RTCC is a force multiplier and the unblinking eye that helps the deputy be side-by-side with the suspect instead of being a step behind.



Criminal Investigations Division

Special Investigations Section Evidence/Crime Scene Unit



This section is comprised of three full time Crime Scene Technicians and four full time Evidence Clerks.

Crime Scene investigators attended 13 autopsies, processed numerous high profile crime scenes, and processed 28 search warrants. They assisted local municipal agencies with 18 investigations. They processed expended shell casings from their shootings, linking weapons and suspects with crimes in their various jurisdictions.

Complete transition inventory of 123,699 items started on 4-21-2022 and finished on 7-20-2022, with ZERO items missing or unaccounted. Eleven items were located that were previously listed as missing or destroyed on previous inventories.

2022 end of the year total amount of items stored within the Evidence Unit: 127,173

Total amount of evidence items received: 17,567

Total amount of evidence items purged/destroyed: 10,932

Total requests via Help Desk tickets: 2,388. This includes requests to check out and review evidence, analyze/process evidence, evidence supply requests, records expungements orders, releasing evidence to owners, etc.

FDLE Lab Processing: 1131 FDLE Firearm Eligibility System Checks completed: 170

ATF gun traces conducted: 455 Court Orders Executed: 33

Vehicles Processed Thru Impound Lot: In - 43 Out - 37

Entry of Personnel Into Impound Lot: 389

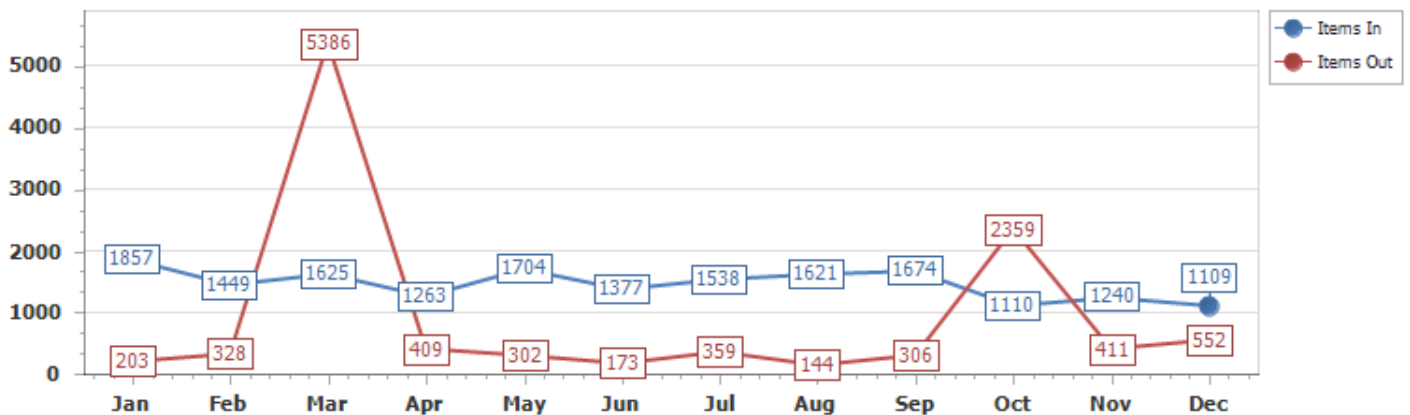
Bicycles donated to charity: 83

Criminal Investigations Division

Special Investigations Section Evidence/Crime Scene Unit



YEAR TO DATE SUMMARY



Professional Standards Division

Professional Development & Training

The Professional Development and Training Inspector is responsible for several agency functions including professional and career development, the training section, the armory, and the Sheriff Larry Ashley Public Safety Training Complex. These functions serve internal and external customers through various activities and services. As the demand continues to increase, we must identify and plan for areas of growth in order to ensure quality, seamless service.

The Training Section is in charge of coordinating and developing training for the entire agency. Deputies are required to attend various types of training on an annual basis. This training includes firearms, defensive tactics, driving, CPR, critical incident response, human diversity, domestic violence, etc.

The Training Section seeks out new training while identifying training needs within the agency. It oversees the CADET program which consists of employees sponsored by the agency to become highly trained law enforcement officers. These CADETS attend their basic recruit training at an approved CJSTC Training Center. The Training Section supplements the training Cadets receive while in the academy with courses ranging from Speed Measurement, Breath Test Operator, Basic Rifle, Advanced Rifle, and more as well as training on various tools used for De-escalation. In 2022, 14 Cadets graduated from Northwest Florida State College Public Safety Academy and George Stone Criminal Justice Training Center in three separate classes.



The Training Section also oversees the Field Training Program for newly hired deputies. The Field Training Program consists of fifteen weeks of on-the-job training for all new deputies. Newly hired deputies will not be allowed to act as solo deputies until they successfully complete this program. All new communication officers are also put through a very similar field training program.

The Training Section further performs various duties including making sure all deputies are trained on issued equipment, preparing and approving lesson plans for courses of instruction written by agency instructors, and vetting outside training vendors for quality control as well as achieving organizational goals. The training environment in law enforcement is ever-changing

Professional Standards Division

Professional Development & Training

due to the advancement of technology and the needs of the community. The Training Section makes sure the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office stays on the cutting edge of law enforcement and ensures all deputies are properly trained and prepared to meet the needs of the citizens of Okaloosa County.

In 2022, OCSO employees attended 11,593 training hours outside of our agency and 9,150 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 specialized instruction. 6,361 hours of online training programs were completed through various websites outside of the agency. Internally, "PowerDMS" provided 4,031 hours of online training, saving the agency literally thousands of dollars in tuition, travel, and instructor costs, while also reducing manpower shortages.



The Armory has a full-time armorer responsible for storing, maintaining, inventorying and issuing weapons and munitions. The armorer is responsible for ordering weapons and ammunition on an annual basis to replace older weapon systems that are in need of repair or may be outdated as part of OCSO's force modernization and to ensure ammunition is on hand to sustain annual range requirements.



Professional Standards Division

Professional Development & Training

The Firearms Training Facility has two full-time Range Masters. In 2014, the agency obtained permanent access to a Firearms Training Facility on the outskirts of Crestview. A much-needed rifle range, two pistol ranges, and other more permanent tactical training assets were constructed. The improvements to the range included a permanent 10,000 square foot training building which has contributed to a more enhanced training program, allowing sworn members to greatly refine and expand skills, techniques, and tactics. The Public Safety Training Complex is utilized by other agencies including but not limited to:

- Crestview Police Department
- Crestview Fire Department
- Drug Enforcement Administration
- Federal Bureau of Investigations
- Florida Department of Corrections
- Florida Highway Patrol
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Fort Walton Beach Police Department
- Northwest Florida State College Police Department
- Okaloosa County Department of Corrections and Jail
- Okaloosa County Fire Chiefs Association
- Okaloosa County Department of Public Safety
- Shalimar Police Department
- State Attorney's Office, etc.
- US Fish and Wildlife Service



Professional Standards Division Chaplaincy

During the 2022 calendar year, OCSO Chaplains responded to eighty-two (82) calls for service.

Volunteer Hours

District 1:	159
District 2:	481
District 3:	232
Total:	872



The OCSO Chaplaincy, along with members of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, sponsored more than 135 children at a value of approximately \$50,000.00 in donated funds for the annual Angel Tree program. The employees also developed innovative ways to reach our sponsors, which resulted in 360 miniature Christmas Trees decorated for hospice patients.

Five OCSO Chaplains attended the International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC) in Orlando, Florida. During this conference, each chaplain received forty hours of advanced training on how to better serve Law Enforcement Officers.

Chaplains participated in eight Crisis Intervention and Stress Management (CISM) briefings for county personnel experiencing effects from traumatic events. They facilitated marriage ceremonies for three couples. Chaplains also provided aid and services for the families of agency members who passed in 2022.

OCSO Chaplains have continued to provide stellar service with fewer chaplains. Their level of professionalism, mastery of chaplain skills, and desire to serve have helped countless individuals within and without the OCSO.

Professional Standards Division Accreditation

In June 2022, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office received its forth reaccreditation award from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA). The Sheriff's Office earned initial accreditation in July 2010 and has been reaccredited every three years since. The CFA 2022 final report stated:

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office exhibited tremendous commitment to the accreditation process. It was evident each member of the agency is driven to provide excellent, professional, and friendly service to the community. The assessment team members finished the formal assessment impressed with many facets of the agency. The accreditation files were impeccably organized and provided the necessary documentation for assessors to determine compliance.

The agency illustrated its commitment to going above and beyond expected law enforcement duties for the community and its residents. They strive daily to be an extension of the community and provide excellent service to the cities it encompasses.



Professional Standards Division

Crime Prevention Unit



Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office

**Friday, March 31st
6PM at
Crestview Independent
Baptist Church
600 N. Ferdon Blvd, Crestview**



Cyber Safety Class For Parents Only

The Good the Bad & the Ugly On Cyber Safety for adults only. Come learn how you can protect your kids while online, social media, gaming, and more.....

Crime Prevention Unit
Ashley Bailey
850-259-0031
cpu@sheriff-okaloosa.org



Professional Standards Division

Human Resources Unit

The OCSO Human Resources Department (HR) is responsible for managing the employee life cycle, which starts from the application process and continues through employment into retirement. The HR department maintains strategic partnerships and collaborates with all departments to enhance recruitment strategies, as well as, increase and retain a qualified, inclusive and diversified workforce, which is comprised of about 350 sworn team members and about 150 civilian team members.

The HR Department supports internal and external customers by providing specific, customer-focused services. HR is responsible for staffing and workforce planning, new employee orientation, wage and salary studies, benefits administration, HR system administration, and personnel management.

The HR department strives to provide competitive pay and benefits programs which attract and retain employees and to support our employees and families to thrive in the communities in which they live and work. HR is committed to provide an exceptional employee experience during the entire employee life cycle.



Professional Standards Division

Human Resources Unit



2022 Highlights from the HR Department:

- Reviewed 114 deputy applications and hired 43 deputies
- Reviewed 209 civilian applications and hired 37 civilians
- Reviewed 127 cadet applications and hired 21 cadets
- Assisted with 54 separations, 13 retirements, two agency deaths
 - Processed 1,130 Personnel Action Forms
- Assisted in creating a new agency recruitment video
- Provided agency basic benefits to employees for free, additional cost to add dependents
- Conducted successful in-person open enrollments sessions for entire agency and retirees
 - Provided free on-site vaccine clinics for all agency members, retirees and dependents
 - Expanded EAP services to include usage to all active employees
 - Successfully changed vision plan providing increased benefits
- Added Medicare Advantage option for retirees providing a lower out-of-pocket option

The HR Department knows that without the support and assistance from all the other agency departments, we would not be able to successfully carry out our duties. Their support and assistance is greatly appreciated.



Judicial Services

Court Security/Detention

The calendar year of 2022 in Court Security and Detention Sections was notable.

On October 16th, members of Court Services experienced the sudden loss of Captain Jay Jones. Captain Jones left behind a wife and two children. He had dedicated 27 and a half years to the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, with his last assignment being Judicial Services. During such time he had formed many lasting relationships and made countless significant contributions. Captain Jones' passing was tragic and difficult for all that knew him.

