

MERCER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2020 Annual Report



1995 – 2020
25 Year Comparison

JEFF GREY, SHERIFF

Mercer County Sheriff's Office
4835 State Route 29
Celina, Ohio 45822
(419-586-7724)

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission for every member of this Sheriff's Office is to consistently seek and find ways to affirmatively promote, preserve and deliver a feeling of security, safety and quality services to members of our community.

This mission is a commitment to quality performance from all members. It is critical that all members understand, accept and be aligned with the responsibilities established by this mission. It provides the foundation upon which all operational decisions and organizational directives will be based. Directives include rules, regulations, operating policies, procedures and practices.

This mission represents the commitment of this administration to the concepts of quality performance management. In other words, members are expected to work consistently in a quality manner in the daily performance of those duties, job responsibilities and work tasks associated with this mission. Quality manner means that performance outcomes comply with the performance standards established by this agency and for each member associated with this agency. Examples of performance standards include the Oath of Office, Code of Ethics, Policies and Procedures, Rules and Regulations, directives, general and supervisory orders, work productivity and performance behavior.

Each member is required to accept the responsibility for the achievement of this mission and publicly register his or her commitment to it and to the concepts of quality service.

MOTTO

"Caring, Courteous, Common Sense Law Enforcement"

CODE OF ETHICS

As a Deputy Sheriff/Communications Operator, my fundamental obligation is to protect the constitutional rights and freedoms of the people whom I have been sworn to uphold.

While I consider the way I choose to conduct my private affairs a personal freedom, I accept the responsibilities for my actions, as well as in-actions, while on-duty or off-duty, when those actions bring disrepute on the public's image or the images of my employer, my fellow Deputies and the law enforcement profession.

I vow to perform all my duties in a professional and competent manner. I consider the abilities to be courageous in the face of danger and to exercise restraint in the use of my powers and authorities to be the ultimate public trust. I accept that I must consistently strive to achieve excellence in learning the necessary knowledge and skills associated with my duties. I will keep myself physically fit and mentally alert so that I am capable of performing my duties according to the standards of quality expected of my position.

I vow to be fully truthful and honest in my dealing with others. I deplore lies and half-truths that mislead or do not fully inform those who must depend upon my honesty. I will obey the very laws that I am sworn to uphold. I will seek affirmative ways to comply with the standards of my department and the lawful directions of my supervisors.

I vow to treat others with courtesy at all times. I consider it to be a professional weakness to allow another's behavior to dictate my response. I will not allow others actions or failings to be my excuse for not performing my duties in a responsible and professional and expected manner.

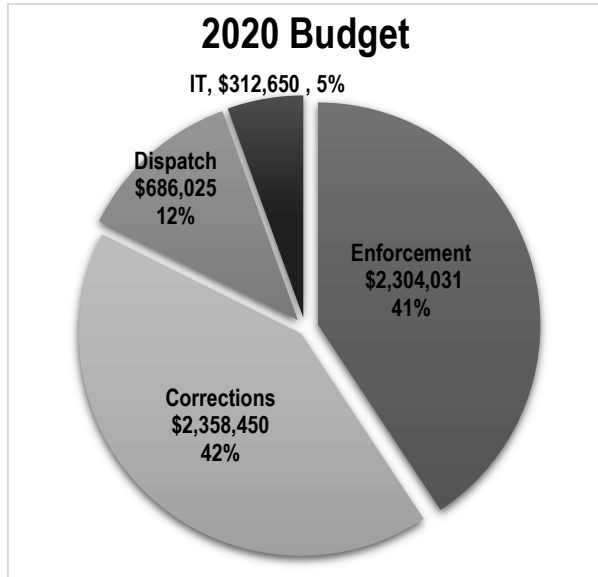
I vow to be human and empathetic to other people's problems with whom I come into daily contact. However, I cannot allow my personal feelings, prejudices, animosities, or friendships to influence the discretionary authorities' entrusted to my job. I will affirmatively seek ways to avoid conflicts and potential conflicts of interest that could compromise my official authority or public image.

I hold the authority inherent in my position to be an affirmation of the public's trust in my as a Deputy Sheriff. I do not take this trust lightly. As long as I remain in this position I will dedicate myself to maintaining this trust and upholding all the ideals of the law enforcement profession.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The administration division is responsible for the overall administration and direction of all divisions in the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. It is responsible for preparing and monitoring the entire Sheriff's Office budget. This division conducts legal research to ensure compliance with the Ohio Revised Code, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and other regulations affecting the overall operation of the Sheriff's Office.

