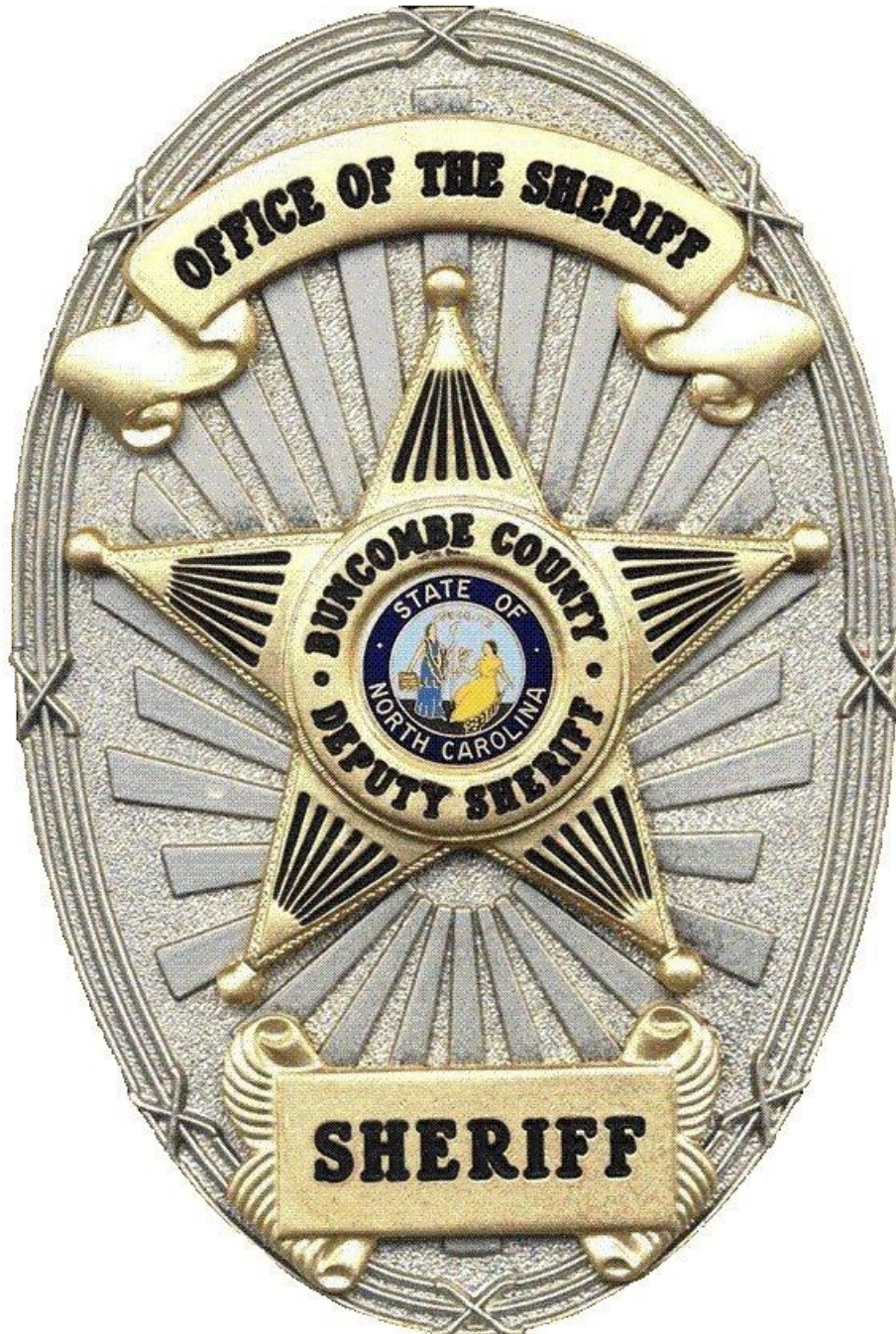


Buncombe County Sheriff's Office



2008 Annual Report

Service ♦ Accountability ♦ Integrity ♦ Professionalism ♦ Dignity



Message from Sheriff J. Van Duncan

I am pleased to present the second year-end report of the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office. This report is designed to hold our office accountable and give tangible measures of services delivered by your Sheriff's Office. As you are about to read, we have had an extremely busy year with increases in calls for service as well as more investigations being initiated. Nothing bears this out more than the

increase in calls for service, which are up 12,000 calls over the past two years.