An exemplary public servant
whose devotion to his mission, his
agency, his family, and his
community leaves a lasting legacy.

Thank you Captain for
your service and your friendship.

In loving memory of

Captain Jay Jones

E.O.W. October 16, 2022



Judicial Services

Court Security/Detention



Lieutenant Matthew Harrison was promoted to Captain of Judicial Services. Captain Harrison celebrated 20 years with the agency in February

Sergeant Dale Carter was promoted to Lieutenant of Judicial Process. Lieutenant Carter celebrated 20 years with the agency in April.

Sgt. John Jenks transferred from Charlie Shift Patrol to Court Security South.

Deputy Josef Hall transferred to Civil Process.

Deputies Angela Herrington, Brian Van Derwerken, and Hasher Figar transferred to booking.

During 2022, Deputies Stephen Stallings, Juan Newman, Joey Haun and Charles Self transferred from various assignments to Court Security South.

In May, Sgt. Jessica Trimboli celebrated her ten year anniversary with the agency.

Court Security (North) handled 16,824 cases or hearings, screened 41,722 individuals through the Single Point of Entry, and seized 6 items of contraband or weapons.

Court Security (South) handled 46,505 cases or hearings, screened 84,984 citizens through the Single Point of Entry, and seized 72 items of contraband or weapons.

Detention processed 5,644 subjects into the OCCAE Booking Facility, transported 6,797 inmates, including those scheduled for court, and registered 1,290 felony/sexual offenders.

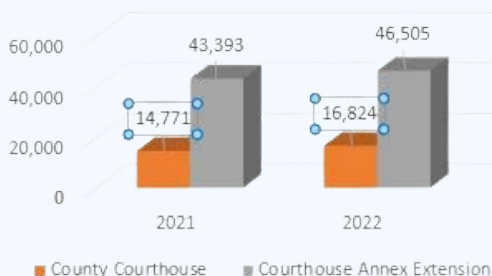
Court Security and Detention processed 1,072 of the state-mandated DNA collections.



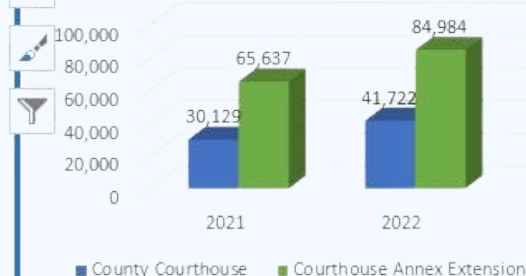
Judicial Services

Warrants

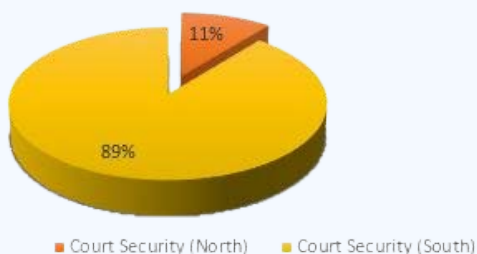
Cases and Hearings



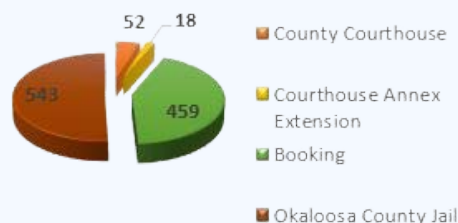
Individuals Screened



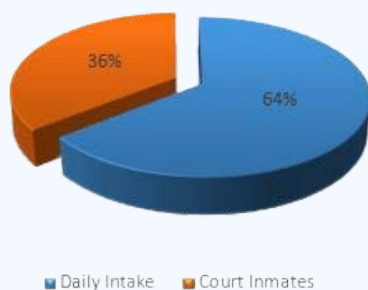
Contraband Seized



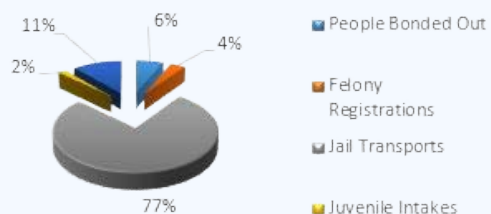
DNA



Booking Intakes



Booking Activity





Judicial Services Warrants

Quick Links ▾ News & Info ▾ Crime Prevention ▾

Okaloosa County
Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Eric Aden

Outstanding Warrants

Search Active Warrants

Last Name:

First Name:

Middle Name:

The Warrants Unit processes all agency arrest warrants and other commitment orders issued by the County and Circuit Courts in Okaloosa County. It intakes warrants and commitment orders 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. It also transports or coordinates transportation of prisoners housed in confinement institutions outside of Okaloosa County for judicial hearings.

The Warrants Unit is currently managing more than 4,047 outstanding warrants, orders to take into custody (OTTIC), and other commitment orders.

During 2022, the Warrants Unit processed more than 5,100 warrants, OTTIC's and other commitment orders, and of these 4,104 were served/executed.

631 prisoners were transported and/or extradited, at a cost of \$159,873.84.





Judicial Services Records

Public Records Emails – 14,818

Scanned Entries – 20,620

(9,901 in Docuware, 10,095 in Incident Reporting, 448 in Warrants, 176 in MN)

NTA's – 1,183

MI Records Merged – 2,131

Mug shots upload by Records – 2,185

Video Compiled for SAO, DUI Review Board or Public Records Request -6,356

BWC Videos uploaded 2020- 215,131 with 594,089 still active

Offense Reports – 16,838

Arrests only (does not include NTA's, Warrants, or Summons) – 4,147

DUI Citations – 315 in MobileForms

Traffic Crash Reports – 1,318 in MobileForms

Traffic Warnings – 3,843 logged in MobileForms; 18,848 calls closed

78-0 M-Verbal warning, not written

Traffic Citations – 5,408 logged in MobileForms

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

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

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





Judicial Services

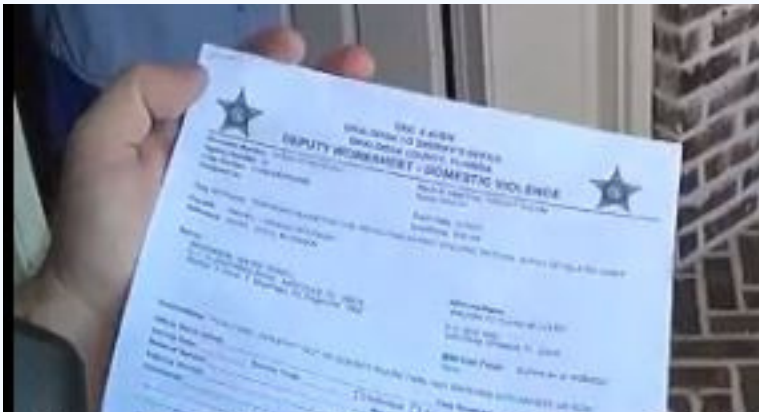
Civil Process

The Sheriff or his deputies are required by Florida Constitution and statutes to serve orders from the court that are delivered to him. Civil Process receipts in and processes 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 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 2022, the Civil Process Unit:

- **Monitored 2,452 Domestic Injunctions and protection orders with an additional 679 that expired or were recalled during the year**
 - **Processed more than 10,983 and served 10,818 pieces of civil process**
- **Processed and served 1,367 domestic violence and other protective orders**
 - **Processed and served 5,332 subpoenas for criminal cases**
 - **Collected over \$113,230.00 in Sheriff's Fees**





Judicial Services

Community Service & More

The Court Security and Booking units are serious about their duties and privileged to serve the citizens of Okaloosa County.

Training is always a priority. Aside from the core disciplines of CPR, AED, Stop the Bleed, NARCAN, PAT and Active Shooter, they received “WRAP” Restraint System Training, Weapon Mounted Red Dot Training, Response to Active Resistance in the Courtroom and Advanced Rifle Training. Furthermore, several deputies achieved notable training credentials which enables them the ability to give back to the law enforcement community.

Members of Court Security and Booking also served on a number of boards, participated in community events, and received notable accolades for their involvement and contributions.

The actions of those within Court Services spanning 2022 is a true testament to their fortitude and integrity.

Booking Officer Clyde Thompson, along with Court Security Deputy's Charles Self and Steve Williams attended the required training and received General Instructor certifications.

Deputy Steve Williams became an agency less lethal Taser Instructor.

Deputy Clyde Thompson became an agency firearms instructor.



Deputies Heather Rominger, Rachel Tisdale and Melody Kramer attended and successfully completed Safariland's Female Officer Survival Skills training.

2022 marked the second year Deputy Michael Nichols served as the Active Shooter lead instructor for the agency.

Sergeant Erick Denny and Sergeant Jessica Trimboli received Leadership Gold Training Certificates through John Maxwell Leadership training.



Judicial Services

Community Service & More

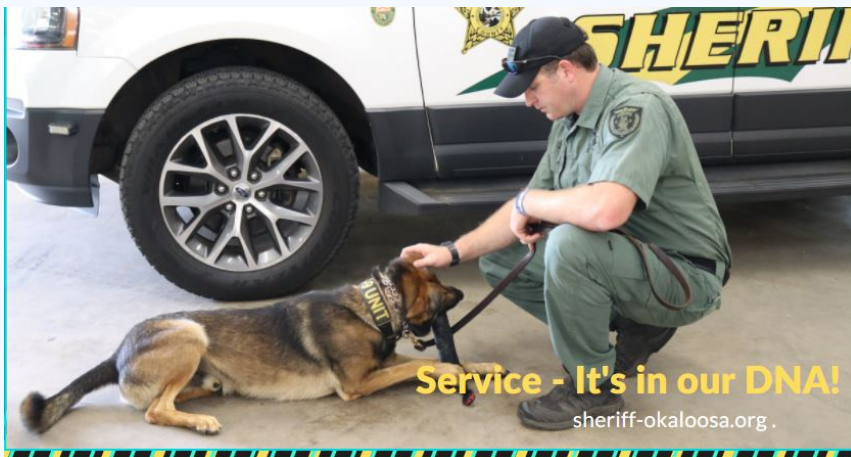
Lieutenant D.J. Folley was one of the first chosen to attend, and graduated, from the leadership cohort “Leadership Ten”.

Deputy Steve Williams created “Courtroom Demeanor”, a training course designed for law enforcement officers with the intention of increasing their understanding of the court process and improving court testimony and case preparation.

During 2022 Lieutenant D.J. Folley constructed and implemented the agency “Pistol Mounted Optics” course.

During 2022 Deputies Mike Nichols and Steve Williams completed all necessary standards and acquired the designation of Career Deputy 2.

During November 2022 Deputy Joey Haun received a Medal of Valor for his involvement in an officer involved shooting. Additionally, Deputy Haun was awarded USPCA Region One K9 “Case of the Quarter” for 2022.



Deputy Michael Nichols received a Letter of Commendation for his life saving efforts in assisting Deputy Joe Sarment, who had suffered a medical emergency.

Deputy Steve Williams researched and purchased technology with his own money which enabled him to clone the RFID tags for newly purchased Hornady gun safes. This gave deputies rapid access to any of the many service rifles strategically located throughout the courthouses. Deputy Williams earned a commendation for going above and beyond his required duties.

