

LEL BOLO

LEL Shaun VanBeber



Getting to Know the Liaisons ... The Series



In the December 2012, issue of the *LEL Bolo*, we told you about the ongoing cross training of the LEL Team. Each of the six liaisons are not only responsible for their territory, but are also tasked with managing projects, overseeing data reports to NHTSA, and coordinating the many Challenges and Campaigns that run annually. In an effort to provide you, our customer, with the best possible service with no interruptions in the event of an emergency or unanticipated absence of one of the team, our mission in 2013 is to streamline the process behind the scenes in regards to cross training the entire staff. Part of this initiative is for you all to get to know each of the six LELs a little better. Every issue of this publication in 2013 will highlight a member of the team for you.



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This month's spotlight is on LEL Thomas Banks, who is responsible for the Central region of Florida. Tom's territory covers twelve counties that are home to over fifty-law enforcement agencies. His terrain takes him from the shores of the Atlantic Ocean to the Nature Coast along the Gulf of Mexico and into some of Florida's most rural communities.

Prior to joining Florida's Law Enforcement Liaison Team, Tom spent 30 years with the Metro-Dade Police Department where he rose to the rank of Detective. During his time with Metro, Tom was responsible for traveling across the Nation as part of a team that "sold" prospective businesses and



other financial interest on coming to Miami and making Dade County their new home to live, play, and work. His ability to sell Miami to the Nation during the turbulent 80's when Miami was only known for crime, violence, and drugs has certainly paid off in his Liaison duties as he continues to excel in garnering participation and support in the very important National and State traffic law enforcement Campaigns and Challenges.

During his time in Miami, Tom was most remembered in his role of shedding a positive light on the City of Miami and Dade County as a whole during the volatile and now famous Miami Riots of 1980 that involved Arthur McDuffie and a Miami Police Officer. Tom was credited with creating a domino effect of the positives of the community, the people of Dade County, and South Florida law enforcement in the media that rippled across the Country. His time in Miami and role at Metro resulted in many accolades and commendations for saving lives, capturing wanted fugitives, and developing crime prevention measures still in use today. Prior to entering law enforcement, Tom was a Staff Sergeant in the United States Air Force. While assigned to a remote Top Secret Military Intelligence Unit during the Vietnam War, Tom received the Air Force Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service for conducting intelligence missions on enemy troop movements along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Cambodia and Laos, and then calling in air strikes on the identified enemy targets thus reducing North Vietnam's efforts to move enemy troops and equipment into South Vietnam during this war.

Outside of law enforcement, anyone who knows Tom will attest that his true love and passion in this world is his wife of 33 years, Muriel, and sons Chad and Chris. Tom is a devout family man and husband who *is* active in his church and in the lives of his two boys. One small tid-bit that not many people know is that this decorated war veteran and career cop that once patrolled some of the roughest streets in Florida is an avid surfer and can be found riding the waves in Daytona Beach. Keep hanging 10 Tom!

The Banks' Family



Annual Florida Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony

This year's event is Friday, July 19, 2013, at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel in Orlando, FL. The Florida Law Enforcement Liaison program will award the Florida Traffic Safety Officer of the Year, as well as the winners in the Florida Click It or Ticket Challenge, Florida DUI Challenge, Florida Motor Unit Challenge, and the Florida Law Enforcement Challenge. Winning agencies are notified by mail with more details about the ceremony and the Thursday evening reception.

Florida Click It or Ticket Challenge

May 20 through June 2, 2013, marked this year's National Click It or Ticket campaign and the last of three enforcement waves held in Florida. Agencies who are participating in the Florida Click It or Ticket Challenge are reminded to submit their data electronically at www.floridalel.org by midnight June 18, 2013. Agencies who participated in the National campaign, but are not competing in the Click It or Ticket Challenge are encouraged to report their data manually utilizing a reporting form available through their Law Enforcement Liaison. Every agency who reports their data will have their top producer recognized by the Florida Law Enforcement Liaison Program.

4th of July Impaired Driving Enforcement Campaign

Most Americans do not realize that July 4th is one of the deadliest holidays in Florida due to alcohol impaired driving crashes. Local law enforcement will be cracking down on impaired driving through education, enforcement, saturation patrols, and check points all over Florida. For more information and assistance, visit: <http://icsw.nhtsa.gov/drivesober/>



Click It or Ticket Florida

During the recent National Click It or Ticket campaign, the Florida Law Enforcement Liaison program tasked law enforcement agencies to generate local business support for safety belt usage by garnering support and interest into the campaign through message boards and marquees. The interest and support was remarkable! Here are a few of the signs that we found around Florida!



Just Google It!

Google Earth and NHTSA have teamed up to provide you a website that will allow you to pin point fatal crashes all across the nation (2012 data is still be reported). To get a bird's eye view of your jurisdiction and to see where the problems are, go to www.nhtsa.gov/STSI and follow the prompts and menus to find your location.



Daily Fatality Report

Year-to-Date Traffic Fatality report as of June 9, 2013, based on preliminary data supplied by the Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles.

