

**VIRGINIA BEACH SHERIFF'S
OFFICE**
Paul J. Lanteigne
Sheriff/High Constable



**2008
ANNUAL REPORT**

<http://www.vbso.net>

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A Message from Sheriff Paul J. Lanteigne

Dear Citizen:



It is the goal of the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office to provide our citizens with the highest level of public safety service. We are an office of more than 500 uniformed and civilian personnel dedicated to ensuring performance excellence to the citizens of the City of Virginia Beach.

It is with great pride that we are an integral part of a city rated the safest for a city its size. We commit to maintaining a safe and secure community for all our residents.

Inside this Annual Report you'll find statistical and activity highlights regarding our office and you'll get a glimpse of our many accomplishments throughout the year.

Please feel free to provide us with any feedback you have after reading our report.

*Sincerely,
Paul J. Lanteigne
Sheriff/High Constable*

Mission Statement

We are dedicated to the efficient and effective provisions of the Sheriff's services to our community.



Our commitment focuses on competent, expeditious, and courteous services that enhance our citizen's safety while providing value for their tax dollar.



Code of Ethics

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life. I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or what is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudice animosities, or friendships to influence my feelings. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice, or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence, and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a symbol of public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession – law enforcement.

About Accreditation

The Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office achieved its initial accreditation in 2005 and continues to maintain its accredited status through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC).



Accreditation is the on going process whereby agencies evaluate policy and procedure against established criteria, and have compliance with that criteria verified by an independent and authoritative body. The criteria, or standards, are policy development guidelines that represent a level of quality service delivery. The true indicator of compliance, however, lies with an evaluation by trained, independent professional peers.

The establishment of meaningful and professional standards and an evaluation for compliance to those standards are, therefore, the two fundamentals of an accreditation program.

The Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission consists of an Executive Board appointed by the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Sheriff's Association. Personnel from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) provide support services to the Board, and serve as the coordinating agency for Commission activities. The Board, all active chiefs or sheriffs, are tasked by their respective associations with developing and maintaining a formal accreditation process specific to Virginia law enforcement agencies, including the development of a comprehensive set of professional standards. The VLEPSC program constitutes the first joint effort of this type in the history of the Commonwealth.

The reaccreditation process takes place every four years, and incorporates a thorough review of written materials, interviews, and site visits conducted by the Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Coalition (VALEAC) on-site assessment team. Additionally, all Departmental policies and procedures, administration, operations, training, and personnel structure and processes are examined for compliance with VALEAC standards.

The Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office Planning & Analysis Division maintains the Department's accreditation status. This is an on-going project for an accredited law enforcement agency and requires constant monitoring and periodic updating of policies and procedures to ensure compliance with state accepted law enforcement accreditation standards.



Sheriff's Office Profile...

Virginia Beach, an area of 259 square miles, is located off Interstate 264 approximately 100 miles south of Richmond, our state capital. Virginia Beach is a Hampton Roads City with a strong military presence, serving Naval Air Station Oceana, Dam Neck Fleet Combat Training Center, Little Creek Amphibious Base, Fort Story and various other military support centers.

Prior to 1607, this land area, known today as Virginia Beach, was inhabited by the Chesapecian Native Americans. In 1607, a group of Englishmen landed at Cape Henry where they erected a cross and laid claim to this area. The formerly named County of Princess Anne was formed from the eastern section of the Lower Norfolk County in 1961. In 1963, Princess Anne County merged with the community of Virginia Beach to become the City of Virginia Beach.

The Office of the Sheriff dates back to around 1645 where in Lower Norfolk County, Captain John Sisby held this honorable office. The Colonial Sheriff performed many functions, to include levying fines, collecting debts and taxes, executing warrants and writs, summoning juries, transporting and housing prisoners for trial, and overseeing elections all for a population of about 1,000 people.

Today's Sheriff has many more responsibilities including overseeing a staff of more than 500 appointees. The community has grown considerably since colonial times with a current population exceeding 450,000 people.

