



Leon N. Wilmot
Sheriff of Yuma County

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PRESS RELEASE

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Lieutenant Pavlak Graduates from the FBI National Academy

Location: – Quantico, Virginia

On December 11, 2025, Yuma County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Samuel Pavlak graduated from the 296th Session of the FBI National Academy. Lieutenant Pavlak joined two hundred and fifty-four law enforcement officers that consisted of men and women from 47 states. Included in the class are members of law enforcement agencies from the District of Columbia, 24 international countries, four military organizations, and two federal civilian organizations.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy Program, held at the FBI Academy, offers ten weeks of advanced communication, leadership, and fitness training for selected officers having proven records as professionals within their agencies. On average, these officers have years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions.

Lieutenant Samuel Pavlak joined the Sheriff's Office on October 15, 2002, as a Detention Officer and was promoted to Deputy Sheriff in 2006.

In 2010, Pavlak was promoted to the rank of Senior Deputy, promoted to Sergeant in 2012, and reassigned to the position of Supervisor of the Yuma County Narcotics Task Force in 2015.

Throughout the years, Pavlak served as a Field Training Officer, a member of the Crisis Management Unit, and the Special Response Team as an entry team member, breacher, assistant team leader, and as team leader. He is also a certified instructor in multiple fields to include Firearms, Less Lethal Munitions, Defensive Tactics, Physical Fitness, and Active Threat/Shooter.

On July 28, 2019, Pavlak was promoted to his current rank of Lieutenant and was assigned as the East County Operations Supervisor where he also oversaw the Underwater Search & Recovery Team, and the Boating Safety & Enforcement Unit.

As of January 2023, Lt. Pavlak is currently assigned as the Commander of the Criminal Investigations Bureau and Yuma County Narcotics Task Force. In addition, Lt. Pavlak oversees the YCSO Volunteer Units, acts as the Team Commander of the Special Response Team, Team Commander of the Yuma Regional Critical



Samuel Pavlak

Incident Response Team, both liaisons and instructs for the Arizona Western College Law Enforcement Academy, and is a graduate of the Department of Homeland Security Leadership Academy 9th Session and the Southern Police Institute Administrative Officers Course 153rd Session.

Samuel Pavlak distinguished himself as the first member of the Yuma County Sheriff's Office to complete both the Southern Police Institute and the FBI National Academy, reflecting a strong commitment to leadership and professional excellence. On behalf of Sheriff Leon Wilmot and the Yuma County Sheriff's Office, we would like to extend our congratulations to Lieutenant Pavlak on his latest achievement.

Information Released By: Sgt. Edgar Guerra, Public Information Officer