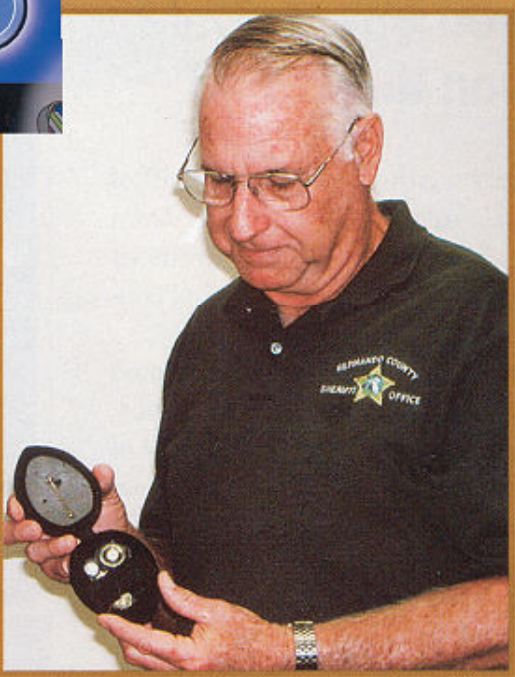


Sheriff takes steps to protect his frontline



held until certain information is obtained on their accident victims.

Mylander sought to speed that process, and help take the guesswork out of emergency treatment, by purchasing medical modules for each officer to wear with his or her uniform.

The modules, miniature tape recorders that fit under a badge, contain electronically recorded medical information about each officer. The crucial, life-saving information can be retrieved by first responders on the scene of a medical emergency involving an officer. It can also be used by emergency room professionals.

The innovative badge-size modules were suggested to Sheriff Mylander by a Hernando County resident who had read about them while visiting the state of Massachusetts. After researching the modules, the Sheriff was convinced they would be excellent additions to his deputy's uniform gear.

In March, it became mandatory for all certified officers to wear them while on duty. Off-duty use is optional, but highly recommended by the Sheriff.

Fortunately, following Deputy Stegner's accident described above, fellow officers arrived quickly and assisted with the notification of his family. They also accompanied him to the hospital. Deputy Stegner recovered from his extensive injuries and returned to active duty several months later.

The Hernando County Medical Modules are like other emergency equipment — it's good to have it and you hope and pray you never have to use it. Sheriff Mylander adds, "We can have the best equipment available, but there is nothing more important than the safety of our people."

By: Deana Dammer
Hernando County Public
Information

After going off duty one afternoon, Hernando County Deputy James Stegner was on his way home in his patrol vehicle. Suddenly, a sheet of plywood blew out of the bed of a passing pickup truck and landed in the path of his vehicle. The deputy swerved in an attempt to avoid the object, but drove on to the soft sand on the shoulder of the road and rolled his car — landing upside down in the ditch.

Emergency workers were on scene very quickly to assist the seriously injured deputy, who was con-

scious but not very coherent.

It is situations like this that led to Hernando Sheriff Tom Mylander's decision to purchase a tiny device to help protect the men and women who are put in life-threatening circumstances over and over each day. It made sense to the Sheriff that his office put critical life saving medical information about each officer within reach for emergency medical personnel.

Following an accident or injury, precious time is often lost by emergency responders, as they seek answers about the officer's blood type, whether he or she is on medication, has a pre-existing medical condition or has allergies. Some medical procedures must be with-