The Administration Division is made up of Sheriff Jeff Grey, Chief Deputy of Enforcement Gery Thobe, Chief Deputy of Corrections Mary Jodie Lange, Captain Doug Timmerman, Captain Martin Emerine, Lieutenant Lori Knapke, 9-1-1 Administrator Monte Diegel, IT Administrator Kory Hoffhines, Executive Assistant Ashley Carr, Fiscal Managers Kandi Baucher and Connie Rinderle, and IT Technician Cody Tebbe.



CORONAVIRUS

In December of 2019, a new virus was discovered in Wuhan, China. Over the following months, it made its way to the United States. Although most people who contracted COVID-19 had mild symptoms, COVID-19 caused severe illness among many and even death. Ultimately, the virus shut down our country and put a halt to many of our office's programs and events. The Sheriff's Office developed several policies to keep our staff and citizen's safe from the virus. Many of our administrative staff began working exclusively from home, while the on-duty deputies were to remain off station. Special equipment was purchased so deputies could work from their cruisers, requiring them to only come on station to upload body camera footage and pictures.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Sheriff's Office/Central Dispatch	(419) 586-7724
Civil Division	(419) 586-5770
Detention Facility.....	(419) 586-5753
Crime Tip Line	(567) 890-TIPS (8477)
Dog Warden	(419) 942-1550
Game Warden – ODNR	1-800-WILDLIFE (945-3543)
OSHP (Wapakoneta Patrol Post).....	(419) 738-8010
Common Pleas Court.....	(419) 586-2122
Celina Municipal Court	(419) 586-6491
Juvenile Court	(419) 586-2419
Mercer County Prosecutor	(419) 586-8677
Clerk of Courts	(419) 586-6461
Mercer County Job & Family Services	(419) 586-5106

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Central Dispatch

GOAL - To receive and dispatch complete and accurate information in a timely manner.

Central Dispatch is the communication center responsible for all external communications into the Sheriff's Office. This includes the countywide E-9-1-1 emergency response system. The primary responsibility of the communications officers is to evaluate information and dispatch all public safety agencies in Mercer County, including Fire, Ambulance, Emergency Management Agency, and Law Enforcement agencies (excluding Celina Police Department).

The evaluation and dispatching of information is accomplished with the help of the following equipment:

	1995 Statistics	2019/2020 Statistics
Enhanced 9-1-1	3 lines	4 lines
Telephone system	7 lines	12
Radios	6 radio frequencies	15 radio frequencies

Text to 9-1-1

Computerized Data includes:

- Law Enforcement Automated Data Systems – LEADS
- National Crime Information Center – NCIC
- National Law Enforcement Telecommunications – NLETS
- Computerized Criminal History – CCH
- Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway – OHLEG

Pagers..... personnel pagers (includes EMS, Fire, MCSO & EMA)

Alarm Systems..... for individuals or businesses

Weather Monitors..... broadcasting severe weather alerts

1995 Statistics		2019 Statistics		2020 Statistics	
9-1-1 Calls Received:	4,701	9-1-1 Calls Received:	9,596	9-1-1 Calls Received:	7,642
Dispatched:	19,155	Dispatched:	31,428	Dispatched:	33,661
Fire	775	Fire	434	Fire	445
EMS	1,777	EMS	2,446	EMS	2,897
LE	16,603	LE	29,695	LE	33,760

Central Dispatch currently has 8 full time Communications Officers; Dispatch Supervisor Connie Cook, Dispatch Supervisor Leah Cramer, Dispatch Supervisor Stephanie Bledsoe, Dispatchers Rachel Williams, Kelci Dodds, Stacy Schoen, Brianna Vest, and Susan Poepelman. Central Dispatch is supervised by 9-1-1 Administrator Monte Diegel.

CORRECTIONS DIVISION

The Corrections Division is responsible for the operation of the Mercer County Detention Facility. The jail provides for the safe and constitutional treatment of prisoners sentenced to it by Mercer County Courts, awaiting extradition to another jurisdiction, or awaiting transport to one of Ohio's prison facilities. It also provides limited services to other counties by holding their prisoners.

