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Military Vets Make Up Nearly 30% Of CCSO Workforce

For as long as he can remember, Lt. Gary Martin wanted to be a police officer.

He joined the Air Force right after high school. After six years as a military police officer in North Dakota, where his duties involved the security and transportation of nuclear warheads and missiles, he took a job with his hometown sheriff's office in Indiana. It seemed to him like a natural transition.

The path ultimately led him to the Collier County Sheriff's Office in 2001.

After 21 years in the Navy, CCSO Special Details Coordinator Edyth Bird says a second career with a law enforcement agency was never on her radar. She returned to Naples following her retirement and was encouraged to seek employment at CCSO by current members at the time.

"Seventeen years later, it was the best decision I've ever made," said Bird, who joined the CCSO in 2002.

Like Lt. Martin and Coordinator Bird, veterans come from various military occupations that all bring unique value to the mission of the Collier County Sheriff's Office, which includes service to the community by investigating crimes, running an emergency communications center, operating the Naples Jail Center and managing courthouse security.

"You've dealt with a paramilitary structure, so you understand



Sheriff Rambosk created the CCSO Military Service Award to honor the military service of agency members. Nearly 30 percent of the agency's workforce are military veterans.

how that works," Lt. Martin said. "Military people are problem-solvers whether it's in combat or replacing or repairing jet engines. They are constantly solving problems on the fly. And that's what we do in law enforcement. We go out and stand in people's living

rooms and they tell us a problem and we have to figure out how to fix it without asking anyone to help us."

Nearly 30 percent of the agency's current workforce are military veterans. CCSO offers veterans preference while vetting job candidates.

"We are extremely proud to have 291 military veterans working for the Collier County Sheriff's Office," said Sheriff Kevin Rambosk.

To honor the military service of agency members, Sheriff Rambosk recently created the CCSO Military Service Award. The award is presented to agency members who have served in the U.S. Military and have been honorably discharged upon completion of their service as recognized by a DD Form 214.

The Sheriff unveiled the award on Veterans Day.

"Although the debt to the heroic men and women that have meritoriously served our country can never be repaid, I have authorized the creation of this award as a way for the agency to express our undying gratitude and to recognize our veteran members for the sacrifices that they have made for our country and continue to make to our community," Sheriff Rambosk said.

Lt. Martin returned to the Air Force in 2004 following the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001. He retired as a master sergeant, serving a total of 22 years. He is currently assigned to Patrol as the Golden Gate commander.

"The military made me the kind of by-the-book, very regimented person that I am," he said. "If you do something wrong, it's dangerous to everyone. Any time you are

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Patrol Lt. Gary Martin served 22 years in the Air Force. Here he is shown at Camp John Pratt near the city of Mazar-i-Sharif in Afghanistan in 2013.



Here Lt. Martin is shown now at CCSO.

Dear Friends,

It's no secret that we enjoy a world-class quality of life in Collier County. We have terrific beaches, a climate anyone would envy, a vibrant retail and restaurant presence, and an abundance of attractions that showcase our area's wildlife and natural beauty.

No wonder visitors from around the world vacation here.

But here's another quality of life component that sets us apart – our low level of crime. Collier County remains one of the safest counties in Florida. There is a lot of hard work that goes into keeping our crime numbers low. Our deputies are highly trained and dedicated to serving our community. We use emerging technologies to stay ahead of criminals. And we work closely with our fellow law enforcement agencies at the local, state and federal levels.

But our greatest tool is our focus on establishing and nurturing the many partnerships we have in our community. I continue to believe that the safest jurisdictions are those in which law enforcement and the community work together closely. Nobody knows a neighborhood like the people who live there.

There are many ways in which we partner with our community. Our deputies coach youth sports teams, they serve as Boy Scout and Girl Scout leaders, sit on their HOA boards, and they are members of Collier County's many service organizations. As an organization, we work closely with Collier County Public Schools, the David Lawrence Center, Youth Haven, The Shelter for Abused Women & Children, and more. We also offer regular Coffee

With A Cop events throughout the community, we offer our ambitious Celebrating Safe Communities events each October to foster crime prevention awareness and build relationships, and we offer an array of free services like home and business security surveys.

And here's where you come in. There are many ways you can help us keep crime low in Collier County. If you see something suspicious call us at 239-252-9300 (or 911 in an emergency) and let us check it out. You can call us at 239-252-0700 and schedule a free home or business security survey. You can secure your homes and vehicles. You can attend one of our Coffee With A Cop or Celebrating Safe Communities events. Or you can stop by your local substation and say hello while you are out running errands. Our deputies love getting to know you.