Judicial Services

Community Service & More



Deputy Heather Rominger honored the agency and the family of Deputy Michael Neau by attending the National Law Enforcement Memorial in 2022 as a liaison for the Neau family.

On August 17th Deputy Pat Jenkins honored the agency by reading the 87 names of Florida's fallen officers at the annual Fraternal Order of Police State Memorial Service in Tallahassee.

Deputy Charles Self received two citizen letters of appreciation for his politeness and courteousness.

Sergeant Jessica Trimboli was awarded "40 Under 40" by the United Way, then was later featured in Destin VIP magazine October 2022.

Sergeant Trimboli was named Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators 2022 Region 1 Training director (encompasses Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa). This position serves on the FAHN board for the state of Florida.

Lieutenant D.J. Folley was selected as a Big Brothers and Big Sisters board member during 2022.

Booking personnel organized several citizen tours of the south courthouse and detention facility, most notably for the Boys Scouts of America and students from the Liza Jackson Preparatory School.

For the seventh year, Court Security sponsored blood drives with "One Blood" through the efforts of Deputy Kenny Driscoll.



Judicial Services

Community Service & More



The men and women of the Judicial Services Division had over 120 volunteer hours.

Judicial Services employees are members of or volunteers for the following organizations/activities:

- FOP State LE Memorial Role Call of Honor Reader
- Court Emergency Management Team
 - OCSO Sheriff's Star Charities
 - AMI Kids Emerald Coast
- Big Brothers and Big Sisters
 - Fraternal Order of Police
 - 4-H
- Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators (FAHN)
 - Okaloosa Drug Endangered Children Alliance
 - United Way





Youth Services



The Youth Services Division, comprising the School Resource Officer program (SRO), is tasked with school safety within Okaloosa County. This honorable calling rests with fifty-seven deputies who provide contractual law enforcement services to forty public and charter schools.

These extraordinary men and women service more than 30,000 students and approximately 2,500 educators, school faculty, and support staff members. Their unwavering commitment to our youth is unsurpassed, and their hard work has reaped a good harvest in the community we serve and the lives of the children we have sworn to protect.

The Youth Services Division is a diverse collection of gifted and motivated individuals sharing a common vision. Rigorous recruitment and systematic training have produced singularly trained individuals demonstrating unique skill sets that harmonize with the specificity of the assignment. Through their exemplary aptitude and resolute drive, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Youth Services Division remains the leading SRO program in Florida.





Youth Services

Armed sentries guarding a post may come to mind when thinking of an SRO. Though school security is an exceedingly important piece within the modality of the SRO program, it is only one of many objectives held by this unit. School-based policing centers on adaptability and resourcefulness, and the SRO program exemplifies these characteristics. Our SROs employ the Triad method focusing their talents on teaching, informal counseling, and law enforcement. This process immerses our SROs into the educational environment while providing avenues of resources to our students and school faculty.

Our SROs participated in more than 174 classroom instructions, including drug awareness, cyber-safety and related crimes, bullying, school drills, etc. Likewise, they aided school faculty by providing security at after-school sporting events, arranging school functions, participating in teacher/faculty meetings, and assisting with various other school-related functions.



Youth Services

Community Service & More



By its very nature, the SRO program bridges the gap between law enforcement and the community. Blending community-oriented policing with the Triad, the SROs epitomize intentionality, investment, and trust building which strengthens law enforcement and community bonds. Social currency is the result that reaps benefits for the agency and our community partners.

Our SROs embraced community involvement and proactively organized or participated in numerous community based-events. They devotedly volunteer countless hours beyond those expected at their respective schools in support of the community.

A few of these events can be seen here:

- SROs organized campaigns to raise goods for the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch Associations
 - SROs spearheaded the Angel Tree campaign to provide Christmas gifts to 144 deserving children and their families
- SROs, in conjunction with their schools and the agency, provided more than 200 Christmas trees to local Hospice facilities
- Youth Services Division 2nd Annual Hop with a Cop event at Surge Trampoline Park where 300 students of all ages were given entry vouchers for free food, drinks and carnival games
- 1st Annual Helping Hands Clothing Closet where the Youth Services Division, in partnership with Crosspoint Niceville, held a clothing and book drive for area residents
 - Youth Services Division Youth Week

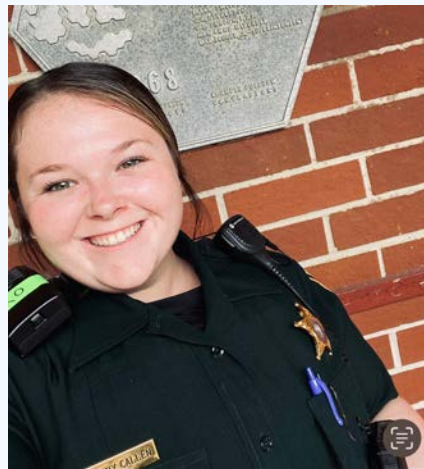
Youth Services

Community Service & More

The previous list is just a snapshot into the dedication these amazing SROs exhibit and frankly it only scratches the surface concerning the host of programs and community projects these remarkable individuals are involved in.

SROs also recognized a continual need to support organizations outside our local area. The Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches was this identified need, and our SROs embraced the opportunity to help.

They provided staffing at Camp Sorenson, a newly minted, year-round retreat targeting at-risk youth. The camp accommodates up to 1,500 young men and women and needed counselors. Answering the call, a handful of our SROs donated their time and worked as counselors giving back to our youth and fully staffing the camp.



Youth Services

School Involvement

The SROs are critical to the overall learning environment and lend their expertise to their respective student bodies and educational staff members. Training in the areas of ALICE Safety (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate – lockdown/lockout procedures), SRP (Standard Response Protocol/School crisis mitigation), and Stop the Bleed (proper trauma medical response) is provided by the SRO before the start of every school year.

Similarly, SROs perform school site safety assessments at every campus and provide their findings to the School District for their review. Afterward, the SROs and School District work collaboratively to address any areas in need.

Building relationships, trust, and mentorship are essential facets exhibited daily by an SRO. They fill in the gap for our youth and become teachers, mentors, friends, fathers, and mothers. The bonds they build are lasting, and the stories told by previous students about their respective SROs, and their impact on their lives are inspirational.

These stories speak volumes of our SROs' servant hearts. They bear witness to the importance SROs play in our youth's lives and epitomize their professionalism.





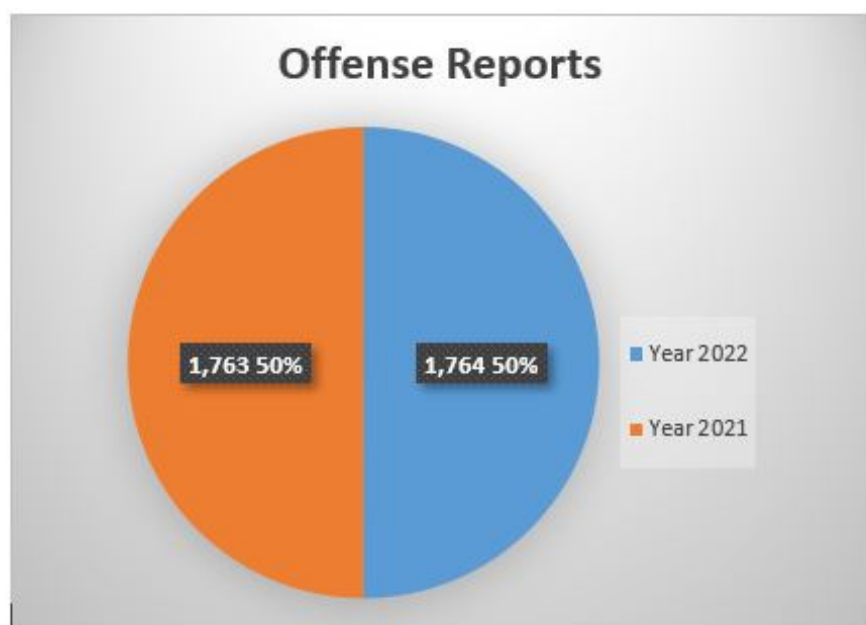
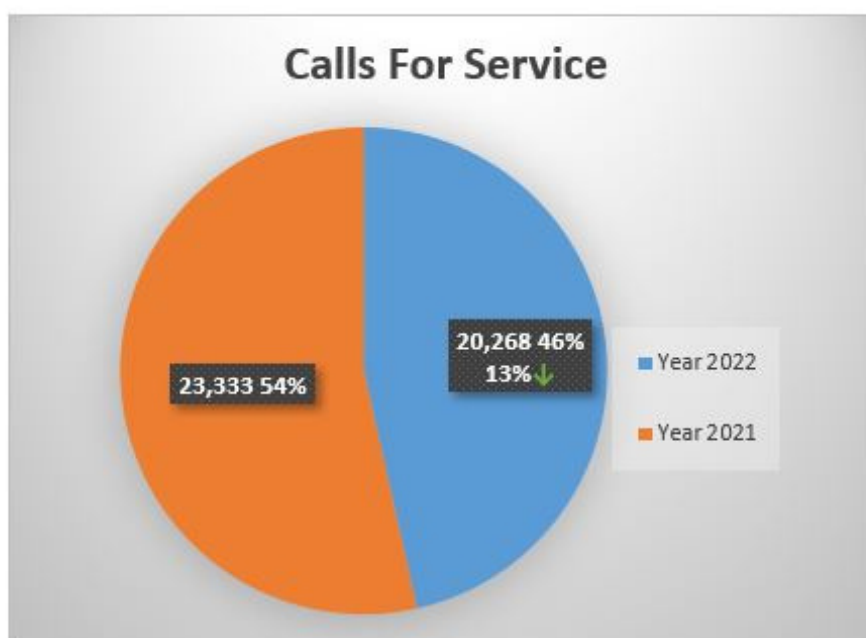
Youth Services

School Safety

School Safety is always at the forefront of our minds, and our SROs strive to proactively challenge any issue, no matter how mundane, that may threaten the safety of a school.

Our creed, "This We Will Defend," is seared into our nature and is the driving force behind our safety protocols.