The Mercer County Detention Facility holds both female and male inmates. Over the last twenty-five years it has received 100% compliance with the annual inspections by the State Bureau of Adult Detention. All corrections officers are required to complete a 120-hour Basic Corrections course through the Ohio Police Officers Training Council. Two of the corrections officers have also completed the Basic Police Officers training course.

1995 Statistics		2019 Statistics		2020 Statistics	
Total Inmates Held	1,280	Total Inmates Held	2,272	Total Inmates Held	1,608
Average per month	106.67	Average per month	189	Average per month	134
Average per day	14.70	Average per day	74	Average per day	53
Average Age	29.90	Average Age	35	Average Age	36
Average length of stay	4.18 days	Average length of stay	12 days	Average length of stay	17 days
Felony Inmates	208	Felony Inmates	1088	Felony Inmates	178
Misdemeanor Inmates	1,072	Misdemeanor Inmates	1184	Misdemeanor Inmates	673
Total Meals Served	18,448	Total Meals Served	50,467	Total Meals Served	49,412
Average meals per month	1,537.3	Average meals per month	6,706	Average meals per month	4,869
Males	1126	Males	2,462	Males	1,332
Females	154	Females	707	Females	386

In 1995, the jail was staffed by 8 full-time corrections officers. In 2020, the jail is staffed by 18 full-time corrections officers; Sergeant Jon Wolfe, Sergeant Nathan Post, Sergeant Robert Cupp, Sergeant Heather Leist, Deputy Kari Begley, Deputy Maria Diana Contreras, Deputy Madison Garland, Deputy Scott Geis, Deputy Angelia Kaiser, Deputy Matthew Kremer, Deputy Lisa Meeker, Deputy Hannah Oakley, Deputy Lori Pease, Deputy Jason Porter, Deputy Austin Prenger, Deputy Kevin Schnipke, Deputy Jeremy Taylor, Deputy Logan Williams and Deputy Megan Wycuff. The jail also has two full-time nurses - Nurse Supervisor Megan Fokine and Nurse Susan Backs; and four custodian/cooks - Supervisor Connie Kaiser, Pam Wilder, Marie Stahl, and Kathy Giere. The jail is ran by Chief Deputy Mary Jodie Lange and Captain Martin Emerine.

CIVIL DIVISION

The Civil Division provides courthouse security and transportation of prisoners; execution of Sheriff's sales, foreclosures, various writs and court orders; processes arrest warrants, indictments, and summons from Common Pleas Court, foreign warrants, from other agencies, Governor's warrants; and sets up extraditions from other states. The Patrol Division supplements the Civil Divisions' responsibilities to provide courtroom security, prisoner transports, and service of warrants, other writs and court orders. The Civil Division is also responsible for many records duties, in office filing, providing copies of reports to the public and insurance companies, and handling the day-to-day contact with the news media.

In 1995, the Civil Division was staffed with one full-time deputy and one part-time office employee. In 2020, our Civil Division has four full-time deputies – Sergeant Dan Adams, Deputy Kyle Strohl, Deputy Kent Taylor, and Deputy Donald Bird; and one Administrative Assistant – Nicole Grabow. The Civil Division is overseen by Lieutenant Lori Knapke.

1995 Statistics		2019 Statistics		2020 Statistics	
Warrants		Warrants		Warrants	
Felony	96	Felony	104	Felony	105
Misdemeanor	184	Misdemeanor	248	Misdemeanor	296
Civil	12	Civil	0	Civil	0
Total Warrants Served	292	Total Warrants Served	757	Total Warrants Served	473
Civil Papers Served	1,702	Civil Papers Served	794	Civil Papers Served	554
Number of Transports	156	Number of Transports	548	Number of Transports	309
Miles	28,000	Miles	42,875	Miles	26,829

In addition, the Civil Division is now responsible for Sex Offender registration and notification as well as all matters pertaining to the application for Carry Concealed Weapons Permits. Ohio has long been an "Open Carry" state, but in 2004 Ohio legalized concealed carry permits. Several laws were passed after 1995 that made CCWs and Sex Offender Registration the Sheriff's responsibility. Public record requests and civilian background checks are also the responsibility of the Civil Division.

