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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sheriff's Office Implements Emergency Notification System

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – Beginning next week, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office will begin using an emergency notification system known as Hyper-Reach to send both text and voice messages to pre-specified emergency contact lists instantaneously. In a high demand law enforcement environment, the faster you deploy your resources in a critical situation, the more successful your outcome. Sheriff Eddie Farris see the necessity for an immediate means of communicating emergency situations to deputies, on or off duty.

Initially, the technology will be used to send emergency notifications to Sheriff's Office deputies, SWAT team members and other staff members who need to respond to law enforcement situations, such as SWAT call-outs, active shooter or officer down calls, and BOLO's ("Be On The Lookout") for stolen vehicles or missing persons. In the future, the Sheriff's Office may expand its use to include Sheriff's Office Volunteer Corps members and other non-law enforcement personnel on an as-needed basis.

"Law enforcement has always relied on the use of technology to help us keep the public and our deputies safe," said Sheriff Eddie Farris. "It just makes sense for us to now employ the new web-based platforms that are so affordable, easy to use and update. One of the lessons learned from last year's police officer shooting, ice storm, and tornadoes was that we had a need for an additional layer of communication that enables us to reach numerous deputies instantaneously with a consistent message and give us the advantage when tracking and pursuing criminals. This program allows us to do that."

The emergency notifications will be issued by PCSD Dispatchers but will be approved by the Sheriff and/or his command staff. The dispatchers will have the ability to send messages to individuals as well as group alerts or, in certain instances, they can notify everyone in the system simultaneously.

"Sheriff Farris is committed to the use of technology in making the department as efficient and effective as possible," said Deputy Trey Hassler, IT Director for the Putnam County Sheriff's Office. "The logical solution for mass emergency communication is by cellular telephone. Cellular phone notification ensures off duty officers are mobilized as a situation deems necessary. The Hyper-Reach program is an immediate solution and is currently utilized by the Putnam County 911 Center. I see this as only a first step in the use of mass notification technology making Putnam County an even safer place to live."

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