



OFFICE OF
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- Media Release -

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Sheriff's Explorer Cadets take honors in pistol competition

Silverdale, Wash. – They journeyed to the state capital to engage in competition with their peers. They returned with a number of individual honors. There was a slight ‘value-added shock effect.’ They may have even surprised themselves.

Cadets of Law Enforcement Explorer Post #9514, under the auspices of the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office, fired their way to individual awards during the “Capital City Shoot” held in Olympia on Sat., Oct 4. The one-day competition, which included the Police Pistol Course (PPC) and a timed tactical course, was hosted by the cadet explorer post sponsored by Olympia Police Department.

The PPC is a stationary, general law enforcement qualification course of fire. The timed tactical course involves safe weapon handling during a prescribed course of fire that includes movement and shooting from cover at a variety of different targets – some of them moving.

Cadet Jared Sarkis placed first in the revolver PPC. Cadet Chris Maupin took top honors in the revolver tactical course and place third overall in the competition. Of note, this was only the fourth time that Maupin has ever fired a revolver. The overall ‘top team’ award results are still being compiled.

Sarkis took honors as ‘top overall individual’ during the same competition in 2002.

In addition to Maupin and Sarkis, other KCSO cadets firing in the competition were: Bon Barnett, Ian Bear, Matt Chartier, Brian Fry, Robert Hancock, Michelle Pandino, Ruthie Skilbeck, Chad Walno and Luke Walno.

KCSO cadets undergo hours of handgun familiarization, over a year, prior to entering the competition. The emphasis is on safe weapon handling and the theory of firearms and ballistics. The cadets use the Smith & Wesson (make) .357 caliber, six-shot revolver, formerly issued to patrol deputies. Most deputies and police officer have transitioned to a semi-automatic handgun as their primary duty weapon, although there are a few who still prefer to carry the ‘tried & true’ revolver.

The practice of familiarizing cadets in the use of the revolver is part of the overall, supervised experience of the cadet program. While in uniform, cadets are not armed and do not carry any type of firearm in the performance of their volunteer duties.

During their lunch break from the competitive action, Matt Chartier and Ruthie Skilbeck joined with another explorer cadet (separate agency) to experience the effect of being 'stunned' with a single jolt from the M-26 air taser. Linking arms, they fell to the ground after one of the group was tased. The 'shock effect was cumulative.' Jared Sarkis took a solo hit. The air taser is a less than lethal use of force that momentarily incapacitates an individual by disrupting the body's electrical impulses of the central nervous system. The air taser allows law enforcement officers another option in dealing with a combative person.

The Sheriff's Office Cadet Program is chartered through the Boy Scouts of America and is designed for young men and women who are interested in law enforcement as a possible career, community service and recreational programs. Many cadets go on to become both full-time and reserve law enforcement officers.

Cadets attend weekly meetings and participate in training activities and team-building exercises such as: traffic collision investigation; traffic stops; patrol procedures; first aid; crime scene investigation and domestic violence intervention. They engage in competitions with cadets from other agencies several times per year, and assist patrol deputies on the road.

The KCSO cadet program continually accepts applications from interested young people. Minimum requirements: A resident of Kitsap County; able to read, write and speak the English language; ages 16 – 21; have no felony convictions and undergo a background check. Applications may be obtained at the Port Orchard, Silverdale or Kingston Sheriff's Offices.

For further information, contact Deputy Dave Green, (360) 337-7101 or e-mail at dgreen@co.kitsap.wa.us.

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