2019 Statistics		2020 Statistics	
Web Checks Done	1,689	Web Checks Done	2,092
Sheriff Sales Received	23	Sheriff Sales Received	13
Sheriff Sales Conducted	13	Sheriff Sales Conducted	10
CCW New Permits Issued	317	CCW New Permits Issued	624
CCW Renewal Permits	350	CCW Renewal Permits	412
CCW Revoked Permits	5	CCW Revoked Permits	4
CCW Denied Permits	3	CCW Denied Permits	13
CCW Suspended Permits	7	CCW Suspended Permits	3
Sex Offender Verifications	177	Sex Offender Verifications	302

D.A.R.E. PROGRAM

The D.A.R.E. Program is taught in all elementary grades in Mercer County with an emphasis in the fifth grade. D.A.R.E. Officers also teach in two junior highs and various senior classes. Approximately 6 ½ hours a day, five days a week are spent in classrooms. There are four lessons for kindergarten through second grade, five lessons for third and fourth grades, and a semester for fifth grade. Each Class is taught on an individual basis. D.A.R.E. officers meet with over 1,300 students a year. Presentations are also made to groups regarding drug abuse, alcohol abuse, and safety issues.

During the summer months and after school, deputies are involved with youth related activities, including:

Red Ribbon Meetings & Activities

Health Fairs

D.A.R.E. Fund Raisers

Y Healthy Kids Day

D.A.R.E. Safe Halloween Night

Bike Safety Programs

Star Weekend

School Network Meetings

Church Groups & Service Organizations

Summer Activities:

D.A.R.E. Days

Lunch with Officers

Mercer County Fair

Area Parades

The D.A.R.E. division is staffed with one full time deputy, Deputy Donald Bird, and one part-time deputy, Deputy Sue Miller.

PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division provides police services to all fourteen townships in Mercer County. This includes traffic enforcement, traffic investigations, canine services, crime prevention, paper service and crime scene investigations/evidence collection and serving court papers. It also provides support services to the five police departments within Mercer County, and also the highway Patrol, the Divisions of Parks and the Division of Wildlife. In 1995, the Sheriff's Office responded to 390 requests for assistance from these law enforcement agencies.

Currently, the Patrol Division has fifteen marked patrol cruisers. In 1995, there were only 12 cruisers that were driven a total of 324,725 miles. In 2020, our cruisers traveled 381,989 miles throughout Mercer County.

Our Patrol Division has a traffic crash response team that investigates traffic fatalities and other critical accidents. The members of the team include Captain Martin Emerine, Detective Chad Fortkamp, and Detective Carla Baucher.

1995 Statistics		2019 Statistics		2020 Statistics	
Traffic Stops	(n/a)	Traffic Stops	1199	Traffic Stops	953
Citations Issued	913	Citations Issued	388	Citations Issued	296
Total Crashes	532	Total Crashes	477	Total Crashes	456
Fatal	11	Fatal	5	Fatal	4
Injury	139	Injury	96	Injury	61
Non-Injury	382	Non-Injury	363	Non-Injury	253
		Handled by MCSO	464	Handled by MCSO	318
		Handled by OSHP	108	Handled by OSHP	183

The Patrol Division is supervised by Chief Deputy Gery Thobe and Captain Doug Timmerman and has 15 deputies; Sergeant Darrell Etgen, Sergeant Jonathan Wehrkamp, Sergeant John Westgerdes, Deputy Jessica Clune, Deputy Kyle Fink, Deputy Patrick Forsthoefel, Deputy Rachel Heintl, Deputy Spencer Heintl, Deputy Jacob Huber, Deputy Deric Kroft, Deputy Chase Kuhlman, Deputy Kristen Nixon, Deputy Donald Sites Jr., Deputy Samantha Wehe, Deputy Douglas Wuebker

DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Detective Division conducts investigations and research related to criminal violations within the Sheriff's jurisdiction. The division also assists the Celina Police Department, village police departments, state agencies, the Prosecutor's Office, the Coroner's Office with investigations. This division is primarily responsible for all felony investigations and death investigations that occur within the Sheriff's Jurisdiction.

Our office currently has three detectives, Detective Sergeant Megan Baker, Detective Chad Fortkamp, and Detective Carla Baucher.

GRAND LAKE TASKFORCE

The Grand Lake Taskforce was started in 1995. The Grand Lake Task Force is comprised of the Auglaize and Mercer County sheriffs' and prosecutors' offices; the Celina, Coldwater, Cridersville, Minster Village, New Bremen, and St. Mary's police departments. Now it is manned by Detective Sergeant Lance Crum and Detective John Marbaugh.