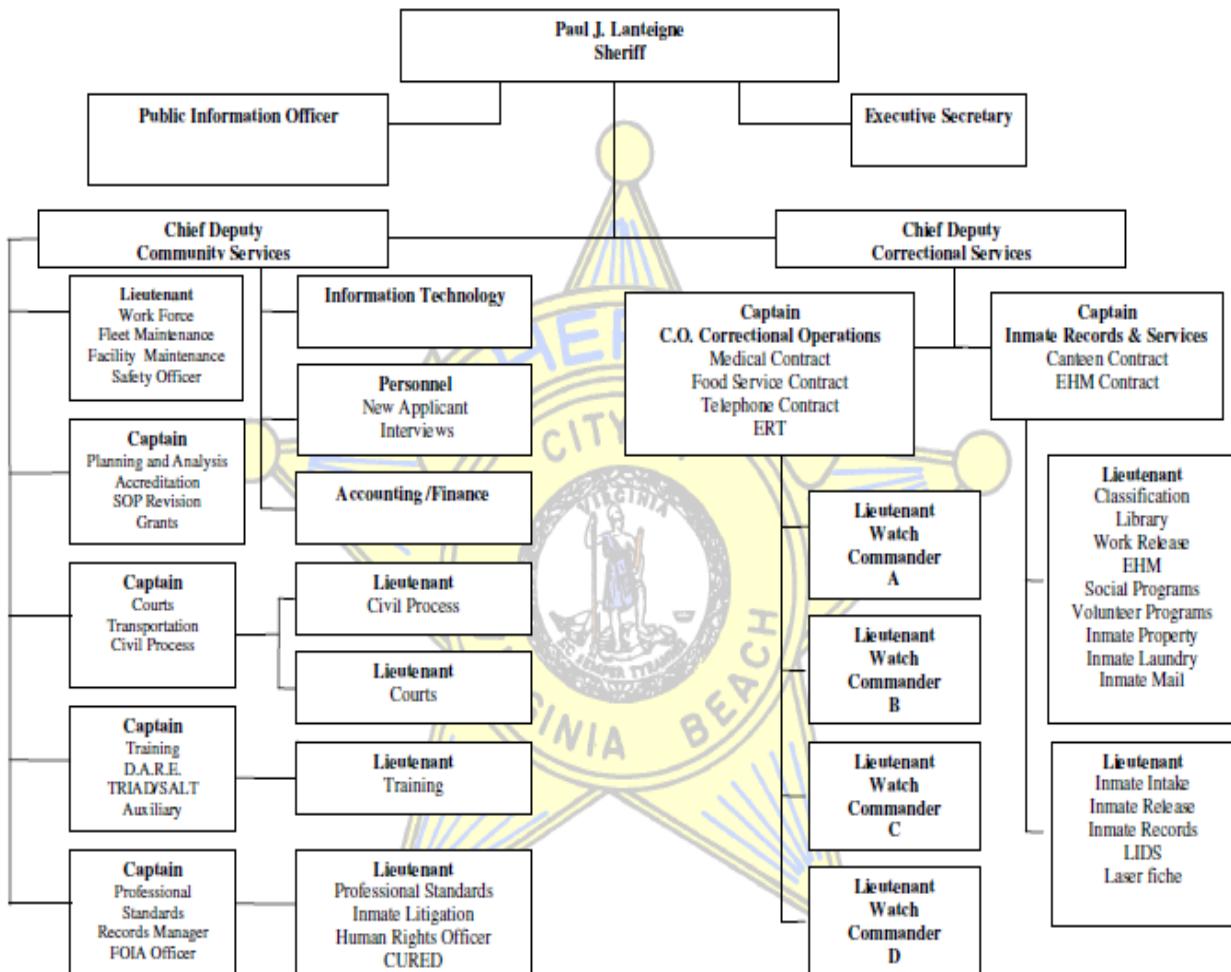
The City of Virginia Beach encompasses over 35 miles of beaches; over 4,000 acres in neighborhood parks, community parks, district parks, and other open spaces; 16 different access sites to the various bays, creeks, and rivers in the area; and drawing approximately 2.7 million tourist per year,

Having the most aggressive and successful intergovernmental relations program of any jurisdiction in Virginia, City leaders work on a daily basis with Congressional Delegation, General Assembly Delegation, and administrators at the regional, state, and federal level to promote city efforts.

