



# the SOURCE

## *HAVE GUN, WILL TRAVEL*

*BY FELICIA JACKSON/OSBI Information Services  
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Since 1996, the citizens of Oklahoma have been able to do just that. As of April 2, 2009, Oklahoma has 76,074 active concealed carry permit holders. The responsibility for issuance of these permits falls on the Self Defense Act (SDA) Unit of the OSBI, named for the act that granted the citizens of Oklahoma the right to carry firearms concealed.

The SDA Unit has seen a dramatic increase in the number of applications received over the last few years and more specifically over the last few months. In the first quarter of calendar year 2009, applications have risen 110% over the same time last year. Because licenses have a 5 or 10 year term, set by statute, every 5 years represents a renewal period. The SDA Unit is experiencing a renewal period now although the biggest increases are in applications for individuals who have never previously held a concealed carry permit in Oklahoma. For this reason, it is taking a little longer for applicants to receive their licenses than in previous years. Statute gives the SDA Unit 90 days to get applications processed.

Although a fairly straightforward process, some people do encounter some difficulties. The process begins at the sheriff's office in the county of the applicant's residence. Sheriffs will take fingerprints, verify applicants against their state issued I.D's, sign off on the application and send the fees, photos, training certificate, completed application, fingerprint cards and local area background checks to the OSBI for processing.

One of the issues experienced by SDA applicants is rejection of fingerprint cards due to illegibility. Older applicants or people who do extensive work with their hands may have a tougher time being printed. To assist applicants in this area, OSBI's Biometric Field Services Unit visits local law enforcement agencies and provides training on Livescan (digital) and inked fingerprinting. Applicants may find greater success getting printed at agencies that have Livescan devices. If an applicant makes two or more unsuccessful attempts to get good prints through local agencies, they may come to the OSBI headquarters in Oklahoma City to be printed or call the SDA Unit to check into other fingerprinting

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## *New Tracking System to Provide Additional Features*

*By Tom Reynolds/OSBI LIMS Administrator*

The OSBI implemented a new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) December 15, 2009. In the first phase, it replaced a legacy system that was produced in-house by the OSBI. The new BEAST LIMS will provide the capability in the near future for additional services such as pre-log, on-line reports, and on-line case status. So what does this do for the OSBI or our customers? Pre-log will allow an agency to enter case

information online at their office or at the OSBI lab. A hard copy 'Request For Laboratory Services' (RFLE) form would no longer be needed. The officer will print off a transmittal sheet with a barcode at their office. When they arrive at the OSBI, the Physical Evidence Technician scans the barcode and the case information will be displayed. Once accepted, the information becomes part of the case information in the OSBI BEAST LIMS. Other on-line

services include the implementation of web based reporting for lab cases. Once on line, reports will no longer need to be mailed out, reducing the time it takes to get a report to the officer or district attorney, and costs as well. Further, an officer will be able to track the status of their case.

The OSBI plans to have pre-log, web reporting, and on-line case status available in the next few months.

## *OSBI Citizens' Academy Graduates Two Dozen*

OSBI hosted its 7th Citizens' Academy this winter. Many of the 24 class participants are members of Oklahoma City's Committee of 100.

Several Oklahoma lawmakers also attended the 8 week course.

Among the subjects taught were crime scene investigations, forensic art and criminal intelligence.

The class also spent one class night at the Forensic Science Laboratory in Edmond where they conducted experiments in each forensic unit.

One class was spent outdoors on a Saturday at the Oklahoma City Police Department's Gun Range. There, academy members learned how to properly shoot handguns, rifles and shotguns.



*OSBI Director Dr. DeWade Langley presents former Edmond Mayor Sandra Naifeh with a graduation certificate.*

They also spent time learning when to shoot and when to hold their fire with the Prism FATS (FireArms Training System) System — loaned to the OSBI by East Central University in Ada.

The graduation ceremony took place March 31st at the OSBI Forensic Science

Center in Edmond. Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Joseph Watt was the keynote speaker.

The OSBI started its Citizens' Academy several years ago in an effort to educate public leaders on the role of the bureau.

So far, more than 100 people have gone through the program.



*OSBI Firearms Instructors teach Mitch Lambert to properly shoot a Bushmaster rifle at the Oklahoma City Police Department Gun Range.*

## *OSBI Agent Honored for Bravery by Committee*

Oklahoma City's Committee of 100 honored OSBI Agent in Charge Joe Ferrero at its annual awards banquet March 26th at the Hilton Skirvin Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City. Ferrero was honored for displaying exceptional bravery and courage in the face of imminent danger.

The award stems from a case in late October 2008. For days, Ferrero coordinated officers from the U.S. Marshal's Service, OSBI and other state and local agencies to search for a wanted killer from Texas. The suspect had killed and decapitated his victim.

