

WISE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT 2012



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Message from the Sheriff

Dear Citizen,

The Wise County Sheriff's office is committed to providing quality services for all citizens. Our office has established the highest performance standards and expectations from which there can be no deviation. The employees of the Wise County Sheriff's Office are aware of the important responsibilities and duties they have as public servants. It is important that the citizens of the County of Wise and the City of Norton have complete confidence in their Sheriff's office. Should we fail to meet your expectations in any manner, I want to hear about it. We welcome and appreciate your feedback.

Sincerely,

R.D. Oakes
Sheriff



Accreditation

In 2002, the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC) accredited the Wise County Sheriff's Office. This agency governs law enforcement accreditation in the State of Virginia.

Accreditation recognizes the Wise County Sheriff's Office as exemplifying the best in current law enforcement practices.

2006 (First Re-accreditation)

On April 26, 2006 representatives from VLEPSC met with members of the Sheriff's Office to observe agency components, equipment, and programs; a standard's folder review, and a thorough inspection of the agency's equipment and organization. The team completed its assessment in well under the normal time period and gave the department high praise. Sheriff Oakes, Major Vanover, and Sgt. Meade attended the annual VLAEC Conference where Sheriff Oakes was presented with the Certificate of Re-accreditation.

2010 (Second Re-accreditation)

A VLEPSC assessment team visited the Wise County Sheriff's Office on April 27-29 to thoroughly review Sheriff's Office procedures to determine compliance with program standards, which included Administration, Operations, Personnel, and Training. The team unanimously recommended the Sheriff's Office be re-accredited at the VLEPSC Board meeting in May. A Certificate of Re-accreditation was presented to Sheriff Oakes.

PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division of the Sheriff's Office provides the front line of police services to the citizens of Wise County and the City of Norton. The Patrol Division consists of four platoons providing services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In addition, the Patrol Division is responsible for responding to calls for service, conducting preliminary criminal investigations, responding to emergencies, enforcing traffic laws, and investigating accidents.

Other duties of the Patrol Division:

- Escorts for charity events: walk-a-thons, hike-a-thons, etc...
- Funeral escorts
- Speaking arrangements for school career days
- Assist Fire and Rescue at emergency scenes/Hazmat/Disaster/Severe Weather
- Search and rescue for lost/missing person(s)
- Assist Crime Prevention Unit with presentations/demonstrations
- Transport of mentally ill to other counties
- Transport inmates to and from court
- Unlock vehicles

The Patrol Division provides law enforcement and peace keeping services to over 412 square miles in Wise County and the City of Norton. Our Patrol Deputies conduct follow-up interviews, with victims and witnesses, bringing investigations to a conclusion, which plays a very active part in law enforcement.

The Sheriff's Office and its' Patrol Division's main purpose is to serve the public while protecting and defending lives and property. The department is also dedicated to the prevention and repression of criminal and delinquent behavior, identification, apprehension of and conviction of offenders, traffic flow and collision reduction, and the maintenance of order and public peace.

The information on the following pages is intended to provide a brief overview of some of the more notable statistics and occurrences during 2012.

Criminal Warrants resulting in Arrests – 3,547
Persons Arrested – 2,141
Mental Patient Transports – 92
Juvenile Transports - 115
Summons Issued – 656
Motor Vehicle Accidents worked - 70
DUI Charges - 93
Extraditions - 50

The Patrol Division consists of several Units including:

Canine: This function is responsible for answering calls for service and enforcement as requested as well as providing back-up assistance, building searches, tracking/locating persons, and school searches when requested.

The K-9 teams are a critical part of this agency's work. They have a long history in this office going back 10 years with the arrival of K-9 Bau in 1996. Since then, our units have grown in numbers, skill and professionalism. Today they are valued more than ever and play a key role in building goodwill for WCSO in the local community. Through constant appearances in parades, fairs, and other community events, these teams create a connection with people and with particularly with children that is absolutely unique.