An integral part of the Virginia Beach City government encompasses the efforts of Sheriff Paul J. Lanteigne and the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office. Under Sheriff Lanteigne, the office continues to fulfill its Mission Statement while exploring new ways to better serve the community and enhance the departmental Goals and Objectives. Appointees are equipped with the latest in technology and tools, and the knowledge to provide a greater service to the community.

The Sheriff's Office is comprised of two major sections, Community Services and Correctional Services, which work hand in hand to provide exceptional service. There are 10 divisions and many other areas of responsibility within those divisions.

VIRGINIA BEACH SHERIFF'S OFFICE



CHIEF DEPUTIES

This is an advanced Criminal Justice and Managerial position. The Chief Deputy will be a sworn law enforcement position. Although Law Enforcement is not a daily responsibility, a thorough knowledge of the law is required. Chief Deputies assume all correctional and administrative responsibilities of the Sheriff in his absence.



*Chief Deputy Dennis E. Free
Community Services Division*

The Community Services Division shall consists of the following operations and functions:

- Accounting
- Personnel
- Courts
- Transportation
- Training
- D.A.R.E. Unit
- Auxiliary Program
- Honor Guard
- Professional Standards
- Work Force Monitoring
- Maintenance
- Fleet Manager
- Office Administrator



*Chief Deputy Marc F. Schuster
Correctional Services Division*

The Correctional Services Division consists of the following operations and functions:

- Correctional Center I, II, III /Watch Teams
- Booking and Receiving of inmates
- Inmate Property and Laundry
- Classification of Inmates
- Food Service
- Technology/Information Systems
- ISR Intake & Release
- Work Release- Electronic Home
- Medical
- Library
- Emergency Response Team

Community Services Section

Personnel Division

Helene Quick, Director of Personnel



The Personnel Division consists of 6 full time and 2 part time appointees. They're responsible for the hiring process as well as maintaining files for active and inactive appointees. The Personnel Division also screens all contract workers and volunteers who enter the correctional center; processes new applications; completes background checks; and conducts extensive testing. Once an appointee has been selected, the Personnel Division is responsible for arranging and maintaining all benefits and ensuring that all appointee information is up-to-date and properly maintained in the city and state computer systems.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Advertisement Calls | 540 Advertisements | Television advertising, mobile ads and court banner |
| Applications | 800 In Sworn 158 In Non-Sworn 734 Out | Giving out and accepting applications |
| Background Checks** | 2,246 | Run, sort and review |
| Correspondence | 834 Correspondence | Type reference letters, rejection letters, inquiry letters, physical letters, etc. |
| Electronic Communications | 4052.5 Electronic Comm. | |
| Credit Checks | 608 | Run and review for approval |
| DF 75's | 166 | Enter reports, forward to Risk Management |
| Employment Verifications | 43 | Documents that require checking records for dates of employment, salary verification |
| Evaluations | 606 | Annual, Six or Seven Month and Transfer evaluations sent to supervisors |
| F-checks and Employee DMV | 372 497 | Running F-Checks DMV checks on current employees |
| Fingerprint Cards | 481 | Complete fingerprint card and printing |
| Identification Cards Contract/Volunteer Information Form | 234 ID's 76 Forms | Taking Photo and printing ID cards |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Interviews | 179 6 | Scheduling and conducting interview Employment jail tours |
| New Appointee | 46 Sworn 6 Aux. Dep. sworn 10 Civilian 8 Part time | New appointee pre-employment paperwork for current month |
| Notary | 1,268 | Notarize "Release of Information" forms included in Applications and notarization for inmates and attorneys. |
| Occupational Health Physicals | 606 | Schedule physicals for new appointees. Schedule annual physical for appointees. |
| Off Duty Employment | 585 18 | Off Duty Employee requests Off Duty Employer Request |
| P3'S (City), CB10'S (Comp. Board) & Form 21&31 (DCJS) | 731 | P3's, CB 10's, Form 21 & 31's - Typed for new appointees, appointees leaving and appointees with a change of status. |
| Polygraphs | 99 | Schedule and review |
| Recruitment | 138 Hours | Job Fairs, TAP, etc. |
| Resignations & Retirements, Etc. | 30 Sworn Resign 2 Sworn Retire 5 Aux. Dep. sworn 4 Civilian 1 Retire Civilian 9 Part time | |
| SCBA | 44 | |
| Training | 69 Hours | Teaching Personnel Matters in Basic & Indoc and Supervisor Leadership training, making copies and updating training information |
| Typing Test | 26 | |
| Uniforms | 679 | New issue, replacement, inventory, orders and uniform item research |
| Volunteer/Contract Workers | 128 | Process Applications Review for approval |
| Wonderlic Test/Pre employment | 444 | |

