

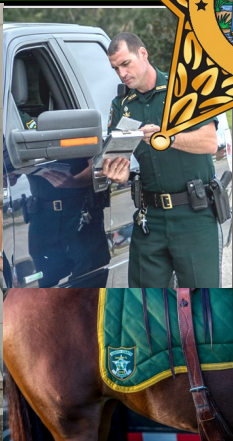
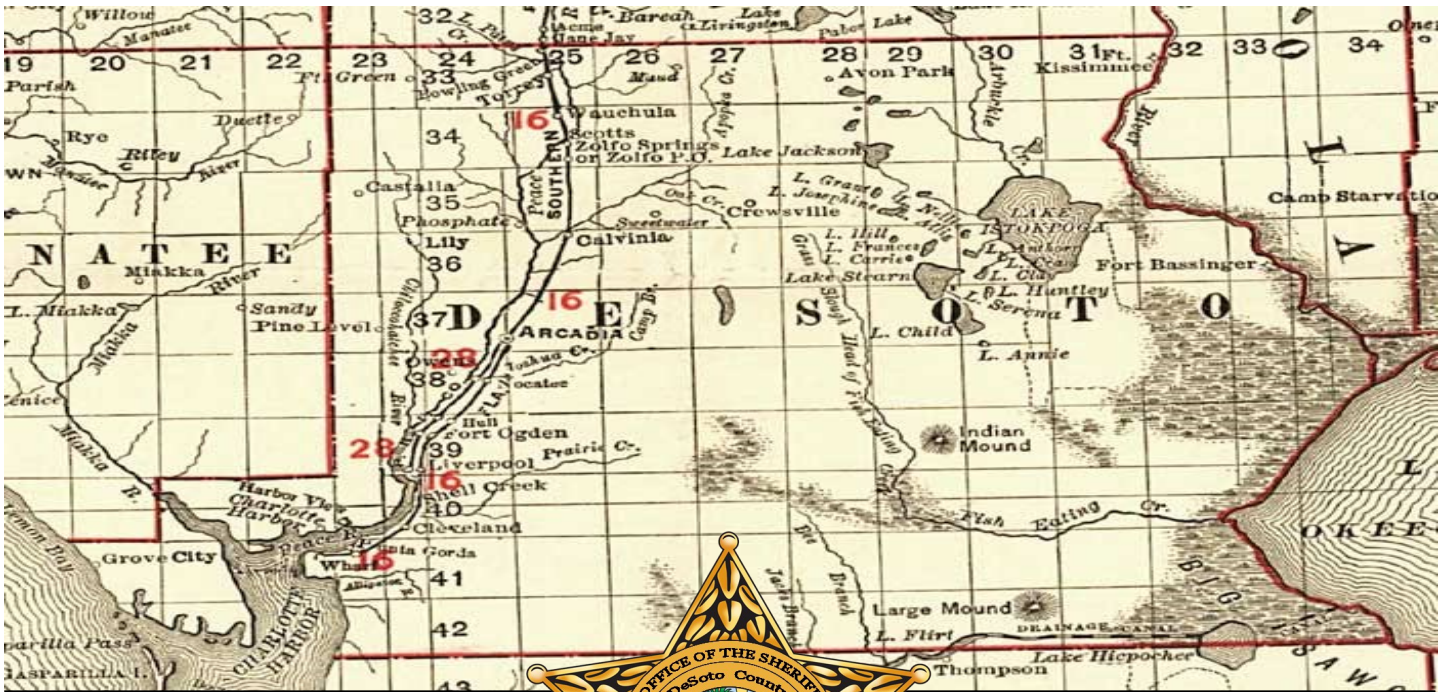
DESOTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 2017

ANNUAL REPORT

EXCELLENCE, INTEGRITY & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SHERIFF JAMES F. POTTER





DESOTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MISSION STATEMENT

"We, the men and women of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office, believe our fundamental duty is to serve and protect all citizens and guests of DeSoto County with fairness, compassion, honor, and respect.

We will strive for excellence, professionalism, integrity, community partnership and timeliness of service.

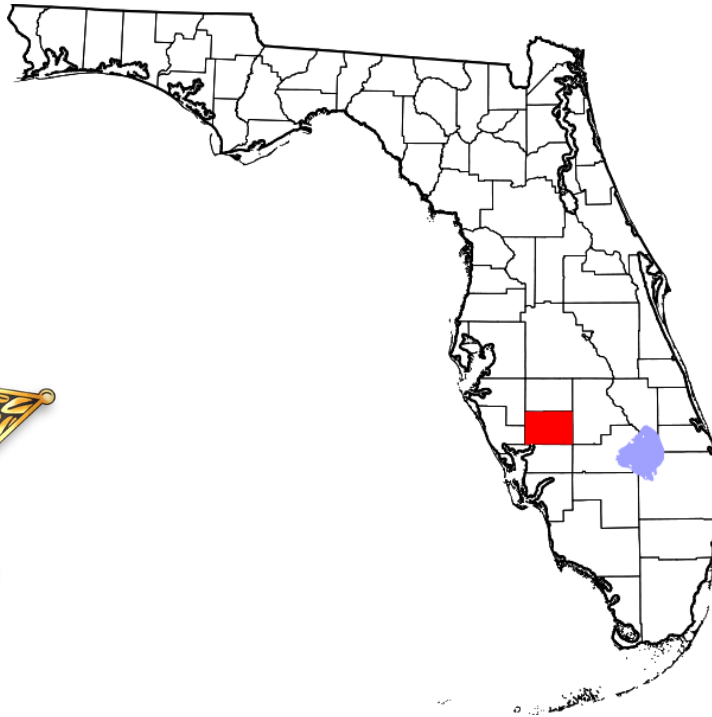
We commit ourselves to continuous improvement in the exercise of our duty.

The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office will collectively and individually endeavor to maintain highly capable public servants with upstanding character who are committed to duty and competence in action.

This is our pledge.

This is who we are."

DESOTO COUNTY



HISTORY OF THE SHERIFFS'

The Office of Sheriff is one of antiquity. It is the oldest law enforcement office known within the common-law system and it has always been accorded great dignity and high trust. For the most part, the office of sheriff evolved of necessity.

