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Dale County agencies host FBI seminar

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OZARK — Dozens of law enforcement officers from throughout the country met in Ozark on Friday for the last of several courses led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Dale County Sheriff's Office and Dale County District Attorney's Office co-sponsored an FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association seminar known as the Command Institute for Law Enforcement Executives.

Dale County District Attorney Kirke Adams said the institute was one of several of its kind to be offered by the FBI in other parts of the country.

National Training Coordinator Jon Tooke of the FBI office in Malvern, Pa., said the class was essential for law enforcement officials in management positions who are expected to move through the ranks within their organizations.

"In 2011, more than 3.5 million — the first of the baby boomer generation born in 1946 — will reach 65. This means law enforcement, too, will have a generation of leaders transitioning out and being replaced with different characters, per-



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National Training Coordinator Jon Tooke of the FBI office in Malvern, Pa., speaks to law enforcement officers from the Southeast during a training session in Ozark on Friday morning.

spectives, viewpoints and talents. The challenge will be for organizations to assure that the proper training and whatever wisdom is available from that generation can be passed on and maximized," he said.

"The quality of an organization and the level of which it functions is determined by the level of quality training they have received."

Dale County Sheriff Wally Olson said agencies from as far away as North Carolina attend-

never catch up," he said. Executive Officer Richard Moore of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation said the institute allowed him to refresh skills he had learned over the years.

"I've been in a management position here for over six years so the course gives me an opportunity to recall and use some of the information I learned earlier," he said.

Montgomery Police Maj. Brenda Mitchell, who commands the department's patrol division, agreed.

"Any additional education I receive can increase my value to the department, but what is especially important in this course is that we know that we have a lot of generational changes and are dealing with a younger and younger officer. We have to better identify with these officers and help them to mature and grow into the officers they need to be," she said.

In addition to the training the agencies received, Olson said the session was an opportunity to build more law enforcement relationships throughout the country.

"You never know when they might need you or you might need them," he said.

ed the event.

Cherokee, N.C., Police Chief Gerard Ball said the institute is a coveted course that he sought to attend for some time.

"They're put on all across the country and with the economy the way it is, Ozark was within driving distance. The way I look at it as a chief officer, you have to set the example and at this point, education is something you have to stay on top of some kind of way. If you lack anything on any particular topic, you will