Training/D.A.R.E. Division

Captain Larry Kiefer, Director of Training

Responsibilities:

- Staff Training, Initial and continuing In-Service Training.
- D.A.R.E. Unit (Drug Abuse and Resistance Education).
- Auxiliary Deputy Program.
- Honor Guard.
- S.A.L.T. (Seniors And Law Enforcement Working Together)



Staff Training

A total of 7112 hours were spent training staff members in 2008. This training included: three 14-week recruit/basic academies, in-service classes as mandated by the Department of Criminal Justice Services, OSHA training as required and specialized training in matters such as hostage negotiations and Emergency Response Team training.



D.A.R.E Unit

The Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office DARE Unit teaches Drug Abuse Resistance Education to public, private and parochial schools in Virginia Beach at the elementary and middle school levels. We manage the DARE program in 67 Virginia Beach Schools. 5,593 students completed the program in the 2007/2008 school year. Additionally, the DARE Unit conducted 45 group presentation/workshops with a total of 17,000+ in attendance.

Auxiliary Deputy Program

The Auxiliary Deputy Program is comprised of dedicated individuals that volunteer their time to serve as Deputy Sheriffs. The Auxiliary Deputies worked a total of 2,325 hours during 2008. This equates to a savings of \$27,584.00 to the Sheriff's Office. Our Auxiliary Deputies provide a law enforcement presence at a variety of events such a charity fund raisers, school activities and senior citizen social events. A few of the events they participated in were the: Strawberry festival, Relay for life, Cox HS-All Night Graduation, Virginia Senior Games and much more. This is provided at no cost to the city.

Honor Guard

The Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office Honor Guard Unit is a group of deputies who volunteer to represent our office. They train regularly to maintain their skill levels and must maintain an exceptional level of personal and uniform appearance. They represent the office locally, statewide and nationally. Most events are prescheduled with numerous events coming on short notice. In some cases, the person they are honoring is deceased and/or a close friend. Regardless, they must maintain a professional and emotionless manner throughout.

S.A.L.T

The Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office DARE Unit maintains membership with this organization. We have one member sitting on the board. The mission of the SALT organization is keeping senior citizens informed of new and ever changing tactics criminals are using to harm and/or swindle them. Additionally, SALT offers suggestions to seniors on how to defend themselves against such tactics.

Professional Standards Office

Captain Elliot Ortiz, Commanding Officer

The Professional Standards Office is responsible for ensuring that all complaints, formal and informal, are investigated in a fair and impartial manner. They also conduct inspections to ensure compliance with defined and established procedures.



Courts/Transportation/Civil Process

Captain Steve Wilke, Commanding Officer



With a staff of approximately 75 full time and part time sworn/non-sworn appointees, The Court Services Division's two main functions in the Judicial Center are Court Security and prisoner transportation. The Court Security Unit is tasked with overall security for the Judicial Center, to include courtroom security and screening of visitors entering the building.



The Virginia Beach Courts hear several thousand cases each year requiring deputies to be present in the courtroom for security. In 2008, the Courtroom deputies facilitated approximately 2,901 public defender interviews in the courtroom holding areas, allowing appointed attorneys time to speak with their clients prior to court. More than 3,000 persons were taken into custody directly from courts and approximately 223 people were detained in the courtrooms for a period, as directed by the court.

