

From the Sheriff:

The Sheriff's Department Patrol Division is the most publicly visible unit within the Sheriff's Department. The thirty-two uniformed men and women patrol Dodge County's 2,022 miles of highway around the clock every day of the year. This is a huge challenge because often there are only four deputies working per shift and they have to cover all 892 square miles from Lomira to Waterloo and Fox Lake to Ashippun. This task is made even more challenging by the presence of large topographical barriers such as the Horicon Marsh and Beaver Dam Lake. To meet this challenge, the county is divided into quarters for patrol purposes and each deputy is responsible for a quadrant to patrol during their shift.

The Patrol Division has several important missions. Foremost among these is safety on the highways and reduction of traffic crashes and injuries. Their primary tool is their marked squad car to provide maximum visibility and act as deterrent to unsafe driving habits. Last year deputies issued 5,300 citations and 4,680 warnings in their traffic enforcement effort.

Another responsibility is as the first responder to all crime scenes or any other incident where help is needed. Deputies conduct the initial investigations and make necessary arrests for violations of state laws and county ordinances. In 2004, the Patrol Division traveled an average of 65,000 miles each month, or 780,000 miles for the year to accomplish these objectives.

A number of deputies serve on specialized teams or units. Three deputies are Drug Recognition Experts (DRE's). They have received extensive training in recognizing drivers whose ability to operate a motor vehicle has been impaired by any type of drug, whether prescription or illegal. They frequently apprehend drivers who have been using a combination of legal or illegal substances before getting behind the wheel.

Our Crash Investigation Team (CIT) has five deputies who respond to traffic crashes involving death or critical injury. These deputies measure and record the scene to determine the causation of the crash. They are equipped with a sophisticated instrument called a Total Station, similar to a surveyor's transit. All data recorded by the Total Station can be downloaded to a computer and used to make a scale drawing of the crash scene. This information may be used later in court as evidence to convict a driver if they in fact had violated a criminal law.

In recent years, the division has been increasing its efforts in the area of recreation patrol. The focus of recreation patrol is safety and "fair play" for all recreational users of the county's waters, fields and forests. Snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and a boat are the tools used as deputies can be found patrolling lakes, rivers, snowmobile trails and the Wild Goose Trail. The Department of Natural Resources is a partner of in our recreation patrol, providing training for deputies and funding for personnel and equipment. In 2004, deputies devoted 144 hours to recreation patrol in addition to their regular division assignments.

Other hats our Patrolman may wear include, Child Safety Seat Inspector, Salvage Inspector, Evidence Technician, SWAT Team, and many others. We have asked our Patrolman to take on many additional responsibilities and we are appreciative for that. Thanks for listening
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