

Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office 2015 Annual Report

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Executive Summary

The Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office will produce an annual report to describe the departmental highlights and accomplishments from the previous year. This document serves as information describing our quality of service and professionalism. This annual report is offered by our agency to the citizens to provide an overview of each divisional unit.



Sheriff's Message

The Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office is committed to providing professional services to all citizens. Our agency has worked to develop high quality performance standards based on practical police concepts. The employees of the Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office are dedicated servants who perform their duties with the utmost care and responsibilities. A major objective of this department is to ensure that the citizens of the county have confidence in us; therefore we welcome your feedback. My doors are always open, feel free to stop by or give us a call.

Our Mission

The Prince Edward Sheriff's Office is dedicated to providing impartial law enforcement for its citizens and visitors with up-to-date criminal investigation techniques, highly trained staff to assist with societal needs and state of the art equipment. At Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office, we are dedicated to community involvement and interact with the public through community policing. There are a number of employees of this department who also serve as firemen and/or rescue squad members. In addition to volunteering for emergency services, Deputies work on building bonds with the citizens of the county and provide support and services through character building programs such as D.A.R.E., Class Action, or Drug Awareness events for parent's and youth. Other community programs include Project Lifesaver, Highway Safety Events, Senior Safety, Triad, and the Neighborhood Watch Program.



Introduction

The Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office has worked diligently to gain respect and trust from the community. The citizens expect to receive professional law enforcement services from our agency as well as those we partner with. Our mission and core values describe an office that is dedicated to providing impartial law enforcement services for its citizens and visitors with up-to-date criminal investigation techniques, highly trained staff to assist with societal needs and state of the art equipment. At Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office, we are dedicated to community involvement and interact with the public through community policing projects.

Each deputy employed by the department serves with the most efficient and practical means; initiating problem solving techniques and established goals. The deputies are highly visible. They cover an around the clock 10 hour work schedule, ensuring that they converse with residents and businesses to let them know we are a part of this community. The crime rate is low and the crime clearance rate is high. The Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office responded to 8,213 calls for service in 2015.

There are 36 staff members employed by this department which consists of 30 sworn full-time employees and 3 sworn part-time personnel. The employees work the communications, investigative, patrol, courtroom security, or administrative units. Each unit has a supervisor in charge of it to make sure that it functions properly.

During 2015, Jim Thorpe and Jason Jenkins joined the Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office in the patrol division. Deputy Thorpe returns to us from Longwood University Campus Police (he was a Deputy Sheriff under Retired Sheriff Travis Harris Jr. He is a certified Firearm's Instructor and will be assisting us with training as well as patrol duties. Deputy Jason Jenkins is a certified law enforcement officer who comes to us from Hampden Sydney College Campus Police Department. He also worked part time field work for our agency.

Deputy Howard Estes retired from our agency in 2015 but returned to us as a part-time employee. Deputy Lynnaeus Carr was appointed to his function as the Civil Process Manager. She has been the support to the Civil Process Manager for many years before acquiring it full time. There were no promotions or demotions within the agency for 2015.



The Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office received their initial accreditation status from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) on January 16, 2014 after an agency assessment that took place December 9-11, 2013. The Sheriff's Office is now working toward re-accreditation status which will take place in 2017. Lieutenant Sonya M. Walker is assigned as Accreditation Manager; ensuring that the agency stays in compliance with all standards.

Investigation Units

Major David Wilmoth, Chief Deputy, is in charge of supervision for the investigative unit. 2015 produced cases that range from sexual assaults to burglaries; there were no homicides. The nature of these cases makes it difficult for them to clear immediately. Investigators work long hours with efforts towards solvability. The Sheriff addressed the issue of long work hours for investigators by offering them paid overtime and the ability to carry over vacation time for instances where they have worked a lot of hours so that they can focus on the case.

Narcotic Investigations are assigned to the Piedmont Regional Narcotics and Gang Task Force which was established in March 2013. Prince Edward County has one member assigned to this unit which is compiled of members from other agencies within the region.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION STATISTICS

The total warrants for 2015 are 4,151 with 3,983 served. This includes felonies and misdemeanor offenses such as burglary, rape, assault and battery, etc. The Deputies also assisted other agencies with arrests over 201 times. They also served 2,331 Uniform Summons.

PIEDMONT REGIONAL NARCOTICS AND GANG TASK FORCE UNIT

Arrests	331
Cases Initiated	235
Felony Charges	410
Misdemeanor Charges	11
Assisted Charges	6
Currency Seized	\$20,360
Vehicles Seized	13
Weapons Seized	2
Drug Value:	
Oxycontin	\$420
Amphetamines/Meth	\$1116
Cocaine	\$31,000
Crack Cocaine	\$7563
Heroin	\$1,237
Marijuana	\$130,716
Other Drugs/Hallucinogen/Unknown Type	\$1,225
Schedule I-IV Drugs	\$982
Value of Drugs Seized	\$201,019



Patrol/Field Operations Unit

A Patrol Deputy Sheriff is responsible for the efficient performance of required duties such as general law enforcement responsibilities necessary for the safety and good order of the community. A deputy sheriff is trained to identify criminal offenders and activity, apprehend offenders and participate in subsequent court proceedings. They also reduce the opportunities for the commission of crime through preventive patrol and other measures, aid people who are in danger of physical harm, facilitate the movement of vehicular and pedestrian traffic, identify potentially serious law enforcement or governmental problems, promote and preserve the peace, and provide emergency services.

