



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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From: Michael Terry  
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Re: HCSO Sergeant Presented "Team Leader of the Year Award" from the Florida  
Model Jail Standards Group

Date: February 23, 2024

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On 02-22-2024, at the Florida Model Jail Standards working group meeting in Saint Augustine, Hernando County Sheriff's Sergeant Brad Collito was presented the FMJS Team Leader of the Year Award by FMJS Chair Sheriff Mark Hunter.

Sgt. Collito has been an active inspector since 2014, dedicating his time and expertise to ensuring adherence to the Florida Model Jail Standards (FMJS). His commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of inmates and staff within Florida's local jail systems is unmatched.

One of the notable achievements that sets Sgt. Collito apart is his selection as a "senior inspector" by the Florida Sheriff's Association staff. This role entails conducting unannounced jail inspections, a task that demands experience and exceptional leadership abilities. Sgt. Collito was chosen for this role due to his extensive experience and proven track record of effective leadership.

In 2023 alone, Sgt. Collito has conducted three scheduled inspections, serving as the team leader on two occasions. His ability to effectively lead a team demonstrates his exceptional knowledge of the FMJS standards and the inspection process. The meticulousness with which he conducts these inspections is a testament to his dedication and commitment to upholding the highest standards within Florida's local jails.

Additionally, Sgt. Collito has also led teams on five unannounced inspections this year. This challenging task requires not only a deep understanding of the FMJS standards, but also the ability to remain calm and composed when dealing with the stressors that come along with unannounced inspections. Sgt. Collito's leadership during these unannounced inspections has been exemplary.

One of Sgt. Collito's greatest strengths lies in his ability to provide assistance and guidance to the facilities he inspects. His exceptional knowledge of the FMJS standards allows him to identify areas for improvement and provide valuable recommendations to enhance the safety and security of the inmates and staff. His thoroughness and attention to detail ensure that no aspect of the inspection is overlooked, guaranteeing that the facilities receive a comprehensive evaluation.

As the team leader during these inspections, Sgt. Collito excels in coordinating and managing the inspection process. He expertly assigns tasks and duties to the other inspectors, ensuring that each member's strengths are utilized effectively. Additionally, he acts as a coach, offering guidance and support to his team members, further enhancing their capabilities. Sgt. Collito's ability to foster a collaborative and efficient working environment is commendable, and it greatly contributes to the success of the inspections.

Sgt. Collito's documentation skills should also be recognized. The team leader conducting any inspection is responsible for the accurate reporting of the results in writing. There are always pressures associated with compiling and submitting reports to a Sheriff or a County Commission, but Sgt. Collito's documentation is typically impeccable.

Florida Sheriff's Association's Jail Services Coordinator, Cory Godwin, offered high praise for Sgt. Collito stating, "He is one of my all-stars that has repeatedly bailed me out."

Mr. Godwin also recognized Sgt. Collito at an FMJS Working Group explaining that Sgt. Collito has really "stepped up" in support of the FMJS Working Group when challenged with conducting the now mandatory unannounced inspections.

The following are a list of inspections conducted by Sergeant Brad Collito;

- Putnam County (Lead)
- Citrus County (Lead)
- Lake County
- Marion County Unannounced (Lead)
- Pasco County Unannounced (Lead)
- Alachua County Unannounced
- Volusia County Unannounced (Lead)
- Miami Dade County Unannounced

Sgt. Collito's willingness to travel as far as he has to conduct these audits is impressive. Sgt. Collito's vision of the FMJS inspection process lines up with ours as an agency. We know it is vitally important and that is why he makes himself available to conduct these inspections.

Sheriff Nienhuis is fully committed to ensuring the Florida Model Jail Standards inspection process is successful.

"Sgt. Brad Collito has an unwavering dedication to upholding the highest standards within Florida's county jails," Sheriff Nienhuis said. "His exemplary leadership and his attention to detail during inspections sets an example for other FMJS inspectors. Sgt. Collito's commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of inmates and staff is truly admirable."

**Hernando County Crime Stoppers / Anonymous Tips**

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**Hernando County Crime Stoppers can be reached by phone at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or \*\*TIPS from a cell phone.**

**You may also submit your tip via the internet at <http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com> .**

**You will remain anonymous and also be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000 cash!**