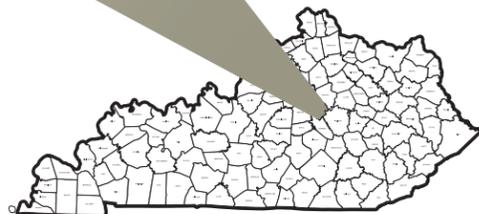




PHOTOS BY JIM ROBERTSON



Patrolman  
**Scott Carnes**  
 Wilmore Police Department

ABBIE DARST | PROGRAM COORDINATOR

**A**t only 39, Wilmore Patrolman Scott Carnes' rich and varied career has given him immense insight into the law enforcement profession, a unique background and a true love for working in a small town. Though this Letcher County native has only served the citizens of Wilmore since September 2013, Carnes is no stranger to Jessamine County. He served the Jessamine County Sheriff's Office for nearly eight years before joining the Department of State for two overseas duty stints to train local police. That quick and violent lesson in cultural diversity training, Carnes says, gave him a greater appreciation for modern law enforcement conveniences and home-grown relationships in a close-knit community. Carnes holds a bachelor's degree in Police Administration from Eastern Kentucky University. He is married and has an 8-year-old son.

**My career choice was absolutely not OK** — I was supposed to be a doctor or lawyer. My mother, bless her heart, was the most vehemently against it, but she has always been my biggest cheerleader since I've been in law enforcement.

**After training at the Department of Criminal Justice Training**, I policed at the Kentucky Horse Park for two years. Between concerts, traffic enforcement, Southern Lights, museum exhibits and regular horse shows, it's rather a busy place. During the Rolex Three Day Event, we moved 300,000 to 400,000 people in and out in a weekend. It is constant pre-planning and moving forward.

**My roommate in basic training was a deputy at Jessamine County**, and he helped get me to the sheriff's office. If you remember the shooting in 2003 where two officers were killed and one wounded — the one wounded was my academy roommate. That's how I became a firearms instructor and defensive tactics instructor — to try to pass skills down to these young guys. It's a different world from when I started policing. These young guys have a harder road than we did, I think.

**There was a phenomenal group of individuals when I first joined at the Jessamine County Sheriff's Office**. They were all hard workers, quick with a

*“The best piece of advice I ever got was ‘Find the humor in it. You’ll see something funny every day,’ and I’ve kept that.”*

courtesy notice, slower with a ticket, but a ticket came if needed. They knew how to talk to people, how to deal with people. Being a new officer and seeing those guys work with people and helping them get to the right avenues, I learned quite a bit from that group.

**I'm one of the rare guys who enjoys the job every day I go to work**. The best piece of advice I ever got was 'Find the humor in it. You'll see something funny every day,' and I've kept that.

**It was an eye opener to see the integration between the Department of State, Department of Justice and Department of Defense**, and the training that was going into Afghanistan to build their law system. It was interesting to be on ground level helping build an entire system, and not just the police side. We had lawyers, corrections officer and forensic scientists there training everybody from every level.

**I also spent 27 months in Haiti just after the earthquake in 2010**. We had 47 nation's police officers serving. At one point, I was chief of a section — I had 42 police officers and each one was from a separate country. It was interesting to see the cultures — Chileans, Colombians, El Salvadorians

— everyone had their own outlook, but was able to sit down at the table and bring it all together to help the Haitian police.

**We were placed in Haiti to help with internally displaced persons or IDPs**. I was stationed at Port-au-Prince. In the IDP camps we were trying to integrate police and community-oriented policing strategies, and stop bandits and gangsters. The smallest camp was 80,000 people. You can't imagine. We were trying to put 24-hour policing in there. Many of the police had left their service because their homes were destroyed, their families were lost — so trying to build those numbers up at the same time was a struggle, but it was well worth it.

**I trained trainers, and every eight weeks I had 400 brand new students hit the ground**. Each iteration, I saw trainers take more and more responsibility. By the time I left, we were just standing there. And that's the whole point. It's just like being a field training officer — let them take the ground when it's time to let the leash go.

**In Afghanistan we were losing at least a cop a day**. Haiti, not so bad, but still, it is what it is. It makes you appreciate what you have when you come home. You sit in your modern car with all the conveniences and technology, and they are lucky to get a car that starts. Or there will be seven of them in that car driving someplace.

**I have done a lot with accident reconstruction and vehicle homicide**. It's a like a huge puzzle that gets thrown in front of you, and you sit and sort through and put it together. It's a challenge from the start. You get there after everything is done and nobody knows what happened. I've enjoyed that over the years. It's good honest work.



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