Transportation - The Transportation Unit provides transportation of juveniles and adult offenders to/from court and correctional facilities, and carries patients to and from mental health centers. The following is the statistics for 2008:

| TRANSPORTATION RUNS | TOTAL |
|---|---------|
| Transports per Court Order | 3,703 |
| Department of Corrections Transportation Orders | 336 |
| Extraditions | 1 |
| Outside Medical Appointments | 218 |
| Temporary Detaining Order Hearings | 399 |
| Mental Transports Outside Jurisdiction | 128 |
| Federal Inmate Transports | 299 |
| Mileage for Year | 132,065 |



Civil Process -The Civil Process Division is responsible for the serving of court papers issued from all Virginia State courts and those processes issued from other states, being served in the City of Virginia Beach. Civil Process is tasked with executing warrants, evictions, repossessions, levies, and sheriff sales. To deliver processes in a timely, efficient manner, the city is divided into 13 zones. One deputy is assigned to each zone; however, two clustered zones are partnered together to aid in continuous service when deputies are on leave. There are 13 deputies, one Captain, one Sergeant, one Master Deputy II, and 8 clerks assigned to Civil Process.

| Services | Total |
|------------------|---------|
| Processes | 168,295 |
| Evictions | 1,600 |
| Capias Served | 89 |
| Levies | 492 |
| Sheriff Sales | 14 |
| Mileage for Year | 144,330 |

Planning & Analysis Division

Captain Erin Crean, Commanding Officer

The Planning & Analysis Division is responsible for overseeing and maintaining the Sheriff's Office Accreditation. The division also has the responsibility of updating and revising departmental policies & procedures, the administration of grants, and other special projects as directed by the Chief Deputies and/or Sheriff.



In 2008, The Sheriff's Office received \$24,774 in Byrne JAG Grant funding for a Video Arraignment System in General District Court.

Before the introduction of video arraignment, deputies had to transport the inmates from the jail to the courthouse so that the charges could be read to the inmates in person, by the judge. Arraignment proceedings typically involve the judge, a clerk, a bailiff, several deputies providing security and transportation, and the inmate. By reducing and/or eliminating the transportation and associated security costs involved in transporting the inmates from the jail to the courthouse, the cost to the local government entity and the taxpayers may be significantly reduced.

In 2008, over 7,400 persons were arraigned via video arraignment.

Accounting Division

Mary Kammer, Director of Finance

The Accounting Division consists of 4 full time and 3 part time appointees who are responsible for keeping track of a \$34,977,258.00 Budget. Some of their responsibilities include contract administration, accounts receivable, paying bills for service, ordering supplies, tracking petty cash funds, purchases from multiple accounts, advising administration of budget constraints and overseeing how expenditures and revenues are progressing throughout the year. The Accounting Division also collects funds from weekenders and other inmates who are required to pay fees for being incarcerated. In budget year 2007-2008, the Accounting Division collected approximately \$341,379.25 to help with the operation of the facility.



The Accounting Division works closely with numerous city agencies, receives audits on a scheduled basis and provides internal audit controls (as required), for sound accounting practices.

Work Force Division

Lieutenant Norman “Rocky” Holcomb III

The Community Work Force is an important function essential to the city, the inmates, and the Sheriff's Office. The opportunity to be released from confinement is a privilege. Work Force gives the inmates the opportunity to help support the community, provide them with something positive to build their self-esteem, as well as job skills.



Work Force also enhances the inmate's ability to function in a structured environment. This work saves the city a substantial amount of money each year, clearly enhances the community, and provides a valuable public service.

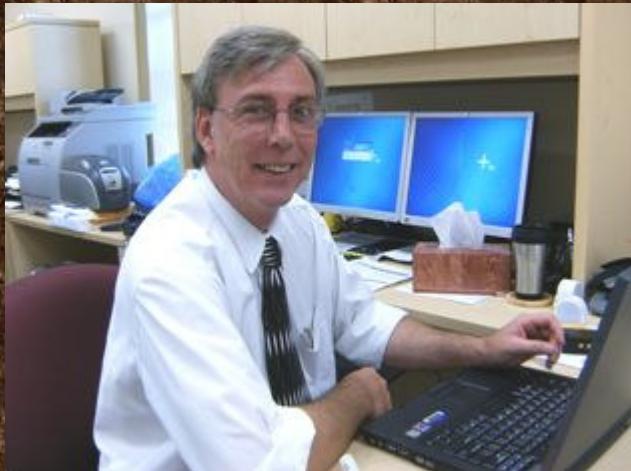
The Work Force crews perform various projects from grass cutting, beautification of easements, cleaning of blighted areas, erecting tents for special functions, and assisting with special projects. As part of the Work Force program, inmates receive time off their sentence in accordance with State law. Participants in the program include persons sentenced to the facility, as well as those awaiting disposition for non-violent misdemeanors or felony offenses. The responsibilities of the Work Force grow each year, making it a valued arm of the city.