Florida's constitution has been revised several times through the years, but the constitutional provisions establishing the office of sheriff remains the same as it was in 1821. From the earliest times in America, our sheriffs have been elected by the people to serve as the principal law enforcement officer of each county.

The Sheriff is the only viable remaining office of the ancient offices. The Sheriff has the responsibility as the conservator of the peace. As the crossbow gave way to primitive flintlock then the six-gun, etc., ad infinitum, the Sheriff is accustomed to change. Now, perhaps more than ever before in history, law enforcement is faced with complex, moving, rapid changes in methodology, technology, and social attitudes. After more than a millennium of existence, the Sheriff and his / or her duties are ready for whatever new day may bring to challenge the domestic tranquility of each county in America.

Sheriff's Of DeSoto County

In chronological order:

O.H. Dishong in 1887

F.C. Bethea in 1893

A.L. Pearce in 1895

L.E. Fielder in 1901

A.C. Freeman in 1905

J.L. Dishong in 1913

J.L. Hampton in 1921

JE. Albritton in 1937

T.M. Anderson in 1945

Lloyd Holton in 1950

Inez Holton in 1965

Frank Cline in 1966

Robert Thomas in 1981

Joseph Varnadore in 1985

Vernon Keen in 1993

John Fugate in 2001

Vernon Keen in 2005

William Wise in 2009

And James F. Potter in 2017 to present

MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF JAMES F. POTTER



Dear Citizens of DeSoto County:

As I write this letter and reflect on 2017, I am reminded of what an honor it is to represent the men and women who serve this great community. As I enter my second year as Sheriff, I am proud to see how our agency has performed and look forward to seeing what the future holds.

The implementation of an Annual Report is important to all of us as it provides a report to the public who the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office serves. We at the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office are here to provide legitimate, well directed and a well-focused service to the public. Accomplishing this service through the most efficient conservative use of available resources is a priority.

Through enhanced leadership and external and internal training, we are growing a unified mindset and a greater sense of purpose and accountability. The men and women working at the Sheriff's office are committed to adding value to their services to you.

The report you are about to read is designed to give you an overview of the Sheriff's Office operations, important local issues we are tackling to include crime, mental health, addiction-drug use; and the overall safety of the public.

It also gives us the opportunity to highlight the various Bureaus within the Sheriff's Office. With such varied responsibilities, the Sheriff's Office continues to evolve as a full-service agency that aims to meet the expectations of modern day policing and the citizens we serve. I hope this report will show you how much each Bureau works in unison to accomplish our goal of providing the finest public safety services to DeSoto County's Citizens. Our work, service and engagement makes our office one of the leading and most progressive agencies in the State of Florida.

As you'll find out, we have increased our connection with our citizens, continued our efforts to provide pro-active Law Enforcement and increased our dialog with other community and government stakeholders.

I firmly believe DeSoto County is one of the best places to work, live and visit. It is thanks to our community that we continue to maintain such a superb quality of life here. On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office, I present to you our 2017 Annual Report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim".

Sheriff James F. "Jim" Potter

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office understands community outreach is a priority as it relates to the safety of the public.

The "Outreach Process" is accomplished through various community involvement, by way of presentations and participation of Deputies and other specialized staff such as Victim Services.

Listed below are some of our Community Outreach Events for 2017:

- DeSoto County Fair
- Literacy Week book readings at our local schools
- Identity Theft Classes
- Career Days
- Scams & Identity Protection
- Fraud Awareness & Personal Identification Protection.
- Torch Run
- National Victims' Rights Week
- Sexual Assault Awareness
- National Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Stranger Danger Event
- Annual Hurricane Seminar
- Camp Inspire Woodworking– Smith Brown Center.
- Back to School Fair
- Back to School Event
- Active Shooter
- Law Enforcement Luncheon Event– the Oaks
- Scams Against the Elderly
- Halloween Event
- Drug Take Back
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- Coffee With A Cop
- Toys For Tots
- Week Of The Family
- Homecoming Parade
- Christmas Parade
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

DeSoto County Fair

The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office participates in the annual fair promoting safety awareness, Victims' Rights information, and a host of other public safety information.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

Coffee With A Cop and Breast Cancer Awareness



COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

Law Enforcement Torch Run

The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office is proud to sponsor the Annual
Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

The Torch Run took place in April of 2017 accompanied by several members of our Agency as well as from the Desoto County Correctional Institution.

The Torch Run movement was founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the sister of President John F. Kennedy. Eunice Shriver created this movement in support for her special needs sister. In the first years of Special Olympics, Shriver basically opened her home to many of the Country's children hosting a field day, thus allowing the many children with special needs to feel like an ordinary child for one day. As the word spread of Shriver's cause the world's outlook on special needs children changed. The first ever Special Olympics was hosted in Chicago, Illinois at Soldier Field, home of the Chicago Bears.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS

2017 Hurricane Preparedness Seminar



Left, Sheriff James F. Potter pictured with WINK News Weatherman Jim Farrell at the Turner Center, Right, Captain Andrew Proudfit



Left, Deputy Ernesto Alonso and Captain Andrew Proudfit



Below, Captain Andrew Proudfit, Executive Assistant to the Sheriff Shaneka Coone, Deputy Ernesto Alonso and Sheriff James F. Potter



DESOTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2017 Hurricane Irma

Your DeSoto County Sheriff's Office prepared and mobilized days prior to landfall and continued after landfall without missing a step.

Each dedicated Deputy, Telecommunicator, and Detention Deputy stepped up and met the many challenges of this incident with professionalism, dedication and sense of purpose.

The safety of the public and Sheriff's Office personnel was a priority during the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office Hurricane Irma Operations.



Pictured is Sergeant Jason Sandoval
Cutting fallen limbs for safe passage.



Mobilization of Units



Detective Joseph Santos rescuing a cat
located in a flooded home.



DESOTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2017 Hurricane Irma



EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Thank You For Your Service

The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office feels it is of great importance to recognize our members accomplishments. It was with great pride that in 2017 we recognized those members for their years of dedicated service to this Agency and County. Our members are and will always be our greatest asset.

For their dedicated years of service and as a symbol of their personal and professional achievements, they were recipients of Service Award Certificates.

Detention Bureau

Lieutenant Daniel Westberry started his career with this agency on January 6, 2002 and has **15** years of continuous and dedicated service.

Sergeant Cheri Caudill started her career with this Agency on April 23, 2007 and has **10** years of continuous and dedicated service.

