



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Citrus County Tactical Impact Unit (TIU) Undercover Detectives
Receive Florida Narcotic Officers' Association Award**

(Citrus County) Most Citrus County residents are familiar with the Sheriff's Office Tactical Impact Unit (TIU) because of the many search warrants, drug arrests and drug seizures the unit produces. But thanks to the nomination submitted by TIU Sgt. Ed Blair to Region III of the Florida Narcotics Officers' Association, two TIU detectives are being honored with Region III Officer of the Year awards. We are not naming the detectives to protect their identities.

"On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce that these detectives have been selected as this year's co-recipients of the Region III Officer of the Year award," wrote Guy Daniels, State President of the Association.

Region III encompasses 13 counties, including Lake, Orange, Seminole, Polk, Levy, Gilchrist, Dixie, Marion, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough and Citrus.

According to Sgt. Blair, "Both detectives have gone above and beyond to make a tremendous impact on our community. Through their determination and often meticulous investigative techniques, the two have combined for an extraordinary number of arrests, drug seizures, and asset forfeitures for such a small, rural community."

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Their hard work has netted the following numbers in a mere 6-month span:

- Total Arrests – 61 (33 felony)
- Charges:
 - 10 trafficking
 - 10 sale of narcotics
 - 19 possession of a controlled substance
 - 8 miscellaneous felony charges
 - 1 Federal indictment
- Drugs Seized:
 - 2.6 pounds of meth
 - 6 oz. cocaine
 - 2 oz. heroin
 - 8 meth labs
- Search Warrants – 17
- Assets Seized -- \$24,912

“Both of these detectives are not guys who desire any recognition at all,” said Sheriff Mike Prendergast. “However, they are such a dynamic duo you can’t help but heap praise on them, even though we can’t identify them to the public. This is not the first time they’ve been recognized for their endless commitment and tireless efforts to reduce the drugs in our community and it certainly won’t be the last. We owe them a debt of gratitude and wish them success in helping us clean up Citrus.”

The pair will be honored at the Florida Narcotic Officers’ Association annual awards banquet to be held in July in Orlando.

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