Information Technology

Dave Davis

The Information Technology Division provides the highest quality technology-based services, in the most cost-effective manner to facilitate the Sheriff's Office mission. They provide effective technology support for audio/visual, computer, multimedia, video and web based applications and services to all areas of the Sheriff's Office.



Correctional Services Section

Corrections

Captain Victoria Thomson, Commanding Officer

Correctional Operations is comprised of four Watch Teams and is where the bulk of the deputies are assigned, and where the majority of the inmates are supervised. The Watch Teams are responsible for the supervision and direction of the inmates. They are also responsible for the secure and safe operation of the correctional center twenty-four hours a day. The Watch Teams work 12 hour rotating shifts and consist of a Lieutenant, Sergeants, Master Deputies, and Deputies. The Lieutenants and Sergeants are responsible for supervisory matters and the Master Deputies and Deputies are responsible for carrying out the daily operations and handling of inmates.



MEDICAL:

The medical section is staffed by a doctor; nursing supervisor; RN/LPN nurses; with additional support from a dentist; psychologist; and social workers.

Inmates receive access to the medical team on a request basis. No inmate is refused medical treatment just because he/she is unable to pay for services.

Inmate Services/Records

Captain Cassandra Lee, Commanding Officer

Inmate Services/Records provides support to the entire inmate population, from commitment to release, through Intake, Classification, Corrections, Property, Canteen, Library, Laundry, and Release.



INTAKE/RELEASE:

Maintains all court documents, processes criminal charges and ensure that the inmates are scheduled for court and other appearances. Warrant checks, criminal histories, and release data calculations are also a part of their responsibilities. Several thousand inmates are processed through this section yearly.



CLASSIFICATION:

Part of the intake process is Classification where they are evaluated and questioned. Next, they are assigned to the housing unit that is most appropriate for them. Several factors are considered for housing, such as demeanor, charges, gender and their ability to get along with others. Inmates have a set of rules that must be followed. They also have the ability to file a grievance if they feel they have a legitimate complaint. Classification processes inmate information for distribution to the Department of Corrections to include any disciplinary action work credits.



PROPERTY:

The Property section is responsible for maintaining all inmate clothing, issuing basic items, securing all monies received during the intake process.



LAUNDRY:

The laundry is responsible for ensuring that all inmate laundry & bedding and other personal clothing items are received, cleaned, and returned to inmates. The laundry also processes other types of institutional laundry and occasionally assists other city agencies with laundry related needs.



CANTEEN:

Canteen is a contract service provided to the inmates allowing them to have access to an in-house variety store that sells necessities such as t-shirts, under clothes and shaving gear to candy and other snacks.



LIBRARY:

The Library functions as a means of informational services for inmates. Inmates may request specific publications or books, as well as information related to legal representation.



FOOD SERVICE:

Food service is provided to the inmates three times per day. Two meals are served on the weekends and holidays. Inmates are provided a well balanced meal with sufficient calories as recommended by the American Medical Association. Food is never used as punishment. Those inmates assigned to strenuous work programs are afforded additional nutrition.

Special Projects & Community Support

Community Outreach is an integral part of our community service projects. The Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office is involved in dozens of community service projects where every member of the organization contributes to the Community Relations function. Below are a few examples of some of the outreach and volunteer programs:

DARE- our program continues to reach and teach children about the dangers of peer pressure, illegal drugs and gang activity. DARE volunteers staff tents at local festivals, year round, to educate the public and children about our DARE program as well as participate in parades and many other community activities.

