Reserve Deputy Recruits participate in Academy firearms training

Report prepared by
Reserve Lt. Debora Wonderly
Mission of the Reserve Unit:
The Clark County Sheriff's Reserve is organized and serves at the discretion of the Sheriff. The Reserve function is to provide supplemental personnel for routine law enforcement activities, to enhance public service functions of the Sheriff’s Office, and to assist where needed. The Reserve Deputy is commissioned and sworn with full law enforcement powers equal to those of a full-time deputy.

Reserve Unit Overview:

Code of Ethics:
The adherence to a canon of ethics is essential in maintaining high professional standards of performance. To this end, every reserve is expected to adhere to the following tenets:

- As a criminal justice officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect all persons against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all people 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 personal and official life. I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided in me in my official capacity, will be kept secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.
- I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities, or friendships to influence my decisions. Without compromise and with relentlessness, I will uphold and, in the line of duty, enforce laws courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence, and never accepting gratuities.
- I recognize my position as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of The Criminal Justice System. I will constantly strive to achieve those objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession.

Application Criteria:
Clark County Reserve Deputies are required to meet the same minimum standards as those of full-time sworn deputies. An applicant for membership in the Clark County Sheriff’s Reserves must:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Read and write fluently the English language
- Have graduated from an accredited high school or have a GED
- Be in good ordinary health
- Be of good moral character and temperate and industrious habits
- Be at least 21 years of age at the time of appointment
- Never have been convicted of a felony
- Be regularly employed, or a full-time student or provide proof of financial security, and
- Possess a valid driver’s license.
Selection Criteria:

Applicants including lateral transfers for the position of Reserve Deputy Sheriff will be selected according to the same criteria as a Deputy Sheriff. The criteria for selection shall consist of:

- Written exam
- Physical Agility exam
- Oral Interview Board
- Background Investigation
- Truth Verification examination
- Psychological examination
- Drug Screening; and
- Physician’s Examination

Responsibilities:

Reserve Deputy’s responsibilities include:

- Patrol Operations – Working in combination with a regular deputy or with another reserve deputy.
- Traffic Enforcement – Working as a solo unit with primary emphasis to the enforcement of the Washington Vehicle Code and call responsive on traffic accidents in the assigned beat area.
- Community Service Events – We not only support local county events such as parades and school events but also help other cities within the county who ask for our help.
- Tactical Emergency Medics – Our regional SWAT team composed of four different departments utilizes those reserves that have EMT/Paramedic certification to respond to emergency call outs. They must interview for this position to be accepted and then will participate in all training and respond to SWAT incidents.
- Search and Rescue – Reserves who have advance ICS training and specific SAR training work with our SAR Incident Management Team.

Duties:

Reserve Deputies are fully commissioned law enforcement officers in the state of Washington. A Reserve Deputy's duties are dependent on the classification attained. Those are levels from R1-R6. The R1-R6 levels are:

- **R1** - These are Recruit Reserves currently enrolled in the Reserve Academy. These Reserves may ride only as plain clothed civilians for the limited purpose of acquainting themselves with the law enforcement function.
- **R2** - These are graduates of a 6-month Reserve Academy who are on FTO. They may ride only with their training officer(s) or other regular deputy as may be directed by their training officer or any of the Sheriff's Office Command Officers (Regular or Reserve).
- **R3** - These are Reserves that are graduates from 1 year of FTO. They may work with any Regular Deputy or another Reserve Deputy of their choice.
- **R4** - These are Reserves having applied for and obtained approval from Reserve Administration and then completed an additional 24-hours prescribed course of training with a Traffic Unit or other regular Deputy Sheriff, as approved by the Training Unit. Such a Reserve is able to work to alone as a single traffic unit.
- **R5** - Reserve Deputy of this level may ride as an unpaid single deputy unit with the full privileges and responsibilities of a Regular Deputy, being dispatched to priority 1, 2 and 3 calls accordingly. Reserves with an R-5 level must work a minimum of one shift (or at least 8 hours total) per quarter as an R-5.
- **R6** - These are Reserves that have completed the Basic Law Enforcement Academy or its equivalent, as provided by the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission; which upon the approval of the Sheriff allows them to work as a single patrol unit. All other privileges/responsibilities for the R-5 are similarly applicable to the R-6.
Volunteer and Patrol Hour Requirements:

Reserve Deputies who are off probation are required to have 12 hours of volunteer time each month; 8 of these hours must be in a regular enforcement patrol capacity.