I hope all of this information gives you some insight into the key role you play in helping us keep crime low in Collier County. By working together we will keep Collier County a great place and a safe place.

Kevin Rambosk
Collier County Sheriff



CCSO Calendar Drive A Success

The Collier County Sheriff's Office couldn't have planned it any better.

The Sheriff's Office's "Planning for Success" drive was a huge success, thanks to community members who responded to the agency's request for donations of unused 2020 calendars and day planners. The drive was so successful CCSO plans to make it an annual event.

Sheriff Kevin Rambosk recently presented more than 600 calendars and appointment books that were collected to Collier County Judge Janeice Martin at Collier County Sheriff's Office Headquarters.

"This is a terrific example that illustrates what can be accomplished when a community joins together," Sheriff Rambosk said. "Thanks to the generosity of everyone who contributed to this effort the recipients of these calendars will have an important tool to help them succeed."

The appointment books will be provided to individuals going through Drug Court, Mental Health Court or Veterans Court in Collier County. The goal of these programs is to help qualifying nonviolent offenders reintegrate into



Sheriff Rambosk presents Collier County Judge Janeice Martin with some of the more than the 600 calendars that were collected during the "Planning For Success Drive" at CCSO Headquarters. Photos by Media Relations Videographer/Photographer Ryan Sheets/CCSO (3).

the community by completing probation. Judge Martin presides over all of the treatment courts in addition to her regular caseload.

Attending treatment court requires participants to go through a rigorous schedule of multiple mandatory court appearances as well as attend regular group and individual therapy sessions. Missing a court date or other mandatory appearance can mean the participant fails the program. A day planner or calendar can be the best tool to help program participants complete probation and rebuild their lives.

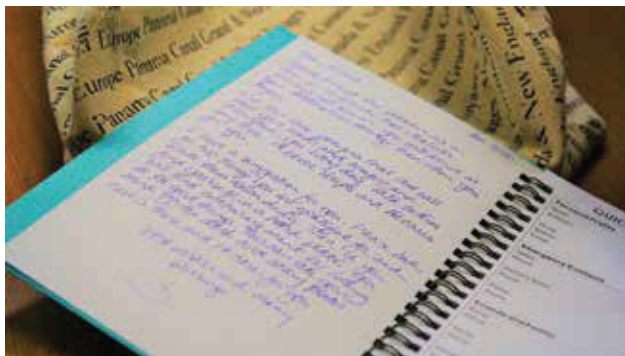
Judge Martin expressed her gratitude and called the community's generosity a "very powerful gesture."

"Too often, mental illness and addiction cause our clients to feel isolated and totally cut-off from the community," Judge Martin said. "They show tremendous courage when they step forward to accept our help, and to attempt the hard work necessary to overcome their challenges, and achieve a lasting recovery. What you have done with these calendars is to let them know they are a part of a community that cares, that they matter, and that they can succeed in their goals in recovery."

Donors were invited to jot down an inspirational message on the planner or calendar for the recipient to read.

One message read, "Dear friend, please accept this planner as a token in confidence that whatever journey you are on, you will arrive at your destination stronger than when you began."

Another read, "The key to success is to focus on goals, not obstacles."



Some donors wrote inspirational messages in the planners and calendars for recipients to read.

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dealing with nuclear warheads of the security of them, everything is by the book, by the numbers. Everything has a place. You don't cut any corners."

Coordinator Bird served in the Navy from 1981 to 2002, primarily as a western Pacific sailor, doing tours in California, Guam, Japan and Texas. She retired as a Chief Aerographer's Mate (aviation warfare).

Much of her career was spent collecting, recording and analyzing meteorological and oceanographic data. She prepared weather maps, issued weather forecasts and warnings, and conducted weather briefings. She served as typhoon duty forecaster and chief petty officer in charge of a weather detachment.

She has put her military meteorological skills to good use at CCSO.

"Graphics, charts and briefing packets are a large part of any good weather forecast and I have been able to incorporate those skills into a myriad of areas at CCSO," she said.

When the weather turns bad and everyone stays home, Coordinator Bird heads to the office.

"That is just a normal day as a weather forecaster and boy, did that lifestyle follow me into a civilian career with CCSO," she said. "As a part of the Emergency Management Team and housed in the Command Center during hurricane activation, we have all packed our bags to ride out the storm."

While stationed at the Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center (FNMOC) in Monterey, Calif., one of her jobs was to prepare the tropical weather

forecast advisory and storm Tracks. One of her functions on the CCSO Emergency Management Team is to take the current warnings and forecast discussion and disseminate that information to members for

both personal and operational planning.

