



SHOOTING STRAIGHT

In January, we had three Sheriff's Office personnel return to us after being deployed for military duty in the Middle East. Deputy Barry Heikkinen is working in Patrol and is scheduled to be teamed up with a K-9. Deputy Scott Frazer is working in the jail. Crime Lab Tech Kurt Huver returns to the Crime Lab.

I am extremely proud of our veterans and it's great to welcome them back and know that they have returned safely. I enjoyed meeting with each veteran on their first day back to the Sheriff's Office.



DEPUTY BARRY HEIKKINEN



DEPUTY SCOTT FRAZER



CRIME LAB TECH KURT HUVER

As you know, we have a program in place to assist with retraining and reintegration. The SMART program and its Volunteer Committee do a great job with helping to make each veteran feel like a valued employee and address the practical needs of returning to the Sheriff's Office. This is one component of making veterans feel welcomed. Encouragement from coworkers is important too. Take a moment and thank our returning veterans for their service.

I asked one of the returning deputies: What's the best way for people to show that we appreciate our veterans – whether it's on the job or among friends and family? Certainly in the coming weeks and months, we will also have vets returning to our communities. So, if my neighbor is returning from Iraq, what can I do for him or her? The deputy suggested that I shouldn't ask about helping out – because they probably will decline. Instead, the deputy suggested a random act of kindness. Whether it's shoveling the driveway or babysitting kids for an evening – just do something to show your appreciation.

Currently, four additional employees of the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office are on active duty as members of the National Guard or Reserve. We'll keep you updated on their progress.

Click the links above and below this document for the full Shooting Straight!