



# LEL BOLO

LEL Juan Cardona

## 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.

This month's spotlight is on LEL Juan Cardona who is responsible for the Northeast region of Florida. Juan's territory covers sixteen counties that are home to over fifty law enforcement agencies. His terrain takes him from the shadows of Florida's Capitol building to the beaches along the Atlantic Coast and into some of Florida's most rural communities.

*Continued on*

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Prior to joining the Florida LEL Team in 2009, Juan spent over a dozen years with the Prince George's County Police Department in Maryland, his home state. During his time in PG County, as the locals like to call it, Juan rose to the rank of Senior Detective where he became one of their most successful and recognized hostage negotiators that resulted in him being awarded the Chief's Award twice. One such award resulted from a tense situation where a heavily armed government employee held two people hostage in PG County for over seven hours. Juan's skills as a negotiator resulted in the release of the hostages and a very dangerous person off the streets. Two on-duty and unfortunate vehicle crashes resulted in Juan's early retirement from law enforcement.

Not able to stay "off the job", Juan became the Director of Traffic Law Enforcement for the National Sheriff's Office where he chaired and belonged to numerous panels and committees that were responsible for a lot of the changes in how officer's patrol and enforce traffic laws across the Nation.

Juan resides in Fleming Island, FL with his wife of eighteen years, Angie and their two sons, Nate and Dominic. Juan and his family are very active in their church where Juan leads the choir every week. Those of you who were in attendance at last year's Florida Law Enforcement Challenge Awards Ceremony were blown away, as were the rest of the LEL Team, when Juan sang the National Anthem during the opening remarks. That little known secret, along with his passion for his family, friends, and the agencies that he serves, makes him a very important part of the LEL Team!



The Cardona's

## Florida Law Enforcement Challenge

The Law Enforcement Liaison team is still accepting electronic applications for the 2012 Law Enforcement Challenge online at [www.floridalel.org](http://www.floridalel.org). Each law enforcement agency in the state is encouraged to participate. This is Florida's only life saving competition and everyone is talking about it! Contact your regional Law Enforcement Liaison for more information. But don't delay – this year's deadline is April 30, 2013!

### 2013 Florida DUI Challenge

The 2013 Florida DUI Challenge is underway across the Sunshine State! Participating agencies are working hard to prevent impaired driving within their communities to apprehend drunk drivers before they cause a crash. This year long Challenge is aimed at preventing the alcohol related crashes that claim too many lives in Florida. For more information on the 2013 Florida DUI Challenge, please visit [www.floridalel.org](http://www.floridalel.org).

### Click It or Ticket Florida

The third and final wave of the current Click It or Ticket Florida Challenge will be May 20 - June 2, 2013. Agencies from all over Florida stepped up to the plate and were very active in the first two waves. The Florida LEL Program has seen some creative ways to spread the message that safety belts save lives. We encourage you to dig deep as this last wave approaches and get your communities involved. Ask a local business to include a Click It or Ticket themed message on their marquee, encourage schools to mention Click It or Ticket during morning announcements, and utilize agency web-sites and *Face book* & Twitter pages to help spread the message. For more information visit [www.nhtsa.gov/PEAK](http://www.nhtsa.gov/PEAK)



## MADD Florida Law Enforcement Recognition Dinner

If you have not already done so, mark May 3 & 4, 2013, on your calendar for the 2013 MADD Florida awards ceremony. This year's event will recognize officers, agencies, and prosecutors, as well as, citizens who are dedicated to keeping Florida's roads safe. This 2 day event will include training for Florida law enforcement officers. For more information visit <http://www.madd.org/local-offices/fl/> or contact your regional Law Enforcement Liaison.



### Daily Fatality Report

Year-to-Date Traffic Fatality report as of April 1, 2013, based on preliminary data supplied by the Florida Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles.