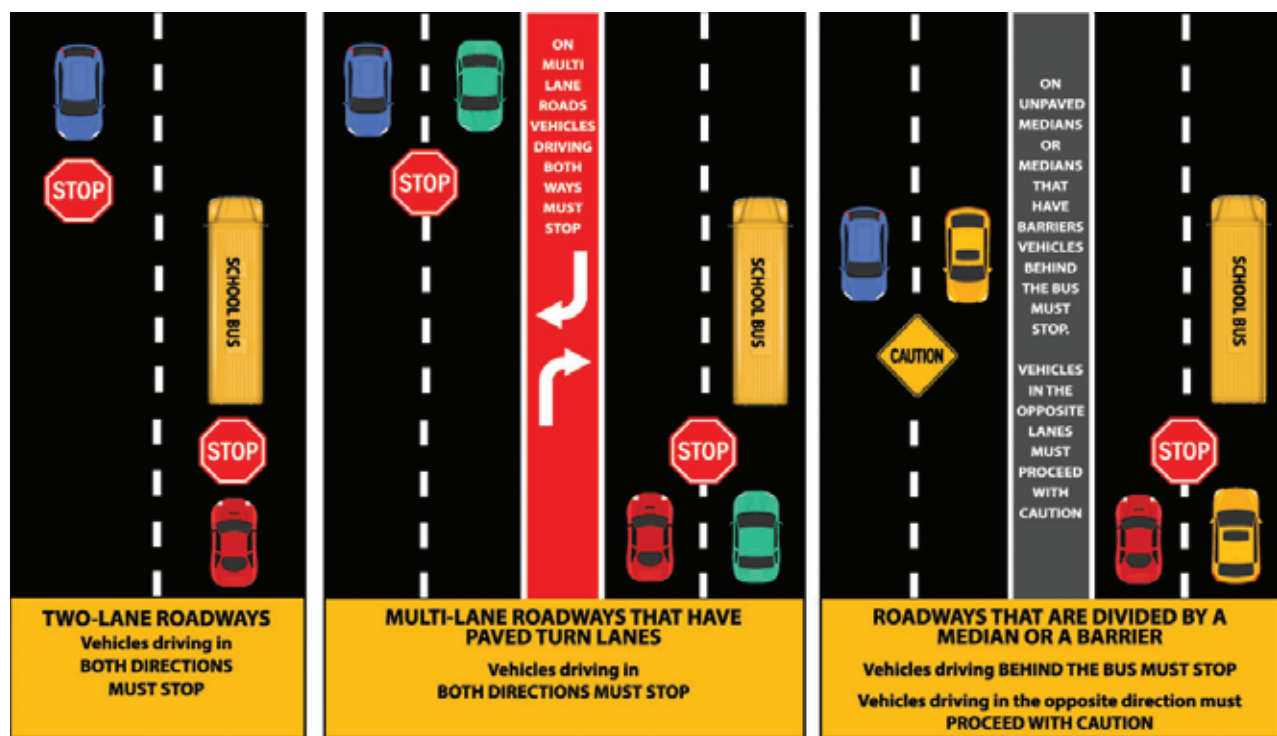
"The most difficult part is trying not to speak "Navy AG" and use civilian terminology," she said.



Special Details Coordinator Edyth Bird served 21 years in the Navy. Here she is shown in February 1982.



Here Coordinator Bird is shown now at CCSO.



School bus safety is at the top of our priority list.

Here's a graphic that explains what drivers need to do when they encounter a school bus that has its stop lights blinking and its stop sign deployed.

In an effort to educate motorists on school bus safety, our deputies have been conducting traffic details throughout the school year.

From August 2019 through February, deputies had conducted 15 details aimed at enforcing Florida State Statute 316.172, which addresses motorists and school buses. During that same time period, the Sheriff's Office has issued more than 75 citations for infractions related to this statute, 55 of which were issued during one of our targeted enforcement details.

Sheriff Rambosk Honored For Crash Reduction Program

The Florida Sheriff's Association has honored Collier County Sheriff Kevin Rambosk for his effort and success in reducing traffic crashes involving deputies.

Sheriff Rambosk received the Florida Sheriffs Risk Management Fund Leadership Award during the FSA winter conference in Tampa in January. Sheriff Rambosk is a member of the Florida Sheriffs Risk Management (FSRMF) Board of Managers.

Crashes involving CCSO deputies were down 28 percent overall in 2019 compared to 2018. At-fault, or avoidable, crashes were down 43 percent over the same period.

"At the end of 2018, I recognized a substantial increase in traffic crashes in our agency compared to other sheriff's offices around Florida," Sheriff Rambosk said. "I tasked our Training Bureau and Traffic Accident Review Board with implementing a plan to reduce crashes which resulted the creation of our new Driver Refresher Program."