Patrol hours may be in the form of R-3, RR-3, R-4, R-5/R-6, per the individual requirements of each reserve level. In each quarter, the reserve must complete a minimum of 8 hours with a regular deputy in a regular enforcement patrol capacity. The remaining 4 hours are dedicated to monthly training and community service.

Reserves serve at the will of the Sheriff. From time to time department/community needs may necessitate a “Reserve Call Out”. This is typically a short notice, high priority assignment to supplement the work force resources of the Sheriff’s Office. A call-out may be activated at the request of a Patrol Sergeant, Precinct Commander, Specialty Unit or other authorized person within the Sheriff’s Office. Some of the more common reasons for a call out include: crime scene security, containment, missing endangered subjects, custodial escapees, evidentiary searches, crowd control, traffic control, natural or large-scale disasters, etc.

Training:

Immediately following selection, a Reserve Deputy shall attend the Clark County Sheriff’s Office Reserve Deputy Training Academy. The Reserve Academy will provide a minimum of 300 hours of combined classroom and hands-on practical training. All Reserve Deputies will be required to complete all phases of their training with score of 70% or higher in order to complete the Basic Reserve Training Academy. Reserve Deputies in the Academy are under the supervision of Reserve Academy Command and the Training Sergeant.

Having completed the Academy, Clark County Reserve Deputies; then enter a one year Field Training Officer (FTO) program which consists of one-on-one training. This 12-month period consists of conducting patrol and responding to 911 calls at the direction and under the supervision of the FTO. Upon successful completion of the FTO period, a Reserve Deputy may work patrol thereafter with any Deputy or any Reserve Deputy of their choice. Additional years of service and specialized training will allow Reserve Deputies to work Traffic Cars or Patrol Cars as solo Reserve units, Marine patrol and Bicycle patrol.

2016 Unit Statistics and Achievements:

2016 Overview:

The Clark County Sheriff's Office was established in 1849, before Washington even became a state, at a time in our history where common citizens were called to action in order to safeguard their community from those who would seek to do harm. Our reserve deputy sheriffs have continued this tradition of volunteer service out of the same desire to give back to their community and to make it a better place for all our citizens.

An effective reserve law enforcement volunteer program is often measured by basic metrics such as the number of hours of volunteer service or the number of arrests or citations issued. Our program is no different. We can point to the fact that our 31 reserve deputies donated 3,864 volunteer hours of patrol time to our community in 2016. Or we can highlight the fact that our reserve deputies answered 1,011 calls for service and made 603 traffic stops. But this only tells part of the picture.

Our reserve deputies served their community in many other ways. Every reserve deputy is required to perform community
service work including the staffing of prescription drug take-back events, providing traffic control for parades and conducting child fingerprinting at community outreach events. In 2016 our reserve deputies performed 524 hours of community service work. Between patrol hours, community service, and hours donated in support of various sheriff's office activities, our reserve deputies donated 9,424 hours in service to the citizens of Clark County in 2016.

As impressive as these statistics are, even more impressive is the fact that these dedicated men and women perform daily the difficult task of law enforcement without any compensation. They volunteer their time, often after a day at work and during time they could be home with their families, all out of the simple desire to serve their community. Given all the challenges they face, the difficult situations they encounter, and the hardship their volunteer service puts upon their family life, it is commendable indeed that our reserve deputy sheriffs continue to serve day after day, night after night.

**Staffing:**

In 2016, the unit finished the year with 31 active members including 8 volunteer deputies who are in process of completing their one-year Field Training Officer (FTO) program. The Clark County Sheriff’s Office cancelled the 2017 Reserve Academy due to budget constraints.