Deputy Zabonya Hatcher started her career with this Agency on August 18, 1997 and has **20** years of continuous and dedicated service.

Lieutenant Joshua Pitts started his career with this Agency on November 19, 2012 and has **5** years of continuous and dedicated service.

Uniformed Patrol Bureau

Deputy Deke Livingston started his career with this Agency on July 1, 2002 and has **15** years of continuous and dedicated service.

Deputy Jared Paynter started his career with this Agency on July 2, 2012 and has **5** years of continuous service.

Deputy Darren Cross started his career with this Agency on August 8, 2007 and has **10** years of continuous and dedicated service.

Deputy Matthew Proudfit started his career with this Agency on November 26, 2012 and has **5** years of continuous and dedicated service.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Thank You For Your Service

Uniformed Patrol Bureau

Posse Member Timothy Backer started his career with this Agency on June 2, 1997 and has **20** years of continuous and dedicated service.

Posse Member Timothy Kratzer started his career with this Agency on June 3, 2002 and has **15** years of continuous and dedicated service.

Posse Member Velma Pigg started her career with this Agency on September 17, 2002 and has **15** years of continuous and dedicated service.

Support Bureau

Telecommunications Shift Supervisor Latonja Brutton started her career with this Agency on May 28, 2002 and has **15** years of continuous and dedicated service.

Telecommunications Manager Ashley Field started her career with this Agency on December 16, 2002 and has **15** years of continuous and dedicated service .



EMPLOYEE PROMOTIONS



On March 27, 2017 DeSoto County Sheriff's Office was proud to celebrate the promotion of Andrew Proudfit to the rank of Captain of the Uniformed Patrol Bureau and Kim Sandoval to the rank of Captain of the Support Bureau.



EMPLOYEE PROMOTIONS

Joshua Pitts– Lieutenant Detention Bureau

Timothy Hilgeman– Lieutenant Uniformed Patrol Bureau

Jenny Cross– Sergeant Support Bureau

Terrica Pimentel– Sergeant Detention Bureau

Jason Sandoval– Sergeant Support Bureau

Robert Woods– Sergeant Uniformed Patrol Bureau

LaVerne Dittman– Sergeant Detention Bureau

Johnny Trammell– Sergeant Uniformed Patrol Bureau

Sarah Whidden– Sergeant Support Patrol Bureau (Part-Time)

John Davis– Corporal Detention Bureau

Manuela Hiscock– Corporal Detention Bureau

Darrell Massey– Corporal Detention Bureau

Megan Quigley– Corporal Uniformed Patrol Bureau

Jeremiah Quigley– Corporal Uniformed Patrol Bureau

James Kirdy– Corporal Uniformed Patrol Bureau

Kadie Barney-Shift Supervisor Support Bureau



EMPLOYEE PROMOTIONS



Kadie Barney



Darrell Massey



Terrica Pimentel



LaVerne Dittman



Megan Quigley



Johnny Trammell



EMPLOYEE PROMOTIONS



Sarah Whidden



Jenny Cross



Timothy Hilgeman



Robert Woods



Joshua Pitts

RETIREMENT



Martin McLure was hired with our agency on January 4, 2005 as a full time Captain of the Detention Bureau. In 2009 he was transferred to our Uniformed Patrol Bureau. Martin has 25 years in Law Enforcement in which 12 years and 3 months were spent at the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office.

During his career he has worked as Captain of the Detention Bureau and a School Resource Deputy with the Uniformed Patrol Bureau.

February of 2013 Martin was transferred to the Special Operations Unit as a Detective and was promoted to Corporal January 2015.

In May of 2017 Martin retired with the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office.




Congratulations

PASSED ACADEMIES

“People will always be our greatest asset”

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

Samuel Buck– Law Enforcement Academy & State Boards

Ethan Vitali– Law Enforcement Academy & State Boards

David Garza– Law Enforcement Academy & State Boards

911 TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACADEMY

Yolanda Grubbs– Telecommunications Academy & State
Boards

Makalee Durrance– Telecommunications Academy & State
Boards



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

"People will always be our greatest asset"



Deputy Eduardo Trujillo

Continued pro-active enforcement during his non-directed patrol time. Deputy Trujillo produced 11 misdemeanor arrests, 4 felony arrests, 7 traffic related arrests and 11 warrant arrests.



Deputy Zabonya Hatcher

Has demonstrated a fluid stance in regard to jail operations. Deputy Hatcher always assists in areas of importance outside of her normal assignments.



Mrs. Al'Jeana Hoskins

While off-duty Mrs. Hoskins came upon a vehicle crash. She remained on scene, notified 911, provided help and assistance to the citizens involved.


Congratulations

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

"People will always be our greatest asset"



Detective James Kirdy

Took an interest in un-resolved death investigations. He obtained arrest warrants for two un-resolved murders resulting in one arrest and conviction, the other fugitive is still at large with an active warrant.

Sergeant Steven Carroll

Has displayed a high level of motivation and has performed at a superior level. Sergeant Carroll deals with changes in a positive manner and always takes care of DeSoto County Sheriff's Office Staff.




Congratulations

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

“People will always be our greatest asset”



Detective James Albritton

Detective Albritton takes a proactive approach to his duties, this action resulted in 12 total felony arrests. He also located and pursued a suspect involved in an armed carjacking. Despite the suspect crashing into Detective Albritton's patrol car, he stayed calm and brought the situation to a safe ending. He also identified a suspect from a grand theft case and completed the arrest warrant aiding another agency in their investigation of similar crimes committed by the same suspect.



COMMUNITY AWARDS

"People will always be our greatest asset"



Mr. Robert Heine

was presented with a Distinguished Service Award on behalf of the Florida Sheriff's Association for his loyal support.


Congratulations

COMMUNITY AWARDS

“People will always be our greatest asset”



Jason Yurkovitch, Store Manager and Sheriff Potter presenting a Thank You letter for helping a victim of a crime.

An elderly citizen was a victim of fraud and a large portion of her savings were stolen. She was not able to buy food for herself. Publix Super Market was contacted and provided gift cards to help the crime victim. Businesses as theirs, enable us to provide extra caring service for the greater good of our community.



PARTNERSHIP APPRECIATION



The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the DeSoto County Correctional Institute's K-9 Unit for their assistance in tracking wanted individuals on numerous occasions throughout the calendar year 2017.

