



Putnam County Justice Center
421 East Spring Street • Cookeville, TN 38501
Phone: 931.528.8484 • Fax: 931.528.7043

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 07/12/17

PCSO Narcotics Division Re-Certify in Drug Handling & Safety Techniques

PUTNAM COUNTY, TN – June 22, 2017, Putnam County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Investigators, along with law enforcement from across the state of Tennessee, gathered in Putnam County to re-certify in areas of detection, processing, and dismantling of illegal laboratories. The training is hosted annually by the Tennessee Dangerous Drugs Task Force. Narcotics agents must be trained according to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and state standards to become certified to handle and process methamphetamine and other clandestine laboratories. These standards have become increasingly strict with the rise of various dangerous chemicals, such as fentanyl, looming over our communities and other parts of the country. Investigators are required to undergo a physical examination to ensure they are physically fit enough to wear the protective gear OSHA mandates when processing drug crime scenes and labs. This equipment's function is to keep the officer safe in various conditions. It gives them protection from the many dangerous chemicals often found at illegal drug laboratories. The Sheriff's Office has a certified laboratory technician on every shift to ensure that the processing of such incidents is completed safely and without error.

“We are prepared to dismantle and prosecute those responsible for bringing illegal substances into our community. We take the drug problem very seriously. That's why we make sure our Narcotics Investigators receive all the training they need to be successful and effective in their jobs,” said Sheriff Eddie Farris. “My office will remain vigilant and ready to address these needs as they arise.”

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Media contact:

Laura Hull, PIO
sheriffpio@putnamcountyttn.gov

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