The patrol division/field operations are supervised by Captain James Farley. This unit is responsible for all enforcement duties as well as responding to calls for service. The deputies are highly visible in the community and they work a lot of traffic in heavily-populated areas throughout the county in an effort to reduce traffic accidents which in turn reduces the loss of property, injuries, and fatalities that occur within our community.

TRAFFIC INFRACTIONS/FIELD OPERATIONS

Working traffic-related incidents is part of the duties for a Patrol Officer. This unit receives grants from the Highway Safety Program to promote safer highways as well as recognition from the Virginia Safety Action Program (VASAP) for DUI arrests. The VASAP Program is part of the local Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) which focuses on a safer community by offering programs such as Youthful Offender, First Time Drug User, Public Inebriate Program, Drug Testing/Urine Screens, Ignition Interlock, Driver Improvement, Court/Community Corrections, Habitual Offender Intervention, and Habitual Offender Evaluation. This unit also receives federal grant funding from DMV for traffic enforcement. Both grants support enforcement in areas such as school zones, for special events, high traffic times and weekends. DUI checkpoints and Selective Enforcement duties are established at this time. The DMA Alcohol, Speed and Occupant Protection Grant from October 2014 to September 2015 reflect:

DMV Speed Enforcement Grant - 79 hours
 DMV Alcohol Enforcement Grant – 302 hours
 DMV Occupant Protection Grant - 8 hours

Total - 389 hours

There was a total of 3,113 traffic summons issued in 2015. They were written for infractions such as speeding; failure to yield at a right away; approaching an emergency vehicle without caution; driving suspended or on a revoked license; failure to obey a stop/yield sign; defective unsafe equipment; driving without an operator's license; failure to yield a right away; seat belt requirements; no inspection sticker; expired registration; failure to change address on operator's permit ; reckless driving; improper breaking; improper display of tags; following too closely; failure to obey restricted permit; child restraint device requirement; failure to carry registration/operator's license; improper lane change; stopping on highway; expired registration; no insurance; displaying plates not issued to owner; buying vehicle without title; signal light violation; attempting to elude law enforcement; fail to yield at a private driveway; failure to approach stationery vehicle with caution; DUI's; DUID'S; and driving with slick tires.



Courtroom Security/Civil Process Unit

In 2015, there were four full-time and one part-time deputy assigned to Courtroom Security. There is also one deputy in this unit who is in charge of serving civil process that works the courts. This unit was supervised by Sgt. Howard Estes who ensured the functional and daily operations of the courts and that civil process is served in accordance to the law. Currently, there is a Sergeants position that will be filled so the Sheriff and Chief Deputy are overseeing the responsibilities of the courts until the position is filled. The Courtroom Security Personnel also provide bailiff services to the General District Court, Juvenile/Domestic Relations Court, and the Circuit Court. In 2015, deputies assigned to the courts worked three high-profile cases without incidents; (2) of them in General District Court and (1) in Circuit Court.

Courtroom Security Deputies share the responsibility with Patrol Deputies of transporting offenders and mental health patients. In 2015, the approximate logged transports are as followed:

<u>Juvenile Transports</u>	
Mental Health	27
Court or Other	201
<u>Adult Transport</u>	
Mental Health	93
Court or Other	218

The serving of civil papers is an important component of the Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office. There is one deputy assigned to serve civil process in the Town of Farmville; the rest of the civil process assignments are completed by Patrol Deputies. In 2015, the following papers were served:

<u>CIVIL PROCESS UNIT</u>	
Attachments	9
Detinues	74
Garnishments	461
Interrogatories	42
Other	332
Summons	1567
Show Cause	248
Subpoenas	4374
Unlawful Detainers	120
Warrant in Debt	398
Writ Fieri Facias	5
Writs of Possession	41
Jury Summons	902
Other	70
Total Civil Papers Served- 8,921	



Evidence Control

During 2015, the evidence room underwent quarterly inspections and an annual audit. It also underwent an audit due to change in personnel assigned to it. All evidence was found to be submitted in accordance to agency policy and the evidence room was found to be in order. Any evidence that was no longer needed was destroyed in accordance to court order and/or Library of Virginia standards. There were new property and evidence forms created to show date and time of evidence submitted to and from the temporary evidence storage.

Neighborhood Watch

The Tuggle area Neighborhood Watch, Virso Community Neighborhood Watch, and the Greenbay Area neighborhood Watch programs continue to function well and is growing. David Hackney serves as chairman of the Tuggle area watch group. The group was created to deter criminal activity in their neighborhood. It is also a way the community can get to know and watch out for each other. The group meets quarterly or as needed to provide valuable information to the members.

The Neighborhood Watch groups continue to express their gratitude for the assistance from Prince Edward Sheriff Wesley Reed and the support of his deputies. Sgt. Robert Franklin is in charge of meeting with citizens and helping them establish Neighborhood Watch Programs.