TRAINING

Training is important as it brings the latest and best practices in the accomplishment of the Sheriff's Office Mission. This training better allows us to provide service to the public. Both external and internal training is provided to the members of this Agency.

Leadership Training

- Managing Generation in the workplace
- Middle Management
- Supervisor Leadership Instructor
- Incident command ICS
- Line Supervision
- FBI LEEDA Supervisor Leadership
- FBI Academy
- Florida Sheriff's Association Commanders Academy
- Jail Administrators Summit

Patrol

- Uniformed Motor Vehicle Crash Investigations

Advanced

- Field Training Officer
- Active Shooter
- MGT 335 Event Security
- Managing FTO Program
- FTO Program Communications
- Below 100

Specialized

- SWAT Leader Command 1 and 2
- Florida Narcotics Conference
- Florida Agriculture Seminar
- 2017 Florida Association of School Resource Officers
- Autism Awareness
- Youth Mental Health First Aide

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights for 2017, to name a few, from an Administrations standpoint :

- ♦ In the beginning of 2017 research was conducted for the development and implementation of our **Mission Statement and Motto.**
- ♦ Research and development of a **Brand New** community friendly **Website**, to be launched in early 2018.
- ♦ A comprehensive in-house **Compensation Policy and Plan** was developed in order to attain comparable and compatible (by job description classification) salaries for the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office personnel. Compensation for all DCSO personnel is a priority for Sheriff Potter.
- ♦ Extensive Field Testing of **Mobile and Portable Radios** for replacement consideration. Radio communication is a safety priority for Sheriff Potter.
- ♦ Newly structured **In-House Basic Leadership Training for Supervisors** in all Bureaus and Divisions. This was accomplished through DCSO personnel researching and developing, a specific supervisory and leadership training course. The benefit is to enhance key skills, such as: New Supervisors to the Workforce, Types of Leadership, Advanced Communication Skills, Problem Solving, Budget Workshops, Work-life Balance, Managing Generations, and much more.

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights for 2017, to name a few, from an Administrations standpoint :

- ♦ **General Order/ Policy** revamp and review is underway to establish best current practices for all DCSO personnel to follow.
- ♦ Recognition of DeSoto County Sheriff's Office members outstanding performance through **Quarterly Recognition Events.**
- **In-House Safety Committee** was formed with DeSoto County Sheriff's Office personnel in order to identify and address any safety concerns in order to reduce risks associated with workplace hazards.
- **Public Feedback Program:** Command Staff contact various citizens inquiring about the services they have received in order to assess performance of our deputies and satisfaction of citizens.
- **Implementation of the Annual Report:** The Annual Report provides a snap-shot of the previous year at the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office for the public's information.
- **Regular meetings** with Arcadia Police Department and DeSoto County PSD have been implemented to improve upon relationships and our service to our fellow public safety organizations. Improving relationships with shared interest stakeholders is a priority for Sheriff Potter.

ADMINISTRATION

DeSoto County has and will continue to seek the best educated and qualified employees. The Turn Over chart below will show actual numbers per quarter of New Hires and Separations. There have been **326** applicants that have applied from January 2016 to December 2017.

In the calculation of New Hires, Separations and Applicants in the year of 2016 was important information for the "Sheriff Transition of Office" due to Sheriff James F. Potter becoming our current Sheriff.