Unit staffing is up from the previous year due to the addition of new deputies who graduated from the 2016 Reserve Academy class. Members who left the unit in 2016 did so for the following reasons: because they obtained full time employment in the law enforcement field; because of the burdensome time commitment; because of the increasing risk inherent with the work; or the failure to complete the 12-month FTO period successfully.

![Reserve Unit Staffing](image)

**Achievements:**

The Reserve Unit is recognized by the Clark County Sheriff’s Office in outstanding achievements every year. The awards for 2016 Include:

- Promotions/Service Strips/Anniversaries:
i) Promotion to new Reserve level – Tom Akers, Kyle Bisson and Mike Wright promoted from R2 to R3 level.

ii) Reserve Deputy Craig Gault – 20th Anniversary

iii) Service Stripe Awards:
   - Sgt. Bob Byrd – 2 for 6 years
   - Dep. Wade Faircloth – 4 for 12 years
   - Cmdr. Jim Hansen – 6 for 18 years
   - Dep. Travis Edwards – 8 for 24 years
   - Sgt. Art Sandison – 9 for 27 years
   - Lt. Perry Fladager – 13 for 39 years

**Reserve Deputy of the Year:**

Since becoming a Reserve Deputy in January 2009, Dan Perritt has enthusiastically supported the Clark County Sheriff’s Office. In the last 8 years, Dan has volunteered an incredible total of over 3,000 hours, including over 1,200 hours of patrol and more than 500 hours working community service events.

During 2016, Dan’s expertise at traffic and crowd control helped ensure the safety and success of the Klineline Fishing Derby and parades across Clark County, including in Hazel Dell, Hockinson, Yacolt, Amboy, and Brush Prairie.

Assisting with ongoing neighborhood association complaints of illegal shooting, Dan also supported a special patrol effort to assist the Washington Department of Natural Resources in an education and enforcement operation to stop illegal target shooting on DNR lands in north Clark County.

As one of the Reserve program's advanced deputies who are certified for solo traffic patrol, in 2016 Dan conducted more than 60 hours of traffic enforcement, making a significant contribution to traffic safety in Clark County.

Additionally, Dan further honed his law enforcement skills by receiving over 60 hours of training in 2016. He took the initiative to travel to Kelso, Washington, for an 8-hour course on the critical topic of Domestic Violence. Additionally, he attended a special 4-hour class in Traffic Incident Management, learning how to harmonize the actions of first-responders at the scene of a traffic emergency, all on a volunteer basis.

It is for all of these reasons that Dan Perritt deserves recognition as the Reserve Deputy of the Year for 2016.
**Academy:**

The Clark County Sheriff’s Office is very proud to host a Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission accredited Reserve Academy each year. The Academy runs January through June, for a total of approximately 300 hours of instruction, significantly above the 220 hours mandated by the State Training Commission. We host multiple agencies each year, commonly including volunteer Reserve Deputy Recruits and volunteer Reserve Police Officer Recruits from these agencies (among others):

- Woodland Police Department
- Cowlitz County Sheriff’s Office
- Wahkiakum County Sheriff’s Office
- Longview Police Department
- Kelso Police Department
- Skamania County Sheriff’s Office

Academy instruction includes:

- Criminal Law
- Bloodborne Pathogens
- Airborne Pathogens
- First Aid
- Firearms
- Defensive Tactics
- Emergency Vehicle Ops
- Patrol
- Crisis Intervention
- Verbal Judo
- Communication Skills
- Ethics

Having completed the Academy, Clark County Reserve Deputies then enter a one year Field Training Officer (FTO) program of one-on-one training. This 12 month period consists of conducting patrol and responding to 911 calls at the direction and under the supervision of the FTO. Upon successful completion of the FTO period, a Reserve Deputy may work patrol thereafter with any Deputy or any Reserve Deputy of their choice. Additional years of service and specialized training will allow Reserve Deputies to work Traffic Cars or Patrol Cars as solo Reserve units.

Picture below is the 2016 Reserve Academy graduating class (in a lighter moment of fun).
**Patrol:**

Once off of FTO, members typically schedule themselves for patrol duties in a manner that fits their personal and full time work schedules.

