



2023 Annual Report



Alachua County Sheriff's Office
2621 SE Hawthorne Road
Gainesville, Florida 32641

Emery A. Gainey, Sheriff

January

The agency's special teams, including SWAT, Negotiations, Air-1, Motors, and the Marine Operations Underwater Recovery Team joined the Juvenile Relations Bureau and the HR Recruitment Team at Newberry High School's Annual Criminal Justice Expo.



February

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church Preschool hosted Community Helpers Week. A deputy talked with the children about what it's like to keep the community safe.



March

ACSO's crime scene investigators hosted a local Girl Scouts group, ages 12-13, for a forensics presentation so they could earn their "Special Agent" badges.



April

Two Combined Communications Center members taught at the National 2023 Navigator Conference in Denver, Colorado, hosted by the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch.



May

A member of the Sheriff's Office represented the agency in Washington, D.C., in honor of the service and sacrifice of our country's law enforcement officers.



June

Alachua County high school students graduated from the Florida Sheriffs Association Teen Driver Challenge Program at the Institute of Public Safety.



July

Members of our Juvenile Relations Bureau helped campers from the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch Camp Sorensen in Hilliard, Florida, to raise the American Flag on the 4th of July.



August

In the midst of hurricane season, the agency prepped for the expected impacts of Hurricane Idalia, along with emergency communicators and other first responders to support citizens.



September

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office was a proud sponsor of Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.'s, Seventh Annual "Steps to Wellness" luncheon. The event was dedicated to raising awareness and promoting a holistic approach to mental health.



October

Sheriff Emery Gainey was sworn in as the Alachua County Sheriff on October 1st in the Sasser Fine Arts Hall at Santa Fe College. Eighth Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Mark Moseley officiated.



November

We teamed up with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for the two-day joint agency operation "November Blitz" to apprehend and charge suspects of retail theft in Gainesville. Almost \$4,000 worth of merchandise was recovered, along with a stolen bike. Nineteen individuals were charged.



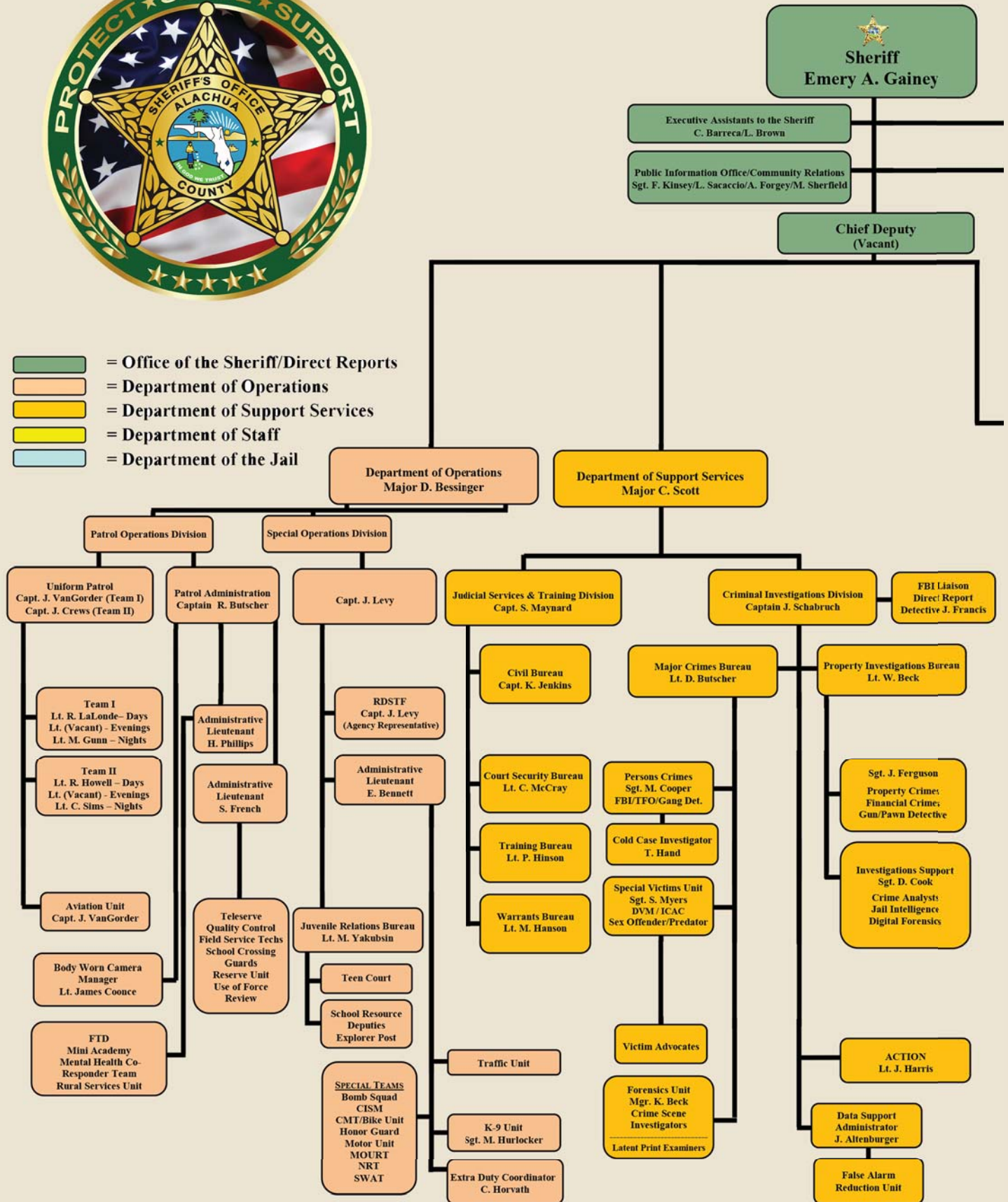
December

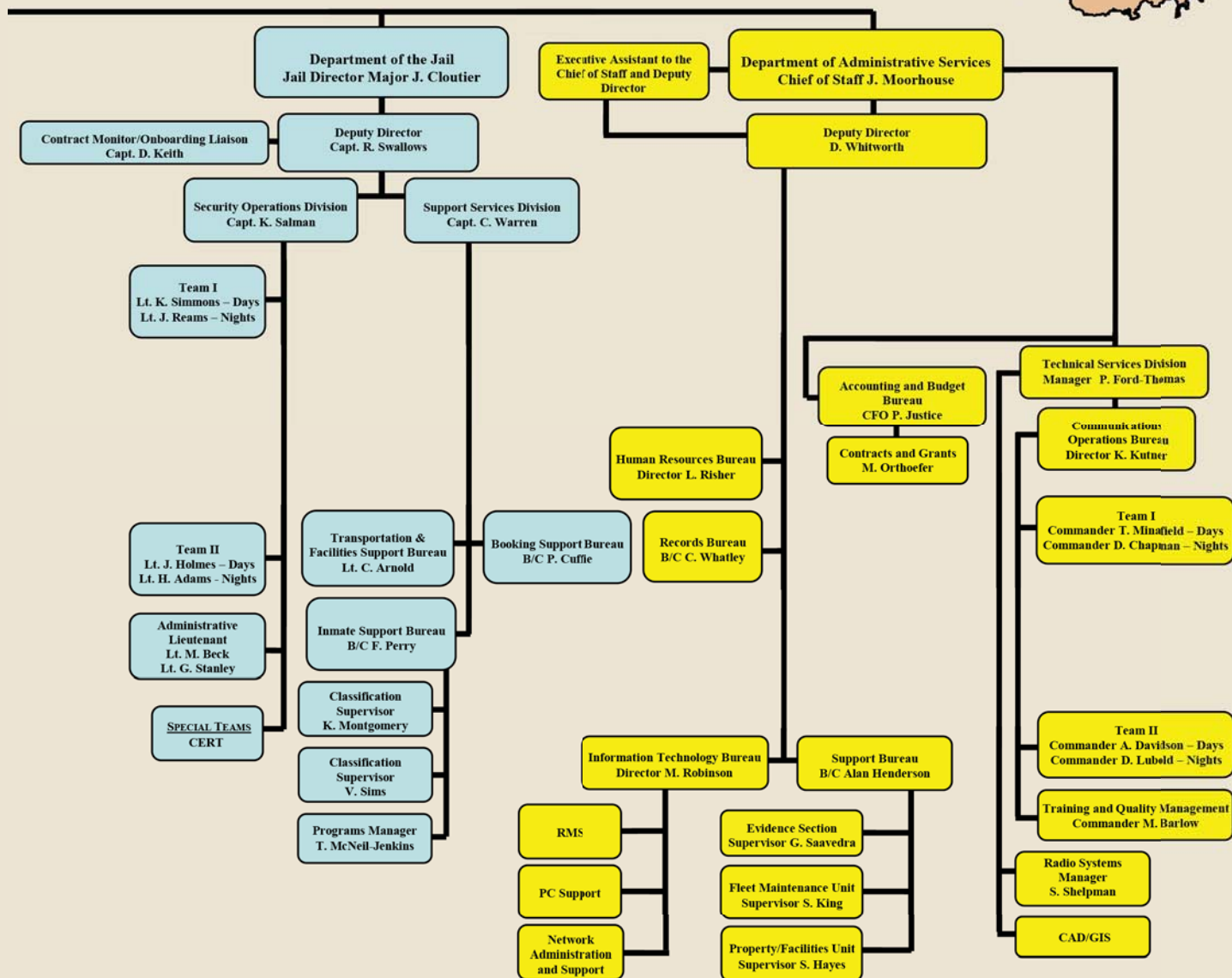
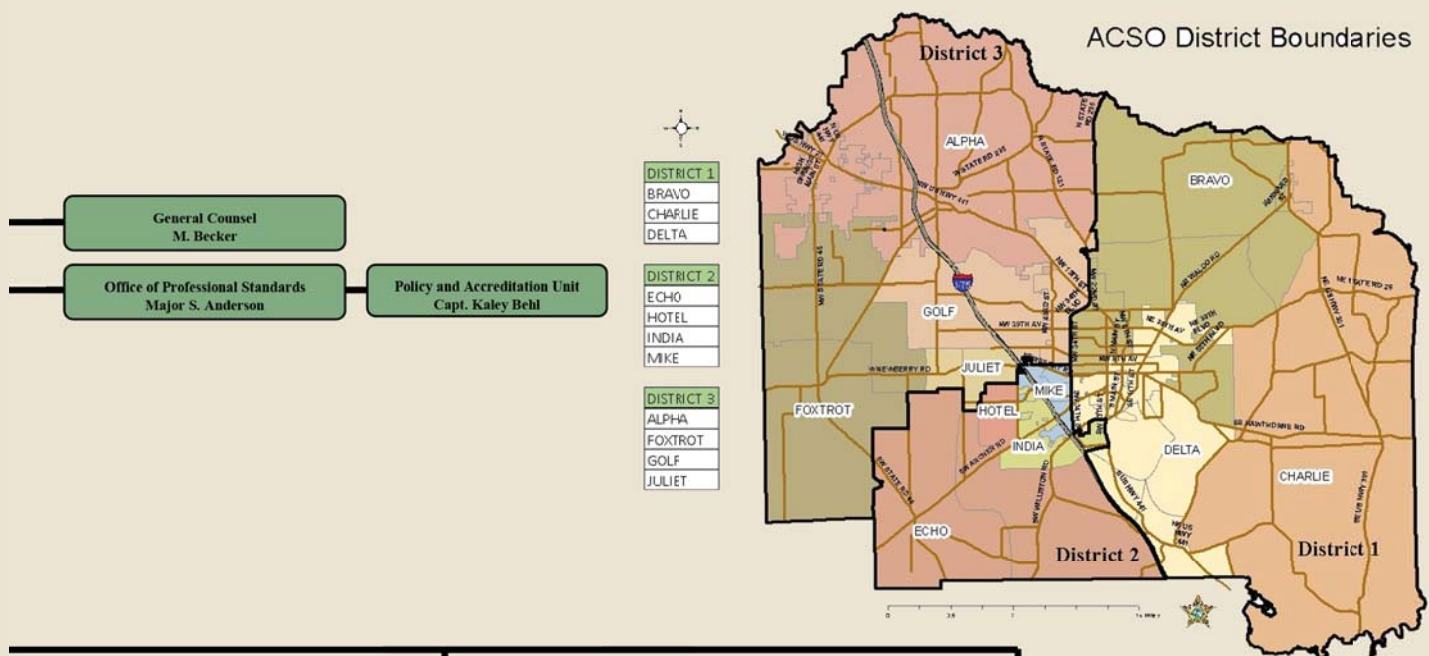
The agency expanded its community presence by opening a new precinct in downtown Hawthorne. The location is one of several to come in the county as the agency looks to partner with other local municipalities to further build strong citizen connections.





- = Office of the Sheriff/Direct Reports
- = Department of Operations
- = Department of Support Services
- = Department of Staff
- = Department of the Jail







Administration Building

2621 SE Hawthorne Road
Gainesville, FL 32641

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 5489
Gainesville, FL 32627
Phone: (352) 367-4000



Civil Bureau

Alachua County Administration Building
12 SE 1st Street, #148
Gainesville, FL 32601
Phone: (352) 384-3051



Combined Communications Center

1100 SE 27th Street
Gainesville, FL 32641
Phone: (352) 955-1818

9-1-1 for Emergencies



Court Security Bureau

Alachua County Family & Civil Justice Center
201 E. University Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601
Phone: (352) 374-3654



Court Security Bureau

Judge Stephan P. Mickle, Sr., Courthouse
220 S. Main Street
Gainesville, FL 32601
Phone: (352) 264-7081



Department of the Jail

3333 NE 39th Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32609
Phone: (352) 491-4444



Training Bureau

Santa Fe College Institute of Public Safety
3737 NE 39th Avenue #2683
Phone: (352) 271-2903



Our Mission

Service to the community first,
commitment to the employees always.

Our Value Statement

Protect, serve and support our community with integrity.

Agency Objectives

Provide the highest level of protection to our citizens and the community.

Provide the highest level of professional service to our citizens and community.

Provide our employees with support, development, and resources that promote excellence in protection and service.

Through our partnerships, we are the Alachua County Sheriff's Office.

Always **C**ommitted to **S**erving **O**thers





Deputy Sheriff Nickolas Tilliman
End of Watch: February 15, 2023

They shall not grow old, as we
that are left grow old; Age shall
not weary them, nor the years
condemn. At the going down
of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.
~ Laurence Binyon



K-9 Deputy Knight
End of Watch: April 25, 2023

Mental Health in Law Enforcement

Law enforcement is a tough job that takes a toll on the dedicated few who pursue it as a career. For most careers, a person gets up, goes to work, and comes home each night with no expectation that this pattern will be disrupted in any significant way. While no person is guaranteed an easy road, law enforcement officers have additional stressors - with the fear of not returning home at the end of your shift only one of many. Each day on the job has the potential to bring violent criminals into your sphere of influence. There is a reason why this profession yields higher rates of domestic violence, alcoholism, depression, and suicide than the general public. Whether the incident you respond to is a traffic accident with fatalities, an unpredictable domestic violence case, a routine traffic stop that ends in gunfire, a sexual assault, a crime against a child, or the aftermath of a homicide, the common denominator is stress. Over time, stress and the ongoing potential for physical or psychological harm wear on the individual and can lead to anxiety, depression, and even suicidal thoughts.

If you are struggling with your mental health, first know that you are not alone and that you matter. Talking about mental health can be difficult because of the long-term stigma associated with mental health or simply the fear that seeking help will negatively impact your career. Remember, law enforcement is a family and we are all here to help each other through the struggles. There are several resources that are available to you, even some that will allow you to remain anonymous.

- Call or text **988** or visit <https://988lifeline.org/>. This is the national suicide and crisis lifeline.
- Call **1-800-COPLINE**. This a law-enforcement specific confidential hotline staffed by retired law enforcement officers. Call 1-800-267-5463 or visit them online at <https://www.copline.org/>.
- Employee Assistance Program. ACSO has an employee assistance program via UF Health, run by Ulliance. You can reach out to a trusted supervisor or contact Ulliance directly at **1-800-448-8326** or at LifeAdvisor.com. Mental health professionals are available 24/7.
- Online Counseling. If you are interested in therapy, but don't want to access the Employee Assistance Program, there are many online counseling platforms. Some, like Grow Therapy (<https://www.growtherapy.com>) may even accept your insurance. Counseling is available via telehealth so you can access help in the privacy of your own home.