JANUARY 1, 2017 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2017

FROM JANUARY 2016 TO APRIL 2017

New Hires	28
Separations	34

APRIL 2017 TO JUNE 2017

New Hires	2
Separations	3

JUNE 2017 TO SEPTEMBER 2017

New Hires	4
Separations	1

SEPTEMBER 2017 TO DECEMBER 2017

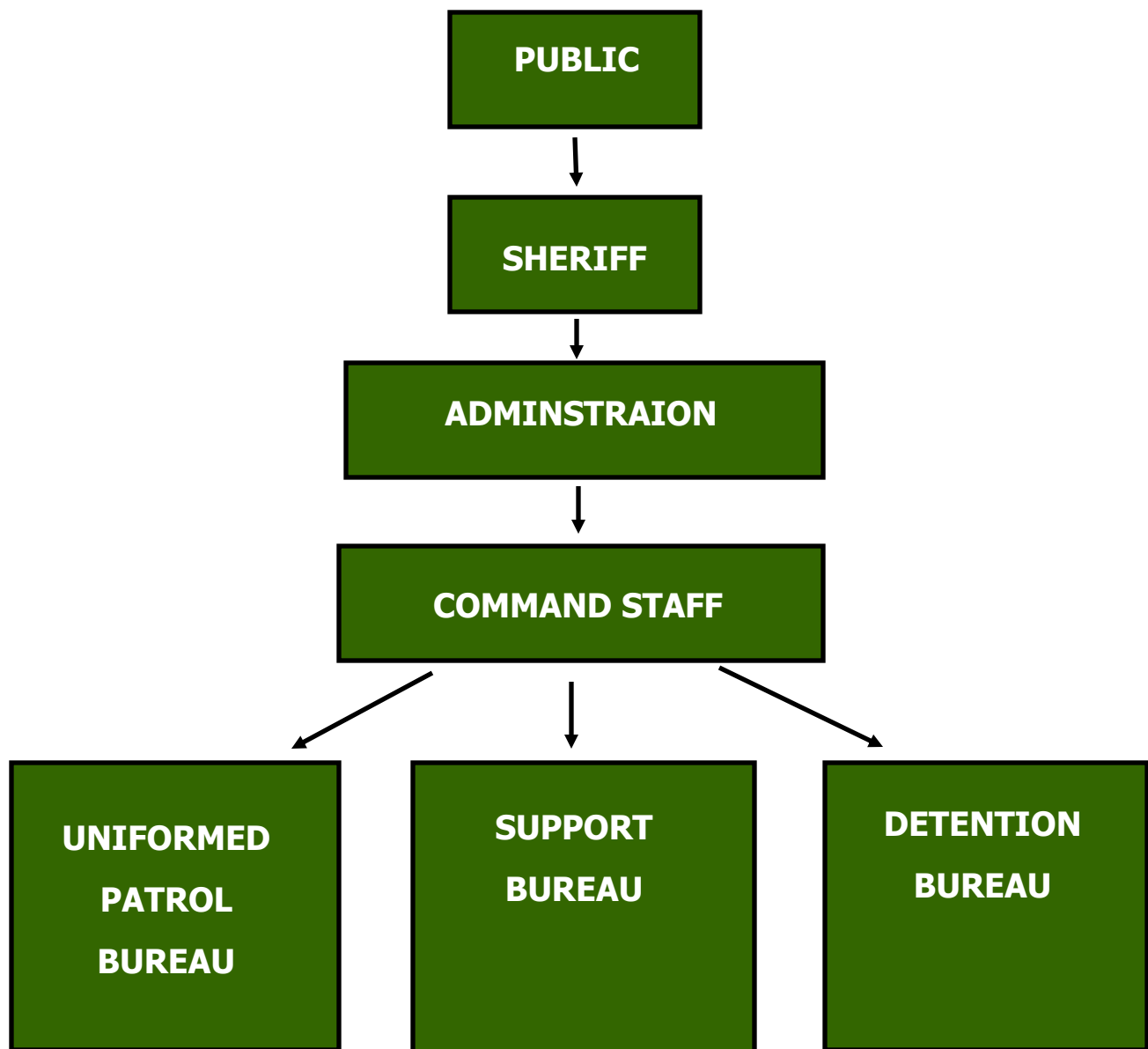
New Hires	3
Separations	5

ORGANIZATIONAL LAYOUT

The organization of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office is composed of "Seven Components".

The uppermost and most important component is the Public we serve. The balance of the remaining components are the Sheriff, Administration, Command Staff, Uniformed Patrol Bureau, Support Bureau, and the Detention Bureau.

All components work in unison to serve the Public



DESOTO COUNTY COMMAND STAFF

THE DeSOTO COUNTY COMMAND STAFF CONSISTS OF : SHERIFF, ADMINISTRATION, UNIFORMED PATROL BUREAU COMMAND, SUPPORT BUREAU COMMAND, AND DETENTION BUREAU COMMAND. COMBINED HAS WELL OVER 122 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.



Top Row Left to Right:

Sheriff James F. Potter, Major James Vitali, Under Sheriff

Bottom row Left to Right:

Captain Andrew Proudfit, Uniformed Patrol Bureau

Captain Kim Sandoval, Support Bureau

Captain Brian Harris, Detention Bureau

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMAND



Under the Command of Major James I. Vitali, Under Sheriff

Administrative Command or "Under Sheriff" oversees the Agency's functions in all aspects and in all Bureaus.

Major Vitali started his career in the Navy in 1988 specializing in "Seabees" < Heavy Equipment operator. After his two years of service to our Country he joined the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office as a Corrections Deputy. In 1995 Major Vitali was transferred to Road Deputy, 2002 was promoted to Sergeant in Road Patrol. In 2006 Major Vitali was promoted to Lieutenant in Road Patrol, promoted to Captain in 2009, and was promoted to Major in 2013.

Major Vitali has well over **23** years of Law Enforcement experience by working in different Bureaus . He has a well rounded career based in both Corrections and Law Enforcement.

Major Vitali has advanced Leadership Training, as well as being a General Instructor and Firearms Instructor.

As of December 2017 Major Vitali has approximately **2064** credited training hours.

Major Vitali has been a member of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office DIVE Team since 1998 and was a member of the Specialized Teams/ Squads, such as S.W.A.T. from 1999 to 2009

UNIFORMED PATROL BUREAU



Under the Command of Captain Andrew Proudfit

The Uniformed Patrol Bureau consists of a variety of divisions: Uniformed Patrol, Court Security Services, School Resources, School Crossing Guards, Posse/ Mounted Posse, and In-Service and Instructed Training.

Captain Andrew Proudfit began serving with the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office in 2003. From 2005 to 2012 he served as a detective in the Narcotics Division. He was promoted to Corporal in 2013 and just one year later to Sergeant. He was appointed to Lieutenant in January 2017 and two months later was appointed to the Captain of Uniformed Patrol Bureau.

During his **15** years of service with the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office, Captain Proudfit has logged over 1561 training hours. He has obtained formal training in Advanced Leadership and is a General Instructor, as well as, a Firearms Instructor. Other trainings include: Critical Incident Leadership, Active Shooter, Line Supervision, FDLE F.F.S. 943, Title 19 Cross Designation Training, and Clandestine Lab Investigations.

In 2015, Captain Proudfit graduated from the National FBI Academy, hosted in Quantico, VA. More recently, he has attended advanced training for Managing Patrol Field Training Programs (FTO) and Risk Management Training.

For 10 years Captain Proudfit has served as a member and Commander of the SWAT Team and in 2017 became a certified Dive Team Member.

UNIFORMED PATROL BUREAU



The Uniformed Patrol Bureau consists of the Uniformed Patrol Division, Court Security Services Division, School Resources Division, In-Service and Instructed Training Division, Posse / Mounted Posse Division, and the School Crossing Guard Division.

The DeSoto County School Resource Sergeant Mike Snow taught several student safety classes at the DeSoto County High School, to include: Texting While Driving, Distracted Driving, and Driving While Under the Influence of Drugs and or Alcohol.



School Recourse Deputy Matthew McCray also taught several student safety classes to include: Bicycle Helmet fitting Class, Bicycle Safety and the Laws, and Stranger Danger classes at the DeSoto County Middle School.

The Desoto County Training Division conducted **309** Hours of In-House training consisting of the following course topics:

- CPR
- 911 Academy
- Taser
- FDLE Booking course
- Crossing Guard Training
- Defensive Driving
- Gas Mask Training
- Search Warrant Class
- Firearms
- Active Shooter First Aid

The DeSoto County Sheriff's Office hosted two training sessions, **Response to an Active Shooter**— operated by National Center Biomedical Research and Training Institute, and **FDLE MGT 335** by Event Security Planning for Public Safety. Training was attended by surrounding law enforcement agencies.

UNIFORMED PATROL BUREAU



Court Security, pictured Top to Bottom, Captain Andrew Proudfit, Corporal Mark Hart, Deputy Deke Livingston, Deputy Darren Cross, and Deputy Stephen Conrad.



UNIFORMED PATROL BUREAU

Retired Deputy Richard McDonald is the Mounted Posse Commander. The Mounted Posse is a valuable asset to the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office and perform numerous helpful functions in the community.