The Virso Community Neighborhood Watch Program held their 5th Annual Community Event in 2015 at the Virso Recreational Center. Sheriff Wesley Reed participated in the event. There was plenty of food served, and the children played games. This event allows everyone at least once a year to know their neighbor. The Neighborhood Watch Captains are Jerry Townsend and Vincent Marsh.



Highlights of 2014

Sheriff's Office Budget Cuts

There was no budget cut for 2015.

At-Will Program

County Administrator Wade Bartlett presented a report on the sheriff's at-will overtime program. The "at will" traffic enforcement overtime program allows sheriff's deputies to work traffic enforcement at will, which would have to be paid as overtime. The County has grant funds to help pay overtime for enforcement, but restricts the time when deputies can work. The board previously approved a trial period for the program and, with the amount of fines brought in, the personnel and estimating fuel costs, it appears to be essentially breaking even in funding, according to the County Administrator.

Those high traffic volumes, such as the morning commuting times, weekend morning hours, are not covered. Often when staff is working under the grant funding, they become involved in situations that (are) not traffic related, such as handling calls for service. The result is that enforcement does not occur, because they're out answering a call. The at-will program provides additional staff during our busiest periods of enforcement, allowing faster response calls when there is a call for service other than traffic. This increased enforcement will heighten safety in the county, provide badly needed additional manpower, while the additional cost will be covered by the additional enforcement.

Community Meeting

On November 13, 2015 The Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office in collaboration with the Prince Edward County Middle School hosted a D.A.R.E. Community Meeting for all residents of the county. The purpose of the meeting was to re-introduce the D.A.R.E. Program to the community, educate them about current drug, internet, gang, and bullying trends and to answer any questions/concerns they may have. Guest Speakers for the event were:

Hamlet E. Hood Jr., an Investigator with the Department of Juvenile Justice who presented information regarding youth internet activity

Cristopher M. Burke, an Investigator with the Department of Corrections Regional Gang Unit and member of the Virginia Gang Investigator's Association. Mr. Burke discussed "The Big Lie," an informative video created by the Virginia Attorney General's Office that offers information about gang activity and threats

Stephen Mercer, Deputy Sheriff with the Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office discussed bullying. Deputy Mercer serves as the agencies School Resource Officer at Prince Edward County High School



Sonya M. Walker, Lieutenant and D.A.R.E. Officer with Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office, offered information regarding the D.A.R.E. program, current drug trends, and school safety.

Highlights of Cases 2014

Community Concern

Some people who live in Prince Edward County are concerned after seeing a picture that appeared to show a 911 dispatcher asleep while working at the county sheriff's office.

Cold Case: Reservoir Remains Possibly Identified

The human remains recovered in a reservoir located in Prince Edward County in 2008 are believed to be 50-year-old Glenn Edward Wilson. Investigators have also determined Wilson worked for a time as a carpenter in Kill Devil Hills and other areas of Dare County, North Carolina. In our effort to find out more information about this individual, our hope was that someone would recognize Mr. Wilson's photo and provide us with more clues about places he worked in the Outer Banks, co-workers who may have known him, or other information so we can locate his family and friends.

This investigation is currently considered a suspicious death. The recovered remains had seven tattoos: a leaf/feather on his neck; on his right arm were a confederate flag with a skull and helmet, an eagle entwined with a letter "A" and a figure of Yosemite Sam; on his left arm were a bulldog and another eagle. One of the most distinctive tattoos was a red heart with two arrows and words written in cursive "I Love you Kelsey always" which was also found on the individual's left arm. The Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office and the Virginia State Police are investigating the case. Those with information should contact Lt. Richard Hurak.

Summary

This agency continues to seek grant opportunities to aid in funding so that improved services can be provided for our community and to lessen the impact of running this department. The employees of this agency work diligently to be resourceful; utilizing cost and savings measures whenever possible. If funds can be saved on equipment and uniforms, then it is accomplished. To ensure the highest level of service is provided for the county, the Sheriff's Office creates and manages a budgeting system that is evaluated on a monthly basis. Employees of the Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office continue to receive modern training to enhance professionalism and services provided to the public. The use of new technology is introduced whenever feasible.

As the Sheriff of Prince Edward County, I am grateful for my employees and the quality service that they provide. All of them display professionalism and dedication to their jobs. The citizens of this county express the desire to have a sheriff's office that is professional, proactive and efficient. I feel that the Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office have accomplished these expectations. The Prince Edward County Sheriff's Office has a vision of "seeing a secured future for today's children and their families provided for by a unified system of government along with citizen interaction." Each day the employees of this office strive to reflect that vision in dealing with all people.



I appreciate the trust offered to me as Sheriff by the citizens of Prince Edward County. I will continue to lead this agency in an unbiased manner; fairly and firmly until the end of my tenure. During this time, I will continue to develop methods of prevention and deterrence of crime, apprehension of offenders, and recovery /return of property. Again my office is open and available to all citizens and I welcome your comments and input.

-Wesley W. Reed, Sheriff