Shop With A Cop: Each Christmas Virginia Beach Deputies are paired with needy children for an all-expense paid trip to Wal-Mart to select gifts for themselves or family members. The funds are raised, in part, by the Fraternal Order of Police, of which many of our employees are members.

United Way Day of Caring---we look forward to picking up our rakes and shovels each year to beautify a Partner in Education School by landscaping and weeding the school's courtyard and exterior. Strawbridge Elementary School is our partner in this endeavor and it's a relationship that has "blossomed" over the years.





Committed to Our Community

Polar Plunge-more than 50 deputies and civilians, led by the Sheriff and Chief Deputies brave the cold February waters of the Atlantic Ocean to help raise money for Virginia Special Olympics



goal (\$3,500.00) and have attracted a growing number of participants to the walk itself. The next year's activities begin as soon as we complete the last lap of the Relay.

Shamrock Marathon-dozens of VBSO volunteers serve as course marshals for the annual marathon at the Virginia Beach resort front.

Relay for Life-the VBSO has had a continuous presence at the city's annual Relay for Life event. We always exceed our

Senior Prom-It's never too late to attend the prom if you're a VBSO employee! Each year sworn and civilian staff members help escort senior residents of Marion Manor Assisted Living Facility to their Senior Prom. They enjoy dinner, conversation, a dance or two and a memorable evening, complete with pictures.

American Red Cross Blood Drive at the VBSO- four (4) times a year VBSO employees roll up their sleeves to give the gift of life! The VBSO averages 65 + pints of blood during each drive. The VBSO has often led the city in the annual Mayor's Cup challenge.

Mayflower Marathon-deputies provide security for the annual Thanksgiving weekend food collection campaign, to benefit the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia.



Committed to Our Community

Pungo Strawberry Festival-the VBSO has helped ensure the success of this family-friendly festival each year by providing volunteer parking attendants, ground crews, festival organizers and public relations for the Memorial Day weekend event. By doing so, the festival is able to provide thousands of dollars in scholarships to college-bound students as well as monetary assistance to area charitable organizations.

Celebrate Life-deputies provide security for Kellam High School's annual post prom party while assuring parents of prom attendees that you can have fun after the prom without being on the road.

Rock-n-Roll Half Marathon-we provide manpower for the annual oceanfront marathon sponsored by the city.

Special Olympics Virginia/Torch Run-Deputies help raise money and awareness about VA Special Olympics. Annually, our deputies assist in the Special Olympics Torch Run to the Norfolk City line.

Salvation Army's Christmas Stockings and Bear Drive. It's a favorite holiday tradition at the VBSO when employees creatively design and dress stuffed bears and fill stockings for those less fortunate at Christmas. This past Christmas we doubled our previous efforts and dressed 400 bears and filled 200 Christmas stockings! VBSO employees go to great expense to buy or create the bears' outfits. The bears are then returned to the Salvation Army and distributed to needy children throughout Hampton Roads.





Committed to our Community



Opening Day of School: Each September off-duty deputies volunteer to help at a Virginia Beach elementary school. The deputies assist nervous children with finding their classrooms; escort them from their school buses and aide teachers with last minute, first -day duties. Gladly, the principal always welcomes them back with a smile each year!

Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs!-Deputies and civilian support staff volunteer to accompany local school children on a day of offshore fishing. The event is partially sponsored by the Billfish Foundation.

Kellam High School Senior Picnic - compliments of the VBSO. Kellam High School is another Partner in Education school. In June of each year, the VBSO and its volunteers host a picnic for the Senior Class. The graduating seniors feast on hamburgers and hot dogs, chips, sodas and cookies. It's our way of saying "Congratulations and Good Luck."





Committed to our Community

Police Unity Tour-Dozens of VBSO deputies ride to the nation's capitol to help raise money for the annual Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial. Each rider is required to raise \$1,500.00 before setting off on the three days journey.



Seatack Mentoring- Deputies and civilian support staff mentor students at Seatack Elementary in Reading and Math. They help encourage students to pursue and enjoy reading through the Accelerated Reader program and at the end of the school year the students and their mentors (from the VBSO, local legal community and local judiciary) participate in an end-of-year picnic. The event is designed to celebrate the students' successes and is hosted by the VBSO.