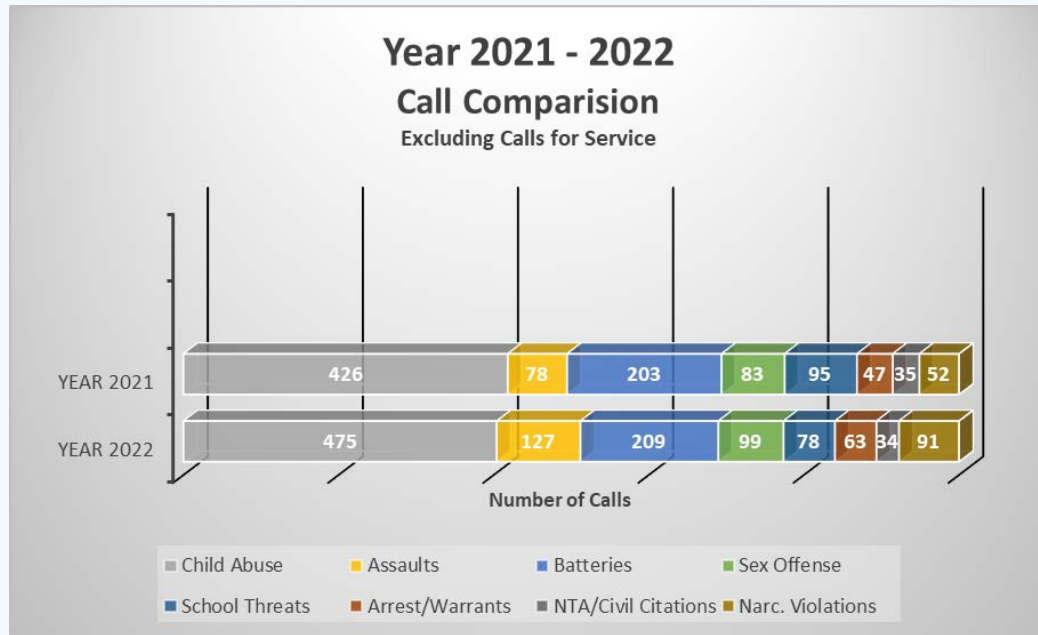
From 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022, the Youth Services Division recorded the following statistical data:





Youth Services

School Safety



Year 2021 versus Year 2022

Excluding Calls for Service



	Year 2022	Year 2021
Narc. Violations	91	52
NTA/Civil Citations	34	35
Arrest/Warrants	63	47
School Threats	78	95
Sex Offense	99	83
Batteries	209	203
Assaults	127	78
Child Abuse	475	426
Offense Reports	1,764	1,763

Narc. Violations NTA/Civil Citations Arrest/Warrants School Threats Sex Offense
Batteries Assaults Child Abuse Offense Reports

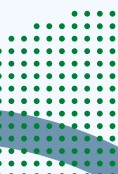


Youth Services



Yet again, our SROs had the opportunity to provide a security element for Governor Ron DeSantis. He visited two Okaloosa County schools, Florosa Elementary School and Fort Walton Beach High School. While at Florosa Elementary, the Governor highlighted revolutionary legislation eliminating the Florida Standards Assessment test and replacing it with progress monitoring. At Fort Walton Beach High School, he highlighted Purple Star Schools in Florida.

Of the 144 schools with this distinction, 35 Okaloosa County Schools were recognized. The Purple Star School program supports military-dependent students during their transitional period when their active-duty parent(s) relocate to a new base. The SROs played an integral part in this program.





Youth Services Training

Regarding school safety, nothing is more important than protecting our most valuable treasure—our youth. Our SROs strive to hone their skills daily and to be better than yesterday.

The Youth Services Division is innovatively changing the landscape of school-based policing by challenging standard school protocol responses through countless hours of supplemental mental health, tactical, and leadership training.

Similarly, recognizing the importance of small-unit leadership, the SROs have streamlined leadership throughout the ranks and empowered every SRO from junior grade and up. This practice has translated into better peer-level leadership, which produces better results and more rounded SROs.



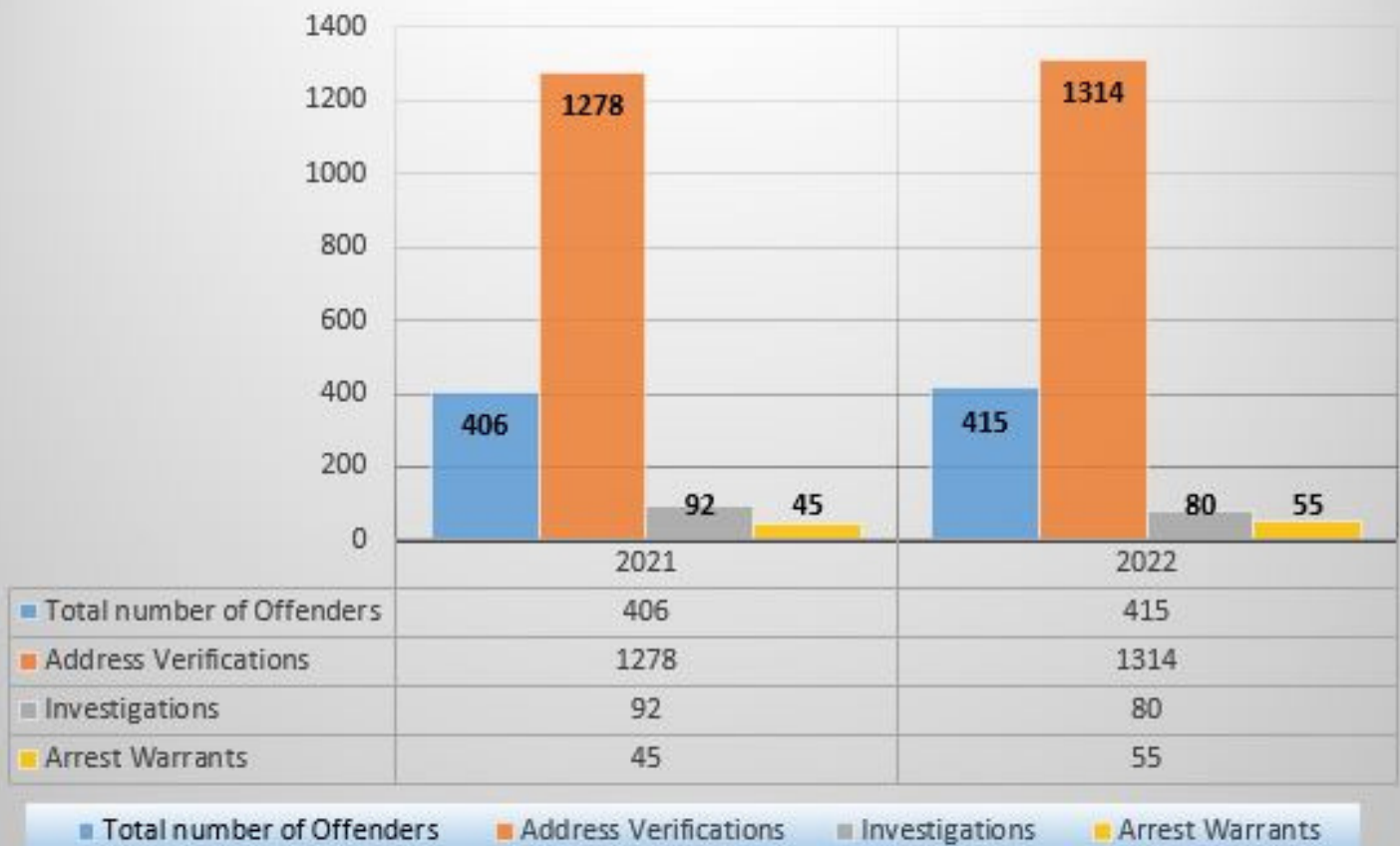
Youth Services

Sex Offender/Predator Tracking

The Sex Offender/Predator Tracking Unit (SOPU) consists of SROs who are tasked with collateral duties that include monitoring, tracking, and verifying all sexual offenders and/ or predators within Okaloosa County. The Youth Services Division shouldered this responsibility in 2013 and has continually garnered compliance from this population.

Relevant numbers can be found below:

SOPU: Year 2021 versus Year 2022 Statistics



Florida Department of Law Enforcement - Sexual Offender / Predator

Primary Information

Designation: Sexual Predator
 Name: SAMUEL MEGAN MOOK
 Status: Supervised - FS Dept of Corrections
 Dept of Correction: FPC219
 Date Of Birth: 05/10/1987
 Race: Black
 Sex: Male
 Hair: Black
 Eyes: Brown
 Height: 5'05"
 Weight: 243 lbs

SAMUEL MEGAN MOOK is registered as a Sexual Predator pursuant to Section 775.21 F.S. Positive identification cannot be established unless a fingerprint comparison is made.

Address

SAMUEL M MOOK, SAM MOOK, SAMUEL MOOK

Type	Scars, Marks & Tattoos	Count
None Reported		

Address Information

Address: 419 SW Ave
 Location: FL 32079-1027
 Okaloosa County

Map Link

Adjudication

Date	Crime Description	Court Case Number	Arrested In State	Adjudication
02/16/2014	POSSE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC SHOWING SEXUAL PERFORMANCE BY A CHILD, F.S. 807.07(1)(a) COUNTY- POSSE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC SHOWING SEXUAL PERFORMANCE BY A CHILD, F.S. 807.07(1)(b)	1301172	Okaloosa, FL	Guilty/convicted
10/29/2018	POSSE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC SHOWING SEXUAL PERFORMANCE BY A CHILD, F.S. 807.07(1)(b)	1703216	Okaloosa, FL	Guilty/convicted

Florida Department of Law Enforcement - Sexual Offender / Predator

Primary Information

Designation: Sexual Predator
 Name: Michael Craig Banks
 Status: Supervised - FS Dept of Corrections
 Dept of Correction: FPC008
 Date Of Birth: 10/09/1988
 Race: White
 Sex: Male
 Hair: Brown
 Eyes: Brown
 Height: 5'07"
 Weight: 225 lbs

Michael Craig Banks is registered as a Sexual Predator pursuant to Section 775.21 F.S. Positive identification cannot be established unless a fingerprint comparison is made.

Address

Michael Banks, Michael C Banks, Michael Robert Banks

Type	Scars, Marks & Tattoos	Count
None Reported		

Address Information

Address: 1188 Lost Trl
 Location: FL 32547-6870
 Okaloosa County

Map Link

Adjudication

Date	Crime Description	Court Case Number	Arrested In State	Adjudication
02/06/2003	SEX RAY BY ZOOENOVICTM UNDER 12 F.S. 704.01(1)(2)	0000001	Okaloosa, FL	Guilty/convicted

Florida Department of Law Enforcement - Sexual Offender / Predator

Primary Information

Designation: Sexual Predator
 Name: TERRY WAYNE FRAZER
 Status: Supervised - FS Dept of Corrections
 Dept of Correction: FPC008
 Date Of Birth: 11/11/1985
 Race: White
 Sex: Male
 Hair: Brown
 Eyes: Brown
 Height: 5'07"
 Weight: 174 lbs

TERRY WAYNE FRAZER is registered as a Sexual Predator pursuant to Section 775.21 F.S. Positive identification cannot be established unless a fingerprint comparison is made.

Address

TERRY W FRAZER, TERRY FRAZER

Type	Scars, Marks & Tattoos	Count
None Reported		

Address Information

Address: 5214 Vesper Ave SE
 Location: FL 32016-0344
 Okaloosa County

Map Link

Adjudication

Date	Crime Description	Court Case Number	Arrested In State	Adjudication
02/06/2003	SEX RAY BY ZOOENOVICTM UNDER 12 F.S. 704.01(1)(2)	0000001	Okaloosa, FL	Guilty/convicted

Youth Services

School Crossing Guards



THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING OUR KIDS!



Crossing Guard Appreciation Day



Rain or Shine - Cold or Hot- You're out there.
Thank you for everything!

Supervised by the Youth Services Division, our dedicated crossing guards stand ready to escort our children across busy intersections in the county safely. No matter the weather, these dedicated individuals are steadfast guardians.

With the consistent population rise and proportionate vehicular traffic increase, our school crossing guards are invaluable resources for our children's safety.





