

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

March 20, 2009

Mounted Unit Members Instructor-Certified

Sheriff Jimmy Harris states as follows:

From March 9 until March 15, Sheriff's Deputies Jonathan Langley and Tony Blackwell completed a course in Mounted Officers' Instruction. Members of the Mobile County Sheriff's Mounted Unit Larry Lavender and Dean Bean awarded Langley and Blackwell with instructor's certificates after their completion of the 80-hour course. Since receiving certification, the instructors have already begun training a new member and certified a new horse for membership in our Unit.

Langley and Blackwell's goals as instructors are to ensure that all of the DeKalb Mounted Unit members have successfully completed the 40-hour basic mounted police course, and also to ensure that members are furnished with the most up to date training available.

Deputies Langley and Blackwell will also now be able to assist other agencies with their mounted police training needs.

Sheriff Harris said, "I really feel like this was a great accomplishment for Langley and Blackwell to become instructors – they are already volunteering to be mounted members, and it says a lot about them that they volunteered even more time to complete an 80-hour course to become instructors. Now we will be able to offer free training to other mounted units in North Alabama. Also, I can't say enough about the Mobile County Mounted Unit for helping to train our officers. I'm really appreciative of the relationship we have to be able to work and train with them."