Whatever your choice, if you are struggling, please don't wait to reach out. Help is available to you.



Greetings Citizens of Alachua County,

It is with great honor and humility that I step into the role of Sheriff for this great county. Having begun my journey in law enforcement within the Alachua County Sheriff's Office back in 1982, I am deeply grateful for the trust and confidence placed in me to lead our dedicated team of law enforcement professionals.

As we embark on this new chapter together, I am committed to prioritizing the safety and well-being of our community through concerted efforts to combat gun violence. This is a pressing issue that demands a comprehensive approach. I pledge to work collaboratively with local stakeholders, community leaders, and law enforcement agencies to develop innovative strategies and initiatives aimed at reducing gun-related incidents. By fostering dialogue and partnership, we can create a safer environment for everyone.

Addressing staffing shortages within our Sheriff's Office is another crucial goal. I recognize the importance of having a capable and adequately staffed team to ensure the efficient delivery of law enforcement services. Through recruitment drives, the newly formed recruitment team, and retention initiatives, we will strive to bolster our ranks with skilled and dedicated professionals who share our commitment to serving the community.

Furthermore, the need for better support systems for mental health and domestic violence survivors remains paramount. My administration will prioritize enhancing resources and support networks for individuals grappling with mental health challenges. Additionally, we will work tirelessly to strengthen services and advocacy for those affected by domestic violence, providing a safe haven and assistance to those in need.

My years of service within the Sheriff's Office have taught me the value of integrity, compassion, and collaboration. I am deeply passionate about creating an office that embodies these principles while fostering a culture of accountability and community engagement.

I am truly excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for our community. Together with your support and involvement, we can overcome challenges and achieve our shared vision of a safer, more inclusive Alachua County.

Sheriff Emery A. Gainey



Sheriff
Emery A. Gainey



Chief Deputy
Vacant



Captain
Ray Swallows
Deputy Director
of the Jail



Daryl Whitworth
Deputy Director
of Administrative
Services



Captain
Kaley Behl
Policy & Accreditation



Captain
Becky Butscher
Patrol Administration



Captain
Josh Crews
Patrol Operations
Team II



Captain
Kyle Salman
DOJ Security
Operations



Captain
Jon Schabrich
Criminal
Investigations



Captain
Joe VanGorder
Patrol Operations
Team I



Captain
Corey Warren
DOJ Support
Services



Michael Becker
General Counsel



**Major
Scott Anderson**

Office of Professional
Standards



**Major
Darrell Bessinger**

Department of
Operations



**Major
Jeff Cloutier**

Department of
the Jail



**Chief of Staff
John Moorhouse**

Department of
Administrative Services



**Major
Chad Scott**

Department of
Support Services



**Captain
Kelvin Jenkins**

Civil



**Captain
Doriann Keith**

Contract Monitor



**Captain
Jayson Levy**

Special Operations



**Captain
Steve Maynard**

Judicial Services &
Training



**Division Manager
Pat Ford-Thomas**

Technical Services



Art Forgey

Public Information
Officer



**Sergeant
Frank Kinsey**

Public Information
Officer



Courtney Barreca

Executive Assistant
to the Sheriff



Linda Brown

Executive Assistant
to the Sheriff



Laura Compton

Executive Assistant
to the Chief of Staff

Sheriff Emery A. Gainey



Sheriff Gainey is sworn in by Judge Moseley on October 2, 2023.

Sheriff Gainey was born and grew up in Gainesville, Florida. He started his law enforcement career in 1982 with the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, working his way up the ranks and eventually became the Chief Deputy under Sheriff Steve Oelrich. He retired from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office in 2007.

Sheriff Gainey is a graduate of Santa Fe College and the University of Florida with a B.A. in Criminal Justice. He is also a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy, 188th Session (January - March 1997).

Beginning in 2007, Gainey served as the Director of Law Enforcement and Victim Services at the Florida Attorney General's Office. His tenure continued through three different Florida Attorney Generals. Most recently, he served as Chief of Staff for Attorney General Ashley Moody. In 2016, he was appointed as the Sheriff of the Marion County Sheriff's Office and worked tirelessly to improve the agency and ensured a smooth transition for the next elected Sheriff.

After his time in Marion County, Sheriff Gainey returned to the Florida Attorney General's Office, eventually retiring in 2020. On September 7, 2023, Governor Ron DeSantis appointed Emery Gainey as Sheriff of Alachua County. The effective date of his appointment was October 2, 2023. The Alachua County Sheriff's Office is proud to welcome Sheriff Gainey back home!

The Office of the Sheriff is comprised of multiple entities who report directly to Sheriff Gainey. They are:

- Executive Assistant Courtney Barreca
- Executive Assistant Linda Brown
- General Counsel
- Office of Professional Standards
 - Policy and Accreditation
- Public Information Office
 - Crime Prevention

Chief Deputy

- Vacant

At this time, the office of Chief Deputy is vacant. When filled, this position is a direct report to the Sheriff and is responsible for overseeing the Departments of Administrative Services, the Jail, Operations, and Support Services. Currently, these department heads are reporting directly to Sheriff Gainey.

General Counsel

- Michael Becker

The General Counsel provides legal advice and counsel to the Sheriff, Sheriff's Office command staff, and employees in a variety of legal areas, including but not limited to, the duties, responsibilities, and authority of the Sheriff; criminal law; constitutional law; public records law; and labor and employment law.

The General Counsel also conducts forfeiture litigation, reviews and drafts contracts, policy, and mutual aid agreements, as well as providing legal updates to the agency's employees.

The General Counsel is not a legal advisor for the General Public. If you are in need of a lawyer, you may refer to the Florida Bar - <https://www.floridabar.org>.

Office of Professional Standards

- Major Scott Anderson

The Office of Professional Standards is led by a Chief Inspector at the rank of Major. OPS is comprised of lieutenants and sergeants from law enforcement and corrections. Their mission is to provide fact-finding assistance to Sheriff Gainey and his staff by providing a systematic, objective, and impartial method of investigating concerns regarding employee misconduct. Inspectors also conduct staff inspections



Clockwise from back left: Lt. Eric Hutchinson, Lt. JP Hood, Maj. Scott Anderson, Admin. Specialist Kris Allfrey, Lt. Jamie Scott, Lt. Virgil Calhoun, and Sgt. Nancy Marzouk-Brainerd

and audits of critical areas such as Evidence.

Inspectors assigned to OPS investigate all formal complaints and conduct internal affairs investigations, deadly force incident reviews for deputy-involved shootings, in-custody death investigations at the Department of the Jail, administrative inquiries, and vehicle crash reviews, as well as agency inspections and audits on behalf of the Sheriff.

While citizen complaints are frequently based upon misunderstandings of the law or established law enforcement procedures, they are of great concern and can lead to a mistrust of law enforcement if not investigated or explained. All citizens are encouraged to bring forward legitimate comments, concerns, commendations, and/or grievances regarding ACSO employees.

All complaints received against the ACSO or any employee will be documented, investigated, and resolved by established procedures. Investigations are completed and issued one of the following findings:

- **Unfounded** - The act or acts complained of did not occur or did not involve ACSO personnel.
- **Not Sustained** - Insufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegation/complaint.
- **Sustained** - The preponderance of evidence clearly proves the allegation/complaint.
- **Exonerated** - The act or acts did occur, but were justified, lawful, and proper.
- **Exonerated Due to Policy Failure** - A finding or conclusion that present policy, procedure, rule or regulation covering the situation was non-existent or inadequate.

During 2023, OPS personnel facilitated 75 administrative investigations, including two in-custody death investigations and one deputy-involved shooting. Those 75 cases represent a six percent decrease from 2022, and includes investigations initiated internally, as well as reports made through community access to OPS through the agency website. Of these 75 cases:

- 17 were internal affairs investigations either opened by or significant enough that they were handled entirely by OPS inspectors. These investigations resulted in 24 separate allegations of policy violations. Out of these allegations, 10 (41%) were sustained.
- 55 formal complaints, including division-level, first-line supervisor, and vehicle crash investigations that resulted in 56 allegations, of which 21 (37%) were sustained.

- 77 agency employees were identified as suspects in administrative investigations, representing roughly 10 percent of ACSO's 729 available personnel as of December 31, 2023.

In addition, 106 administrative inquiries were conducted in 2023. Administrative inquiries are not included in the total number of cases because they often involve misunderstandings or issues that are not policy-related.

OPS also monitors and facilitates a fast-track discipline (FTD) process. FTD is available for employees who acknowledge and voluntarily admit to policy violations to expedite disposition of the matter. This allows supervisors and OPS inspectors to focus their time and investigative resources on more serious violations.

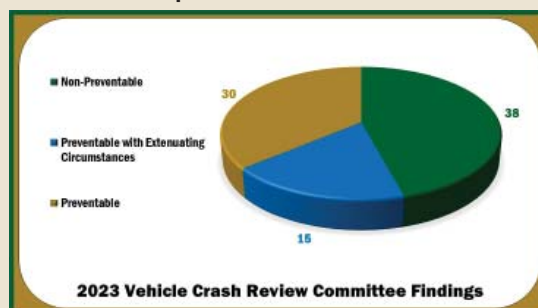
Audits and Inspections

During 2023, an Annual Evidence Inspection, Unannounced Evidence Inspection, and an Evidence Function Audit were completed by OPS inspectors. Quarterly, an OPS inspector conducted Investigative and Evidence Fund audits on four bureaus, totaling 16 individual account audits per year. Inspectors also conducted unannounced and follow-up inventories of narcotics and explosives used for canine training. The results of all these required audits were within agency guidelines and met accreditation standards for thoroughness.

Vehicle Crash Review Committee (VCRC)

Inspectors assigned to the VCRC review every crash involving ACSO leased or owned vehicles in order to determine if the incident was preventable, non-preventable, or preventable with extenuating circumstances. ACSO drivers, whether civilian or sworn, who are involved in crashes deemed preventable can face sanctions up to and including the temporary loss of their vehicle privileges.

The VCRC reviewed 83 crashes involving ACSO leased or owned vehicles during the 2023 calendar year, a 27% increase from the 65 crashes reviewed in 2022. Of the 83 crashes in 2023, 38 were ruled non-preventable, 15 were preventable with extenuating circumstances, and 30 were ruled preventable.



Policy and Accreditation Unit

- Captain Kaley Behl

The Policy and Accreditation Unit (PAU) researches, writes, edits, and promulgates the policies and procedures of the Alachua County Sheriff's Office into the Directive Management System (DMS) and ensures that the agency achieves and/or maintains its accredited status.

Accreditation aids a law enforcement agency's pursuit of professional excellence by strengthening agency accountability, both internally and within the community. Accreditation builds community and governmental support, as well as employee confidence in the direction and future of the agency. In 2023, there were 225 substantive policy changes and 828 non-substantive policy changes to keep the agency current with law changes and best practices.

The ACSO received the National Sheriffs Association's Triple Crown Award in 2000 by simultaneously achieving CALEA, ACA, and NCCHC Accreditation. Acquiring all three at the same time is an extraordinary feat. In fact, Triple Crown distinction is so rare that since the establishment of the award in 1993, fewer than 100 sheriffs' offices have qualified. This is a one-time award that is maintained by the agency forever.

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office is currently accredited through the following accrediting bodies:

Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFLA): ACSO received its initial CFLA accreditation in 1987, and was reaccredited for the fifth consecutive time in 2012, achieving "Excelsior Agency" status. The last reaccreditation was held in November 2023, with the fifth Excelsior award received in February 2024.

Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC): All aspects of correctional operations are addressed through FCAC standards, including: admission, classification, housing, sanitation, food services, personnel issues, fiscal activities, security,



From Left: FL Accreditation Office Executive Director Stacy Lehman, A/Accreditation Specialist Kathryn Odom, Captain Kaley Behl, DOJ Deputy Director Ray Swallows, and FCAC Commissioner Chief Robert Vincent

training, and medical services. The ACSO Department of the Jail received its initial FCAC accreditation in 1999, and was reaccredited for the fifth consecutive time in 2014, earning "Excelsior Agency" status, with the fourth Excelsior Award received in October 2023.

Public Safety Communications Accreditation Program (PSCAP) through Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA):

CALEA accreditation provides a communications center with a process to systematically review and assess its operations and procedures. The ACSO Combined Communications Center (CCC) received its initial CALEA PSCAP accreditation in 2002, and was reaccredited for the third consecutive time in March 2011. In 1998 and 2011, the CCC received the distinguished "Flagship Award" from CALEA, awarded only to the most successful CALEA-accredited agencies in recognition of their achievements and expertise.

In March 2014, the CCC received its first "Gold Standard Award," further elevating the CCC to elite status among accredited centers. The Gold Standard Assessment focuses on processes and outcomes through interviews and observations, as opposed to traditional and comprehensive file review. The last reaccreditation assessment was held in October 2020, with the agency's third Gold Standard Award, awarded on March 26, 2021. Our next assessment will be in 2024.



Public Information Office

- Sergeant Frank Kinsey

The Public Information Office encompasses the agency's public information and media relations function, to include ACSO's social media presence, as well as housing a Crime Prevention deputy, a Community Relations Specialist, and a Media Production Specialist.



From Left: Media Production Specialist Micah Blakeslee, PIO Art Forgey, PIO Sgt. Frank Kinsey, and PIO Lisa Sacaccio

The agency's three public information officers, Sgt. Frank Kinsey, PIO Art Forgey and PIO Specialist Lisa Sacaccio, are the conduit for the most up-to-date information for the community for all matters relating to the Alachua County Sheriff's Office, providing timely and relevant information directly to the public, as well as to our media partners. In response to media inquiries, information is researched and shared through print, television, radio, social media, press conferences, and news releases. Proactive coverage of major events impacting the community, high-profile arrests, and unusual situations occurring within the scope of the ACSO are provided as events unfold.

The office also coordinates media coverage to assist other agency functions, such as locating fugitives, developing information to aid in criminal investigations, operations at the Jail, and joining with the public to locate missing persons. Additionally, the PIO maintains ACSO's website, produces educational literature, infographics, videos, the agency annual report, and maintains the agency's social media presence on Facebook, X (formerly known as Twitter), Instagram and YouTube.



Community Relations

Community Relations Specialist Michelle Sherfield serves as a liaison between the community and the Alachua County Sheriff's Office by ensuring that the partnership between ACSO and the community it serves remains strong by attending various community events, promoting resources available to community members via ACSO, and maintaining open communication between the agency and community.



Community Relations Specialist Michelle Sherfield (far right) teamed up with the HR Recruitment Team for an event.

Media Production

Media Production Specialist Micah Blakeslee serves as the agency's photographer, videographer, and graphic designer, producing content for ACSO's social media presence as well as internal projects.

Crime Prevention Unit

- Crime Prevention Deputy Cary Gallop

Crime Prevention Deputy Cary Gallop returned to the Public Information Office in 2023 after a short hiatus and immediately resumed services to the public. He offers crime prevention presentations, active shooter education, residential and business security surveys, Neighborhood Watch, and our popular personal safety and empowerment programs like radKIDS, RAD for Seniors, and RAD for Women.



Deputy Cary Gallop (in pink) and MACS Coach Lindsay Hester-Nunez (in yellow) pose with two radKIDS graduates.

Department of Administrative Services

- Chief of Staff John Moorhouse

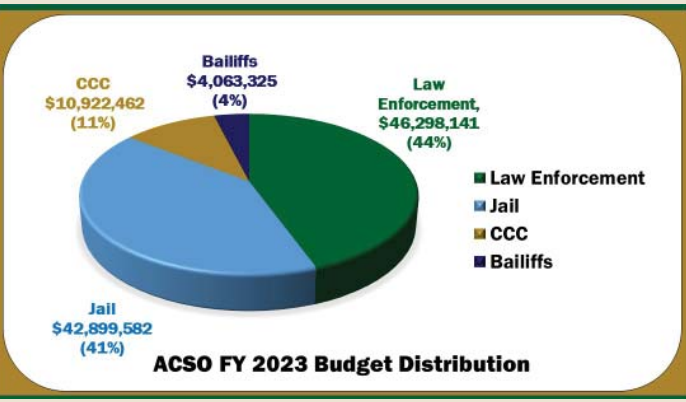
The Department of Administrative Services is headed by a civilian Chief of Staff, equivalent to a sworn major. The department is comprised of the Accounting and Budget Bureau, Human Resources Bureau, Information Technology Bureau, Records Bureau, Support Bureau, and the Technical Services Division.