Youth Services

Noteworthy Accomplishments

The SRO program is a recognized leader and model unit for the State of Florida. The Youth Services Division has been recognized numerous times in the state of Florida and nationally for our outstanding efforts in school-based policing, innovative methodology, and best practices as an SRO program.

The Youth Services Division is blessed with talented SROs from all walks of life. This assemblage of life experience engenders an eclectic, experienced division that can traverse any situation that might present itself. Likewise, the aptitude for promotional assignments abounds in this talent congregation.

Members of the Youth Services Division have received agency-wide recognition, from divisional commendations to promotions in rank; the last was Deputy Randall Joiner's promotion to the rank of Sergeant.

Other highlights include:

- K9 Handler Tony Rigdon –
Commendation (Recovery and Arrest for Firearm on School Grounds)

- Deputy Nick Hudson –
Commendation (Recovery and Arrest for Firearm on School Grounds)

- Deputy Ethan Day –
Commendation (Recovery and Arrest for Firearm on School Grounds)


- Deputy Tori Bowen –
Commendation (Recovery and Arrest for Firearm on School Grounds)

- Deputy Nichole Ragusa – Commendation (Medical Emergency)

- Deputy Callen – Recognition (Missing Child Recovery)

- Deputy Mark Kane – School Resource Officer of the Year

A notable incident of note occurred on 9 September 2022, where SRO Deputies Blanton and Dugre intercepted two students acting suspiciously at a high school football game. During the interaction, a knife was seized from one of the students, and deputies learned the student intended to harm him/herself with the knife. Due to their keen observations and investigative skills, tragedy was averted. Deputies Blanton and Dugre were awarded commendations for their actions.





Youth Services

Explorer Post #245

Under the umbrella of the Florida Sheriff's Explorer Association, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post #245 is a program that seeks civic-minded young men and women in Okaloosa County.

Led by SROs, the Post instills pride and fosters self-esteem in our youth. The Sheriff's Office Explorer Post #245 has six SRO advisors that mentor fourteen explorers.

The Post logged more than 150 training hours for 2022 and participated in numerous community-focused events.

Additionally, three agency members were sworn in as Deputy Sheriffs in 2022, Amanda "Mandie" George, Michael Whaley, and Michael York, and were products of Explorer Post #245.



Youth Services

Teen Driver Challenge

The Florida Sheriffs Association created the Teen Driver Challenge in 2007 to bring attention to speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol and/ or a controlled substance, texting while driving, and distracted driving. Education focusing on the above topics is necessary for the targeted audience- teenaged drivers.

Offered at no cost, the Teen Driver Challenge is an excellent and cost-effective platform to highlight the dangers of distracted and under-the-influence driving. The program is primarily led by SROs who are commercially licensed driving instructors.

In 2022, they assisted nearly 100 participants with a two-day classroom and hands-on practical instruction. Our instructors impart vital experience and knowledge so our teenage drivers can become better aware and defensive in their driving habits.

More than 2,000 participants have been trained since the program's inception and have reaped the benefits of this fantastic program.



Joel McGraw

👍 This course is stupendous for young people!!!!

Like Reply Hide 12m



Rich Sharon Adams

This is an excellent opportunity!! Parents -DO NOT pass this up! Enroll your son or daughter now! We credit this class in helping save our sons life when he had a blowout on the interstate in Atlanta years ago! So glad he took the class!! It helps!!

Love Reply Hide 30m



Youth Services



The Youth Services Division undoubtedly has bright, motivated, individuals, who demonstrate compassion and employ relationship-building as a central tenet of their mission.

Their moral compass and disposition to intercede on behalf of our children is commendable. They serve as role models and create a conducive atmosphere that cultivates citizenry and respect.

The SROs are essential to the education environment and our children's lives, and they bridge the gap so our youth can grow as people and become successful in their respective lives. Their labors of love are deliberate, purposeful, and freely given.



Youth Services



Airport Security Unit

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Airport Security Unit (ASU) has been proudly serving the traveling public at the Destin-Fort Walton Beach Airport (VPS) since its inception in 2017. The ASU was created after the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners identified a need for enhanced law enforcement services within the county's three airport system.

The ASU is unique in that it 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, retail/ concession sales, aircraft landing fees and rental agreements.

ASU deputies respond to a wide variety of calls ranging from assisting passengers with lost baggage, criminal investigations and as well as aircraft incidents.

Nationwide the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) saw a marked increase in firearms being discovered in passenger's carry-on luggage in the security screening checkpoint. In 2022, they reported seeing 6542 firearms nationwide which represented an approximate 10% increase overall. VPS was not immune to this trend as the ASU responded to the TSA security screening checkpoint a record 24 times for weapons violations, arresting ten people for trying to carry a firearm onto the airplane.

In addition to VPS, the ASU also provides law enforcement services to the Destin Executive Airport (DTS) located in Destin, and Bob Sikes Airport (CEW) located in Crestview.



Destin Executive Airport (DTS)



Bob Sikes Airport (CEW)

Airport Security Unit

DTS is a general aviation airport serving the community with a 5000 foot runway and a full array of amenities for travelers. CEW is ideal for Department of Defense and Aerospace Industry leaders as it is fairly remote and can accommodate any size aircraft with its 8000 foot runway. Both DTS and CEW are owned and operated by Okaloosa County and are not dependent on ad valorem taxes.

The ASU also encompasses the Airport Operations Center (AOC) which is the “Central Nerve Center” of the airport's system. Aside from dispatching deputies to calls for service, the AOC is tasked with duties and responsibilities that go well beyond law enforcement activities. These include such things as general aviation questions, dispatching maintenance technicians, managing flight information, contractor coordination, interagency information sharing, monitoring security cameras and access points, as well as acting as a liaison with Eglin AFB on various issues.

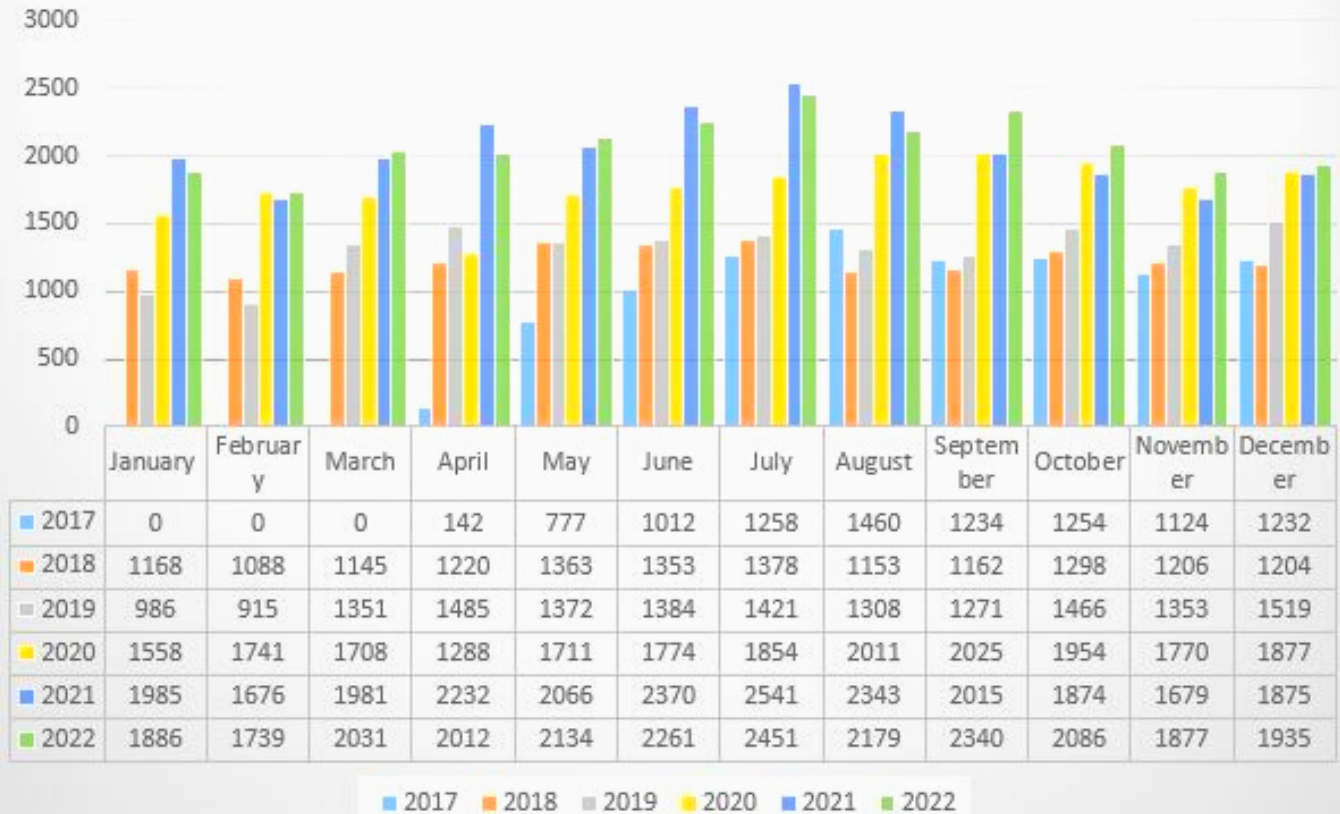


Operations at VPS saw a massive resurgence in 2021 as people flooded the emerald coast after the pandemic quarantine. VPS experienced a 112% increase in passengers in 2021, reaching nearly two million passengers. The influx of travelers did not stall in 2022 as the passengers counts surpassed two million.

The ASU saw an increase in calls for service going from 24,837 calls to 24,931 calls representing an approximate 1% increase.

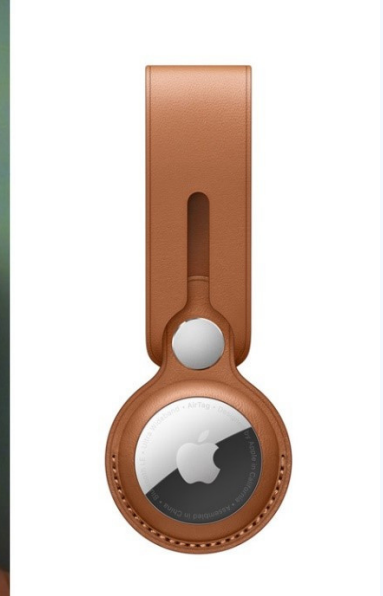
Airport Security Unit

ASU Calls For Service by Year



Airport Security Unit

In 2022 the ASU gained national attention for the arrest of an airline employee who had been stealing items valued at \$16,000 from checked bags. The investigation centered on the use of Apple Air Tags to track luggage .



In another case, the ASU was able to track down a suspect in Minnesota who had stolen another passenger's wedding rings valued at nearly \$40K and have it returned to the owner.

When 3 year old Adeline lost her precious "Lovey" somewhere in VPS, the ASU launched a full scale search, located Lovey and was able to reunite the two in California. No case is too big or too small for the ASU!



Airport Security Unit

The ASU also deploys an award winning Explosive Detection Canine Team.

Deputy Sheriff Brian Beyhl and K9 Skye responded to nearly 1500 calls for service in 2022 ranging from Suspicious Packages or People, Vehicle Inspections and other security related checks.

Their ability to detect explosives provided the ASU with a key piece of threat mitigation and has greatly enhanced the safety and security of the traveling public.