The Teams Consist of Canine Handler Sgt. Steve Arney and K-9 Duke; and Canine Handler Sgt. Josh Marshall and K9 Dixie.

School Resource/D.A.R.E.: This function conducts the School Resource and D.A.R.E. programs in the Wise County Public School system.

SRO'S taught D.A.R.E. to well over 350 Students in 2012.

Civil Process: This function receives, processes, and serves all legal documents requiring Sheriff's service. They include summons, subpoenas, writs, levies, warrants in debt, and other legal notices as disseminated by the courts.

The Sheriff serves as the enforcement officer of the courts and legal community regarding civil matters. Within the Sheriff's Office, civil process servers execute and serve various legal processes issued by the non-criminal courts of the state and its subdivisions, as well as the legal community and the general public. The purpose of civil process is to give a defendant notice

that a legal action or a proceeding is going to commence. Specific civil processes include income executions, property executions, evictions, orders of attachment (seizures of property which may be used to satisfy a judgment); orders of seizure (seizures of items of personal property whose ownership and possession is disputed); and civil arrests. In each case, papers must be delivered in person to the defendant.

Below is a summary of the performance of the Civil Process Servers during 2012:

Civil	
Subpoenas Received	4,768
Jury Summons Received	719
Other Civil Process Received	20,262
Total Civil Papers Received	25,749
Total Civil Process Served	23,023

Domestic Violence: This function receives, processes, and provides seventy-two hour follow up on all domestic violence cases.

The Domestic Violence Program for Wise County was established in January 1999, when Sheriff R.D. Oakes applied for and was awarded a grant through the Department of Criminal Justice Services. This program provides follow-ups to the citizens of Wise County and the city of Norton who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. The Domestic Violence Officer conducts follow-ups, which require them to re-contact the victim and provide them with information on the resources that are available to them, such as, the Hope House, counseling centers, victim/witness program, and hotline numbers. They answer any questions the victim may have regarding referrals and the service we provide. The Wise County Sheriff's Office also has a cellular phone program whereby we issue recycled cellular phones to victims so they can call 911 should their abuser continue to harass or harm them.

The Wise County Sheriff's Office responded to 345 Domestic Disturbance calls in 2012.

COURT SECURITY

The Court Security staff is responsible for maintaining order and proper decorum in all courts. The Wise County Deputies assigned to Court Services are responsible for inmate transportation and courtroom security. Our Court Security Staff is also responsible for assisting the public.

	2012
Circuit Court	
Circuit Court Days	322
Average Number Circuit Court Judges	2
General District Court	
General District Court Days	225
Average Number General District Court Judges	2
Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court	
Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Days	235
Average Number Juvenile and Domestic Relations Judges	2

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING

The Sheriff's Office promotes safety and crime protection through community involvement and targeted campaigns, which benefit and educate citizens. The Sheriff's Office is also proud to participate in festivals, parades and community days, especially in summer. Below are a few of our programs.

Project Lifesaver - Project Lifesaver is an innovative and rapidly growing program aiding the victims and families suffering Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders such as Down's Syndrome and Autism. Project Lifesaver uses state-of-the-art technology employing wristband transmitters to locate wandering and lost adults and children.

Good Morning Wise County Program – This is a program where a volunteer assists the Sheriff's Office in contacting senior citizens, who have enrolled in the program, and checks on their welfare. It creates a mechanism to provide family members peace of mind knowing the Sheriff's Office is checking on their loved one.

TRAINING

The Wise County Sheriff's Office currently has 21 Instructors certified through the Department of Criminal Justice Services and is responsible for teaching Academy curriculum. Many are certified in more than one specialty. Their certifications are as follows:

General Instructors - 21
Firearms – 9
Defensive Tactics – 5
Driver Training - 3
Standardized Field Sobriety - 1
ASP Baton - 3
Less Lethal Devices – 2
Taser - 2
VCIN - 1

In addition to teaching at the academy Instructors conduct in-house training at the Sheriff's Office. In 2012, Sheriff's personnel received 2,865 hours of instruction.