Accounting and Budget Bureau

- Chief Financial Officer Patty Justice

The Accounting and Budget Bureau (A&B) is responsible for the sound and timely accounting of all fiscal matters in accordance with generally-accepted accounting principles and governmental accounting standards. The bureau prepares the annual certified budget for presentation to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) and monitors the budget throughout the year. The bureau also hosts the annual independent audit of the agency's financial statements and prepares the financial statements for presentation to the Auditor General. Other responsibilities include accounts payable, accounts receivable, bi-weekly payroll processing and quality control, purchasing, trust funds, and grant financial reporting.

ACSO's budget for the 2023 fiscal year was \$104,183,510. The main sources of funding for the Sheriff's Office budget are transfers from the BOCC, consisting mainly of ad valorem revenues in the form of property taxes. The budget funds salaries and benefits, operating expenses, and capital-related items. The budget is divided into four main functions: Law Enforcement, Jail, Combined Communications Center, and Court Security/Bailiffs.



Salaries and benefits make up over 79% of the total General Fund budget. Operating costs consist mainly of technology-related expenses, liability and auto insurance, and mandated contracts such as the

Inmate Medical and Mental Health contracts, which represent 64% of the Jail's operating costs. Vehicles and replacement equipment represent 100% of the capital-related budget.

The agency has various special revenue funds linked to specific sources and legally restricted to expenditures for defined purposes. These special revenue funds consist mainly of state and federal grants awarded to the agency throughout the year. The agency was awarded \$725,158 in grant monies which are used to fund many important aspects of the agency such as equipment, overtime, and salary payments.

Human Resources Bureau

- Director Larry Risher

In the last several years, the ACSO has experienced some of the same difficulties in attracting qualified staff that have affected the industry nationwide. When Sheriff Gainey took office, his mandate to the Human Resources Bureau was clear: find qualified staff and remove or diminish unnecessary roadblocks to getting them onboarded. With the support of ACSO leadership, HRB rose to the challenge. Of the 139 employees hired during 2023, 86 of them were hired or approved to be hired on or after September 10, 2023.

Rising to this challenge has energized the HRB staff. Many hours have been dedicated to attending recruitment events, reaching out to potential candidates by phone, and redoubling our efforts to streamline the background investigation phase. The intensified hiring activity occurred alongside the other ongoing responsibilities of the HRB - managing employee benefits and changes in employment, handling/mitigating the agency's risk exposure, and responding to HR-related records requests and other documentation tasks.

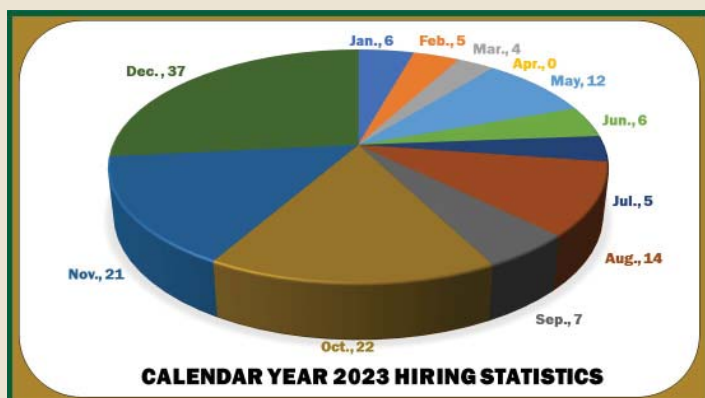
To accomplish our hiring mandate, we've redeployed some existing staff to serve as temporary background investigators, sent two employees to become certified polygraphers (and engaged a former employee on a contract basis to perform polygraphs), and assigned two sergeants (one from the Department of the Jail and one from the law enforcement side) to act as a proactive recruitment team.

In addition, with the help of the Board of County Commissioners, the ACSO has been able to offer recruitment/retention bonuses to new employees to encourage them to start or resume a career in service to our community.

Current outreach efforts are focused on identifying

qualified young adults to sponsor through our two academies, reaching recent retirees from Florida and elsewhere to engage them in a second career, and liaising with people who are soon to be discharged from the military who are looking for a career in public safety.

The chart below illustrates our 2023 recruitment successes in our unflinching mission to make the ACSO the premier law enforcement agency in the state.



Information Technology Bureau

- *Director Mike Robinson*

The Information Technology Bureau (ITB) is responsible for planning, acquiring, implementing, and developing information technology solutions to facilitate the agency's mission. In addition, ITB evaluates and acquires emerging technologies, network architecture, and information systems that have law enforcement applications.



From Left: Josh Finch, Mark Floyd, Brenda Butler, Mike Robinson, Rick Asbell, Judi Williams, Paul Austin, and Mike Dwyer

ITB analyzes the needs of different departments and determines ways to meet business objectives by modifying existing or developing new information processing systems. ITB is responsible for the implementation and maintenance of all computers, servers, wireless infrastructure, network infrastructure, and all critical computing systems for the agency.

ITB develops and supports all workflow and administrative computer applications within the agency and provides support for law enforcement databases, all agency websites, and other specialized applications. This includes web hosting; design, development, implementation, and management of application development services for systems pertaining to investigations, and general information for all staff.

In order to protect our agency from cyber threats, ITB is responsible for annual agency cybersecurity awareness training, protecting the agency's network infrastructure through blocking spear phishing email attacks, conducting vulnerability scanning, and strengthening data and network security through endpoint protection. In addition, quarterly audits are conducted to verify agency user access complies with CJIS security standards.

2023 ITB Accomplishments

- Upgraded more than 50 servers to the latest operating system.
- Implemented a new email filter.
- Replaced the agency's storage area network (SAN).
- Replaced the agency's Domain Controllers.
- Improved security measures to further secure the agency's network.

Records Bureau

- *Bureau Chief Chris Whatley*

The Records Bureau is responsible for customer service to the public and support to agency personnel. The services provided include fingerprinting, public records request fulfillment in accordance with Chapter 119 of the Florida State Statutes, maintenance of all agency law enforcement incident report files, and data entry into various records management systems.

The bureau is responsible for the entry and maintenance of all countywide wanted persons, agency-reported missing persons, and agency-reported stolen property items into the Florida and National Crime Information Centers (FCIC/NCIC) within guidelines set by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Additionally, the bureau provides centralized storage and retrieval for all incident and traffic crash reports generated by ACSO. Bureau staff also direct all incoming switchboard calls to the proper location and maintain Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data for inclusion into state and national crime statistics.

The Records Customer Service Window, located in the main lobby of the Administration Building at 2621 SE Hawthorne Road, is open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Several services are available to the public. Those services, and their associated fees are listed below.

Service	Fee
Local Arrest History Checks	No Fee
Concealed Weapon Fingerprinting	\$ 5.00
Other Fingerprinting Services	\$10.00
Public Records Requests	*Cost to Produce

* Public records requests requiring more than 15 minutes to produce, or are greater than 20 pages in length have associated fees based on the employee compensation rate(s) for the time required. No fees are assessed for requests requiring less than 15 minutes to complete, or are fewer than 20 pages in length.

Records Bureau Customer Service Window Table of Fees

- A local arrest history check, (also called a background check) provides a listing of Alachua County arrests. Case disposition information is available through the Alachua County Clerk of Court.
- Photo ID is required for most services as some information may be legally restricted to certain persons.
- Accepted forms of payment include cash, money orders, business checks, and debit/credit cards. Please note that we do not accept personal checks.

Support Bureau

- Bureau Chief Alan Henderson

The Support Bureau is comprised of the Evidence Section, Fleet Maintenance Unit, and the Property Unit.

Evidence Section

- Evidence Supervisor Glynda Saavedra

A successful criminal prosecution depends on how evidence is handled and preserved. Evidence must be packaged properly, documented accurately, and stored correctly. If an error occurs, or the “chain of custody” is compromised, criminals can go free, putting the community and its citizens at risk. When a case is over and the evidence is no longer needed, every attempt is made to return items to their rightful owner. There are over 81,800 individual pieces of evidence and lost or abandoned property currently held in the Evidence Section. More than 800 new items are received and processed each month. In 2023, the Evidence Section took in over 2,500 narcotics items and more than 400 firearms. Approximately 235 firearms were turned

over to the Property Unit for trade and 270 firearms were destroyed.



Evidence boxes

The Evidence Section returns property to citizens after their cases are adjudicated. Evidence custodians investigate the case to see which items can be returned or disposed of in accordance with Florida State Statutes. Evidence custodians disposed of over 8,160 items in 2023.

We also return personal property to victims’ families following suicides or other types of death investigations, which can be extremely emotional for many families. Staff conduct attorney viewings of evidence in many ACSO cases with the Assistant State Attorney, Public Defender, and/or private attorney. In cases such as homicides, each article of evidence must be opened carefully so as not to contaminate other evidence, a process that can take several hours.

Unclaimed evidentiary items and lost or abandoned property are available for sale at www.propertyroom.com.

Fleet Maintenance Unit

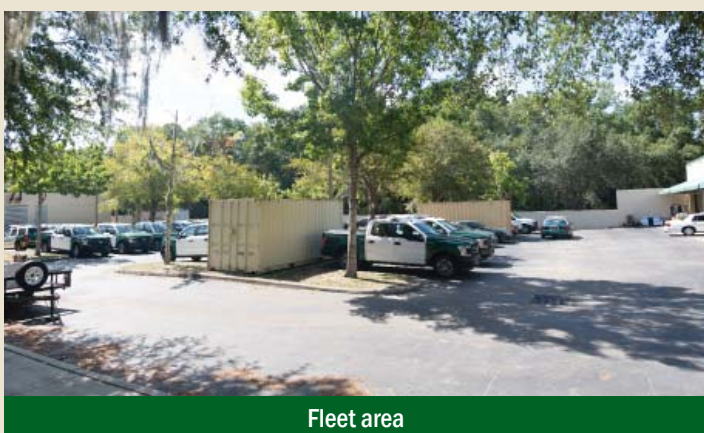
- Fleet Manager Steve King

The Fleet Maintenance Unit is responsible for acquiring, maintaining, and disposing of all agency vehicles. Their duties include the aftermarket installation of all necessary emergency equipment and coordinating vehicle crash damage repairs with the agency’s insurance company and outside body shop vendors. FMU personnel processed 136 crash damage repairs in 2023.

The unit ensures vehicle warranty repairs and safety recalls are completed, processes vehicle repair work based on work orders, and maintains a vehicle repair/maintenance history on every fleet vehicle. They assign fuel cards to vehicles and issue fuel purchase PIN numbers to every driver. The fuel cost for calendar year 2023 was \$1,191,024.

FMU personnel are responsible for processing all vehicle-related expense payments and disposing of surplus vehicles by advertising to other local agencies and through the use of an auction company. They received \$206,375 in revenue from the sale of surplus vehicles in 2023. The unit prepares an annual budget for replacement vehicles, fuel cost, and anticipated vehicle maintenance and repair needs.

The FMU maintains over 530 cars, trucks, SUVs, vans, motorcycles, and specialized vehicles. During 2023, these vehicles were driven a combined total of 5,075,773 miles. The bulk of the unit's budget of \$5,058,248 is devoted to the purchasing and outfitting of vehicles, fuel costs, and the repair of agency vehicles. During 2023, the unit replaced 38 agency vehicles.



Fleet area

Seven employees, including a fleet manager, fleet specialist, emergency vehicle electronics technician, and four Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certified master technicians are currently assigned to the unit.

Property/Facilities Unit

- *Property Supervisor Sandi Hayes*

The Property Unit is the central receiving and distribution point for all supplies, deliveries, and package pickups for ACSO. The unit serves the agency with two stores for distribution of supplies: one at the Main Administration Building and one at the Department of the Jail. The unit's primary responsibilities are:

- Outfitting all newly-hired deputies with uniforms, weapons, building keys, and first responders' equipment items such as trauma kits and automated defibrillators (AEDs). The unit also issues replacement items for current employees and keeps track of all the specialized equipment that is issued to ACSO's Special Teams (SWAT, Bomb, MO/URT etc.).
- Creating and maintaining ACSO inventories. When an item (Fixed Asset) is received, it is assigned a property number and entered into the agency's

financial management program. The item is then delivered to the receiving unit and inventoried on an annual basis.

- Inspecting weapons housed in the armory for operational readiness on a bi-annual basis. A full inventory on all weapons is conducted annually. The unit also rotates weapons to ensure the agency always has the most capable weapons available on hand.
- Controlling all building keys. This includes keeping track of employees leaving the agency to have keys returned, or cutting new keys as required. The unit maintains a record of all lost or damaged keys, as well as any newly-made keys. Keys are inventoried annually to ensure building security. The unit also oversees the exchange of door handles or re-keying of door locks as needed.
- Acquiring, maintaining, and distributing office supplies and general stock for all of the agency's buildings.

During 2023, Property Unit personnel:

- Processed 48 newly-hired deputy sheriffs, detention officers, and cadets, to include fitting, ordering, and issuing of all uniforms and equipment needed to perform their assigned jobs.
- Processed 459 additions to the Fixed Asset inventory, totaling \$3,334,926.92; as well as 89 deletions totaling \$830,499.49. All were balanced within the GMBA Module.
- Processed 173 stock requisitions from agency components, totaling \$88,244.72.
- Processed several store orders to keep stock available for the agency.
- Processed 1,486 purchase orders.
- Received, checked in, and recorded serial numbers for 238 new weapons.



Armory



Technical Services Division

- Division Manager Pat Ford-Thomas

The Technical Services Division is comprised of the Communications Operations Bureau, the Training and Quality Management Unit, the CAD/GIS Unit, and the Radio Maintenance Unit. The division is commanded by a civilian division manager, equivalent to a sworn captain, who reports directly to Administrative Services Chief of Staff John Moorhouse.

Communications Operations Bureau

- Communications Director Kim Kutner

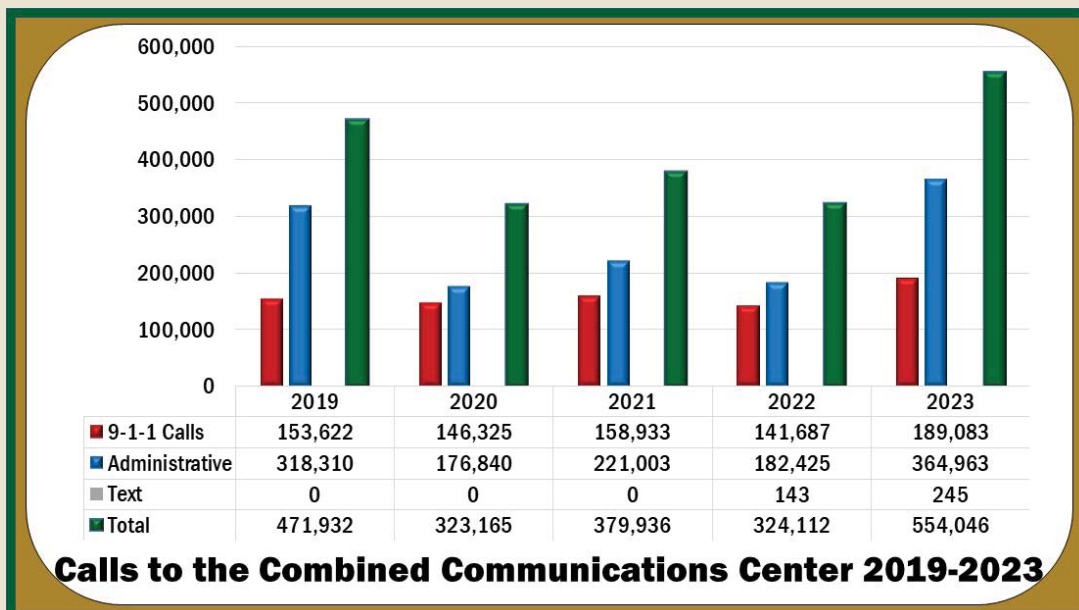
The Combined Communications Center (CCC) is a consolidated 9-1-1 communications center that provides public safety communications services for the Alachua County Sheriff's Office (ACSO), Alachua County Fire Rescue (ACFR), Gainesville Fire Rescue (GFR), Gainesville Police Department (GPD), and the High Springs Police Department (HSPD). CCC also provides police and fire communications services

to other municipalities within the county, including LaCrosse, Archer, Waldo, Micanopy, Newberry, and Hawthorne.