Airport Security Unit





Information Technology

The Information Technology Section takes a proactive approach to system health and user satisfaction. This operational philosophy requires regular preventative maintenance, routine hardware refreshes, timely software upgrades and patches, and continuous awareness of evolving cybersecurity concerns. The Covid Pandemic brought with it an exponential increase in the number and variety of cyber threats, many aimed at government institutions. Information Technology has maintained several security solutions to combat the growing threat and ensure the integrity of agency data.

To aide in customer service and move forward in implementing new technology to bolster cyber security, the IT department hired a new Server Administrator.

Help Desk Tickets

The Information Technology Section utilizes an electronic help desk system to receive and manage routine IT requests from agency members. In 2022, IT received and responded to 3,222 requests for service submitted via the portal.

Projects

Supported the implementation of a SmartCop upgrade to the new Incident Reporting. This brought the agency into compliance with FIBRS reporting requirements.

Deployed new Carbon Black Enterprise Endpoint Security software to all devices on the agency network further enhancing cyber security.

Deployed an Albert Sensor for network monitoring and detection as part of our overall cyber security.

Hardware Refresh

Configured and deployed 41 new desktop computers, 137 new mobile computers, and three multi-function printers as part of our hardware replacement plan aimed at overall system health and functionality.



Land/ Mobile Radio Section

The Land Mobile Radio Section continued to support our NEW Okaloosa P25 Advanced Public-Safety Emergency Communications System (APECS) project this year. Significant accomplishments include: the County completing the land acquisition phase, Williams Communications, Inc. beginning construction of the first tower site, installation of the new P25 capable dispatch consoles, and we've entered the planning phase for implementation. LMR has had a successful project year and fully expects major improvements in radio-communications quality, coverage, interoperability, and operations thanks to this system when we go live by the end of FY24.

An LMR technician was hired to support radio users, partners, and radio communications systems. He is a great asset who knows our agencies, people, and communications thanks to years of experience while working in our dispatch center.

In addition to supporting the APECS project and servicing the legacy radio systems in Okaloosa County, the LMR Administrator supported Florida Construction Days in Milton, FL, the Sheriff's APECS interview with Sierra Rains at NWFL Daily News, and was selected as a Co-Chair for the Region 1 Domestic Security Task Force - Communications Focus Group. Interoperability with local, regional, and federal partners has been his priority this year; teaming with these partners has built a bridge for improved paths to radio communications in the future."

2022 LMR Annual Report - Highlights

Jan-Mar 2022

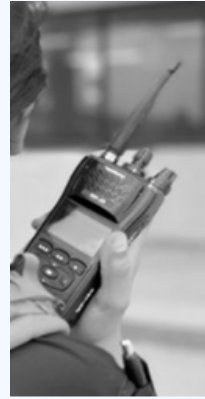
Continued land acquisition phase of the P25 public-safety radio communications project;

Met with future participants to discuss operations, interoperability, and hardware requests;

Maintained all existing infrastructure and support public safety users on the Okaloosa legacy radio systems.



Land/Mobile Radio Section



Apr-Jun 2022

Continued discussions with future participants to develop an implementation plan for the Continue land acquisition phase

July-Sept 2022

RTCC communications solution identified (BeOn Desktop App)

Discussions began with Alabama to prepare for an interoperable communications solution

Okaloosa LMRA Ouradnik selected as a Co-Chair for the Region 1 Domestic Security Task Force - Communications Focus Group

Ryan T Jacobs selected as a transfer from dispatch to the LMR team as the new OCSO radio technician

Attended the annual L3Harris Users Group and Training Seminar

Oct-Dec 2022

Hosted the first regional RDSTF1 CFG Meeting at the Niceville Emergency Operations Center as a Co-Chair

Symphony Console Installation began at the Emergency Communications Center

P25 system wide implementation phase kickoff meeting conducted

Construction on the first tower site in North Ft Walton Beach began

Regional interoperability planning session held with stakeholders.

Public Information

The Public Information Office continued handling an ever constant stream of demands for information regarding current arrests, new programs, community involvement, education, and content sharing.

Facebook followers surpassed the 175,000 mark in 2022 and YouTube followers exceeded 35,200.

One of the most significant public information events involved the launch of a new OCSO Sheriff's App.

Sheriff Eric Aden announced the release of a smartphone application for the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

"This app will serve as a new way for us to connect with residents and visitors, providing information quickly and efficiently to anyone with a smartphone," he said. "The app offers quick access to items of public interest and is easy to use." In just a few clicks, users can access features such as:

- Submit A Tip
- Warrants
- Recent Arrests
- Join OCSO
- Sex Offenders
- Contact Us
- News and Events
- Social Media
- Push Notifications
- And More!



The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office app is available for download for free in the App Store and Google Play by searching "Okaloosa County Sheriff, FL" or by clicking here.



Emerald Coast Crime Stoppers

ANNUAL REPORT

EMERALD COAST

**CRIME
STOPPERS**

www.EmeraldCoastCrimeStoppers.com

850-863-TIPS



1,330 TIPS



54 ARRESTS



61 CASES CLEARED



**\$20,950 REWARDS
APPROVED**

2022



www.EmeraldCoastCrimeStoppers.com



Facilities Maintenance

With duties including preventative maintenance, range development, construction, HVAC, and project management, the Facilities Services Section works diligently year round to ensure OCSO members have efficient facilities in which to conduct business. These include the three main district offices in Shalimar, Crestview, and Destin as well as ten additional satellite offices and substations.

Facilities staff closed 314 work tasks this year, as well as completing a major renovation moving all of our HR section out of cubicles and into individual office spaces and much more.

- It began the complex task of replacing an aging and unserviceable lock system with a secure and controlled key and lock system.
- Created OCSO's first Real Time Crime Center complete with nine tv's, desks, new flooring.
- Worked with local contractors to replace more than 20000 square feet of flooring throughout Headquarters.
- Started replacement of fluorescent light fixtures with LEDs in an attempt to cut down our carbon foot print both in reduced power consumption as well as eliminating hazardous waste generated from old fluorescent light bulbs.

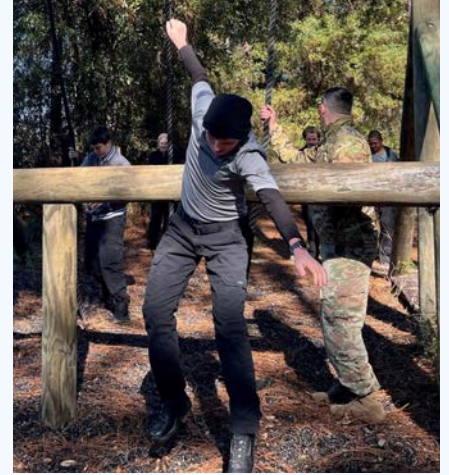
Facilities responded to Hurricane Ian as the first civilians to deploy with a response team.



Mounted Posse



Explorers Post 543





Deputy of the Year

Deputy Ezekiel Dixon joined the Sheriff's Office in September 2021, after serving our nation in the United States Marine Corps where he spent time as a unit trainer and a martial arts instructor. After eight years of service, he discharged honorably at the rank of Staff Sergeant. Upon release from the field training program, Deputy Dixon was assigned to Alpha Shift East. 2022 was Deputy Dixon's first full year as a solo law enforcement officer and he quickly asserted himself as a top performer with a bright future.

Despite being new to the profession, Deputy Dixon showed a knack for learning quickly. He expressed a desire to become a proactive deputy, while responding to calls and producing thorough, well-documented investigations. He was immediately assigned to the City of Destin in one of our busiest zones. Despite the challenge, Deputy Dixon excelled and has become the most proactive deputy on shift and a role model for his shift mates.

In 2022, Deputy Dixon responded to over 2,700 calls for service and generated more than 180 incident reports, 57 traffic crash reports, and 76 arrests. He has excelled in traffic enforcement with over 500 traffic stops conducted. These stops have resulted in arrests for narcotic offenses, warrant services, 69 traffic citations, and 15 DUIs.

To finish the year, Deputy Dixon successfully tried out for and joined the Special Response Team, despite having been a sworn deputy for just over one year.

Even while keeping an exceptional level of pro-activity, Deputy Dixon is consistent with his administrative duties, a task which is often overlooked and under-prioritized. He is often the first to volunteer for new agency tools and training and this year added breath test operator, bola wrap, patrol rifle, and Starchase to his list of assets.

While the statistics speak for themselves, what happened on Wednesday, September 21, 2022, is a specific example of Deputy Sheriff Ezekiel Dixon's dedication and ability. On that day, faced with extreme danger, He displayed the composure we should all strive for as law enforcement professionals. Dispatch received a call from a frantic citizen reporting a male armed with a handgun had entered a home under construction and was threatening employees on site.



Deputy Dixon, arrived quickly, along with Deputy Eric Cason, who was completing his first day as a solo deputy out of field training. Deputy Dixon gained pertinent information before approaching the residence in question. Almost immediately, Deputies Dixon and Cason encountered the male, armed with a handgun standing beside a female. The suspect ignored commands to drop his weapon and retreated into the home, at which time he fired a single shot. Deputy Dixon called to the woman in Spanish to move to Deputy Cason while simultaneously instructing Cason to move her to safety. While notifying dispatch of the situation, Deputy Dixon moved to a position of cover, instructing Deputy Cason to do the same. Moments later, the suspect left the rear of the residence and began to flank Deputy Cason. Deputy Dixon noticed this and called out to Cason, who quickly saw the suspect, still armed, moving toward the female who was huddled with a small group of bystanders. The suspect opened fire and Deputy Cason engaged him with gunfire while Deputy Dixon sprinted to a position of advantage. Deputy Dixon provided effective radio communication as he moved. Upon gaining a visual, Deputy Dixon steadied himself and fired two effective shots from approximately 30 yards from the moving suspect, ending the threat.

Despite being faced with an extremely stressful and dangerous situation, Deputy Dixon showed incredible poise and focus. His ability to maintain a calm demeanor and level head enabled him to effectively communicate with Deputy Cason, dispatch, and responding deputies. It also permitted him to end a threat that was active, lethal, and moving toward a group of innocent bystanders. For his heroic actions he was awarded the Medal of Valor.

In his off time, Deputy Dixon is a devoted husband and a father. He volunteers in his community by serving as a greeter and safety member at his church. Those who have served in a law enforcement capacity know that maintaining a healthy home-life while producing work at the level Deputy Dixon consistently does is no easy task. However, Deputy Dixon reports for duty each day with a smile and professional appearance, continuing to set an example for all. Deputy Dixon has shown himself to be an extraordinary asset to this agency and community. Without a doubt, he is the epitome of what a deputy sheriff should be and functions as a seasoned veteran. His drive, tenacity, positive attitude, and esprit de corps are beyond reproach. Deputy Sheriff Ezekiel Dixon is the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office 2022 Deputy of the Year.



Investigator of the Year

"Service is in our DNA." To quote Sheriff Aden, "It's service before self." These quotes completely encapsulate Senior Investigator Kelly Henderson. Her level of service, dedication, and diligence to her duties within the Criminal Investigation Section, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, and to the citizens of Okaloosa County is "next level" and unmatched within the Criminal Investigation Section.

