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## [Former Sheriff Detentions Deputy arrested on sex charges](#)

By Tehachapi News

A former Kern County Sheriff's Detention Deputy has been arrested on sex charges.

According to a release from the KCSO, in December 2011 detectives began investigating allegations regarding a Detentions Deputy sexually assaulting a female inmate at the Mojave iail.

The investigation reportedly revealed that Detentions Deputy Ralph James Kress had sexually assaulted a female inmate while she was being booked into the jail in December 2011. Kress was immediately placed on administrative leave.

On March 9, a felony warrant was issued charging Kress with a violation of Penal Code Section 288a(c)(3) -- Oral Copulation with Force/Threats, Penal Code Section 288a(e) -- Oral Copulation with Confined Prisoner, and Penal Code Section 149 (Assault Under Color of Authority). He was arrested on March 9 and booked into the Central Receiving Facility. His bail has been set at \$235,000.

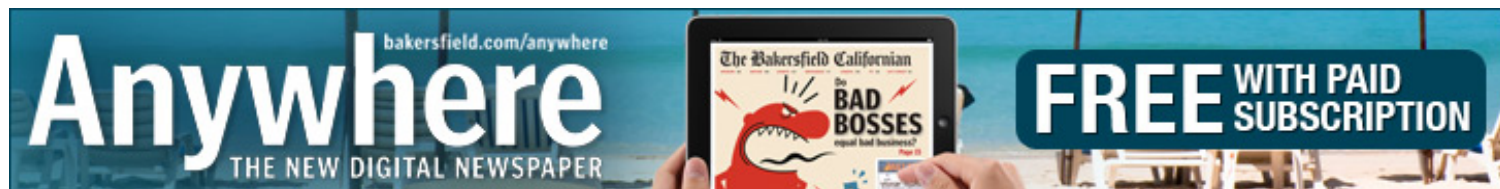
Kress was a Detentions Deputy with KCSO for five years and was assigned to the Mojave Jail at the time of this incident. He is no longer employed by the Sheriff's office.

The female inmate was in custody for Penal Code Section 245(a)(1) -- Assault with a Deadly Weapon and Penal Code Section 594(b)(1) -- Vandalism. She reported the incident after she was released from custody.

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