The center is staffed 24-hours-a-day, 365-days-a-year, with highly-trained, professional 9-1-1 telecommunicators. They are the "first of the first responders" to field hundreds of incoming calls daily, prioritize situations, determine the best course of action, and quickly forward that information to the appropriate public safety first responders. In addition, they monitor multiple radio frequencies, dispatch service calls to police, fire, and medical units; access various local, state, and federal databases; and track activities in the field. Their split-second decisions can mean the difference between life and death.

CCC 9-1-1 telecommunicators receive extensive training and meet stringent standards. They are certified by the state of Florida as public safety telecommunicators and have additional certifications in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD), and Emergency Fire Dispatch (EFD). The EMD and EFT systems gather critical information and provide life-sustaining instructions in an emergency until the arrival of first responders. CCC 9-1-1 telecommunicators are also trained in Emergency Mental Health Dispatch (EMHD) and receive crisis intervention training (CIT) to effectively process service requests involving persons in mental health crises.

During 2023, CCC telecommunicators processed 554,291 emergency and non-emergency calls from citizens in Alachua County. Of these calls, 260,267 resulted in a service request and 185,569 were explicitly for law enforcement.



Technologically Advanced Service

CCC is equipped with modern and technologically advanced equipment systems and features a fully-redundant and enhanced 9-1-1 system (E9-1-1) that automatically displays the telephone number and location of 9-1-1 calls made from a landline or wireless phone. A computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system tracks all service calls, whether for law enforcement, fire rescue, or emergency medical services (EMS). The center also uses an 800 Mhz trunked radio system that allows for local and statewide interoperable radio communications.

In 2023, the CCC transitioned to Next Generation 911 (NG911) IP network and call processing elements, replacing legacy analog 911 infrastructure controlling 911 service delivery with Indigital as the new 911 system service provider. The NG911 has a call delivery platform called MEVO which is explicitly designed to back up CCC's primary 911 equipment.



A MEVO phone sits at each call-taker workstation and automatically delivers 911 calls to the call-takers if CCC's primary phone system fails. The ACSO CCC recognizes that phone system redundancy is mission-critical to ensure the continuum of services to our community.

The CCC utilizes another public safety platform called RapidSOS, which delivers cellular phone locations and other data to 911 call-takers when callers cannot verbally communicate their locations. When a 911 cellular call is received, the mobile device is automatically tracked, and its location is plotted on a map and displayed to a call-taker. The location information is relayed to responding officers, saving valuable call processing, response times, and lives.

This new technology was experienced firsthand on June 10, 2023, when a call-taker received a 911 cellular call from a citizen who reported being shot. The caller remained non-verbal, but kept his phone line open. The call-taker recognized the caller was mobile and immediately relayed the roads and directions of travel to the responding officers, leading them directly to the VA Hospital, where the victim was subsequently contacted. With 80-90 percent of 911 calls coming from cellular phones, the ACSO CCC is excited to be on the cutting edge of emerging technology, better serving the citizens of Alachua County.

Nationally Accredited Communications Center



CCC is accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) at the highest level (Gold Standard). The Gold Standard Assessment measures the impact of accreditation by reviewing the center's key issues and explicitly identifying strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities based on the center's needs. The prestigious Gold Standard accreditation signifies that the CCC and the Alachua County Sheriff's Office set themselves apart from other communications centers and law enforcement agencies nationwide, maintaining the highest standards of excellence, quality of work, and professional delivery of public safety services.



CCC is an accredited "Center of Excellence" by the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch (IAED). To achieve and maintain IAED accreditation, an agency must have effective quality improvement and quality assurance programs to measure compliance with call processing protocols. In addition, the Center of Excellence designation validates that the agency includes its public safety partners and citizens and provides high customer service.



Additionally, the CCC continues its partnership with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). This partnership is a commitment by the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and partner agencies to utilize established best practices to assist these children and their families in some of the worst situations imaginable.

2023 CCC Community Service and Education Highlights

- Continued partnership with Loften and Bell High Schools by recruiting interested graduates for telecommunications positions.
- Participated in the agency's annual back-to-school project by donating new school supplies to local schools. The CCC donated backpacks, crayons, pens, pencils, binders, folders, glue, scissors,

notebooks, paper, and notepads to Alachua County students.

- Participated in the agency's Toys for Tots partnership with the local Marine Corps Reserve Unit, donating Christmas gifts for children from newborn through 16 years of age.
- Participated in the Partnership for Strong Families' Wish Upon a Star by donating Christmas gifts to fulfill over 1,300 local youth's Christmas wish lists.
- Implemented an Interactive Voice Recorder (IVR), automating non-emergency lines to improve the quality of the work environment and maximize efficiency, allowing call-takers to focus on more urgent calls and reducing wait times for administrative inquiries that do not require an immediate law enforcement or medical response, such as records requests, fingerprinting services, warrants, and jail information.
- Attended 14 community involvement and recruiting efforts in conjunction with Human Resources:
 - Santa Fe High School Job Fair
 - Santa Fe College Job Fair
 - Clay County 2023 Virtual Cohort - Speaking engagement to 15 PST graduates about employment opportunities with ACSO
 - Alachua County Library Job Fair
 - Gator Fly-In Event
 - ACSO Onsite Career Fair
 - Newberry Watermelon Festival and Parade
 - PACE Center for Girls
 - National Night Out
 - Gainesville High School Counselors
 - Micanopy Festival
 - Headquarters Library
 - Santa Fe College
 - Newberry Criminal Justice Expo
- Participated in the Breast Cancer Fundraiser and Walk to support all survivors, including two members of our CCC family and a Department of the Jail member.



SUV for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Specialized Training/Professional Development

Supervisors are encouraged to participate in professional development training that equips them with essential skills and empowers supervisors to lead effectively and drive positive team outcomes. Supervisors participated in the listed leadership development:

- Attended the Pandemic Planning: Emergency Management and Public Health - MGT488.
- Attended Leadership for Front-Line Supervisors.
- Attended Accountable Leadership for Middle Management.
- The Division Manager and two shift commanders attended the CALEA Public Safety Telecommunications Accreditation Manager course and achieved certification.
- Florida Dispatch Focus Group.
- Communications ESF2 Annual Coordination Meeting.

Exceptional Performance

In emergency services, anything can and does happen. While consistent and composed handling of emergencies is the norm in the CCC, no event puts a 911 center to the test like an active shooter event. The term 'multi-tasking' doesn't come close to describing telecommunicators' actions. On May 2, 2023, Telecommunicators Jeanette Whitworth and Kourtney Williams responded to a reported active shooter at Santa Fe College. Kourtney processed the call and Jeanette handled the dispatch function. While the call was later verified as a hoax, Jeanette and Kourtney understood the mission that a rapid response was paramount. They owned and processed the event flawlessly, quickly getting officers to the scene. The Sheriff commended both telecommunicators for their superior performance.

On May 10, 2023, Telecommunicators Jeanette Whitworth and Destiny Pacheco were instrumental in



CCC Recruitment Team at the Onsite Career Fair

helping deputies successfully apprehend two armed stolen vehicle suspects. The suspects abandoned the vehicle and led deputies into a wooded area and, after a two-hour search, were placed into custody. Because of timely and composed dispatch and resource management actions, communicating pertinent supplemental information that contributed to the positive outcome of the case, the Sheriff awarded both telecommunicators as the agency's Employees of the Month for May 2023.

On June 5, 2023, Telecommunicator Vince Orlando helped a woman through a harrowing high-risk home birth. A male called to report that his girlfriend had given birth at 22 weeks while on the toilet. The frantic mother came on the phone and said the baby was making small noises, but breathing.

Telecommunicator Orlando guided the parents through tying the umbilical cord and how to keep the baby warm. Soon afterward, paramedics arrived and transported mother and baby boy to the hospital in stable condition. Vince's calmness and professionalism resulted in a safe delivery and an excellent standard of care.



three minutes later, the couple welcomed a healthy baby girl. The newborn's cries could be heard in the background.

These calls for service reflect the reason 911 telecommunicators are referred to as the "first of the first responders". Without physically being on the scene, they are on the scene the moment the phone is answered and appropriate action is always taken before, during, and after law enforcement and fire rescue have arrived.

Training and Quality Management Unit

- Training Commander Mable Barlow

Due to the diverse and exacting nature of the job tasks that are mandated or necessary to efficiently and correctly perform the duties in the CCC, proper and adequate training is of the utmost importance. Therefore, the TQM Unit supports the employees of the Communications Operations Bureau through structured training provided by members of this highly-skilled unit and certified training officers (CTO) within the Combined Communications Center.

2023 TQM Highlights

- Completed three Basic Academy classes (BAC38/, BAC39, and BAC40) for new telecommunicators.



Graduation celebration for new telecommunicators

- In April 2023, Training Quality Management Unit Specialists Ashley Mauger and Bonnie Rhodes taught at the 2023 Navigator Conference hosted by the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch (IAED) in Denver, CO. They presented on how Quality Assurance is essential in all areas of an agency's training program. The presentation, titled "All Aboard the QA Train," was well-received



Telecommunicator Paloma Danzy was awarded the ACSO January Employee of the Month



Telecommunicators Deborah Purington and Lucinda Piggott were awarded the ACSO February Employees of the Month

On June 18, 2023, a Shands parking garage became a delivery room when a male dialed 911, reporting that he and his wife had arrived at the hospital, but his wife was in active labor and had begun to push. Telecommunicator Amy Lobar graciously provided the father with pre-arrival instructions and approximately

by all attendees and the Broward County Sheriff's Office created a video using Ashley and Bonnie's PowerPoint to distribute to all of their employees.

- Recertified all Certified Training Officers (CTOs).
- Completed promotional training for five telecommunicators, one supervisor, and one commander.
- Updated training forms to a fillable format.
- Recertified CCC personnel in Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) and Emergency Fire Dispatch (EFD) protocols.
- Conducted monthly CTO in-services.

CAD/GIS Unit

- CAD Administrator Marco Ferrante

- GIS Specialist Fay Walker

The **Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Administrator** is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the CAD hardware and software. The positions are highly accountable for ensuring data backup and system integrity, maintaining day-to-day workstation functionality, implementing upgrades, and keeping responder safety and other resource information current within the systems.

2023 CAD Highlights

- Saved the agency (and taxpayers) approximately \$7,000 by obtaining working monitors at no cost to upgrade the smaller/older monitors.
- Migrated ProQA server to newer equipment to enhance its stability and performance while remaining within the agency's security guidelines.
- Suggested and assisted with mapping power layout in CCC for UPS replacement at the lowest possible cost to ensure redundancy and business continuity in the event of a critical power failure in CCC.
- Assisted and coordinated with High Springs for a more direct connect for their fire and law agencies within our CAD.
- Assisted ACFR with changing their legacy RMS communication with a more modern, secure, and real-time RMS solution which was written by the CAD Administrator. That solution, instead of the one written by the CAD vendor saved ACFR approximately \$15,000 in expenses and an additional 20% maintenance fee.
- Assisted with upgrading bodycam third party software with the CAD database.
- Deployed the latest aerial maps in CAD workstations for the CCC.
- Assisted the Radio Unit with troubleshooting a failed radio interface in downtown Gainesville that led to the discovery of a critical, undocumented,

and failed UPS unit.

- Documented and informed stakeholders of the risk, dangers, and commitments to keep our IT infrastructure up-to-date and in-line with our directives. As a result, the Gainesville Fire Department agreed to upgrade their Purvis station alerting platform.
- Upgraded and maintained a live weather map feed in the CCC and trained a CCC supervisor on basic troubleshooting in the absence of the CAD Administrator.

The **GIS Specialist** consistently manages and supervises the street data information. All pertinent layers within the CAD system facilitate geography-based dispatching and reporting and assist in GIS-related special projects. Additionally, this position interacts with other county and city agencies to coordinate the parity of mapping data between government entities.

2023 GIS Highlights

- Facilitated ACFR Station 29's efforts to join the Purvis Fire Station Alerting System, enabling the station to receive audible service calls without legacy VHF radio communication or text messages.
- Facilitated several volunteer fire departments to join the PulsePoint Responder App that notifies specific responders via mobile phones when resources are dispatched to an incident. If station alerting, text messages, and radios are inoperable, responders may now use this new resource management tool.
- Assisted ACFR with replacing their RMS interface in CCC's CAD system. ACFR's data from CAD is now received in near real-time.
- Replaced and installed 10 new monitor arms in the Training and Quality Management Unit.
- Created a new Fire Response area from ACNH51 to assist with recommendation issues.



Specialized GIS printer

- Developed a floor schema labeling CCC's circuit breakers housed on each UPS system.
- ACFR Hydrant project (ongoing):
 - Working with ACFR to locate all hydrants in the county and municipalities. These hydrants are then imported to the hydrant Feature class to update CAD's GEO and Mobile applications. Another copy is forwarded to ACFR for maintenance, accountability, and accreditation.
- Maps request for Buckner Case.
- Data requests (electronic or paper) from various agencies/organizations.
- Wall Maps 6x6: Santa Fe College PD, Newberry Fire Dept, and CID.
- Purchased a replacement plotter.
- Daily Edits:
 - CAD Tickets.
 - CAD GIS Data editing: Fire and Law Response areas, Streets, Addresses, Hydrants, Municipal Boundaries, and Neighborhoods.
 - Annexations into various municipalities.
- CID projects on request (deployments and SAR/GRID type requests).
- Received 2023 Aerial Imagery. Loaded to CAD's Geo Map, Call Taker/Dispatch.
- Created the 2023 Aerial (TPK) Tile Package for Mobile.
- Added new NEURO Station to CAD/Mobile.
- Migrated all ArcGIS Online web maps (Civil, FARU) to Enterprise.
- Prepared GIS Data for migration to Enterprise.
- UF Jurisdiction Project.
- Recruiting and cross-training personnel as part of succession planning.
- Rewrote the procedures for the GIS position as part of succession planning.
- Rewrote the GIS Specialist's job description as part of succession planning.

Radio Maintenance Unit

- Radio Systems Manager Scott Shelpmann

The Radio Systems Unit is responsible for coordinating equipment resources during particular occurrences. They are also responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of specialty equipment assigned to the Combined Communications Center, including the Emergency Deployable Interoperable Communications System (EDICS), radio equipment, spare radio cache, tower sites, Reverse 9-1-1 equipment, FIN, and the telephone system. Technicians assigned to the unit are responsible for system upkeep and system upgrade recommendations to include backbone equipment such as tower sites and repeaters located throughout

Alachua County.

Additionally, the unit is responsible for repairing and maintaining the Sheriff's Office and Board of County Commissioners' portable and mobile radio systems. The service for the Board of County Commissioners is provided under the guidelines of an interlocal agreement between the Sheriff and the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners.



During 2023, the unit deployed the new Motorola APX Next Smart radios. These are some of the most advanced broadband-enabled radios available, allowing deputies to travel outside the radio network's coverage area while maintaining voice communications and access to essential information. The radios automatically switch between radio and broadband, have touch screens for easier usability with

or without gloves, operate in wet or dry conditions, and provide longer battery life for enhanced officer and community safety.

After March 10, 2024, the Radio Maintenance Unit will report to the Information Technology Bureau instead of the Technical Services Division. Both areas are part of the Department of Administrative Services.

2023 Radio Maintenance Unit Highlights

- Deployed to Suwannee County to assist with relief efforts during Hurricane Idalia.
- Updated the agency's GETS/WPS list.
- Hired a new radio technician.
- Facilitated a major trunked radio system upgrade from 2021.1 to 2022.2.



Radio equipment

Department of the Jail

- Major Jeff Cloutier, Director



Front entrance of the Department of the Jail

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office Department of the Jail (DOJ) is a mid-sized detention facility with a design capacity of 970 inmates and a maximum operating capacity of 1,140 inmates. The average daily inmate count for calendar year 2023 was 838.

The DOJ oversees an annual budget that covers an array of jail operations, to include personnel and inmate operating expenses and services. Other interesting facts about the DOJ include:

- Accredited by the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission (FCAC) at the Excelsior level.
- Accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC).
- Meets or exceeds the annual Florida Model Jail Standards (FMJS) and medical standards audits.
- Conducts routine operational readiness and line inspections.
- Compliant with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) zero tolerance policy.
- Regular participant of the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Grant Planning Committee (CJMHSAG).
- Participates in the Public Safety Coordinating Council.

Medical Contract Monitor

- Captain Doriann Keith

The medical contract monitor is primarily responsible for monitoring the terms and value of the medical contract held between the Alachua County Sheriff's Office Department of the Jail and the current medical vendor, Wellpath. This responsibility is crucial in order to provide adequate and quality health care to our inmates, and also ensures inmate health services meet standards.

