

BIOGRAPHY OF CHRIS BLAIR

Chris Blair has been a sworn law enforcement officer with the Marion County Sheriff's Office and has served the citizens of Marion County for the past thirty-five (35) years. Prior to his retirement in December of 2010, Chris Blair held the rank of Major/Bureau Chief of Detectives. He was responsible for overseeing the Special Investigations Bureau consisting of the homicide, robbery, sex crimes, cargo theft, internet crimes against children and the sex offender/predator units. In addition, he was also responsible for the day-to-day operations of the agency's Multi Agency Drug Enforcement Task Force, North Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area and the Unified Drug Enforcement Strike Team.

During Chris Blair's tenure with the Marion County Sheriff's Office, he worked and supervised in the Uniformed Patrol Division, Property Crimes and Street Crime Units, Warrants Division and was the North District Commander. He worked his way up through the ranks to his current position and has obtained an Associate of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from the College of Central Florida and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Central Florida. He is also a graduate of the Southern Police Institute in Louisville, Kentucky. Because of his potential as a Community Leader he was also selected in 1988 by Sheriff Don Moreland to attend the first Leadership of Ocala class and he received a Certificate of Achievement for Outstanding Development.

Chris Blair was instrumental in establishing many programs at the Marion County Sheriff's Office in an effort to deliver exemplary services to our community and the victim's and families of violent crimes, by maintaining a high arrest, clearance and closure rate. Some of these programs included, but are not limited to: the Sex Offender/Predator REGNET program for tracking the whereabouts of sex offenders and predators in the county; establishing the first DNA Screening Lab in partnership with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement; developed and established the Cold Case Investigative Team (ICE AGENTS) to investigate unsolved homicides; developed the NIBIN program (National Integrated Ballistics Information Network) which includes the firing of all firearms in evidence and future collection of firearms to assist in linking them to unsolved violent crime cases. He also initiated the first robbery/ fraud intelligence meetings held with local banks and convenience store owners and employees and developed the instant e-mail notification system to alert and protect the

well being of other banks and store employees and patrons by disseminating robbery and suspect intelligence information including photos of the suspects.

Chris Blair has been an instructor at the College of Central Florida for the past twelve years and has taught in both the Law Enforcement and Correctional Academies in both the classroom and as a Range Master in the Firearms Course. He has earned several Medals of Commendations and numerous awards and citations to include the Medal of Distinction. In 1985 he was honored as the State of Florida Officer of the Year by the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency and has also been honored as the Marion County Officer of the Year by the Ocala Jaycees, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Noon Optimist Club and the Rape Crisis Spouse Abuse Center. Additionally, in 2010, the 18th Chapter of the Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency named him as the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for Law Enforcement.

Chris Blair was born in Baltimore, Maryland where his father served proudly for the United States Army and the United States Marine Corps before becoming a Baltimore City Police Officer. When his father retired from the police department, his family moved to Ocala where he has resided for the past forty-three years. He has been married for twenty-years and he has two children, a son who is a high school teacher and football coach and a daughter who is presently a full-time college student. He has spent the better part of his life serving you and making Marion County a better and safer place to live and raise our families.