



## Yuma County Sheriff's Office

**Leon N. Wilmot**  
*Sheriff of Yuma County*

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# PRESS RELEASE

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## Lieutenant Pavlak Graduates from The University of Louisville, Southern Police Institute

**Location:** – Louisville, Kentucky

On May 8, 2025, Yuma County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Samuel Pavlak graduated from the 153rd Session of the Southern Police Institute's Administrative Officers Course. Lt. Pavlak joined a total of forty-one law enforcement officers of various agencies from across the United States in Louisville, Kentucky for a 12-week leadership development program.

The Southern Police Institute is an integral part of the Department of Criminal Justice in the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Louisville. It is an advanced educational and training institute that aims to develop informed, effective, ethical and competent law enforcement managers who are capable of assuming positions of leadership in their respective agencies.

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 Volunteers Units, acts as



*Lt. Samuel Pavlak*

the Team Commander of the Special Response Team, instructs for the Arizona Western College Law Enforcement Academy and liaisons the Yuma Regional Critical Incident Response Team.

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:** Edgar Guerra, Public Information Officer