Security Operations Division

- Captain Kyle Salman

The Security Operations Division is responsible for the overall security of the DOJ, overseeing the safety of all visitors, personnel, and inmates. Detention deputies and detention officers are responsible for the management, accountability, and supervision of each inmate detained in the Department of the Jail. Their duties involve supervising and coordinating daily activities within the facility. Some of these duties include:

- Service of meals.
- Recreation.
- Visitation.



Visitation area

- Inspection of housing areas for security breaches and sanitation.
- Inmate counts.
- Internal movement to educational and religious programs.
- Medical clinic visits.
- Distribution of linen and hygiene items.
- Inmate commissary.
- Reporting facility rule violations by inmates.
- Resolving disputes between inmates.
- Response to emergencies within the jail.

During 2023, the Department of the Jail transitioned to a no-fee phone system, lowering the cost of incarceration for inmates and their families. Detention deputies and detention officers worked tirelessly to ensure this transition occurred as smoothly as possible.

Detention deputies and detention officers assigned to the Security Operations Division also perform the security-related tasks required for the admission and release of inmates incarcerated in the facility. The



New body scanner

admission process involves searching arrestees for contraband. The division replaced its X-Ray full-body scanner after 12 years of use. The upgraded body scanner, shown above, uses advanced threat detection software to protect inmates and staff from harmful items, including drugs and weapons. During the admission process, arrestees are fingerprinted with the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) and digital photographs are taken to confirm identity and to record scars, tattoos, and other identifying markings.

Cell Extraction Response Team

CERT is a specialized unit comprised of detention deputies and officers from throughout the DOJ. They respond to facility incidents requiring specialized training and equipment to safely resolve high-risk inmate situations, such as a barricaded inmate. The CERT team is deployed to provide facility security during protests, demonstrations, and critical weather events such as hurricanes.

Support Services Division

- Captain Corey Warren

The Support Services Division is responsible for a number of supporting roles and functions within the Department of the Jail and includes the following bureaus: Booking Support, Inmate Support, and Transportation and Facilities Support.

Booking Support Bureau

- Bureau Chief Pam Cuffie

The Booking Support Bureau is a 24-hour operation currently staffed by 55 civilian employees, with 13 vacancies. This bureau supports the admission and release duties of the Security Operations Division and the classification and follow-up functions of the Classification Unit.

Staff assigned to this area input booking and release-related data based on a set criteria to facilitate the

accuracy of criminal history information maintained by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).

In addition, the bureau is responsible for a myriad of administrative processes, including:

- DNA collection/fingerprint submission.
- Warrant execution/clearance.
- Inmate property, receipt, storage, and release.
- Bond processing.
- Coordination with other jurisdictions.
- Release verification and victim notification.
- Records archival.
- Public/media records requests.

Inmates Booked	6,619
Inmates Released	6,018
Average Daily Inmate Population	838
Cash Bonds Processed	291
Facility Visitors: Onsite	7,448
Facility Visitors: Remote	6,141
Completed Registrations	3,171
Value of Cash Bonds Processed	\$1,160,474.26
Cash Purges Processed	232
Value of Cash Purges Processed	\$114,372.23
Out of County Cash Bond/Purges Processed	49
Value of Out of County Cash Bond/Purges Processed	\$4,198.60

2023 Booking Support Statistics

Registration Office

The Registration Office is located in the Department of the Jail lobby and operates between the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The office is closed on weekends and holidays. Registrations and re-registrations are completed for felony offenders, career offenders, and sexual offenders/predators following state and judicial mandates coordinated through FDLE.



Registration Office



DOJ Lobby

Civilian Lobby Team

The Civilian Lobby Team is a 12-hour shift staffed by civilian personnel who complete lobby-related administrative tasks with a strong customer service philosophy. The team's responsibilities include coordinating daily inmate visitations, maintaining the professional visitation logs, handling telephone calls, and other general customer service needs.

Transportation and Facilities Support Bureau

- *Lieutenant Cliff Arnold*

The Transportation and Facilities Support Bureau is responsible for overseeing all of the logistical needs of the jail, to include the 24/7 maintenance and upkeep of the building and grounds. These tasks are divided between the three units that comprise the bureau: Facility Services, Kitchen Security, and the Transport Team.

Facility Services Unit

- *Sergeant Daniel Carroll*

The Facility Services Unit is responsible for accepting deliveries via the loading dock. During 2023, a total of 5,278 deliveries were received and processed by unit personnel. The unit is also responsible for key issuance and control, warehouse inventory and accountability, and the issuance of items such as extra bunks, toiletry, and hygiene items.

The unit is also responsible for the screening and selection of inmate workers, commonly referred to as trustees. Trustees keep the facility clean, cook inmate meals, and perform various minor maintenance and upkeep functions. An estimated 260,484 pounds of laundry and 1,571 trusty applications were processed during 2023.

Through the same trusty selection process, unit personnel select inmates for the Sheriff's Inmate Work Crew which provides free labor to government agencies when available. Assignments for the Work Crew include moving furniture/equipment, pressure washing, landscaping, and general cleanup. During 2023, the Work Crew completed 3,867 in-house hours worked and 485 off-site hours worked.

Kitchen Security Unit

- *Sergeant Carl Sudbury*

The Kitchen Security Unit provides security/supervision for inmate workers who assist our food service provider in preparing inmate meals and ensures a high level of kitchen cleanliness is maintained. During 2023, unit personnel oversaw food preparation and served 995,952 regular and special diet meals.

Transport Team

- *Sergeant Patricia Flynn*

The Transport Team provides safe and secure transport of defendants to numerous court proceedings. This unit protects the general public and defendants, arranges



Transport Team



video court appearances at the Department of the Jail, and properly documents the judge's sentences/results from first appearance, bond hearings, civil child support hearings, video arraignment, and plea changes. The unit provides security in each courtroom that has a hearing or trial involving an inmate in DOJ custody. The unit also transports important paperwork/documents from the courts to the DOJ and from the DOJ to the courts.

The unit transported a total of 7,200 inmates to court appearances and 584 inmates to the Department of Corrections. Additionally, the unit transports inmates to local drug treatment facilities, Drug Court, Metamorphosis, Bridge House, and the Crisis Stabilization Unit. A total of 234 inmates were transported to medical appointments and/or hospital visits during 2023. The unit has an ADA-compliant transport vehicle.

Inmate Support Bureau

- *Bureau Chief Fotina Perry*

The Inmate Support Bureau is comprised of the Jail Diversion Specialist, the Jail Release Coordinator, the Classification Unit, and the Programs Unit.

Jail Diversion Specialist

The jail diversion specialist is responsible for screening and referring eligible inmates to various diversion programs, tracking referrals, and participating in the forensic community's diversion efforts. This position

was originally created as part of the Criminal Justice Mental Health Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant. Upon conclusion of grant funding in 2023, our agency recognized the benefit of this position and secured continued funding. During 2023, 379 referrals were completed and 224 inmates qualified for further screening and assessment by Meridian and other community programs.

Jail Release Coordinator

The Jail Release Coordinator is responsible for identifying inmates with critical medical needs or who are in mental health crisis. Once the inmates are identified, the release coordinator is responsible for referring them to the appropriate community programs or forensic court and facilitating their release. During 2023, the jail release coordinator processed 124 referrals, resulting in the release of 68 inmates to appropriate community programs.

Classification Unit

- Classification Supervisor Vivian Sims

The Classification Unit is responsible for appropriately classifying and housing all of the inmates in the care of the DOJ, as well as observation instructions for in-crisis inmates. Additional unit responsibilities include casework, management of the in-house inmate population, monitoring county-sentenced inmates' gain-time releases, transfer documentation for DOC-sentenced inmates, tracking inmate conflicts, and monitoring inmates in disciplinary or administrative confinement, special or medical needs inmates, and juvenile inmates. Classification also receives and responds to all inmate grievances and requests.

Over the course of 2023, caseworkers assigned to the Classification Unit:

- Classified 5,538 inmates.
- Answered 1,910 inmate requests.
- Conducted 33,004 administrative segregation reviews.
- Conducted 31,688 mental health reviews.
- Made 28,365 face-to-face inmate contacts.

Programs Unit

- Programs Manager Takeeveia McNeil-Jenkins

The Programs Unit organizes, facilitates, and manages a wide range of in-house classes, programs, and volunteer services. Additionally, unit staff network and develop community relationships to solicit volunteers, teachers, and other opportunities for the inmates. The unit also provides game supplies for the housing units.

Some of the main programs offered to inmates housed

at the DOJ include:

- Daily classes for Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous.
- Classes for anger management, life skills, parenting skills, domestic violence, and substance abuse.
- Jail tours for Teen Court, the Alachua County Citizen's Academy and other groups.
- GED tutoring and testing.
- Library services.
- Inmate transition program.
- Inmate veterans' program.



Inmates attend GED class.

Paws on Parole Unleashed

Due to staffing issues, the Paws on Parole Unleashed program is currently suspended. When active, this worthwhile program operates in conjunction with Alachua County Animal Services. Healthy dogs that need help to become adoptable are paired with female inmates to learn new behavior and become socialized pets. The dogs undergo training to pass the American Kennel Club's "Canine Good Citizen" certification.

The dogs aren't the only benefactors of the program. The inmate caregivers often succeed in finding reputable jobs in the animal care industry upon release, thereby reducing recidivism. The dogs that graduate from the program are then adopted into a loving forever family, thereby reducing the chance they will ever find themselves back in doggie lockup.

Chaplain's Office

Pastor Natron Curtis serves as the Chaplain for the DOJ. He is assigned to the Programs Unit and is responsible for faith-based programs and functions to offer spiritual guidance and encouragement to the inmate population.



All denominations are eligible to offer services at the DOJ.

Department of Operations

- Major Darrell Bessinger

The Department of Operations is comprised of the Patrol Operations and Special Operations Divisions. The department also has an administrative captain who is responsible for several ancillary patrol functions.

Administrative Captain

- Captain Becky Butscher

This position oversees several functions that complement the Patrol Operations Division, including:

- Body Worn Camera Program
- Field Service Technicians
- Field Training Program and Mini Academy
- Patrol Mental Health Co-Responder Team
- Quality Control
- Reserve Unit
- Rural Services Unit
- School Crossing Guards
- Teleserve

Three lieutenants are assigned to Patrol's administrative captain. One lieutenant manages the body worn camera program and the other two are administrative lieutenants who are each responsible for multiple areas. Lieutenant Heather Phillips oversees the Field Training Program, Patrol Mental Health Co-Responder Team, and the Rural Services Unit. Lieutenant Sherry French oversees the Field Service Technicians, Quality Control, Reserves, School Crossing Guards and Teleserve.

Body Worn Camera Program

- Lieutenant James Coonce

In 2021, ACSO joined the ranks of law enforcement agencies utilizing body worn cameras to improve deputy safety, increase evidence quality, and reduce civilian complaints and agency liability due to false accusations of deputy misconduct or citizen abuse.

Field Training and Evaluation Program

Every new deputy hired by the ACSO must complete the agency's 22-week Field Training and Evaluation Program prior to operating in a "solo" capacity in the field. ACSO deputies are highly-trained and professionally-equipped to handle the ever-changing types of calls and incidents that law enforcement responds to.

Rural Services Unit

The Rural Services Unit (RSU) consists of two deputies who are responsible for the investigation of farm and agricultural crimes, as well as animal abuse, cruelty,

and neglect cases. They provide valuable community service assistance by partnering with local ranchers and farmers to deter crimes which have a negative impact on the agricultural community. The unit works daily to educate the community on how to properly care for their livestock. They routinely make contact with local farmers and attend meetings to make sure they are up-to-date on agricultural crimes.

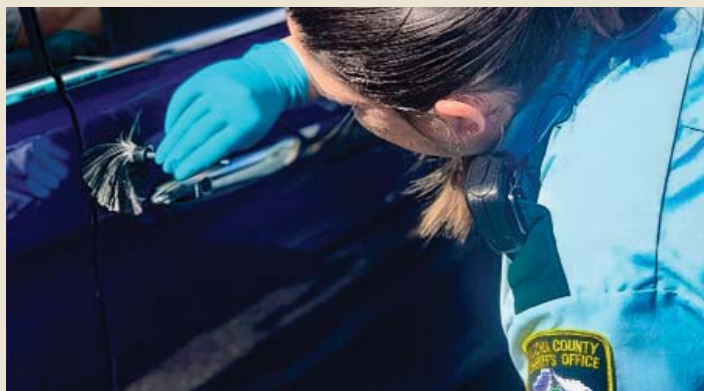


Rural Services Unit Impound Facility

In addition to working with local farmers and livestock owners in the community, RSU has an airboat, which was purchased by the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, and is used to provide law enforcement on our waterways and as a way to provide county environmental workers access to otherwise inaccessible areas of environmental concern.

Field Service Technicians (FSTs)

ACSO has utilized field service technicians since 1996. The program was created to help assist patrol deputies with non-emergency and not-in-progress calls. The types of calls that Patrol Division FSTs handle include identity theft, credit card fraud, burglaries to homes, vehicles and some businesses; thefts, and traffic problems to include minor traffic crashes. FSTs are not sworn and do not carry firearms. They wear light-green uniforms and respond in marked units.



An FST dusts for prints.

By utilizing civilian FSTs to respond to minor incidents, our sworn deputies are available for in-progress and emergency calls. While FSTs are not always the

first responders on a scene, they do assist deputies with emergency calls, large-scale events, and major disasters, such as a hurricane or multi-vehicle traffic crashes by helping with traffic direction, bringing supplies (water and/or food) to scenes, and providing transportation.

Quality Control

Quality Control is responsible for ensuring that all case reports that involve criminal charges are reviewed and prepared properly for distribution to the State Attorney's Office and the court system. Quality Control is also responsible for reviewing reports at the request of the Property Unit and Evidence Section to see if property or evidence is eligible for auction or destruction, assisting ACSO's victim advocates with domestic violence reports and Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) screens, and assisting other areas of the agency when court-related clarification is needed.

Reserve Unit

The Reserve Unit consists of CJSTC-certified law enforcement officers that volunteer their time and talents to the agency and community. Members of the Reserve Unit provide additional personnel in situations such as natural disasters, emergencies, special events, or in supplementing regular law enforcement operations.

ACSO encourages and welcomes citizens' interest in the Reserve Unit. Service as a reserve deputy offers training, challenge, excitement, teamwork, and opportunities for special assignments. If you are ready to make a difference in our community, visit our website at <https://acso.us/reserve-unit/> for additional information or to apply.

School Crossing Guards

School Crossing Guards serve a vital public safety role at ACSO. There are 20 locations throughout the county where ACSO crossing guards assist children who bike or walk to school to safely cross busy intersections. Many of the crossing guards are retired and want to give back to the community. They take the time to get to know the children and act as positive role models. The school crossing guards share in the children's accomplishments and help in their times of struggle. They work in all types of weather and traffic to keep your children safe.

Teleserve

Teleserve handles low priority/low danger calls that do not require the presence of a deputy or field service technician on scene.

Patrol Division

- *Captain Joe VanGorder (Team I) and*
- *Captain Josh Crews (Team II)*

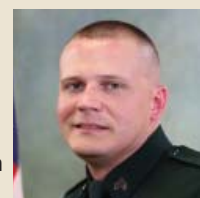
The Patrol Operations Division provides the core responsibilities entrusted to law enforcement by the citizens of Alachua County. Patrol units are the front-line response to a variety of dangerous calls, representing the only available lifeline for many citizens.

Patrol deputies are responsible for the preliminary response to calls for service, traffic enforcement, street-level vice and narcotics enforcement, preliminary and follow-up investigations, and preventative patrol. The men and women of the Patrol Operations Division are assigned to one of two teams that are each divided into two shifts: Days and Nights. Patrol deputies work 12-hour shifts to provide services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Each shift is headed by a watch commander at the rank of lieutenant. Our current (2024) watch commanders are shown below.