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

The Communications Division provides a central location for the public and all emergency services to report and receive emergency assistance. This is achieved primarily through the use of the emergency phone number 911. The call volume for all lines is over 10,000 calls per month. This volume includes over 25% cellular phone calls. From the communications center, we dispatch assistance to the public from the following agencies: the Sheriff's Office, and emergency service providers for the towns of Appalachia, Big Stone Gap, Coeburn, Pound, St. Paul, and Wise. They also dispatch for other entities including; the University of Virginia's College at Wise Campus Police Department, Animal Control Wardens, Litter Wardens, the Conservation Police (Game Warden), and the Federal and State Forestry Officers.

In addition to providing a basic communications service the dispatch center is able to provide officers and others with mapping, blueprints, and other information critical to successfully managing an emergency situation.

Each dispatcher is trained and certified through the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. This certification allows access to the VCIN files for information regarding histories, stolen guns, articles, boats, and motor vehicles. Another required certification is Emergency Medical Dispatch, through the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch. This certification provides dispatchers with professional training, as well as sound medical

protocols, which help them deliver quality care and instruction to the calling public with emergency medical needs.

Radio communications with all agencies are handled through the 911 communications center. Our radio system supports the Sheriff's department and all municipal police departments in the county. Expansion capabilities are built in and can accommodate other uses such as county agencies, fire and rescue, as the need arises.

The backbone of our emergency system is the 911 phone system and related equipment. This system allows our dispatch personnel to have visual information regarding the call location immediately upon receiving the call. This is immensely helpful in today's environment. With the expansion that has taken place in our county, there is no way one could quickly obtain the necessary driving directions needed to dispatch emergency personnel to a given area. Additionally, emergency responders assigned to that particular location are displayed for the dispatcher to have immediate knowledge of where and who to respond to the specific location. This system is supported financially with a monthly surcharge placed on all telephone lines.

There are currently eleven full time telecommunicators working in Central Dispatch.

The 911 communications center is fully operational 24 hours a day 7, days a week.

The total number of calls dispatched for 2012 was 121,499.

Criminal Investigative Division

When a citizen reports a crime most often a patrol deputy is the first to respond to the incident. If the responding patrol deputy cannot resolve the reported case it is referred to an investigator.

The Wise County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigative Division is comprised of five full time certified deputies. The investigators are veteran deputies who have experience and extensive training in investigation techniques. Their primary duty is to provide in-depth investigation of cases.

Investigators are designated the duty and responsibility of case and crime scene management. Through their training in criminal investigation techniques they have the experience to approach the crime in a systematic method to bring the case to a conclusion. Our investigators analyze large quantities of information, establish leads and pursue those leads through contacting and questioning victims, witnesses and potential perpetrators.

Our investigators have completed comprehensive instruction in death, arson, fraud, larceny, burglary, sex crimes, cyber crime and juvenile investigations. Most of our Investigators have completed the Virginia Forensic Science Academy, a 10-week school of crime scene technology, taught by the Department of Forensic Science.

One investigator is assigned full time duty to investigate controlled substance violations. This investigator has the responsibility to follow up on complaints or information provided by citizens or law enforcement. This investigator also has the responsibility of apprehension and arrest of persons possessing illegal controlled substance with intent to sell or distribute.

CID investigated cases include the following:

- Narcotics Violations
- Drug Overdoses
- Drug Overdose DOA
- DOA
- Suicides
- Homicides
- All Sexual Assaults
- Child Abuse
- Breaking and Entering
- Aggravated Assault
- Kidnapping
- Counterfeit Forgery
- Embezzlement
- Motor Vehicle Theft

In addition, CID initiated criminal investigations.

Citizens are encouraged to call or contact an Investigator should they have information regarding a crime or ongoing criminal activity.