In 2016 members volunteered 3,864 hours of patrol. During this time Reserve Deputies participated in 1,011 calls (747 as primary and 264 as back-up); made 603 traffic stops (with 378 warnings and 203 citations); made 26 arrests and wrote 227 police reports.

**Call Out:**

Call outs are circumstances in which Reserve Deputies are called in to service, typically for emergencies other than patrol functions. These include crime scene protection, guarding arrestees at the hospital, evidence searches, and disaster response.

In 2016, members volunteered 219 hours of call out. These call-outs are commonly placed in the middle of the night, requiring volunteers to suit up and respond at any hour of the day or night.
**Training:**

The first six months of a new recruit’s volunteer service is spent training in the Reserve Academy. Once graduated, all Reserve Deputies must volunteer for the monthly in-service training. This training includes academic review of criminal law, patrol procedures, use of force law, etc. as learned in the Academy. It also includes refresher training on core skills related to driving, weapons handling and qualifications, defensive tactics refresher, building search, traffic stops, and arrest procedure refresher training.

In 2016 members volunteered 3,592 hours of training.

![Training Hours Chart](image)

**Community Service:**

A cornerstone of the Reserve Unit function is Community Service. Each member is required to volunteer a minimum number of hours annually participating in community based functions. These range in complexity from child fingerprinting events to directing traffic for marathons.

Typical community service events include traffic control at runs, parades, manning volunteer booths at large community events, neighborhood association meetings, community meetings, and attendance at schools or other events including those requested by the Outreach Unit. Any non-enforcement or training event that aids the reserve organization in recruiting, charitable efforts, or community awareness can also be recorded on the timesheet as community service.

In 2016 members volunteered 524 of community service.

![Community Service Hours Chart](image)
**Administrative Hours:**

The command staff of the Reserve Unit volunteer additional hours fulfilling their leadership roles in the administration of the Reserve program. These hours are volunteered in addition to the patrol, training, and community service hours that the command staff volunteer as well.

The six member command staff volunteered 1,077 hours in 2016.

![Administrative Hours Chart](image)

**Search and Rescue/TEMS Hours:**

The Sheriff’s Office hosts a civilian search and rescue team. There are a few Reserve Deputies that in addition to all patrol, training and community service hours volunteered, they also volunteer time on the search and rescue team. In addition to Search and Rescue, some members serve on the SWAT Tactical Emergency Medical Service (TEMS) team as paramedic/emergency medical technicians (EMTs).

These Reserve Deputies volunteered 148 hours in 2016.

![Search and Rescue Chart](image)
**Total 2016 Reserve Unit Volunteer Hours**

![Graph showing Reserve Unit Volunteer Hours from 2011 to 2016]

**Future Assessment:**

The existence and success of the Reserve Unit depends exclusively on the support and funding from the Clark County Sheriff’s Office. The nature of volunteerism, particularly in this field, includes steady attrition.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit new police officers let alone someone who wants to volunteer. This is due to a variety of reasons including: the application, testing and backgrounds investigation process is extensive and a clear majority of applicants are being rejected, negative publicity has been directed at the profession in the mass media, as well as the increasing risk and danger of being a police officer today – paid or volunteer.

The Reserve Unit hopes to continue to serve an important function within the Sheriff’s Office. We are working diligently to diversify the ranks of the Reserve Unit, to include more women, as well as people from ethnically or racially diverse groups within our community, all in effort to better reflect the community we serve.

"America has a long tradition of citizens volunteering to serve their community. The Clark County Sheriff Reserves continue that tradition of volunteer service by volunteering thousands of hours of law enforcement services annually to our citizens. I could not be more proud of these dedicated men and women."

-Sheriff Chuck Atkins
A Reserve Deputy practices throwing a pursuit-ending device called “stop sticks”

**EVOC Training at Portland International Raceway.**

For more information about the Clark County Sheriff’s Reserve Unit, please go to https://www.clark.wa.gov/sheriff/reserve-unit or email CntySheriff.ReserveUnit@clark.wa.gov

For other formats: Clark County ADA Office, Voice (360) 397-2000, Relay (800) 833-6384, E-mail ADA@clark.wa.gov