

Dennis Lemma

Chief Deputy Dennis Lemma is a 23-year veteran of the Seminole County Sheriff's Office. As Chief Deputy, he oversees core operational and administrative functions of the Sheriff's Office, providing leadership and direction to all Departments within the Sheriff's Office.

Chief Deputy Lemma began his career with the Sheriff's Office in 1992 and spent four years as a correctional officer before being selected as a deputy sheriff. He served as a school resource deputy and then as a crimes against children investigator before receiving a promotion to sergeant of the Special Operations Section in 2002. Four years later, he became a lieutenant over the Community Services Division where he led the agency's crime prevention efforts, served as the public information officer and coordinated programs to assist the elderly and domestic violence victims. In 2008, he was promoted to captain and charged with leadership of the uniformed patrol division, property crime investigations, traffic and code enforcement. In 2011, he was appointed to major over the Department of Neighborhood Policing. In this role, he oversaw the operation of five divisions, including uniformed patrol, special operations, juvenile enforcement and intervention, public affairs and community services.

Chief Deputy Lemma received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration from Columbia College, a graduate certificate in criminal justice from the University of Virginia, and a master's degree in administrative leadership from the University of Oklahoma. Chief Deputy Lemma is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Chief Executive Seminar.