

## FOCUS ON

### Sheriff's Office Jail Division: Keeping the jail safe and secure

– June 10, 2015

About two-thirds of the 731 staff members who comprise the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office work at the jail. It takes all hands on deck to supervise the approximately 2,200 inmates who are housed there each day. In total, deputies process about 35,000 arrestees each year.

"When I took office in 1997, the population in Gwinnett County was 489,382 and our average jail population was around 800. With a current population of 877,982, the needs of our Jail Division have expanded, and I'm proud of the fine job they do," Sheriff Butch Conway said. "It has been a privilege to serve the citizens of Gwinnett County as sheriff for the past 18 years and to witness the tremendous growth of our county and the Sheriff's Office."



*The Gwinnett County Jail can hold up to 2,768 inmates at one time.*

Jail Division staff are assigned to 14 different units to ensure that everything runs smoothly on a daily basis. Those assignments include Pre-Admissions, Inmate Identification (ID Fingerprinting), Inmate Housing, Rapid Response Team, Jail Courts, and 287(g). In addition, staff supervise inmates on daily work details.

"Maintaining order in a jail facility our size is a tremendous responsibility," said Jail Commander Colonel Don Pinkard. "The deputies work diligently to ensure the safety and security of inmates and staff alike. Jail operations never cease, so we must be able to maintain the jail's operational functions 24/7."

In addition, the jail is nationally accredited and has been recognized as a model facility for others throughout the nation. "This is a direct reflection of the integrity, professionalism, hard work, and commitment to excellence demonstrated by our staff," said Pinkard.



*The housing unit deputy can manage up to 130 inmates in a jail housing unit in a direct supervision setting.*

Pre-Admissions staff search inmates as soon as they arrive for contraband or weapons and inventory and secure inmates' property. Afterward, they enter information to ID inmates into the jail management tracking system known as TAG, and ensure that proper legal orders, such as order to incarcerate, warrants and citations, accompany each inmate. Inmate identification is very important, so the ID staff must fingerprint inmates who are processed into the jail facility. These fingerprints are sent to the Georgia Crime Information Center.

Housing unit deputies manage inmates to ensure the units are safe, secure, and orderly. Deputies conduct inmate counts, security checks, provide

safety for medical staff during pill and medical calls, and supervise meal distributions. They also make sure units are clean, oversee commissary calls, supervise inmate free time, and write inmate disciplinary unusual occurrence reports. When an emergency occurs within the jail, the Rapid Response Team is called in to handle it. The team extracts violent inmates and conducts unit searches for contraband.

The Jail Division offers programs such as General Education Development (GED) classes, Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and counseling for substance abuse, drug relapse prevention, and anger management to increase an inmate's chance of becoming a productive citizen after they are released.

In addition, the division oversees the Gwinnett Re-entry Intervention Program—or GRIP—to reduce the jail's recidivism rate among homeless inmates. The program partners with local agencies to provide drug treatment, job skills training, and mental health care to former inmates, in addition to securing housing and employment.

Sheriff Butch Conway started Operation Second Chance, also known as the Jail Dogs program in 2010 to help decrease the number of dogs being euthanized at the County's Animal Welfare and Enforcement shelter. Inmates who are chosen to participate in the program provide obedience training with the assistance of volunteers. The dogs are then available to the public for adoption. Cats were added to the program in 2013.

For more information on the Gwinnett County Jail Division or other services offered by the Sheriff's Office, please call 770.619.6500 or visit [www.gwinnettcountysheriff.com](http://www.gwinnettcountysheriff.com).

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