



LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

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For Immediate Release

Media Contact: Shonda Knight

Date: November 7, 2017

LCSO Patrol Deputies Training with New Tahoes

Beginning tomorrow, Leon County Sheriff's Office patrol deputies will undergo 12 hours of extensive, on and off road training in the agency's new Chevrolet Tahoe vehicles.

The training, at the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy, will include presentations from fleet management experts on how the vehicles operate. As a result of LCSO's aging fleet, the agency is moving to the Chevrolet Tahoe as its standard patrol vehicle, with the first phase consisting of seven Tahoes, issued to field training officers.

The Chevrolet Tahoe offers numerous benefits for the agency:

- Increased interior space for deputies wearing the required uniform and for the passenger, whether a FTO or a citizen on a ride along. Computer mounts, consoles, etc. must fit between the seats and function for the safety and comfort of deputies and our passengers throughout a 12 hour shift.
- The rear space allows for more uniform and structured storage of equipment, regardless of deputies' specialty assignments (SWAT, HNT, Bomb Team, Dive Team, etc.).
- Ground Clearance is three inches more than the Ford Interceptor Sedan or Interceptor Utility (8" compared to 5"). We have replaced fuel pumps in 5 of our 12 Interceptor sedans, due to damage from inadequate ground clearance while responding to calls on our many dirt roads.
- Tahoes have a frame similar to trucks with greater structural integrity. They are more durable in front end collisions. Almost any front end collision with our Interceptors resulted in the total loss of the asset.
- Gas Mileage – a Tahoe gets 16/23 (city/county) while the Explorer gets 15/20. When multiplied by the number of vehicles and the miles driven each day, it makes a sizable savings in fuel expense.

LCSO's Tahoe fleet will be equipped with Mobileye® technology, an all-in-one system capable of detecting collision threats and issuing visual and audible warnings in real time.

***Media ride-alongs available during training**

Who: LCSO Patrol Deputies

What: New Vehicle Training

When: Wednesday, November 8th at 10 a.m.

Where: Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy, 85 Academy Dr, Havana, FL 32333

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