1995 Statistics – May only			2020 Statistics – May only	
Cases Initiated by MCSO	7		Cases Initiated by MCSO	6
Number of MCSO Deputies on GLTF	6		Number of MCSO Deputies on GLTF	2
Hours Worked	501		Hours Worked	275

K-9 DIVISION

The K-9 Division currently only has one K-9 Deputy Patrick Forsthoefel with Canine Ossi. A Sheriff's Office k-9 handler and their k-9s are used for narcotics searches, backup calls, tracks, apprehension assists, building searches, area searches, crowd control, apprehensions and article searches.

Hours of Training:

Formal School..... 200 Hours

1995 Statistics			2020 Statistics	
Narcotic Searches	76		Narcotic Searches	33
Demonstrations	27		Demonstrations	6
Building Searches	28		Building Searches	8
Area Searches	11		Vehicle Sniffs	19
Backup Calls	35		Backup Calls	1
Tracks	18		Tracks	2
Article Searches	1		Article Searches	0
Crowd Control	6		Crowd Control	0
Assists in Apprehensions	9		Assists in Apprehensions	2
Apprehension	11		Apprehension	0
Total Canine Activities	222		Total Canine Activities	33

2020 Statistics – ENFORCEMENT DIVISION		
	2019	2020
Fleet Miles	458,870	510,881
Patrol Miles	309,117	381,989
Complaints / Calls for Service	29,695	33,760
Total Events (W / Report Typed)	3,743	3,246
Prescription Drug Take Back (Weight by Pound)	275.08	233
Total Assists to other Jurisdiction (Mercer Co)	360	333
Total Time spent on Calls handled for other Jurisdictions (Mercer Co)	283hrs 6m	261hrs 27m
Total Crashes	477	318
Total Injury Crashes	96	61
Total Non-Injury Crashes	363	253
Total Fatal Crashes	5	4
Total Dead from Fatal Crashes	6	4
Alcohol Involved Crashes	9	7
Private Property Crashes	31	22
Car Deer Crashes	143	113
OVI Arrests	22	30
Total OVI arrests from a crash	11	12
Total Underage OVI'S from a Crash (21 Years Old and Below)	4	2
Number of Injury OVI Crashes	4	4
Number of Non-Injury OVI Crashes	8	10
Number of Fatal OVI Crashes	0	0
Domestic Violence	48	39
Domestic Dispute	66	79
Suicide	0	1
Suicide Attempt	11	4
Suicide Threat	42	36
Felony Arrests	462	522
Misdemeanor Arrests	392	479
Total Traffic Stops	1,199	953
Traffic Citations Issued	388	296
Total Offenses for Citations	215	392
MOVING VIOLATIONS	304	289
NON-MOVING VIOLATIONS	116	103
Total Written Warnings Issued	800	672
Total Written Warning Offenses	330	682
Business Checks / House Checks	6,947	5,182
Checks on Parks	1,343	1,343

2020 AWARD RECIPIENTS

EMPLOYEE NAME	YEARS OF SERVICE	SAFE DRIVING
DARE Deputy Sue Miller	35	35
Chief Deputy Gery Thobe	35	
Dispatch Supervisor Connie Cook	30	
Sergeant Darrell Etgen	30	
Deputy Maggie Hartings	25	
Detective Chad Fortkamp	20	
Detective Sergeant Megan Baker	15	
Fiscal Manager Connie Rinderle	15	
Detective Carla Baucher	10	10
Douglas Wuebker	10	10
Cook/Custodian Marie Stahl	10	
Cook/Custodian Pam Wilder	10	
Deputy Kari Begley	5	
Deputy Rachel Heint	5	

COMMENDATION AWARD

Connie Rinderle
 Ashley Carr
 Sergeant Heather Leist
 Deputy Kari Begley
 Dispatch Supervisor Connie Cook
 Detective Sergeant Megan Baker
 Detective Carla Baucher
 Detective Chad Fortkamp

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Nurse Megan Fokine, RN
 Nurse Susan Backs, LPN

LIFE SAVING AWARD

Deputy Samantha Wehe

CORRECTIONS OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Deputy Scott Geis

DISPATCHER OF THE YEAR

Dispatcher Kelci Dodds

DEPUTY OF THE YEAR

Detective John Marbaugh

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR

Marie Stahl

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Deputy Jason Porter