

LCSO lieutenant slated for FBI National Academy

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BRONSON -- A 46-year-old lieutenant with the Levy County Sheriff's Office is preparing to go to the FBI National Academy in July.

LCSO Lt. Scott Tummond spoke about the academy on Tuesday (June 23) and how he feels about his upcoming sojourn there. On Wednesday (June 17), he was in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Jacksonville office with four other candidates from this region who are set for Session 261 and Session 262.

"It was awesome," Tummond said about that orientation for the upcoming trip.

This trip will be the new pinnacle of Tummond's law enforcement career, which started about 22 years ago and has continued its upward trend since Levy County Sheriff Ted Glass first hired Tummond as a correctional officer for the Levy County Jail in 1993.



Lt. Scott Tummond

After serving as a jailer for 10 months, Tummond became a patrol deputy, where he served the residents and visitors of Levy County in that capacity for the next four years.

He then transferred into the LCSO Criminal Investigation Division and his title went from deputy to investigator. He earned the rank of sergeant in CID, and then under the administration of Levy County Sheriff Johnny Smith Jr., Tummond became a lieutenant in the CID.

It was Sheriff Smith who nominated Tummond to go to FBI NA.

Tummond is now the chief investigator in the LCSO CID, as well as serving as the LCSO's Public Information Officer.

The FBI hosts the FBI National Academy. To be nominated and accepted is a very prestigious honor.

To qualify to be nominated, an officer must be of a certain rank; he or she must have been with the agency for a certain period of time; and they must be nominated by the agency.

The process after nomination can take as long as six years before the candidate is accepted.

Previous FBI NA participants from the LCSO are Sheriff Smith, Capt. Chuck Bastock, Lt. Scott Finnen and Evan Sullivan, who later became a captain and then a major in the LCSO. When Sullivan went to the FBI NA, he was Lieutenant District Commander of the Marion County Sheriff's Office. Sullivan went to the National Academy in 1995. It was the 183rd Session. Former Marion County Sheriff Ken Ergle nominated him. Sullivan completed the "Yellow Brick Road" and came home with a brick.

Sullivan graduated with honors -- a 4.0 grade point average (A). Classes are taught at Quantico but those classes are through the University of Virginia. Sullivan, like Bastock became the LCSO Public Information Officer, which is among Tummond's jobs now. During Tummond's 10-week absence from Levy County, Undersheriff W.O. "Brett" Beauchamp III will serve as the

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PIO.

“I am honored to have been nominated and selected,” Tummond said. “I am very excited to start this class.”

The FBI National Academy is a professional development course for law enforcement leaders from around the globe. It seeks to have those leaders raise law enforcement standards, knowledge and cooperation worldwide.

As noted by the FBI, the National Academy’s mission is “to support, promote, and enhance the personal and professional development of law enforcement leaders by preparing them for complex, dynamic, and contemporary challenges through innovative techniques, facilitating excellence in education and research, and forging partnerships throughout the world.”

Tummond said there are between 300 and 350 students who take sessions that are 10 weeks of study. He is in the 261st Session.

The course of study includes six blocks of study that the candidate chooses as he or she is selected.

Classes are chosen depending on the agencies’ needs, he said. Tummond chose Forensic Science for Police Administration; Labor Law for Law Enforcement Administration; Conflict Resolution for Law Enforcement Management; Leadership; and Psychology.

There is a built-in fitness regime too.

“I have to run the ‘Yellow Brick Road’ to get the brick,” Tummond said.

National Academy graduates fondly recall their experience on the “Yellow Brick Road.” The final test of the fitness challenge, the Yellow Brick Road is a grueling 6.1-mile run through a hilly, wooded trail built by the Marines, the FBI notes.

The FBI National Academy is in Quantico, Va.

“Along the way, the participants must climb over walls, run through creeks, jump through simulated windows, scale rock faces with ropes, crawl under barbed wire in muddy water, maneuver across a cargo net, and more,” the FBI notes. “When (and if) the students complete this difficult test, they receive an actual yellow brick to memorialize their achievement. The course came to be known as the ‘Yellow Brick Road’ years ago, after the Marines placed yellow bricks at various spots to show runners the way through the wooded trail. The overall fitness challenge began at the National Academy in 1981 and has evolved over the years; we started awarding yellow bricks in 1988.”

Not everyone completes the road, Tummond said, as he added that he intends to come back to Levy County with a brick.

Tummond said his physical preparation for this began in January, when he switched his normal training methods.

Prior to January, Tummond had been training for the past five years in a particular manner with LCSO Cpl. Tom Martin – his lifting partner. Martin will be leaving for the World Police and Fire Olympics in Virginia, where he will be defending the gold medal he earned in bench press in 2013 in Ireland.

Tummond said he and Martin still train together, but Tummond has revised his focus to include more endurance training as he has traded out some of the weight lifting training he had been doing for the past five years.

During his 10-week tour of duty at the FBI National Academy, Tummond will be staying in barracks that have modest accommodations. The FBI will be providing him with three meals a day.

More important than the “three hots and a cot,” is the knowledge that will be imparted to him, Tummond said.

Through its years of federal investigations, the FBI is providing local agencies with a wealth of information it has gained, he said. By training select members from local agencies, the FBI seeks to help their colleagues in the profession of law enforcement.

Tummond said that Levy County Sheriff Robert B. “Bobby” McCallum Jr. has goals which

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include utilizing this insight from the FBI to continue to improve on the professionalism of the LCSO.

The Academy began July 29, 1935. It was created in response to a 1930 study by the Wickersham Commission that recommended the standardization and professionalization of law enforcement departments across the U.S. through centralized training, the FBI notes.

“Following graduation,” the FBI notes, “each officer has the opportunity to join the FBI National Academy Associates Inc., a dynamic organization of more than 16,000 law enforcement professionals who actively work to continue developing higher levels of competency, cooperation, and integrity across the law enforcement community.”

Tummond is completely prepared to make the most of this 10-week FBI NA experience, starting in July. His family and friends are all happy to see him having reached this level of success in his profession.