UNIFORMED PATROL BUREAU

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY 1, 2017 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2017

NON- CRIMINAL CALLS

BAKER ACTS & TRANSPORTS	254
ALARMS	571
SIGNAL 87 CHECKS	27,628
CRASH REPORTS	90
UTC	191
TRAFFIC STOPS	2,402
CIVIL INCIDENTS	391

OVER-TIME

SCHOOL RESOURCE DEPUTY	8.5
COURT SERVICES	1
UNIFORMED PATROL	938.75
TRAINING	0

CALL TIMES & MILEAGE

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME	8:02
AVERAGE TIME ON CALL	12:11
MILES PATROLLED	486,320

CRIMES AGAINST DEPUTIES/ WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION CLAIMS

ASSAULT	1
WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION CLAIMS	1

UNIFORMED PATROL BUREAU

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

JANUARY 1, 2017 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2017

CALLS FOR SERVICE

DOMESTIC BATTERY	252
DRUGS	67
THEFTS	333
DUI	7
SHOPLIFTING	90
TRESSPASS/ UNWANTED PERSON	268
STOLEN VEHICLE	69
VEHICLE PURSUITS	15
BURGLARY	220
WORTHLESS CHECKS/ FRAUD	232
CHILD CUSTODY	80
ARREST	1,195

COMMANDERS MEETINGS

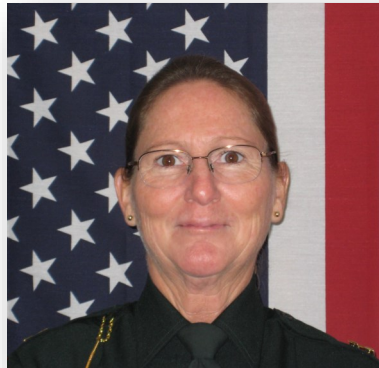
NUMBERS OF MEETINGS	6
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SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NUMBERS OF MEETINGS	3
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SUPPORT BUREAU



Under the Command of Captain Kim Sandoval

The Support Bureau consists of the Criminal Investigations Division, Agriculture Investigations Division, Narcotics Division, Crime Scene and Property Division, Civil Division, Communications Division, Victim Services Division, and Custodial Division.

Captain Sandoval started her career in Law Enforcement as a Military Policewoman and Military Police Investigator for the United States Army in 1985. In 1993 was a Deputy at Charlotte County Sheriff's Office. In 1994 Captain Sandoval became employed at the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office and has well over **29** years of Law Enforcement experience.

Captain Sandoval worked as a Deputy in the Road Patrol Division and was transferred to Detective in the Criminal Investigations Unit in 1996. In 2002 she was promoted to Sergeant in the Criminal Investigations Division. In 2011 Captain Sandoval was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant of the Criminal investigations Division, and in 2017 was promoted to the rank of Captain of the Support Bureau.

Captain Sandoval is a member of C.A.R.T., a State sponsored team lead by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Captain Sandoval is a member of the DIVE Team here at the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office.

Captain Sandoval has approximately **1,353.5** training hours credited to her well rounded experience in Law Enforcement this is not counting her military training hours.

SUPPORT BUREAU

The Support Bureau is comprised of the Investigative, Communications and Civil Divisions. The Communications and Civil Divisions are supervised by Lieutenant Walker and includes: Civil, Warrants, Records, Communications Divisions, and Custodial Services.

The Investigative Division is supervised by Lieutenant Raya and includes: Criminal Investigations, Narcotics, Crime Scene/ Evidence & Property Divisions, as well as, Victim Services.

In 2017 the Communications Division received approximately **31,882** calls for service from the community. Desoto County Fire Rescue received **5,402** calls for service, the Arcadia Police Department **9,497** calls for service and the Desoto County Sheriff's Office **16,893** calls for service. Our Communications Division is the communication hub for DCSO, APD, EMS and Fire Rescue.



Several members of the Communication Division received recognition for their professionalism and proficiency when handling extremely difficult situations during 2017.

Eloisa Benitez, Kadie Barney and Makalee Durrance received a letter of commendation for their excellent and most professional performance during the 911 call on March 11, 2017 involving a structure fire in which 3 lives were lost.

Members of the Communications Division also participated in **Breast Cancer Awareness** in October 2017.



SUPPORT BUREAU



The Crime Scene vehicle was Grant funded and was designed to be an all inclusive mini-lab with tactical gear, removable lights, generator and processing tables, as well as, ample storage.



Pictured here is the inside look of the storage capacity of the evidence vehicle

Since the purchase of the vehicle in 2007, it has logged **34,025** miles for crime scene related calls.



The DCSO DIVE Team is an essential part of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office due to the fact that DeSoto County has the Peace River which spans 106 miles.

SUPPORT BUREAU

SWAT



Once selected to be a **SWAT** Team member, officers must undergo training in marksmanship, explosives handling, first aid, negotiation and roping techniques (such as rappelling), as well as the use of specialized equipment and weapons.

The Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) depending on the agency normally provide specialized services in support of the law enforcement agency's mission. The main goal of the SWAT Team is to provide protection and safety for innocent civilians and Sheriff's Office personnel while reducing the possibility of injuries or death at high risk incidents.



SUPPORT BUREAU

The Civil Division received **3,727** civil papers to be served during 2017 with **\$33,599.20** collected.

The Warrants Division received **854** warrants during 2017. **755** have been closed / served, **462** remain active and **23** have holds placed on them.



The Clerks in the Warrants and Records Division also greet and assist all walk in complaints or requests for assistance during normal duty hours at the Sheriff's Office.

The Investigative Division underwent numerous personnel changes and shortages in 2017. This has been overcome by the Detectives' professionalism and dedication to this agency and community.

In 2017 the Criminal Investigative Division was assigned **418** cases for investigation. They have closed **417** cases. The Criminal Investigative Division has made **110** arrests and recovered **\$68,870.00** in stolen property.



Stolen ATVs recovered by Detectives in June 2017.

SUPPORT BUREAU



A stolen boat recovered by Detectives during a search warrant in September 2017.

Stolen Golf Carts were recovered by Detectives in December 2017.



Members of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office Dive Team recovered a stolen truck submerged in the Peace River December 2017.