Geographically, Collier County is the largest county in Florida,

comprising 2,305 total square miles, with a land area of 1,998.32 square miles and 306.69 square miles of water area. CCSO Deputies collectively drive more than 9.5 million miles a year.

The driver refresher training, which is ongoing, is required for all of the agency's sworn law enforcement officers. It consists of driver training once a month with two three-hour classes each day with 15 members attending each class.

The initiative has had a significant impact on reducing crashes at CCSO. The classes follow the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission driving standard courses. An emphasis is placed on basic driving principles like proper hand position, proper backing position, and proper braking and turning through repetition and hands-on instruction.

The classes are taught by trained CCSO instructors. Their dedication and understanding of the mission directly contributed to the reduction in crashes.



Sheriff Kevin Rambosk is shown here with his award flanked by FSRMF Executive Director Don Eslinger, right, and FSRMF Board of Managers Chairman and St. Lucie County Sheriff Ken Mascara, left.



Crisis Intervention Training Deputy of the Year award

CCSO Cpl. David Russell recently earned the Crisis Intervention Training Deputy of the Year award from the National Alliance On Mental Illness Collier County.

The award was presented at the organization's annual Hope Shines luncheon. Sheriff Kevin Rambosk shared with attendees details of a call Cpl. Russell responded to in which a man in a Publix supermarket was shouting that the government was going to kill him. His actions were frightening customers and employees. When Cpl. Russell arrived the man told Cpl. Russell "the feds" were trying to kill him and asked Cpl. Russell if he was there to harm him as well. Cpl. Russell immediately recognized that the man was in crisis and used de-escalation techniques to calm him.

Ultimately Cpl. Russell was able to persuade the man to walk outside the store, where he was taken into protective custody for evaluation under Florida's Baker Act.

Before the man was placed in the back of the patrol vehicle, Cpl. Russell discovered a loaded handgun in the man's front pocket.

Thanks to Cpl. Russell's training and experience, he resolved the situation safely.

Sheriff Rambosk, left, and Cpl. David Russell are shown at the recent Hope Shines luncheon where Cpl. Russell was honored as Crisis Intervention Training Deputy of the Year by the National Alliance On Mental Illness Collier County.

BE SMART ABOUT YOUR KID'S APPS

These apps have been directly involved in Collier County cases involving children. CCSO recommends adding parental controls to your children's smart phones to keep them from downloading these apps without your supervision.

SNAPCHAT



WHY IT'S DANGEROUS: People of all ages can send explicit photos and videos that "disappear" after received but can still be saved by screenshot.

INSTAGRAM



WHY IT'S DANGEROUS: Children are vulnerable to getting messages from strangers through the direct message (DM) feature.

TIK TOK



WHY IT'S DANGEROUS: Accounts are set to "public" so strangers can contact your children.

FACEBOOK



WHY IT'S DANGEROUS: This app allows predators access to your children through video and private chatting and Instant Messaging.

TINDER



WHY IT'S DANGEROUS: People of all ages look to "hook-up" with users and browse profiles based on location.

WHISPER



WHY IT'S DANGEROUS: Anonymous accounts are created where users can share secrets and meet new people.

CALCULATOR%



WHY IT'S DANGEROUS: This ghosting app allows children to store and hide images, photos, videos and files on their phones.

ASK.FM



WHY IT'S DANGEROUS: This site has been linked to cyberbullying, it has loose regulation and there is a lack of administrative monitoring.

OMEGLE



WHY IT'S DANGEROUS: This app randomly selects one-on-one meet-ups with strangers in video chat rooms. It is completely anonymous.

LIVE ME



WHY IT'S DANGEROUS: This live-streaming video sharing app uses geolocation to share videos. This site has limited administrative monitoring.

GRINDR



WHY IT'S DANGEROUS: This app allows people of all ages to "hook-up" or share photos with strangers based on location.

HOLLA



WHY IT'S DANGEROUS: This video chatting app randomly matches people worldwide for instant meet-ups.

MEET ME



WHY IT'S DANGEROUS: This social app encourages meeting up in person. It gives adults access to children.

KIK.



WHY IT'S DANGEROUS: This site can be used for hidden communication to and from your child.