Senior Investigator Henderson has served as the lead investigator on six of the nine homicide investigations initiated by the OCSO in 2022. As of this writing, three of the six homicides investigations assigned to her have been successfully closed, while two of the three remaining homicide investigations are being finalized for anticipated closure. She served her fellow investigators assigned to the remaining three homicide investigations by assisting and consulting with them regarding the facts and circumstances of their individual cases. This helped lead to successful resolutions in the remaining three homicide investigations as well. (This leaves one active homicide investigation from the year 2022 that remains an active case.) In short, 89% of homicide investigations from 2022 have or will result in successful closure and this is due in large part to Senior Investigator Henderson's service in some capacity - a truly remarkable feat.

In the past year, she has served as lead investigator in three of the four of our officer involved shootings. These incredibly important cases require an unbiased and objective perspective. This requirement is nonnegotiable. It is clear that Senior Investigator Henderson has these qualities, along with exceptional diligence and attention to detail, that make her the best choice to investigate these matters. Her meticulous attention to detail quickly uncovered facts, information, and evidence that led to the expeditious clearance of the cases. Her conscientious service allowed the affected law enforcement officers to return to active duty in an expeditious manner.



Investigator of the Year

In addition, Senior Investigator Henderson has served as lead investigator on three attempted murder cases, seven shootings, two aggravated battery cases, five unattended deaths, six burglary investigations, four missing person investigations, two drug overdoses, two child abuse investigations, and two sexual offenses. She also assisted the City of Tallahassee Police Department in a homicide investigation, which occurred which took place in their jurisdiction. She has demonstrated continued initiative to remain on the cutting edge of investigative techniques utilized in homicide investigations and other serious felony offenses by continuing to further her education and training.

In 2022, Senior Investigator Henderson attended the International Homicide Investigators Association (IHIA) Symposium and the Southeastern Homicide Investigators Association (SEHIA) Annual Training Conference, maintaining memberships in both of these prestigious organizations. In doing so, she is not only included within a world-renowned network of top homicide investigators, but is also provided ongoing benefits and enhancements to her knowledge and skill sets, while bringing additional resources and investigative tools to the Sheriff's Office.

Senior Investigator Henderson attended an Opioid Overdose Investigation seminar with law enforcement officials and prosecutors from across the southeast United States. During this seminar, they discussed various investigative techniques that could be utilized in response to the ongoing opioid epidemic, which affects every community in this country. As a result, Kelly sharpened her investigative techniques for opioid overdose investigations and shares her knowledge and best practices with peers and local law enforcement officers.

Senior Investigator Henderson's commitment does not stop there. She served citizens and fellow law enforcement officers in South Florida during their time of need after Hurricane Ian ravaged a portion of the state. She assisted with coordination and deployment of teams of law enforcement officers from the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. As a member of the disaster response team, Senior Investigator Henderson deployed to Charlotte County, where she served by assisting in storm recovery, restoration of services, and providing law enforcement services. Senior Investigator Henderson deployed to this area for nearly two weeks to assist despite her workloads here at home.



Investigator of the Year

Her selfless service continued in 2022. As Commander of the Okaloosa County Honor Guard, Senior Investigator Henderson served the team by directly coordinating and participating in monthly training sessions. She also directly coordinated and responded to several different law enforcement memorial functions. Unfortunately, this tasking has virtually become a full-time position unto itself due to the high number of memorial functions throughout the year due to ongoing violence towards law enforcement officers.

Specifically in 2022 Senior Investigator Henderson directly coordinated and deployed ten "away teams" for Line of Duty Death funerals, during which she has personally attended, deployed, and served during six of those ten funerals. She coordinated eight Color Guard events, serving and participating in each. She coordinated, participated, and served in two law enforcement memorial functions; at the State Law Enforcement Memorial and National Police Week, when the name of our fallen hero, Michael Neau, was added to the walls.

While Senior Investigator Henderson routinely serves under difficult circumstances, perhaps the most difficult of tasks in 2022 came from coordinating, participating, and serving with the Honor Guard in the funerals of two more of our own fallen members, Captain Jay Jones and Corporal Ray Hamilton. Senior Investigator Henderson took the lead on these extremely demanding tasks and ensured they were accomplished to the highest standard possible, while ensuring proper honors were rendered. Perhaps the most impressive aspect of handling these tasks were not only coordinating the proper honors for our fallen heroes and serving their families, but doing so while simultaneously handling her daily investigative duties.



Investigator of the Year

In that regard, not only did Senior Investigator Henderson handle direct coordination of the OCSO Honor Guard to ensure proper honors were rendered after the murder of Corporal Ray Hamilton, but simultaneously handled the duties as lead investigator in the case. Her diligence, work ethic, and dedication to duty ensured that an indictment of the suspect responsible for our hero's death was secured, bringing some form of immediate justice to Corporal Ray Hamilton and his family. Balancing these two monumental tasks and executing them simultaneously to the highest level requires an exceptional level of intellect, organizational and time management skills, and an extraordinary amount of dedication to service.

Service is in Senior Investigator Kelly Henderson's DNA and it is clear she lives her life putting service before self. Her work ethic, attitude, and full commitment in her daily duties rubs off on her peers, and strengthens the Criminal Investigation Section, the Honor Guard, and the Sheriff's Office as a whole. Senior Investigator Henderson's commitment to her duties, responsibilities, and service, help to maintain order, peace, and safety. Senior Investigator Kelly Henderson is our 2022 Investigator of the Year.





SRO of the Year

Deputy Mark Kane personifies the best example of a School Resource Officer (SRO) through demonstrated excellence. His compassion, experience, training, and diligence are the cornerstone of his daily interactions with students and faculty members at his assigned school and in the community.

He started his path to success by joining the United States Air Force in 2001. As a 10-year veteran, he gained a tremendous amount of experience through his functional training as an Intelligence Operator for specific military assignments. His time in the military gained him various skills that have benefited his current profession and this agency. His military training led to a solid effectiveness that transcended into his current duties as an SRO.

After the military in 2011, Deputy Kane managed his family's business. He was responsible for day-to-day operations of a busy restaurant employing more than 35 people.

But his calling and compassion were towards becoming a law enforcement officer to help his community and provide a sense of security for his growing family.

In 2018, Deputy Kane became a sworn law enforcement officer and was immediately hired by the OCSO. He wanted to be an SRO so in 2019 he was assigned to Davidson Middle School (DMS) where his presence had an immediate positive impact. His innate communication abilities helped him quickly establish a rapport with students and faculty members.

Deputy Kane's optimistic personality and attitude were so infectious the school enjoyed a yearlong problem-free environment. The school was on auto-pilot with zero deficiencies or complaints. His efforts were rewarded by a new assignment as the Crestview High School SRO. Of course, this came at the request of the then-principal of DMS, and now the new principal of Crestview High, Mr. Jay Sanders.



SRO of the Year

His attributes are indicative of his drive and dedication to the SRO program and his community. First and foremost, he's a law enforcement officer who directly or indirectly responded to over 1,200 calls for service at his school. He directly managed and led 491 of the calls for service which resulted in multiple arrests and Teen Court Citations issued. His proactive approach shows his school leads all 52 schools within Okaloosa County on calls for service by a whopping 33%. In one instance, he aided the FBI in locating a juvenile who had moved out of our jurisdiction but to an unknown location. In less than two hours, he located the juvenile out of state.

He saw a need to help underprivileged students at his school who wanted to participate in the Prom. He and his SRO counterpart masterminded a clothing drive to help students obtain a prom dress or suit. He solicited the community to the point it garnered local media attention. In the end, he helped amass more than 300 prom dresses and suits for not only his school, but for all the high schools in the county to have access to.

Deputy Kane mentored a student with behavior issues throughout 2022. That mentorship yielded amazing results and the student is now on the path to graduating. Because of the student relaying the extent of Deputy Kane's help, more students have come to him for guidance.

Faculty members seek his advice and assistance daily as well. For example, the school needed more barricades for football games due to prior incidences. Deputy Kane retrieved them on his personal time, transported them to the school, and set them up. His efforts helped streamline the crowd control process during home football games, which reduced incidents tremendously.

His actions are also credited with helping to save the life of a special needs student who went into cardiac arrest. He, his counterpart, and another student immediately responded and resuscitated the student. His direct efforts earned him the OCSO Life Saving award.



SRO of the Year

Deputy Kane is a truly dynamic law enforcement officer. He can be called on day or night, during work, or during a weekend, to aid and assist students and faculty members at his school.

This was evident when OCSO Communications took a call for service involving a child who demonstrated suicidal ideation. The Communications Officer attempted to locate the juvenile's name in our database and quickly realized the name did not exist. Deputy Kane was called and in minutes located pertinent information and provided it to OCSO Communications. The juvenile was found within Crestview Police Department's jurisdiction and they dispatched units to the juvenile's address. The parent of the juvenile had no knowledge of the child's statements and quickly located him and sought mental help for him. It was noted that Deputy Kane's abilities and knowledge of students at his schools prevented a possible tragedy from occurring.

Deputy Kane is also very active in the community, as evidenced by his participation in OCSO's annual Youth Week, when he aided in developing, teaching, and mentoring students from across our county. At the end of Youth Week, his generosity continued as he helped provide lunch for participants.

His drive to help children can also be seen in his involvement in the annual Camp Sorenson venture. Camp Sorenson is part of the Florida Sheriffs Association of Youth Ranches. Deputy Kane aided beyond his community and school and provided mentorship to youths from around the State of Florida through camping activities and team-building events for one week.

During this school year, Sheriff Aden established several competitions for the Okaloosa County schools to participate in. The first was a vehicle wrap contest in which the winner of the contest had the chosen wrap placed on a Sheriff's vehicle. Deputy Kane provided guidelines for his school's graphic design classes to develop a wrap for this competition. As a result, the wrap designed by Crestview High School won.

The next competition the Sheriff listed was for an OCSO Christmas Card. Again, Deputy Kane provided guidance on this project, resulting in his school winning the competition.



SRO of the Year

In addition, Deputy Kane participates in our agency's Angel Tree program every year but also helps additional students over and beyond the Angel Tree program, which limits participation to four students. He received additional funding support and provided three additional children a festive holiday they would not have gotten without his help.

Principal Jay Sanders praises Deputy Kane's professionalism and genuine concern for the safety and welfare of students at Crestview High School. "I truly believe and feel comfort in knowing Deputy Kane would sacrifice his own life in the protection of our students," said Principal Sanders.

Assistant Principal Thomas Harvell provided a letter highlighting Deputy Kane as a "punctual, professional and level-headed police officer that handles situations with tact and professionalism in all situations." Mr. Harvell emphasizes that due to Deputy Kane's "kindness and compassion he assists students with varying needs whether they are school related or personal."

Deputy Kane consistently goes above and beyond in his law enforcement duties.





Administrative Employee of the Year

Crime Analyst Katie Parker has been with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office since May 2011, working in various roles, including Evidence, before moving to the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) in 2014.

While assigned to CID, Katie became a Criminal Analyst. She attended and completed the Florida Law Enforcement Analyst I and II Training (FLEAT), which are 40-hour courses. She applied for and was then accepted to the Florida Law Enforcement Analyst Academy (FLEAA), which is a six-week academy that she completed, allowing her to be recognized as a Florida-Certified Law Enforcement Analyst.