SUPPORT BUREAU

The Sheriff's Office is responsible for monitoring all registered Sexual Offenders and Sexual Predators within Desoto County by conducting address verifications and JLA sexual offender registrations.

In 2017 the Investigative Division conducted numerous investigations on sexual offenders and predators suspected of violating their obligations mandated by statute. Eleven (**11**) arrests were effected as a result of these investigations totaling nineteen (**19**) felony charges.



There is an active felony warrant for one other Sexual Offender that has absconded.



SUPPORT BUREAU



In 2017 the Crime Scene and Evidence Division responded to approximately **35** scenes. They took in **3,404** items of evidence involving **682** different cases.

Sgt Cross and Detective Williams are responsible for locating, documenting, collecting, processing and packaging all items of evidence.



SUPPORT BUREAU



Members of the Investigative Division have participated in numerous community Crime Prevention Awareness programs throughout 2017.

Detective Kirdy and Victim Advocate, Al'Jeana Hoskins, conducting a Fraud Awareness presentation.

The Victim Advocate provided various assistance and services to approximately **1020** victims during 2017.



Detective Long, Corporal Megan Quigley, DeSoto County Sheriff's Office Victims' Advocate Al'Jeana Hoskins and Arcadia Police Department Victims' Advocate Vertrina Burns participating in Victims' Rights Awareness Week during April 2017

SUPPORT BUREAU

Victim's Services Advocate Al'Jeana Hoskins has assisted **1020** victims of crime within DeSoto County and provided **2991** total services.

Services provided include: Crisis Counseling, Follow-up Contacts, Referral to helpful community resources, Transport and referral to Shelters, Providing information and referral to out-of-county resources, Providing Emergency Financial aid, Filing Proper Injunctions, Filing Victim's Compensation, Telephone contacts, Suicide Survivor Support, Death Notification, Transport to Doctor Visits, Accompaniment to Court proceedings, Accompaniment to State Attorney Appointments, Filing Impact Statements, and other assistance as needed.



DeSoto County Victims Advocate Liaison, Al'Jeana Hoskins, helped **201** Domestic Violence Victims, **26** Adult/ Child Sexual Abuse Victims, **163** Battery Victims, **24** Aggravated Battery Victims, **46** Burglary Victims, **110** Criminal Mischief Victims, **101** Injunctions/ Injunction Violation Victims, **4** Robbery Victims, **11** Assault Victims, **144** Various Incident/ Investigation and "other" Crime Victims, **108** Identity Theft Victims, **1** Homeless Victim, **9** Threats/ Harassments/ Stalking Victims, **15** Child Neglect/ Abuse Victims, **9** Repeat Violence, **8** Homicide/ Attempt Homicide Victims, **2** Survivors of Homicide Victims, and **5** Calls to Aid and Assist.



For more information, contact:

SUPPORT BUREAU



The Office of Attorney General

Promotes National

Victim's Rights Awareness Week during
the month of April

In 2017 the Narcotics Division was assigned **134** cases for investigation. They have closed **91** cases. The Narcotics Division has made **137** arrests and seized a street value of approximately **\$96,010.55** in illegal narcotics.



In May 2017 Narcotics Detectives executed a search warrant and seized numerous illegal drugs and a firearm.

In December the Narcotics Detectives ended a lengthy investigation by successfully executing a search warrant in which numerous illegal drugs were seized and the suspect arrested.



SUPPORT BUREAU

END OF YEAR REPORT

2017

January 1, 2017– December 31, 2017

In 2017 DeSoto County Sheriff's Office Narcotic Division focused on the efforts to diminish illegal narcotic transactions within the Desoto County borders. Through continued investigations of ongoing cases, as well as, new cases the Narcotics Division participated in **134** new investigations, and a total of **134** arrests made with **56** of those arrests being drug related.

134
New
Investigations

Arrests

Drug Arrests: 56

Other Arrests: 80

Total: 136

Search Warrants

6

Meth Labs

0

Firearms Seized

3

Charges on Drug Arrests

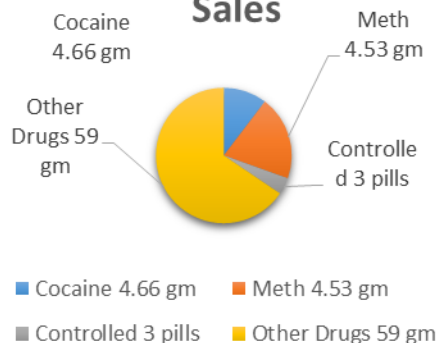
Misdemeanor: 117

Felony: 81

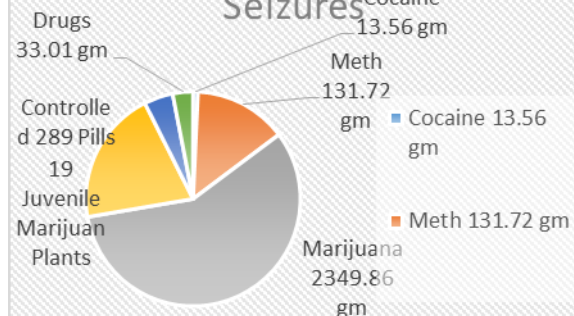
Drugs Seized	Weight (gm)	Weight (lbs.)	Approx. Street Value
Cocaine	18.22 gm	.04 lbs.	\$911.00
Methamphetamine	136.25 gm	.3 lbs.	\$13,625.00
Marijuana	2349.86 gm	5.18 lbs.	\$53,937.20
Marijuana Plants	19 Juvenile Plants	-----	\$19,000.00
Controlled Substances	292 Various Pills	-----	\$4,191.50
Other Dangerous Drugs	64.46 gm Synthetic Marijuana 27.26 gm Honey Dab Oil .09 gm Ecstasy .20 gm Melted Morphine Pill	.14 lbs. .06 lbs. ----- -----	\$1,611.50 \$2,726.00 \$1.35 \$7.00 \$96,010.55



Sales



Seizures



SUPPORT BUREAU

The Agriculture Unit worked **293** CAD events and investigated **69** criminal complaints in 2017.

The Agriculture Detectives are also members of the Florida Agricultural Crimes Investigators Unit (FACIU). This organization serves as a venue for various law enforcement agencies to share information and resources.