Community Snapshots



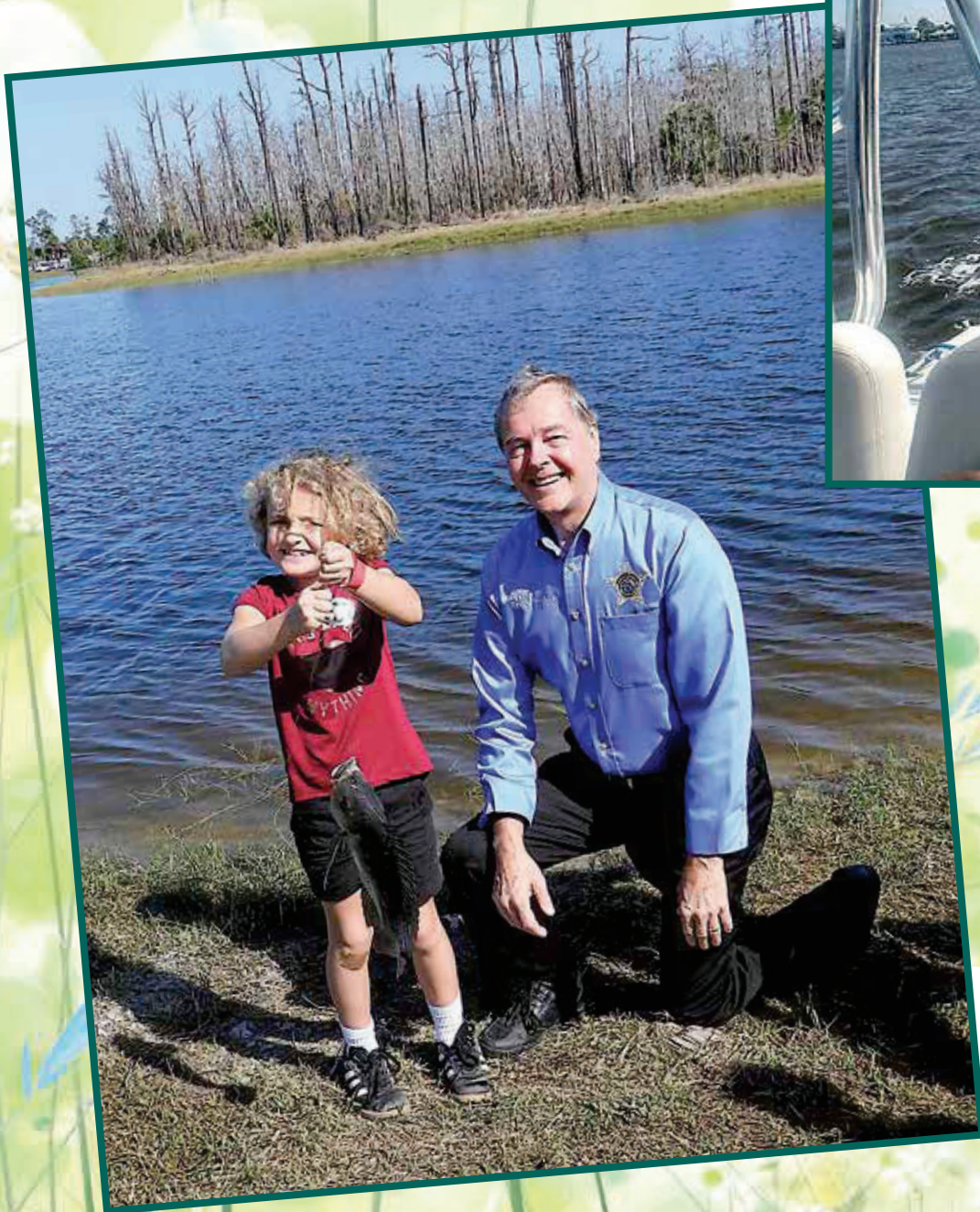
Cpl. Scott Kaplan is shown on patrol in front of Pelican Marsh Elementary School in North Naples as part of a recent hands-free school zone detail.



Dunkin' at 7775 Preserve Lane made custom doughnuts for our Coffee with a Cop event Feb. 4. We were impressed!



Sheriff Rambosk presented Naples resident Lavern Norris Gaynor with the prestigious CCSO Community Star Award on Jan. 24. The award recognizes individuals who have substantially enriched the quality of life in Collier County. Since arriving in Collier County in 1945, Mrs. Gaynor has provided generous donations to a variety of organizations that benefit Collier County and its residents. Of particular importance to Mrs. Gaynor are the organizations dedicated to serving the youth of Collier County, including the Junior Deputies League.



Cpl. Dan Darren had a couple of impromptu ride-alongs recently as he patrolled our local waterways under sunny skies. He let them stay aboard free of charge because they already have enormous bills.

Sheriff Rambosk stopped by the 13th annual Kids Love Fishing event at Camp Discovery at Florida Deputies Park on Feb. 15. The Collier County Junior Deputies League hosts the event.