Team I Days

Lieutenant
Rich LaLonde



Team II Days

Lieutenant
Marvin Gunn



Team I Nights

Lieutenant
Eric Hester



Team II Nights

Lieutenant
Chris Sims

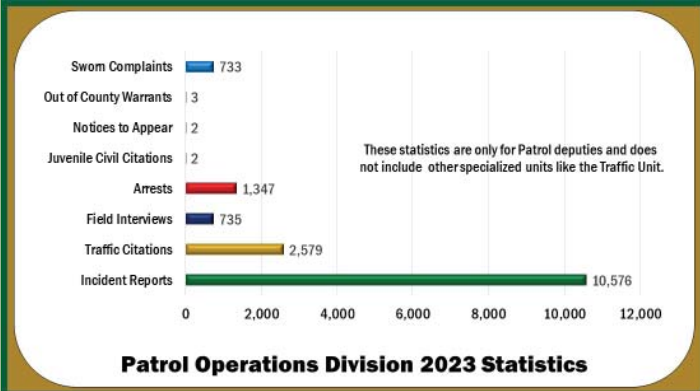
Members of the Patrol Operations Division respond in marked patrol vehicles and can be seen in all areas of the county, including at community meetings and events.



Marked patrol vehicles



Sergeant PJ Mauldin helps out Santa for an event.



Mental Health Co-Responders

This specialized patrol response group consists of two deputy sheriffs with additional mental health training who are paired with master's level clinicians employed by Meridian Behavioral Health Services. They provide immediate on scene support, counseling, early trauma intervention, and make service referrals for citizens experiencing a mental health crisis. Their goal is to deflect citizens with chronic mental health and substance abuse-related issues from becoming entangled in the criminal justice system.

Aviation Unit

- Captain Joe VanGorder

The Sheriff's Office Aviation Unit was originally established in 1996 as a cooperative effort between the Alachua County Sheriff's Office and the Gainesville Police Department. The Sheriff's Office took over sole operation of the unit in 2021 and rebranded it as the Sheriff's Office Aviation Unit. Despite the name change, the unit continues to operate two OH-58 helicopters, both of which were obtained from the U.S. military surplus program and are maintained with forfeiture funds.

In addition to being responsible for countywide air support, including all municipalities, the Aviation Unit routinely assists other county, state, and federal agencies such as Gainesville and Alachua County Fire

Rescue, Department of Forestry, Code of Enforcement, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).



Aviation Unit Air-1 at a community event

During 2023, Aviation Unit members flew 194.2 hours and worked 152 calls for service with 10 call outs, resulting in 29 suspects arrested and 14 missing and/or endangered persons located. The unit assisted other agencies 32 times and participated in 13 static displays.

One of those flights occurred in September 2023, when the Aviation Unit assisted the U.S. Secret Service with President Biden's visit to view damage caused by Hurricane Idalia. The unit flew a Secret Service member to do security sweeps before Air Force One arrived at the Gainesville Airport. The unit also conducted advanced flights in Live Oak prior to the President conducting his visits of damaged areas and his subsequent return to Gainesville.



Air Force One landed in Gainesville.

The helicopters are equipped with TRAKKA cameras which are an upgrade from the FLIR 8500. The TRAKKA is a high-definition camera system with its own moving map system which provides a much clearer picture compared to the analog FLIR (forward-looking infrared radar). The moving map is more accurate and is able to show lot, suite, and apartment number, allowing the

aircraft to fly at higher altitudes where it is safer for the crew and creates less noise for citizens on the ground.

In February 2023, the TRAKKA system was instrumental in helping to find a missing nine-year-old child with Down's Syndrome who was lost alone in a wooded area. Using the system, the Air-1 crew was able to locate the child, guide deputies to her location and safely back out again where the girl was reunited with her parents.



Visual display from the new TRAKKA camera

Special Operations Division

- Captain Jayson Levy

The Special Operations Division is home to several specialized units that support and enhance the primary functions of the Patrol Division, including: Extra-Duty, K-9, Special Teams, Traffic, and the Juvenile Relations Bureau.

Extra-Duty Coordinator

The Extra Duty Coordinator is responsible for the hiring of, and recordkeeping for, deputies and field service technicians working extra-duty tasks under contract upon request. Deputies and FSTs can be hired for security and traffic control details for special events, concerns, sporting events, and others.

The approximate number of hours worked by lieutenants, sergeants, deputies, and field service technicians during 2023 was 11,549. Some notable extra-duty contracts include: The Crossing Apartments, North Florida Regional Medical Center, and the University of Florida Athletic Association.

K-9 Unit

- Sergeant Mike Hurlocker

The K-9 Unit's primary responsibility is assisting patrol deputies in locating and apprehending wanted suspects. The unit also assists with building, narcotics, and bomb searches. ACSO has 13 FLECA-certified canines, 11 of which are assigned to Patrol shifts, with

the remaining two working as gun detection dogs in our schools.

During 2023, K-9 deputies and their handlers:

- Responded to 7,562 calls for service.
- Apprehended 12 suspects during callouts and an additional 346 suspects without callouts.
- Assisted other agencies 664 times.
- Performed 180 gun searches at our area schools.
- Gave six K-9 demonstrations to the general public.

The unit was able to acquire an additional K-9 during 2023. K-9 Duke and his assigned handler, Deputy Wes Riley, completed a 480-hour patrol school and a 24-hour detection school, both of which were completed in-house. The team was certified through the Florida Law Enforcement Canine Association (FLECA) before their assignment to a patrol shift handling calls for service.

Also in 2023, the K-9 Unit acquired treadmills for the K-9s.



K-9 Kane works out on the new treadmill.

Special Teams

- Administrative Lieutenant Ed Bennett

The Special Operations Division contains several specialized units with unique functions. The deputies who are assigned to these units train and participate in these units in addition to their regular assignments.

Bike Team

Bike Team deputies conduct proactive bike patrol on fully-equipped, specialized 29-inch Rockhopper bikes. You will often see them working during Gator football games, or during other large-scale events where a patrol vehicle would be impractical.

Bomb Squad

The Bomb Squad provides regional response for a variety of calls, ranging from suspicious devices to unexploded military ordnance. They also provide assistance to the SWAT team, FBI, and ATF units in

our regions with explosive support and mitigation. The team also provides hazardous materials and device detection and mitigation for large community events, including UF athletic events.



Bomb robot

Bomb Squad members are certified by the FBI and must complete 288 hours of training per year to remain certified. ACSO has one of only three bomb squads in Region 3.

During 2023, the Bomb Squad responded to 33 calls, preserving life and/or property in each instance. They also participated in 10 static displays for the citizens of Alachua County.

2023 Notable Bomb Team Calls:

- On April 25th, the Bomb Team assisted the Chiefland Police Department and the Dixie County Sheriff's Office with multiple incidents. One incident included a hazardous device located by Fire Rescue inside of a private residence after the initial device failed to burn down the structure.
- On September 2nd, the Bomb Team and the SWAT Team assisted the U.S. Secret Service during President Biden's landing in Gainesville prior to his tour of the devastation left by Hurricane Idalia in Suwannee County.

Critical Incident Stress Management Team

The Critical Incident Stress Management Team (CISM) is an 18-member unit comprised of personnel from law enforcement, telecommunications, and corrections. The team receives ongoing training in the field of trauma-related stress. They provide services not only for ACSO employees, but numerous public safety agencies throughout the region, assisting with the effects of dealing with traumatic incidents, such as fatal crashes and homicides, and the impact those events have on the lives of those who have dealt with such tragedies. During 2023, CISM members responded 27 times for in-house matters and two out-of-county incidents.

Crowd Management Team

The Crowd Management Team (CMT) responds to incidents involving civil unrest utilizing specially-trained personnel and specialty equipment. The CMT conducted approximately 68 hours of training during 2023.

Throughout the year, CMT responded to several incidents, to include missing persons, protests, and post-storm cleanup incidents. The CMT was deployed several times throughout 2023 in response to storm debris and disruption to local traffic. Notably, CMT deployed during Hurricane Idalia, providing 24-hours of continuous coverage throughout the storm.

Honor Guard

The Honor Guard participates in a variety of incidents, to include parades, award ceremonies, and the posting of colors at community events. The unit is also called upon to participate in funerals, rendering honors to family and friends of fellow law enforcement officers, both active and retired.



Honor Guard

Honor Guard members participated in a total of 24 events during 2023, including 11 funerals, two law enforcement ceremonies, four parades, five opening ceremonies, and two other events. Members also participated in 32 hours of training during 2023.

Marine Operations/Underwater Recovery Team

The Marine Operations/Underwater Recovery Team (MO/URT) responds to a variety of emergency and non-emergency calls for service on Alachua County waterways. Examples of MO/URT callouts include waterborne search and rescue operations for missing swimmers and boaters, underwater search and recovery for drowning victims, and the recovery of submerged evidence.

The MO/URT team also patrols the county's lakes, rivers, and other waterways; conducts boating and water safety education and awareness campaigns, and

conducts patrol operations during all major holidays to promote safe boating operations.



Marine Operations/Underwater Recovery Team (MO/URT)

2023 MO/URT Highlights

- Responded to 24 emergency call-outs.
- Conducted 120 hours of routine training.
- Participated in 10 safety/enforcement details, two pre-planned dive operations, and five static displays for community events.
- Made approximately 600 citizen contacts.
- Searched for and recovered firearms for ACSO CID, the Levy County Sheriff's Office, FDLE, Clay County Sheriff's Office, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Motor Unit

The Motor Unit is staffed by deputies who are trained and certified in the operation of motorcycles for law enforcement applications. Each deputy is assigned a Harley Davidson motorcycle, used for specialized missions that a larger vehicle would not be suitable for, such as escorting visiting football teams during all UF home football games, and providing funeral escorts for dignitaries and fallen military service members. During 2023, the unit participated in 34 events, and five funerals. Some of the notable events the unit participated in include static displays at the Newberry High School Criminal Justice Expo, the Archer Toy Drive, and Relay for Life. The unit also participated in



Motor Unit at a local concert

the Special Olympics Torch Run and several parades.

Also during 2023, the unit conducted 154 hours of routine training and eight hours of specialized training.

Negotiations Response Team

The Negotiations Response Team (NRT) responds to incidents involving hostage situations, barricaded subjects, individuals threatening suicide, and other situations where lives are endangered and negotiations may resolve the incident without injury. NRT members perform the unique function of attempting to negotiate the surrender of barricaded persons/hostage takers while still ensuring the safety of hostages.

NRT members participated in 64 hours of regular monthly training. Additionally, five team members attended the 40-hour Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators (FAHN) Conference.

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team

SWAT responds to calls requiring specialized training and equipment, such as serving high-risk arrest and search warrants, responding to hostage rescues, and armed barricaded subjects and other hazardous incidents. The SWAT Team participated in 37 tactical operations and community events during 2023, including the service of 20 high-risk search warrants. Members worked nine dignitary protection details, and responded to six barricaded subjects.



SWAT Team training for an active shooter

SWAT members conduct 16 hours of training each month to stay current. Snipers assigned to the SWAT team must complete an additional eight hours of training per month. In February, members attended a weeklong in-house training and in August, they attended a weeklong training event at Camp Blanding in neighboring Clay County. In total, SWAT members conducted approximately 260 hours of training for operators with an additional 96 hours for snipers.

The team believes in continuing education from outside vendors in order to stay relevant in the latest tactical responses and critical incident management.

Notably, SWAT Commander Lieutenant Richard Howell and Assistant SWAT Commander Sergeant Tyler Cook attended the National Tactical Officer's Association Training Conference in Aurora, Colorado.

Two SWAT members participated in the Florida SWAT Association Spring Shootout and four members competed in the International Security Academy skills competition and placed 1st.

Traffic Unit

The Traffic Unit conducts high-liability enforcement throughout the county and routinely works areas that statistically show higher volumes of violators and safety concerns where crashes are more prevalent. Throughout the year, the Traffic Unit also works details over a number of holiday weekends when there is a spike in motorists traveling through our county.

Unlike the majority of ACSO's specialized units, deputies are assigned to the Traffic Unit full-time. During 2023, they issued 5,395 citations, 1,946 warnings, wrote 119 incident reports, attended 172 criminal traffic court dates, and arrested 67 individuals.

Traffic Unit members also serve on other special teams, such as the SWAT Team, Bomb Team, and CMT, which often pulls them from their full-time duties. Throughout 2023, the unit assisted the Patrol Operations Division, Juvenile Relations Bureau, and the Judicial Services and Training Division. They also participated in several special details, assisting with and expanding coverage for other units. For example, members assisted the Patrol Division on 80 days, the Court Security Bureau on 15 days, the Juvenile Relations Bureau on 57 days and the Training Bureau on three days.

Juvenile Relations Bureau

- Lieutenant Matt Yakubsin

The Juvenile Relations Bureau (JRB) is the home to programs centered on the youth of Alachua County.

School Resource Deputy Program

The ACSO School Resource Deputy (SRD) Program provides law enforcement and campus security duties on school campuses. SRDs also work to educate students in areas of crime prevention, personal safety, substance abuse, and Florida State Statutes while at the same time providing counseling to students. SRDs also assist in the gathering of information about criminal activity and potential problems within the schools or community and provide law enforcement assistance to school personnel, students, and parents.

As outlined in the contract, the School Board of

Alachua County (SBAC) pays \$1,234,233 as its share of funding the SRD program (19 SRDs, one float SRD, two firearm canine handlers, three sergeants, and one lieutenant) for the 2023-2024 school year. This includes the regular 180-day school year, third grade reading camps, and other summer school sessions where students are attending scheduled classes.

During the school year of 2022-2023, there were a couple of deputy school assignment changes. At no time were any schools left uncovered. In times that a deputy was away due to leave or training, a supervisor ensured that the school was covered. The current (2024) SRD school assignments are listed below.

Supervisors: Lieutenant Matt Yakubsin Sergeant Charles Hunt Sergeant PJ Mauldin Sergeant Peter King			
School	Deputy or Deputies Assigned	School	Deputy Assigned
High Schools		Middle Schools	
Buchholz	Teameika Trueluck & Javier Contreras	Fort Clarke	Carlos Casanova
Eastside	Chris Bennett & Richard Roberts	Kanapaha	David Brown
Hawthorne	Josh Mitchell	Oak View	Robert Campbell
Newberry	Michael Ricks	Float	Supervisors
Elementary Schools			
Archer	Tommy Willcox	Meadowbrook	Blaine Anderson
Chiles	Ivan Useche	Newberry	Jack Huffman
Hidden Oak	Jack Miller	Shell	Ben Caouette
Idylwild	Sheena Larry	Terwilliger	Stephen Taylor
Lake Forest	Marquise Brathwaite	Wiles	Mike Rodenwoldt

School Resource Deputy School Assignments

SRDs completed 854 case reports between August 1, 2022 and July 31, 2023. Of those case reports, 264 resulted in charging documents: 97 arrest reports, 105 sworn complaints, and 62 juvenile civil citations.

Gun Detection K-9s

JRB Gun Detection K-9s Gauge and Ruger are on a mission to reduce the presence of weapons on school campuses across Alachua County. Along with their human partners, Deputies Howard and Griffeth, these highly-trained K-9s are assigned to the Juvenile Relations Bureau for one purpose: to detect and remove firearms from our schools.

These specially-equipped K-9 teams provide a valuable resource in investigating tips regarding weapons on campuses. They can cover more areas and objects in less time than traditional search methods. Besides



K-9 Ruger

K-9 Gauge

searching faster and more efficiently, the K-9 teams conduct their searches in a far less invasive manner. During the 2022-2023 school year, the teams conducted 127 searches at our county schools.

2023 Washington, D.C., Safety Patrol Trip

ACSO, in conjunction with Educational Tours, Inc., hosted the 45th Annual Washington, D.C., Safety Patrol trip in June 2023. A total of 1,200 Safety Patrol members and chaperones attended the trip to celebrate the students' year of service to their respective schools with a first-class civics lesson and history tour in our nation's capital.



Safety patrollers visited Washington, D.C.

Florida Sheriffs Association Teen Driver Challenge

Vehicular crashes are the number one cause of death among young adults. To reduce this threat to our youth population, the Teen Driver Challenge provides young drivers with hands-on experience in proven exercises and safe driving techniques. This course provides classroom activities and driving instruction by certified instructors from the Alachua County Sheriff's Office at no cost to the participants.

During 2022, eight classes took place with 70 students completing the course. During 2023, the participants more than doubled from 2022, by holding 16 classes, with 159 students completing the course. During this time, we added eight new Teen Driver Challenge instructors to our program.

FL Sheriffs Youth Camp Sorenson

Yearly, the Alachua County Sheriff's Office SRDs participate in the open house event at the FL Sheriffs Youth Ranch in Live Oak. The event consists of a rodeo and open house to all, as well as a homecoming for former residents of the ranch. Several sheriffs' offices from our area assist by sending deputies for security, traffic control, and to interact with the juvenile residents. For this event, deputies either stay in cottages on the property or bring their personal campers and stay

from Friday night to Sunday. The deputies patrol the campground and parking lot using ATVs.

