

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

March 4, 2009

### **Mounted Unit Leaders Train, Work During Mobile Mardi Gras**

Sheriff Jimmy Harris is pleased to announce that Deputies Jonathan Langley and Billy Jack Blackwell are completing mounted police instructor course. The first half of training was offered in Mobile County beginning February 18. The portion completed consisted of rider/mount observation – including such skills as checking saddles for proper fit; proper mounting and dismounting; rider position during a walk, trot canter, and jump; the mount’s ability to walk, trot, canter, stop, backup, side-pass left and right; and horse/rider reaction to different obstacles. Langley and Blackwell were also required to develop a training plan and teach a class on mounted policing, concluding with leading a practical exercise. Langley taught on approaching a suspicious person alone and with a partner, and Blackwell’s class covered basic mounted police movements and effective completion of the obstacle course. Casey Langley joined the training on February 21, receiving 16 hours of training credit on basic mounted police work.

After completion of the training, Blackwell and Langley joined other DeKalb Mounted members in assisting the Mobile County Sheriff’s Mounted Unit with the Mardi Gras parades.

On March 10, instructors from the Mobile County Sheriff’s Office will visit DeKalb County to finish instructor level training for Deputies Langley and Blackwell. Commander Jim Findley of the Etowah County Sheriff’s Mounted Unit will join us to participate in the second portion of training. Upon completion of the training, Langley and Blackwell will be able to certify new mounted members and assist other agencies with training.

Sheriff Harris said, “We are really pleased to have Langley and Blackwell completing this instructor training. I think it will be a valuable resource in that we won’t have to travel far away for our members to receive mounted training – and it will provide more opportunities for interaction with area units, when they can come to DeKalb County for training. Also, it’s just valuable for our unit that they have additional knowledge in mounted police work.”

