



NEWS

Weekly Top 3

All in a day's work: FDLE members receive drone training



FDLE members from TROC, OROC, FMROC and Capitol Police partnered with instructors from Drone Nerds, Inc. in Orlando to receive LEMUR drone training October 5-7.

The concept for this drone was thought of following the 2017 Mandalay Bay Las Vegas terror attack with the goal of helping keep first responders safer.

The LEMUR drone can be deployed in dangerous situations ahead of law enforcement officers and contains unique features to aid in public safety.

The LEMUR drone has a high definition camera, can be used in any lighting condition and can capture video and audio while idle.

This drone can locate suspects anywhere (including inside homes, skyscrapers and buses) and facilitate two-

way communication between crisis negotiators and suspects. It can even push open interior doors.

According to the Las Vegas Review Journal, a LEMUR drone was used to help first responders with location and rescue efforts after the Surfside building collapse earlier this year.

FDLE members learned how to operate a LEMUR drone in an indoor vicinity, focusing on manual operation and advanced capabilities. Members who received this training are able to operate the LEMUR drone and train other FDLE members.

If you have experience with the LEMUR drone and are interested in an opportunity to use it, please reach out through your regional chain of command.

FDLE and Attorney General Moody shut down fake COVID-19 driver license websites



“Phishing is the most common type of cyberattack with thousands victimized each year in Florida. As these scams become even more frequent and sophisticated, FDLE will continue to invest in the educational and investigative resources needed to help our citizens. During October, Cybersecurity Awareness Month, please take the time to visit SecureFlorida.org to learn more about cybersecurity.” - Commissioner Rick Swearingen

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to create opportunities for scammers. This week, FDLE assisted Attorney General Ashley Moody in shutting down three fraudulent websites that were attempting to steal Floridians’ personal information.

Last week, AG Moody released a [Consumer Alert](#) warning drivers about a new text phishing scam that attempts to exploit the pandemic in order to obtain personal information. Scammers sent text messages to Floridians asking for personal information in order to remake driver licenses that show COVID-19 vaccination status. The websites even requested targeted citizens to upload a copy of their drivers license.

While we shut down three of the sites, Floridians are urged to remain alert as scammers are expected to create additional fraudulent websites.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “I am grateful for the quick action of my attorneys and FDLE to identify and shutdown these fraudulent websites, but our work here is far from over. Please remain vigilant, and if you encounter one of these fake driver license update websites, report it immediately. By quickly reporting these scams, we can ensure the websites are shut down and help protect Floridians’ personal information.”

Kudos to Brent Cureton and David Crain who assisted in this effort!

FMROC Sarasota Field Office makes several large seizures of drugs, firearms and cash

Members of FMROC's Sarasota Field Office (SFO) have had several successful investigations targeting methamphetamine in the Manatee/Sarasota area.

The counties have seen an increased methamphetamine problem recently, as the dangerous drug has flooded into the communities due to increased availability from Mexican drug trafficking organizations operating in the area.

Methamphetamine is a problematic drug in Florida. Deaths from methamphetamine increased 56 percent during the first six months of 2020, as compared to the same time period in 2019.

By using FDLE undercover agents and confidential sources, search warrants and interdiction initiatives, the SFO has been able to infiltrate the operations of multiple drug dealers and their organizations.

Two separate investigations into different criminal organizations has yielded seizures of 80 pounds of methamphetamine, seven pounds of cocaine, 30 firearms, \$125,000 in cash and charges against 14 people. The investigations span several states and have ties to Mexico.



**Great work SFO
members, and thank
you for keeping our
citizens safe!**

Following an FDLE investigation and warrant for his arrest, Amos Winston Levy, 44, of Winter Haven, faces charges of one count each of organized scheme to defraud, money laundering and grand theft.

During the investigation, it was learned that Levy created a fake business and fraudulently opened a Florida bank account using the name of a legitimate vendor for Texas Department of Public Safety (Texas DPS). He did so without the vendor's knowledge. Levy facilitated a phishing scheme against Texas DPS and diverted **over \$486,500** to the fraudulent account.

Nice work TBROC!



Amos Winston Levy turned himself in on an FDLE TBROC warrant Tuesday.

CFA is here!

Assessors from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) will be visiting next week to conduct interviews and examine our policies, procedures, management, operations and support services. FDLE must comply with 90 core competencies to be re-accredited.

For more information, click here: [Corporate site - Accreditation \(myfdle.net\)](http://myfdle.net/Corporate%20site%20-%20Accreditation)



In the News!

FDLE's Genetic Genealogy program continues to help agencies solve cold cases.

Watch and read about how Jacksonville detectives (among them retired JSO, now **FDLE JROC SA Rhatigan**) cracked a 21-year-old cold case!

[How Jacksonville detectives cracked a 21-year-old cold case | firstcoast-news.com](http://firstcoast-news.com/How-Jacksonville-detectives-cracked-a-21-year-old-cold-case)