ACSO sent eight deputies from July 3-July 9, 2023, to participate in the weeklong summer session. Numerous juveniles from Alachua County and surrounding counties attended this session. All of the deputies were assigned, along with a camp counselor, to different groups of juveniles/campers. The goal was to assist the counselors in teaching and mentoring the juveniles through the numerous activities and lesson throughout the week. Activities included fishing, biking, team-building exercises, sports, swimming, ropes courses, crafts, and public speaking. Throughout the week, numerous law enforcement agencies' special teams (i.e. Bomb, MO/URT, SWAT, etc.) responded and provided demonstrations and displays of law enforcement equipment.

The role of the deputies at camp is to build relationships outside of conventional law enforcement between youths and law enforcement. During the week, deputies dress in civilian attire to be seen as regular people and reduce tension and/or anxiety among the juveniles who might have had prior bad experiences or pre-conceived notions of law enforcement. Deputies spend both group and individual time with all the kids and even have rewards and special evening parties with their assigned group. At the end of the week, deputies dress in their "Class A" uniforms and provide a parade with patrol vehicles for the camp graduates/juveniles, allowing the youth to see them as deputies/law enforcement in order to put a face with the uniform. This experience helps build lasting relationships and trust between our youth and law enforcement.

Explorer Post 983

The ACSO Explorer Post 983 is an active member of the Florida Sheriffs Explorers Association (FSEA). The FSEA is an arm of the Florida Sheriffs Association. The Explorer Post allows qualified members ages 14 to 21 to explore the law enforcement profession. Explorers attend bi-weekly meetings and training throughout the year. These meetings and training sessions are conducted by Juvenile Relations Bureau personnel that are also agency instructors in high-liability topics. Explorers may participate in "ride-alongs" with Patrol deputies and familiarize themselves with other divisions within the ACSO. In 2023, the Explorer Post had eight active Explorers in the program.

Explorers attend weekend long FSEA delegate meetings and training conferences in the spring, fall, and winter of each year. Explorers participate in the weeklong state meetings and competitions in the



Members of Explorer Post 983 at the delegate conference in Orlando.

summer of each year.

Explorers also volunteer community service hours for events in Alachua County. In 2023, the Explorers volunteered services at events including Gatornationals, the Alachua County Law Enforcement Memorial, and the Officer-Down Memorial Workout. The Post utilizes deputies and supervisors from the Juvenile Relations Bureau as advisors. Currently, Sergeant Charles Hunt is the supervisor in charge of the Explorer program.

Stop the Bleed Initiative

Six classes were conducted in a partnership with the School Board of Alachua County. The classes were held at Oak View Middle School, Newberry High School Criminal Justice Magnet Program, Hidden Oak Middle School, Young Marines, and Oak Hall School. Approximately 180 students and staff members completed the training in basic medical procedures and basic life support and could potentially add to the instructor base to help this life-saving program.



Training aid for the Stop the Bleed Initiative

Deputy/Youth Dialogue

Deputy/Youth Dialogues offer Alachua County high school students an opportunity to spend an evening with ACSO deputies having an open and honest conversation about law enforcement. As an added bonus, the youth get the opportunity to educate deputies on how to better communicate with them on

the street and earns them community service hours towards graduation. These programs are held at the county-served high schools and for community groups.



Deputy/Youth Dialogue - Santa Fe College - November 2023

Juvenile Relations Bureau 2023 Highlights

Here are some of the activities, events, and major calls that occurred between August and December 2023 that JRB was a part of:

- The weekend of September 8-10, JRB deputies took five of our Explorers to the delegate conference in Orlando, Florida.
- On Monday, September 18, both Buchholz High School and Kanapaha Middle School received bomb threats. Both schools were shut down and searched by multiple K-9 teams for most of the day. Both schools were closed for the day due to the disruption. JRB deputies, in conjunction with CID detectives, identified and charged a subject for the threats at both schools. The suspect plead guilty in court and was given an extensive punishment.
- On November 14 and 16, JRB deputies and Explorers assisted ABT in conducting compliance checks on local businesses that sell alcohol and tobacco. This operation consisted of over 50 businesses checked for compliance with those out of compliance receiving citations.
- On November 20, JRB assisted the ACSO command staff and other units to help pass out Thanksgiving turkeys and meals to less fortunate community members.
- JRB had their "Shop with the Sheriff" event on December 13 and 14. This year, we were able to help with over 26 kids from elementary to high school.
- JRB is currently testing collapsible rifles with backpacks from various weapon manufacturers to help secure and protect our children.
- JRB conducted three prolific juvenile offender checks over the first few months of the new school year. Over 80 juveniles were checked on, arrested for warrants, or verified with the assistance of the

DJJ.

- JRB deputies worked numerous football sporting events the last five months, helping keep local school teams and their thousands of guests attending these events safe and secure.
- During 2023, JRB deputies assisted the Patrol Division on numerous occasions due to staffing issues. This year, 22 out of 25 deputies and supervisors assisted Patrol, totaling 1,449.5 hours on top of their normally scheduled workdays as school resource deputies.

Teen Court

- Youth Services Manager Olivia Hollier

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office Teen Court program is a juvenile diversion and alternative sentencing program that offers non-violent first-time offenders ages 7 to 17 an important second chance, while still teaching them the value of personal integrity, accountability, and responsibility to their community. The program is one of the primary tools used in addressing juvenile delinquency and prevention in Alachua County. Teen Court has been serving the youth and citizens in Alachua County since its inception in 1996, helping to facilitate the needs of local school administrators, faculty and students, as well as ACSO school resource deputies, patrol deputies, and detectives. Furthermore, Teen Court enhances the ability of the Juvenile Resource Bureau to coordinate efforts with the State Attorney's Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, and Court Administration, as well as with other prevention/diversion programs, community agencies and educational institutions. Peer case reviews are held throughout the year at the Alachua County Criminal Courthouse.

In 2023, a total of 305 juvenile offenders had their cases resolved through Teen Court instead of traditional criminal justice programs. Along with helping the youth in our community, the Teen Court staff shared their knowledge and experience at FLDJJ's Restoring Hope Training Summit in Orlando. The staff attended the conference and networked with other programs from around the state.

This summer Teen Court and HPW partnered together to present the Youth Summit 2023. Similar to years past, it was conducted over two one-week sessions, each week designated for middle school or high school youth. During the summit the Teen Court staff provided transportation for each participant to the summit in the morning and home after the day had concluded. Breakfast, lunch and snacks were provided each day.

Each day was a different experience around Alachua County. Trips included: The Alachua County Sheriff's Aviation Unit, Santa Fe College, UF Dairy Farm, UF IFAS Equine program, UF housing tour, Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, CADE Museum, Natural History Museum, HPW Town Hall: Escape Room, and the A. Quinn Jones Museum. The youth began each day at the Alachua County Sheriff's office, who generously provided a space for us to convene in the mornings and afternoons to prepare for the day. The experiences that the youth participated in over their week illuminated the vast array of possibilities and opportunities our county holds. Most of the youth enrolled did not know a majority of the places visited even existed. The Teen Court program's goals are to instill pride and motivation in our youth by showing them how to interact and become part of their community in fun and interesting ways.



IFAS Equine Unit

Teen Court also partnered with HPW again for the 5k Relay for Life, where youth involved in the Teen Court program volunteered to receive community service hours to help set up, participate in, and breakdown the event. The event was also an educational experience about the dangers of opioids and the resources and prevention methods available to those who need it.



Relay for Life 5K

Department of Support Services

- *Major Chad Scott*

The Department of Support Services is comprised of the Criminal Investigations Division and the Judicial Services and Training Division.

Criminal Investigations Division

- *Captain Jon Schabbruch*

The Criminal Investigations Division is the investigative component of the Sheriff's Office and is comprised of the Major Crimes Bureau, Property Investigations Bureau, and the Alachua County Traffic Interdiction and Organized Narcotics (ACTION) Unit. The division also houses a Data Support Administrator and the False Alarm Reduction Unit.

CID detectives commonly partner with other local, state, and federal agencies since it is common for crime to span several jurisdictions. CID detectives also work closely with the 8th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office before and during the prosecution process. The detectives and support personnel assigned to this division are highly-skilled and highly-trained to meet the demands of complex and long-term investigations. They attend dozens of classes annually to remain current regarding the ever-changing technology used to investigate criminal activity.

CID staffs after-hours detectives and a detective is always designated on-call, 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week. Large scale, unexpected, and immediate detective call-outs on weekends and early mornings are common within CID and our detectives answer those calls with the utmost professionalism.

Data Support Administrator

- *Jennifer Altenburger*

The Data Support Administrator conducts advanced data analyses and evaluation for ACSO and agencies supported through the Combined Communications Center by identifying trends and developing strategies for increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the agency's operational units, as well as providing data for quarterly and annual reports and agency accreditation for ACSO and all of our partner agencies. In addition, this position serves as a backup for the agency's CAD team, the Crime Analysis Unit, the RMS Administrator, and the Office of Jail Intelligence.

False Alarm Reduction Unit

The False Alarm Reduction Unit was established to

regulate and reduce the number of false alarms within the city of Gainesville and the unincorporated areas of Alachua County. FARU administers all Alachua County and city of Gainesville alarm ordinances from one central office within the Combined Communications Center. FARU's main function is to reduce the number of false alarms that law enforcement and firefighters respond to each year. In addition, its manager proactively works larger alarm sites (apartment complexes, schools, hospitals, and housing authorities, for example) in tandem with responder agencies to formulate holistic approaches to correcting behaviors and technical issues that result in large numbers of alarms. The goal is to reduce alarm fines and responses to the alarm site while enabling better resource management for the responder agencies.

Major Crimes Bureau

- *Lieutenant David Butscher*

The Major Crimes Bureau focuses on crimes against people and is comprised of the Persons Squad, Special Victims Unit, and a cold case detective.

Persons Squad

- *Sergeant Michael Cooper*

The Persons Squad investigates homicides, attempted homicides, aggravated batteries, death investigations, arsons with injuries, robberies, and other sensitive matters. In 2023, detectives assigned to the Persons Squad conducted both follow-up investigations and initiated additional cases focused on apprehending individuals for violent felony offenses, including murder, armed robbery, kidnapping, and a host of other crimes. MCB detectives were assigned 137 individual cases and filed 33 separate charging documents against suspects in those cases. Notably, the suspect in the Johnny Walker homicide was indicted on January 17, 2024.

Special Victims Unit

- *Sergeant Sandi Myers*

SVU detectives are focused on some of our most vulnerable victims, investigating crimes involving victims of sexual battery, child abuse, human trafficking, domestic violence, missing persons, and certain crimes against the elderly. The unit has one detective completely dedicated to investigating intimate partner violence cases. Another detective is assigned to investigate internet crimes against children (ICAC).

In 2023, the exceptional detectives assigned to the SVU received 216 cases for follow-up and initiated

another 98 cases against sex offender/predators and offenders accused of sexual battery, child abuse and molestation, and possession of child pornography. The SVU charged over 90 suspects, resulting in more than 34 on view arrests and over 70 sworn complaints. An additional 70 cases were closed without charges being filed. The SVU detectives executed search warrants, led children and their families through countless compassionate interviews, and arrested suspects for crimes that included sexual battery on children, human trafficking, domestic battery, and sexual battery on adult victims.

Victim Advocate Unit

- Lead Victim Advocate Alison Glover

ACSO has four victim advocates who report to the SVU sergeant. ACSO's victim advocates are grant-funded through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant. They provide services for victims of child physical abuse, child sexual abuse, domestic violence, adult sexual assault, elder abuse, robbery, assault, property crimes, harassment, stalking, and surviving family members of homicide victims. Services include first response and crisis counseling; follow-up contact, information, and referral; criminal justice system support, assistance with crime victim's compensation forms, personal advocacy, injunction assistance, case management, and telephone and letter contacts.



From Left: Advocate Dayana Georgieva, Advocate Lola Arroyo, Lead Advocate Alison Glover, Intern Maria Cespedes, Intern Sydney Lemmerman, and Advocate Jordan Malecki

During 2023, SVU's victim advocates helped approximately 593 victims with victim's compensation applications and assisted a total of 7,778 victims with information regarding the criminal justice process and referral to other service programs. Advocates also accompanied over 63 clients to emergency medical care, medical forensic exams, and forensic interviews. They also provided assistance with immigration forms, transportation, and interpreter services.

Cold Case Unit

- Cold Case Investigator Todd Hand

Sheriff Emery A. Gainey remains committed to the missing and murdered. Formed in 2007, the Cold Case Unit's mission is to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves, seeking answers and justice for victims and their families. ACSO welcomes the public's help in solving cold cases. You can find a list of our cold cases on our website at <https://acso.us/cold-cases/>. If you have any information regarding these cases, please contact Cold Case Investigator Todd Hand at (352) 367-4164 or email him at thand@acso.us. If you want to remain anonymous, call CrimeStoppers at (352) 372-STOP.

Forensics Unit

- Forensics Manager Katie Beck

As seen on TV, crime scene investigators accomplish the amazing technical feats that lead to the most elusive arrests. In 2023, ACSO's Forensic Unit processed 311 crime scenes and handled another 1,209 requests to analyze evidence seized and brought back to the Sheriff's Office forensics lab.



Crime Scene Investigators Brianna Gill and Julia Friedrich demonstrate forensics techniques to a Girl Scout group

Latent print examiners assigned to the Forensics Unit compared 1,296 sets of fingerprints related to 145 separate cases, identifying 365 previously unknown individuals. Of note, the expertise of the LPE personnel enabled detectives to identify a murder victim who was found in a parking lot without any identification.

Property Investigations Bureau

- Lieutenant William Beck

The Property Investigations Bureau (PIB) is focused primarily on crimes involving personal property. The bureau is comprised of the Property Crimes Unit and the CID Investigative Support Squad.

Property Crimes Unit

- Sergeant James Ferguson

Detectives assigned to this unit investigate personal property-related crimes, including cases involving guns, pawns, and financial crime. During 2023, PIB detectives were assigned 330 new property crimes cases, including financial crimes cases. Criminal charges were filed 70 times via arrest or sworn complaint against 68 defendants. Detectives investigated these cases while continuing investigations on cases from 2022. Of the 2023 property crimes cases that were assigned, 160 were closed. Property and financial crimes detectives jointly recovered approximately \$297,519.80 worth of property, which was returned to victims.

Financial Crimes

The financial crimes detective investigates cases involving credit card fraud, identity theft, schemes to defraud, and other white collar crimes. Detective Travis Parsons works closely with the United States Secret Service, financial institutions, and local businesses to identify and charge suspects in these crimes.

Financial crimes accounted for 164 cases of the PIB's 2023 case-assignment workload, with 32 arrests/sworn complaints; however, the number of charging documents is not an accurate reflection of the amount of case effort involved and coordination required for successful prosecution of these financial crimes.

An additional 81 cases were closed for a combination of reasons, such as occurring in another jurisdiction, civil cases with no criminal action, or having insufficient leads for any further follow-up. It should be noted that because the perpetrators of financial crimes are often known to or closely associated with their victims, an unwillingness on the part of victims to press charges once the circumstances are known affects the number of cases cleared by arrest or sworn complaint. Detective Parsons is working diligently on the remaining 51 cases.

Firearms/Pawns

This detective reviews the previous week's firearm pawn transactions from each pawn shop in the county, to include each municipality, to ensure the person is not a convicted felon or subject to an injunction prohibiting them from owning or possessing firearms. Investigations into gun crimes vary from guns recovered by deputies to recovered stolen guns and numerous other facets of gun crimes.

Patrol Division cases where firearms were used or recovered are reviewed to see if the suspects are

candidates for federal prosecution. Pawn shops are contacted approximately one to five times a month for several reasons, including: investigating firearms pawned by convicted felons, stolen firearms, placing holds on any property, and conducting questioning regarding suspicious firearm pawn transactions.

Detective Michaels also assists the Evidence Section with returning firearms to theft and burglary victims. The number of firearms returned each month varies depending on how many firearms are cleared to be returned.

Investigative Support Squad

- Sergeant Tyler Cook

CID's Investigative Support Squad has two primary missions. The first is to serve as the operational or enforcement component of the Criminal Investigations Division. On any given day, they may be called upon to conduct surveillance, make a physical arrest, or establish a subject's daily patterns for a search warrant. Secondly, the unit focuses its efforts on known offenders based on active intelligence. These offenders include gang members, sex offenders, and prolific offenders (both adult and juvenile).

