

NEWS

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JACKSONVILLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT
Gene Paul N. Smith, Chief of Police

June 2023



Greetings,

Once again, we were busy in June. The downtown area remained busy despite rainy weather and rip currents throughout the month.

We prepared our department for a busy Orange Crush event (four days). We assumed an "all hands on deck" posture despite the lack of specific intelligence regarding events in the city. However, we received no calls related to Orange Crush, and it was an incident-free weekend. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office reported similar circumstances in Jacksonville.

We recovered the body of a swimmer who had been missing for three days. The next of kin was on hand and was notified of the bad news.

Two officers presented a "Driving Under the Influence" prevention class for a few hundred sailors at NAS Jacksonville (see photos on Facebook). We conducted our last Active Threat training class for the year at St. Paul's School (see photos on Facebook).

Our two newest part-time officers are out of training and really helping fill gaps in the Patrol Division. We currently have two full-time officers progressing through training, and four officer vacancies. We have a dispatcher progressing through training and should be in solo status within the several weeks. I continue to be concerned about the severe shortage of dispatch candidates here and around the country. However, despite the lack of applicants nationwide, we are still seeing people apply for all positions, and the police department is doing better than most.

As a result of the retirement of Sergeant David Young, a promotional process for the sergeant's position was held, and six corporals participated. I will be announcing the new sergeant next month.

We had numerous detective callouts this month in reference to death investigations. Although none of the callouts were homicides, several of the cases remain open pending autopsy or lab results.

We were busy preparing for July 4th festivities along with the Sea and Sky Air Show later in the year. The latter is a huge operation and demands many months of preparation.

Officers made numerous arrests in June where firearms were seized/discovered (see Facebook photos). To date this year, we seized 70 guns, which exceeds any prior year at this same point; last year, we seized 45 guns in the same time period.

Thank you all for your continued support!


Gene Paul N. Smith

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