On his way back from an early morning call out in Elk City on a different case, Ferrero was driving home at day break. In front of him was a car that loosely resembled a car sought by law enforcement in the search for the Texas murder suspect.

The driver of the car he was following suddenly stopped. Even though backup was many miles away, Ferrero had no option but to confront the suspect – a man who had previously made comments that he would not be taken alive by police. With this in mind, Ferrero cautiously approached the vehicle with his duty weapon drawn. As Ferrero gave orders to exit the vehicle, the suspect hesitated. When he saw Ferrero's resolve to make this arrest, the suspect complied and even advised Ferrero that he had a gun in the car.

By following his training, instincts and good judgment, Agent in Charge Ferrero took the murder suspect into custody without incident.



*OSBI Agent In Charge Joe Ferrero*

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*Have Gun, Will Travel*

Once the SDA Unit has a complete file – application, photos, training certificate and criminal history record based on local agency checks, state and national fingerprint records, information from Juvenile Authorities, where appropriate, and from the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health, eligible citizens will be issued their SDA license.

Preclusions to eligibility are listed in §1290.10 and .11 of the Self Defense Act. The greatest number of avoidable denials are based on §1290.10(4) – “false and misleading information on the application.” In an effort to determine if an applicant has a charge, arrest or conviction that serves as a preclusion to eligibility, the SDA application asks for *any* charge, arrest or conviction. Anything an applicant fails to disclose then forms a basis for denial. This may include a charge of public drunk back in 1974, an arrest for petty larceny in 1967 that was later dismissed or a conviction for Disturbing the Peace, DUI or Bogus Check from the 80's. Criminal history is not like credit history. It does not go away after seven years; therefore there is no time limit on the disclosure requirement.

OSBI takes the job of screening SDA applicants very seriously. Failure to include requested information will result in denial of an application. If failure to disclose is the basis for denial, an applicant may reapply but this costs time and money, as all fees are forfeited upon denial. It's best to provide full disclosure upon initial application.

Thoroughness can be a bit time consuming, but everyone can rest easy knowing that SDA license holders truly measure up to the eligibility requirements outlined by the legislature in the Oklahoma Self Defense Act. Applications are available at county sheriff's offices, from the OSBI or online at [http://www.ok.gov/osbi/Concealed\\_Weapons\\_Licensing/index.html](http://www.ok.gov/osbi/Concealed_Weapons_Licensing/index.html).

## *Lab Seeks International Accreditation*

*By Erin Henry/OSBI Quality Manager*

The OSBI's Eastern Regional Laboratory (ERL), located in McAlester, has applied for accreditation through the ASCLD/LAB-*International* program. As many in the law enforcement and criminal justice community are aware, OSBI laboratories first achieved ASCLD/LAB Legacy accreditation in 2001. However, since the ERL switched from providing biology services to drug analysis, the lab underwent a reaccreditation in 2003, separate from the other OSBI laboratories. As a result, the ERL will be the first of the OSBI labs to be considered for accreditation under the ASCLD/LAB-*International* program.

So what's the difference between ASCLD/LAB Legacy and ASCLD/LAB-*International*? The American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB) was created in 1981 and began offering voluntary accreditation based on standards they had developed. ASCLD/LAB continued updating and revising the accreditation standards used and adding criteria as new sciences emerged, such as DNA and digital evidence. In 2003, ASCLD/LAB began adopting the use of ISO 17025 standards, which were written by the International Organization for Standardization. In order to incorporate these interna-

tional standards into their accreditation program and ease the transition for crime laboratories, ASCLD/LAB renamed their existing accreditation program ASCLD/LAB Legacy and began offering accreditation to the ISO 17025 standards under a new program titled ASCLD/LAB-*International*.

While many of the criteria established in the ISO 17025 standards are already met by laboratories that have attained ASCLD/LAB Legacy accreditation, there is an increased focus on developing, maintaining, and improving management and quality systems of the laboratory, defining the uncertainty of measurements provided, and ensuring good communication and relations between the laboratory and customers. As a result of preparing for the upcoming assessment of the ERL, the quality and management system of the entire OSBI laboratory division has been revised to better address these changes in the accreditation standards.

As a result of these changes, customers will see an increased focus on evaluating service requests to ensure that both the OSBI lab personnel understand the customer's needs and that evidence is not accepted if the OSBI is not capable of meeting the customer's needs. In order to better

communicate with our customers, several documents have been included as an attachment to the OSBI's quality manual. These attachments describe the services the OSBI can provide, evidence sealing guidelines, evidence acceptance guidelines, and alternate service providers (for service requests that the OSBI laboratories do not have the capability to provide). Ultimately, the OSBI plans to provide links to these documents through the web-based evidence pre-log system currently in the final stages of development. As a part of the quality system, these documents will be reviewed annually and revised as necessary, providing customers with an up-to-date information resource.