The ISS has several specialized detective positions, including:

- A gang investigator who aids in documenting gang members and their known associates. This allows for enhancements in criminal prosecutions.
- An FBI Task Force Officer who investigates organized criminal activity within the county.
- A sex offender/predator detective who monitors FDLE's sex offender/predator registry to ensure that these offenders/predators are complying with Florida's registration requirements.
- A jail intelligence detective who investigates offenses related to jail contraband and actions jail intelligence which is typically received via the jail's tip line.
- A digital forensics detective who analyzes electronic devices seized in criminal investigations to discover the digital "fingerprints" left behind by suspects. Computers, cellphones, tablets, vehicle GPS systems, and many online applications can yield evidence necessary for the successful prosecution of today's tech-savvy criminals. During 2023, Detective Qualmann examined a total of 286 devices for criminal content.

2023 Investigative Support Squad Highlights

Over the course of 2023, detectives assigned to the

CID Investigative Support Squad conducted several operations that resulted in multiple arrests.

- Detectives conducted an operation in the Kanapaha Pines area in relation to several stolen motorcycles and other property. The operation provided multiple leads to the Gainesville Police Department, enabling GPD detectives to obtain a warrant.
- A joint operation with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), the U.S. Attorney's Office, Gainesville Police Department, and the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit was conducted over the course of five days and resulted in five offenders arrested for solicitation of sexual intercourse with



Detectives man the phones during a joint ICAC operation

minors. The operation was very successful and led to the identification of many out-of-area offenders for the U.S. Attorney's Office and FDLE to follow up on.

- A joint retail theft operation with FDLE called "November Blitz" was conducted over the course of two days, resulting in 16 offenders charged via sworn complaint or physical arrest for retail theft. This operation also yielded leads for a larger multiple county or possibly even a statewide investigation on a retail theft ring. The total amount of property recovered during this operation was \$3,198.
- The sex offender/predator detective conducted a joint sex offender operation with FDLE. Sergeant James Ferguson conducted over 75 sexual offender/predator checks over the course of five days. The operation resulted in 10 arrests.

Crime Analysis

Crime analysts are specially-trained civilian employees who provide investigative and analytical support to all areas of the agency by publishing a variety of bulletins and crime reports. They also compose photo line-ups, conduct research for detectives, and serve as liaisons to several outside agencies.

ACTION Unit

- Lieutenant John Harris

The Alachua County Traffic Interdiction and Organized Narcotics (ACTION) and Violent Crimes Unit conducts proactive investigations into narcotics trafficking in Alachua County culminating in civil and criminal prosecutions under federal, state, and local laws. This is accomplished through strict enforcement of street-level sales of narcotics in select community-targeted high drug areas; identification, disruption, prosecution, and dismantling of middle to upper-level well-organized and sophisticated narcotics trafficking organizations; and enforcement conducted by the Domestic Highway Enforcement Team (DHE) of laws violated by traffickers who are using the highways of Alachua County as a means of transport for their narcotics.



Domestic Highway Enforcement Team members
Deputy Jeffrey Stadnicki and his partner, K-9 Ozzy

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office recognizes the undeniable nexus between narcotics violators and violent/gun crimes. In response to this nexus, the ACTION Unit also commonly investigates narcotics-related gun and violent crimes to include overdose death investigations.

In 2023, the ACTION Unit seized approximately 142 pounds of cannabis, 303 grams of cocaine, 200 grams of opiates, 5.5 pounds of substitute cathinone, 323 grams of methamphetamine, 424 grams of other controlled substances, and 38 firearms. This resulted in 41 arrests and \$715,354.02 in US currency and other assets being seized that were obtained from or used in narcotics trafficking operations. The ACTION Unit also investigated 10 overdose deaths resulting in one indictment and three arrests (awaiting Grand Jury) of homicide suspects.

Judicial Services and Training Division

- Captain Steve Maynard

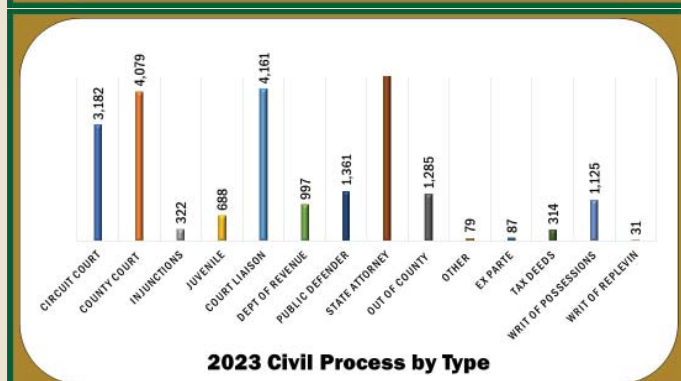
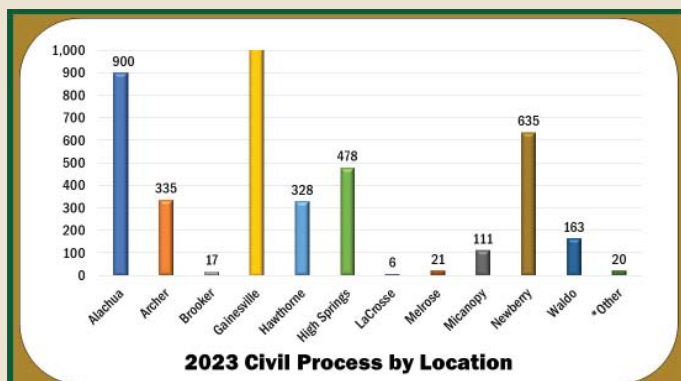
The Judicial Services and Training Division consists of the Civil Bureau, Court Security Bureau, Training Bureau, and the Warrants Bureau.

Civil Bureau

- Captain Kelvin Jenkins

The Civil Bureau is located in the Alachua County Administration Building in downtown Gainesville and is responsible for the service and enforcement of all types of judicial processes within Alachua County. Additionally, Civil Bureau deputies occasionally assist the Court Security Bureau with special events, exceptionally large trials, and personnel shortages.

During 2023, Civil Bureau staff received and attempted service on 25,544 civil processes. This is a 3.7% decrease from the 25,493 civil processes received in 2022. However, the number of attempts to serve those papers increased 1.7%, from 37,323 in 2022 to 37,963 in 2023. Bureau deputies served 1,613 enforceable writs, to include injunctions, risk protection orders, writs of possession, and levies. This is a 17% increase from the 1,377 enforceable documents served in 2022. Risk protection orders alone increased from 22 in 2022 to 37 in 2023, an increase of 68%. Evictions also saw an increase from 969 in 2022 to 1,125 in 2023, a 16% increase.



Court Security Bureau

- Lieutenant Chuck McCray

The Court Security Bureau has offices in both the Criminal and the Civil courthouses in downtown Gainesville. The deputies assigned to the bureau provide safety and security to the officers of the court, citizens, and staff members within the courthouses. Their mission is to serve and protect the citizens of Alachua County as they participate in the legal system. Court Security deputies provide high-level security and support, ensuring that all participants have their rights and freedoms protected while seeking justice. The Alachua County Family and Civil Justice Center handles all family and civil matters, such as domestic violence, juvenile cases, shelter hearings, and lawsuits. The Judge Stephen P. Mickle Criminal Courthouse handles all criminal cases, as well as drug, mental health, and veterans' court programs. The Court Security Bureau also provides security for monthly county commission meetings.

Deputies screen each visitor entering the courthouses through a comprehensive security station using x-ray machines and magnetometers. Approximately 177,000 individuals were screened during the 2023 calendar year while entering the courthouses.



Visitors are screened as they enter the courthouse

Court Security deputies staffed over 33,000 court cases during 2023. The Civil Courthouse staffed an excess of 9,324 cases and the Criminal Courthouse staffed more than 23,327 cases. This total does not include the cases that were held using the Zoom platform.

The bureau has also been tasked with assisting in the construction of a new justice center which will encompass both Criminal and Civil Courthouses, the State Attorney's Office, Public Defender, and the Civil Bureau Office. This multi-million dollar project is set to open in 2025.

Training Bureau

- Lieutenant Paul Hinson

The Training Bureau is responsible for over 40 in-house training programs, including in-service, remedial, supplemental, and Guardian training; all designed to enable employees and Guardians to perform their varied job tasks safely and effectively. Training programs are planned and managed in such a manner as to ensure compliance with the needs of each employee's job classification/description and the requirements of the position. The State of Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC) directives and applicable accreditation standards are used as guidelines for employee training opportunities provided by the ACSO.



Training Bureau personnel

In 2023, all law enforcement and corrections personnel completed CPR recertification and training in excited delirium and duty to intervene. Law enforcement also received training on open carry by civilians and continued to build on active shooter response with and without hostages, as well as building clearing skills.

The bureau had many accomplishments during the 2023 calendar year, including:

- Organized and managed two 23-week full-time Law Enforcement Basic Recruit Classes and two Corrections Basic Recruit Classes. The mini-academy coordinators organized and managed nine mini-academies for 23 law enforcement new hires and 10 corrections new hires.
- Qualified 74 law enforcement retirees for their permits to carry a concealed firearm nationwide.
- Taught civilian driving classes to 43 civilians, including field service technicians.

In 2023, private schools in Alachua County were approved to participate in the Guardian program. Two Guardian training courses were held and Alachua County now has 31 active Guardians in our charter and private schools.

Warrants Bureau

- Lieutenant Mike Hanson

The Warrants Bureau is responsible for receiving, processing, and maintaining active files, and executing all criminal arrest processes, civil arrest processes, and criminal summons. Warrants are generated by the Gainesville Police Department, University of Florida Police Department, State Attorney's Office, Alachua Police Department, High Springs Police Department, Alachua County Sheriff's Office, and Probation and Parole, as well as out-of-state and out-of-county sources. The Warrants Bureau is also responsible for the receiving and serving of Baker Act and Marchman Act Orders generated during normal work hours. During 2023, the bureau served a total of 2,373 warrants, 232 civil commitments, responded to Probation and Parole 164 times, and served 405 criminal adult summonses.

The Warrants Bureau coordinates the transportation of persons arrested on local arrest orders throughout the nation and conducts investigations for extradition hearings. The [transport investigator](#) works with private transport companies to coordinate nationwide prisoner pick-ups. During 2023, the transport investigator arranged for 702 inmates to be transported to the Alachua County Jail.

Fugitive cases are generated when an individual is arrested in another state on an Alachua County warrant, or when the individual is arrested in Alachua County for a warrant generated by an agency located outside of Florida. The fugitive process begins and is continued until the defendant is brought back into the jurisdiction of the court. In 2023, there were 109 new fugitive cases: 69 from Florida and 40 from other states. The [fugitive investigator](#) successfully closed 100 fugitive cases in 2023.

U.S. Marshals' Regional Fugitive Task Force

ACSO warrants investigators submitted 93 warrant cases to be adopted by the U.S. Marshals' Florida Regional Fugitive Task Force during 2023. Of those cases, two warrant cases were recalled by the courts and 81 were closed by arrest, which is an 89% arrest rate. Many of those arrestees are currently in our jail awaiting trial.

Warrants investigators worked 1,473 hours participating in joint law enforcement operations with the Florida Regional Fugitive Task Force. These hours were in addition to regular duty hours and involved investigating, locating, and apprehending fugitives who have active local, state, and federal warrants.

Employees of the Month/Year

Each month, supervisors throughout the agency nominate an employee, or group of employees, who have performed exceptionally well. Those nominations are voted on by the Command Staff and the winning employee or group is awarded \$100, paid by the agency. At the end of the year, all of the Employee of the Month nominees are voted on by the entire agency and the winner is named Employee of the Year and receives an award of \$300, paid by the Shining Light of Alachua County.

The **Employees of the Month for 2023** are:

- **January:** General Telecommunicator Paloma Danzy
- **February:** General Telecommunicators Luncinda Piggott and Deborah Purington
- **March:** Deputies Michael McKivigan, Carlton Litzkow, and Clayton Litzkow
- **April:** Deputy Jeffrey Finch
- **May:** Deputy Eric Pai
- **June:** Captain Kaley Behl
- **July:** Deputies Lexi Burks and Lloyd E. Smith
- **August:** Sergeants Kevin Davis and Andrew Davis; and Deputies Dillon Harris and Nicholas Aldous
- **September:** Deputies Dillon Harris, Joshua Meurer, Daniel Roca, and Lance Pallett
- **October:** Deputy Anthony Howard
- **November:** Administrative Specialist Tristan Kimerling and Detectives Peter Michaels, Travis Parsons, Chris Avery, Greg Guzman, Ryan DePete, and Justin Dillon
- **December:** Deputy James Leber and Detective Daniel Roca

The 2023 Employees of the Year are
Deputies Lexi Burks and Lloyd E. Smith



From left: Sheriff Gainey, Major Bessinger, Deputy Burks, Deputy Smith, Sgt. Kinsey, and Chief of Staff Moorhouse

Awards

One of the Sheriff's privileges is to honor employees and citizens who go above and beyond the call of duty to serve the community.

The **Lifesaving Award** is given to any employee, sworn or civilian, who without risk or harm to themselves rescues someone from the likelihood of certain death or renders first aid to a person whose life is in immediate jeopardy. The following employees received the Lifesaving Award during 2022:

- Lieutenant Eric Hutchinson
- Sergeant Monica Herrera
- Sergeant Collin Nobles
- Sergeant Taylor Redding
- Detention Officer John Charles
- Deputy Krishna Maharaj
- Detention Officer Brandi Mathis
- Deputy Daniel Roca
- Deputy Thomas Sapundjieff
- Deputy Shelaine Smith
- Deputy Alexander Valdez
- Deputy Davis Visconti x 2

The **Sheriff's Citation Award** is given to any employee, sworn or civilian, who has demonstrated long-term dedication and excellence while performing assigned duties; or to any person exemplifying the mission statements and vision of the agency through their commitment to excellence. Deputy Sheriff Thomas Willcox received the Sheriff's Citation Award in 2023.



From left: Lt. Matt Yakubsin, Sgt. PJ Mauldin, Deputy Thomas Willcox, Captain Jayson Levy, and Major Darrell Bessinger

The **Certificate of Commendation** is awarded to any employee or citizen for: (1) Excellence in duty performance by displaying alertness, efficiency and dedication; (2) duty performance which displays unusual thoroughness, conscientiousness, determination and initiative; (3) acts of law enforcement service above and beyond the call of duty; (4) outstanding law enforcement-related acts, or service to the community that results in a better ACSO-community relationship.

Civilians Brandi Griffis, Matthew Padgett, and Debra Pearson received the Civilian Certificate of Commendation.

The following ACSO employees received a Certificate of Commendation during 2023:

- Detective Sergeant Michael Cooper
- Sergeant Bryan Jones & K-9 Jerry
- Detention Sergeant Joshua Wallace
- Deputy Alex Acosta
- Deputy William Baker
- Detective Justin Dillon
- Deputy Joshua Kramer
- Deputy Casey Kumar
- Victim Advocate Jordan Malecki
- Deputy Mikell McKoy & K-9 Kaos
- Deputy Anthony Perez
- Deputy Victor Pino-Diaz
- Deputy Daniel Roca
- Deputy Jeffrey Stadnicki
- Deputy Kaifa Tyson
- Advanced Telecommunicator Jeanette Whitworth
- Telecommunicator Kourtney Williams
- Deputy Malcolm Wilson

The **Meritorious Service Award** (MSA) is given to any employee for: (1) Acts of bravery while preventing a serious crime or apprehending a person who committed a serious crime; (2) Performance of difficult law enforcement duties with unusual thoroughness, conscientiousness, determination and initiative.

During 2023, the MSA was awarded to:

- Detective William Black
- Detective Jake Barlow
- Deputy Michael Griffeth
- Sergeant Taylor Redding
- Detective Gregory Smith



Detective Sergeant Michael Cooper and Major Chad Scott



Major Chad Scott and Deputy Bryan Jones



Deputy Victor Pino-Diaz and Major Chad Scott



Major Chad Scott and Deputy Jeffrey Stadnicki



From left: Sheriff Emery Gainey, Captain Jon Schabrich, Detective Gregory Smith, and Major Chad Scott

WHERE LIFETIME CAREERS ARE LAUNCHED!



ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NOW HIRING



ACSO.US