FACIU and the Desoto County Sheriff's Office Agriculture Detectives participated in the Ag Fest in January 2017

The Desoto County Sheriff's Office hosted the June 2017 FACIU intelligence meeting. Law enforcement agencies from Sarasota, Hardee, Polk, Hendry, Glades, Okeechobee and Highlands Counties attended.



DETENTION BUREAU



Under the Command of Captain Brian Harris

Captain Harris has been employed by the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office since September of 1996. He began as a corrections officer, and progressively worked through the ranks of sergeant, lieutenant, and his current position as captain.

Captain Harris has had extensive training in using and maintaining the Intoxilyzer first as an operator, and then as an agency inspector.

Brian is a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Arcadia.

He has been married to his wife, Jackie, for 26 years, and is the proud father of two daughters, a son-in-law and a granddaughter.

His oldest daughter is also employed by the DCSO, while his youngest daughter is attending the University of Florida, majoring in Business.

Captain Harris is fond of living in Arcadia, and enjoys working at the DeSoto County Sheriff's Office.

DETENTION BUREAU

Corrections Bureau Administrators



Captain Brian Harris



Lieutenant Daniel Westberry



Lieutenant Joshua Pitts

In 2017 the creation of a second Lieutenant was implemented. This was to benefit and maintain the administrative responsibilities of the Agency. This new position has allowed the Corrections Administrators to observe and assist staff more efficiently. Also the added position allowed for better training and implementation of policies. Both Lieutenants work staggered assigned times of either 8A-5P or 3P - 12MID. At times the Lieutenants assist with shift coverage.



DETENTION BUREAU



The Detention Bureau consists of Administrative Jail Operations, Detention Squads, Booking, Control Room, Classification and Transportation, Visitation Operations, Building and Grounds Maintenance, Pastoral Services, Contract Kitchen Designation , as well as a Contracted Nursing Department.

The DeSoto County Jail/ Detention Bureau's responsibility is the intake and release process of detainees. In 2017 **1,719** arrestees were brought into the County Jail for Booking while there were **1,546** detainees released from our custody.

Another responsibility of the Detention Bureau is the registration of Criminal and Sexual Offenders.

536 registrations were conducted in 2017.

Transportation of detainees to and from the County Jail is the responsibility of the Classification Division within the Detention Bureau.

Various transports are conducted through the Bureau, such as: Medical, Department of Corrections, and General Transports. In 2017 a total of **359** transports, **544** detainees transported and **39,127** miles were driven.



DETENTION BUREAU



The Desoto County Detention Bureau utilizes sentenced inmates who volunteer to work in the jail kitchen, washing cars, housekeeping and laundry to earn gain time. This work also reduces expense to the public



After inmate work details, Detention Deputies pat search incoming inmates before being released into open population.

Preventing any form of contraband is a priority in Correction settings for inmate and officer safety & protection.

Deputies conduct warrant checks and maintain documentation as well as inputting bonds, court orders and the reasons for transportation.

DETENTION BUREAU



The Classification Division conducted 359 transports during 2017. Those transports included medical, Department of Corrections and picking up detainees from other agencies that were being held for Desoto County Sheriff's Office. Due to limitations on staffing, The Bureau utilized outside companies to assist with transports in some cases when needed.

Corrections Medical Division



In 2017 the DCSO Medical Division was utilized 10,455 times by detainees. This includes 10 Hospital admissions, 3,504 sick calls, 3,485 medications ordered, 48 ER visits and among other pertinent duties they are responsible for.



The medical department worked diligently to provide exceptional service while using the counties resources sparingly.

DETENTION BUREAU



Mrs. Combs is the Detention Bureau's Operations Assistant. She is responsible for conducting Criminal and Sexual registrations. 536 registrations were conducted during the 2017 year. Mrs. Combs also distributes Agency mail including inmates incoming and outgoing correspondence.

Mr. Lynch, the Building and Grounds Manager, completed replacements of plumbing fixtures and A/C components throughout the agency over the past year.

Mr. Lynch was present during Hurricane Irma and worked hard at repairing the generators during the storm.



Mrs. Torres is the Detention Bureau Visitation/Inmate Welfare Specialist.

In 2017 there were a total of 5,037 visits conducted under the supervision of Mrs. Torres.

DETENTION BUREAU

Training Completed in 2017

CPR Recertification
Taser Basic
Firearms New Hire
First Aid Recertification
FDLE Booking Course
Defensive Tactics Recertification
Taser Basic
Firearms Recertification
FEMA Course
Jail Scenario Based Training

Supervisor Training:

Sgt. Carroll-Supervisory Skills Training Course
Sgt. Caudill-Middle Management Course; Supervisory Skills Training Course
Sgt. Dittman- Supervisory Skills Training Course
Sgt. Pimentel-Middle Management Course; Supervisory Skills Training Course
Cpl. Polk-Middle Management Course; Supervisory Skills Training Course
Cpl. Massey-Middle Management Course; Supervisory Skills Training Course; BTO
Cpl. Hiscock-Breath Test Operator

Lt. Pitts- FBI Leeda SLI; Cert DOH All Haz Media Skills April 13 2017; Managing the FTO Program; Middle Management; IA Cert; Managing Generational Gaps in the Workplace & Techniques for Managing Problem Employees; RIPP' Restraints International Inc;

Lt. Westberry- 24 Hours Suicide Detection & Prevention; Legal and Liability Risk Management Institute; Middle Management; Managing Generational Gaps in the Workplace & Techniques for Managing Problem Employees; RIPP' Restraints International Inc;

DETENTION BUREAU

Jail Inspections

On August 7, 2017 the annual Jail inspection of our facility was conducted. Preparation for the inspection was completed effectively. The Inspection was conducted by two individuals from Charlotte County Sheriff's Office. The discrepancies notated during the inspection were immediately corrected in the presence of the inspectors. The inspectors completed their assignment and the DCSO Jail passed its annual Inspection.

The DCSO Corrections Bureau currently has three individuals trained and certified as Jail Inspectors. They are Lt. Daniel Westberry, Sgt. Cheri Caudill and Dep. Wendell Horton.

DCSO Jail Inspectors assisted other agencies in there Jail Inspections which includes:

Okeechobee County June 1, 2017

Glades County July 6, 2017

Hardee County July 20, 2017

Hendry County August 17, 2017

Highlands County December 20, 2017