Currently, Katie is the only graduate of the Analyst Academy in our agency.

Katie also completed numerous hours of training in social media investigations, cell phone mapping and analysis, as well as other courses to help her become an expert in her field.

Katie not only does the work of a Criminal Analyst, but also assists the Special Investigations Section (SIS) with administrative responsibilities. She maintains and manages all aspects of the information entered into the Drug Track system and keeps track of all of the investigator's funds within SIS.

Katie has been instrumental in the implementation of the agency's Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC), which became operational in October 2022.

Due to her knowledge and experience, she was selected to sit on the oral board for the selection of two new analysts, which she assisted in training. Additionally, Katie participated in numerous undercover operations involving suspects traveling to meet minor children for unlawful activity. These operations require her to search and provide information at a moment's notice, which is instrumental in capturing suspects, sometimes within minutes.

The role of the Criminal Analyst is vital to CID and the agency as a whole. As a Criminal Analyst, Katie is considered a civilian investigator who takes pride in "digging" and investigating to get the identity of a suspect or to get the information needed for an investigation. The training and experience explained above are not the only places Katie shines; it's her positive attitude, her willingness to help, and the pride she takes in her job.



Administrative Bureau Sworn Outstanding Performer

The Administrative Sworn Outstanding Performer of the Year is presented to the member who demonstrates the most outstanding professionalism and dedication while performing duties within the Administration Bureau. Deputy Sheriff Steven Williams has been in Court Security for some time, however 2022 was certainly his year to excel.

Not only did Deputy Williams further his commitment with the agency, he increased his value as a deputy by attending multiple training classes.

He acquired his Instructor's Techniques class along with his Taser Instructor Class. These two classes alone take dedication and commitment to complete, especially in the same year. With this additional training, not only will he be able to train Court Security and Booking, he could be used by the agency if needed.

Deputy Williams attended the Response to Non-Criminal Barricade: Disengagement and Special Relationships course from Savage Training which gave him the knowledge to conduct shift training for Bailiffs. He also completed a Lifesaving Medical Tactics for Law Enforcement class in Pensacola.

Deputy Williams put together a Courtroom Demeanor Power Point Course for Law Enforcement to educate law enforcement officers on what they can expect when they have to testify in court. He has put on this class to his peers to tweak it and it will hopefully be pushed out to all sworn. He utilizes real-life court proceedings throughout the material to educate and keep the interest of the students.

Deputy Williams has achieved Career Deputy II. Not only did he acquire this designation, he put together a guide on obtaining Career Deputy to assist his peers and others in striving to achieve this incentive.



Administrative Bureau Sworn Outstanding Performer

In addition, Court Security was able to purchase several gun locker safes for each of the courthouses that were placed in each courtroom as well as other strategic locations in the courthouses. Each only had a certain number of combinations/RFID codes that could be programmed. Using his own personal equipment, Deputy Williams was able to clone RFID key fobs so each Bailiff could have their own fob to open any safe, either at the Okaloosa Courthouse in Crestview or the Courthouse Annex Extension in Fort Walton Beach. If a fob is lost, that code is easily replaced and current fobs easily reprogrammed to receive the new codes.

Deputy Williams is routinely one of the first to step up to assist his peers when it comes to filling in. When a Bailiff was injured, out of work, and scheduled for First Appearances for a few weekends, Deputy Williams filled the void. It's just one more example of his character and willingness to assist the team in whatever way possible.

Deputy Steven Williams demonstrates outstanding professionalism and dedication while performing duties within the Administration Bureau. He has not only increased his value as a Bailiff by attending several training classes, he has increased his value with the agency by implementing and teaching his co-workers on a variety of subjects. He is a dedicated employee that goes the extra mile to ensure the job is done right.



Supervisor of the Year

Sergeant Sterling Eslinger has demonstrated notable leadership, not only in 2022, but throughout his career at the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. He has served the agency in multiple ways to include as a K9 handler, a Corporal in patrol, an Investigator, and a Sergeant over patrol. Although Sergeant Eslinger has held many valuable titles in his tenure, his most recent assignment with the Homeland Security Unit has proven to be one of the most challenging and rewarding assignments to date.

In June 2022, Sergeant Eslinger was selected to supervise a portion of the Special Investigations Section; Internet Crimes Against Children, Homeland Security, and the development of the agency's Real Time Crime Center (RTCC). Taking on his new assignment with great pride and enthusiasm, Sergeant Eslinger immediately hit the ground running. In the planning stage(s) of our RTCC, Sergeant Eslinger visited numerous crime centers throughout the southeast to identify the best implementation plan for the agency moving into the future. He spent numerous hours meeting with county and city business owners within our community. He strategized the deployment of equipment, attended necessary training opportunities, and regularly coordinated with our vendors. These meetings proved to be critical in the success of the RTCC, which will undoubtedly place our agency ahead of many others when it comes to "fighting crime" and will provide a safer, up-to-date, method of response to our deputies responding to calls for service.

Sergeant Eslinger doesn't just volunteer his time with his normal duties, he is also a member of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Star Charities Board of Directors. With his role in the charity, Sergeant Eslinger is actively involved in the decision making process regarding the funding of charitable organizations and providing financial aid to members of the agency and other local first responders who have encountered financial needs as a result of a hardship.



Supervisor of the Year

Sergeant Eslinger's passion for his work and volunteer time doesn't stop with his current assignment and charity work. Being a previous K9 handler himself, Sergeant Eslinger also maintains his K9 certifications and is regularly requested to assist the United States Police Canine Association with Law Enforcement K9 certifications from many different agencies.

In 2022, Sergeant Eslinger's team initiated 309 investigations and conducted over 700 forensic extractions of electronic devices. In addition, his team conducted multiple undercover "sting" operations and executed thirteen residential search warrants targeting volatile offenders that prey on children through social media and chatting platforms.

Sergeant Eslinger constantly looks for ways to help members of his team progress in their careers. He regularly researches training opportunities, identifies potential funding options, and requests additional equipment to aid our agency and his personnel alike with moving into the future.

Sergeant Eslinger is always in tune with the personnel assigned to him. Sergeant Eslinger is personally involved with each one of his investigators and non-sworn members assigned to his unit(s). He knows their strengths and weaknesses and works with each individual to complement that strength or improve any weakness. Sergeant Eslinger does all of that with a positive attitude and a smile.

Sergeant Eslinger takes great pride in his work product. However, nothing takes precedence over love and pride for his family. Although he is humble in his success at work, he can regularly be found talking proudly about the time he spends with his two children and the support that he has from his amazing wife, Courtney. To further show strength in his love and beliefs, Sergeant Eslinger has been a member of Generations United Church for over fifteen years.

Sergeant Eslinger is a humble leader who cares about his people and takes great pride in his profession and work product. His commitment and vision help set him apart from his peers and he routinely goes above and beyond to serve.



Communications Officer of the Year

Casey Bilbrey has been an active and dedicated member of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office since her start in August 2020. From her first day of employment Casey hit the ground running and hasn't let up since. She has dedicated herself to additional opportunities at every turn, consistently operating at a high level of performance.

In 2022, Casey completed Tri Discipline Communications training, achieving certification in all facets of emergency dispatching; LAW, FIRE and EMS. Obtaining Tri-Discipline certification is no easy feat as it takes time and dedication to become proficient across all three disciplines in addition to 9-1-1 Calltaking.

Casey is an involved member of the Communications Officer Career Development program. This program provides a distinct career tract for Communications Officers who want to go beyond the minimum requirements of their jobs. In participating, Casey found her passion for the instruction of others, leading her to seek certification as a Communications Training Officer in early 2022. Casey is eager to further her knowledge and skills as a Training Officer, consistently volunteering for additional classes and training, always imparting what she has learned to others, and exploring ways to incorporate what she's learned into the training program.

As a result of her continued excellence, she has been presented multiple Division Commander Commendations in 2022 for actions demonstrated in teamwork and service to others.

In addition to her responsibilities within shift operations, Casey continues to dedicate her time off duty. As an active member of our agency's Recruit and Retention Committee, Casey attends regularly scheduled meetings and multiple job fairs, many times with extended travel, and all with the goal of attracting excellent Communications candidates to our profession and our agency.



Communications Officer of the Year

Not stopping there, Casey volunteered this year through the National Emergency Number Association for the working group focused on United States Coast Guard and Communication Center processes for maritime events. This group allows her the opportunity to work closely with representatives from all over to effectively refine emergency responses between dispatch centers and the USCG, ensuring efficient and effective processes.

Casey's agency involvement extends to our Telecommunications Emergency Response Team, (TERT), where Casey wasted no time volunteering to travel to Charlotte County to assist those hardest hit after Hurricane Ian. Casey was eager to deploy to the area knowing the devastation they experienced, wanting to be on site where she could make a difference for others in their time of need.

As of December 2022, Casey was additionally selected to promote to the position of Communications Assistant Supervisor.

Casey can be depended upon to be at work each shift and display a positive attitude. She is eager to pass on her knowledge to both coworkers and deputies who come to dispatch on light duty or wanting to learn how Communications works. Casey is always looking to take part in activities sponsored by the Sheriff's Office, fostering good relations with the other departments in the agency as well as her community.

Casey understands the importance of what she does and is eager to do what is needed to make a difference.





Outstanding Volunteer of the Year

Ed Robbeloth is our Outstanding Volunteer of the Year.

During the 2022 year, he assisted the Human Relations Department with converting over 100 files from paper to an electronic format, with some files being well over 200 pages. This was a tremendous help to the HR Department and desperately needed.

Ed also joined the HR Department at various recruiting events, providing great information to anyone interested in applying, especially for the volunteer position.

His knowledge proved to be extremely valuable for candidates. The entire staff truly appreciates his philanthropy and his donation of his skill sets to benefit our entire agency and the community.





Posse Member of the Year

Terry Watkins has been a Posse Member since 1977 and was promoted to Captain in 1989. He served in that role until his retirement in October of 2022, at which time he transitioned to an Associate Member to continue his participation in Posse details. In 2022, he volunteered over 308 hours for details.

As a leader, he understood the role of the Posse and how to positively motivate volunteers. He was always approachable, set the example, and delegated and trusted the members to perform assigned tasks, all of which created positive morale and mutual respect. He communicated in a clear, positive way and was available to answer questions or provide guidance. He responded to emergency and short-notice requests for Posse support around the clock and in his new role as an Associate Member, he is still volunteering for major Posse details.

In 2022 alone, Terry coordinated more than 50 Posse details with community members from a variety of organizations. His strong technical skills resulted in well-organized, effective details that kept both the public and Posse members safe.

Terry's actions define professionalism and dedication and his outstanding ongoing overall performance in support of the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Posse makes him Posse Member of the Year for 2022.





K9 BEAU



Roscoe Beauregard Parker
K9 "Beau"



**OCSO'S First K9 Bloodhound
Selection Day - January 13, 2022
First Birthday - October 28, 2022.**



Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office



Contact Us



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Mission Statement

We are committed to upholding the Constitution of the United States and the laws of Florida with excellence and integrity.

We strive to reduce crime while providing fair and equal treatment for all.

We are honored to serve and protect.



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