We are also facing the challenge of continuing to provide a level of service that we feel you expect in these tough economic times while we are trying to decrease our overall operating budget. The only way to accomplish our mission of providing quality service, with the demands on that service increasing while some of our resources are decreasing, is to more efficiently partner with our communities, other service providers and surrounding law enforcement agencies. Even though next year's challenges are significant, I am very optimistic about the future of public safety in our community because of the tremendous working relationship we have with our neighboring law enforcement agencies. A prime example of this is the newly formed Western North Carolina Gang Task Force that encompasses Buncombe County Sheriff's Office, Asheville Police Department, Henderson County Sheriff's Office, and the District Attorney's Office. These types of partnerships will allow us to effectively use our resources in a collaborative way to address our communities' public safety concerns.

In closing, I once again would like to recognize the tremendous effort that our officers and staff put forth every day in serving the people of this county. I continue to be impressed by their level of commitment and competence in performing their difficult tasks. As their sheriff, I am very thankful for them and appreciative of the work they do. It has been an honor to serve you for the past two years and I hope that you continue to see a strong commitment to our guiding principles of service, integrity, professionalism, accountability and dignity.

Sincerely,

Your Sheriff

Jack Van Duncan



Buncombe County

Population 220,159

656 Square Miles

Percent Municipal:

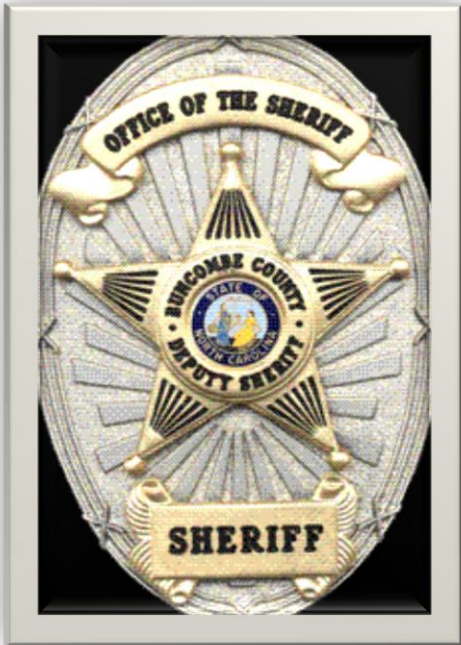
9.92%

County Vision

Buncombe County is a caring community in harmony with its environment where citizens succeed, thrive, and realize their potential.

County Mission

- We promote a healthy, safe, well-educated, and thriving community with a sustainable quality of life.
- We provide effective and efficient government our citizens can trust.
- We deliver needed service through a responsive work force committed to excellence, integrity, and teamwork.



B.C.S.O. At-A-Glance

Main Office
202 Haywood Street
Asheville, NC 28801
828-255-5000

Detention Center
20 Davidson Drive
Asheville, NC 28801
828-250-4557

372 Full-Time Employees

12 Part-Time Employees

410 Volunteers

J. Van Duncan
Sheriff

Don Reavis
Chief Deputy

Scott Bissinger
Major

Glen Matayabas
Major

MISSION STATEMENT

The Buncombe County Sheriff's Office is a professional, service oriented law enforcement agency. We are dedicated to improving the quality of life of everyone in Buncombe County by utilizing the highest degree of integrity and professionalism at every level, making certain that we lead by example, treat all persons with dignity, and hold ourselves accountable to the highest possible standards.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Service

We provide quality service in a manner which is proactive, fair, courteous, responsive and efficient. We will partner with the community to identify problems and create solutions to improve the quality of life.

Integrity

We demand candor, honesty and ethical behavior. We are committed to upholding our positions of trust by maintaining the highest ethical standards.

Accountability

We hold ourselves accountable to the people of Buncombe County in our decision making and management of resources to render services in an open, effective and efficient manner.

Professionalism

We shall exhibit a courteous, conscientious, and businesslike manner in all activities; stay knowledgeable of all aspects of our duties; understand how each individual's role fits within the larger organization and its mission; and act for the public good without regard to convenience or self-interest.

Dignity

We value and honor those that we serve.

Advisory Committee



The Buncombe County Sheriff's Office Personnel Advisory Board was formed in 1973 by then Sheriff Tom Morrissey and is the only Sheriff's Office in the state of North Carolina that is governed by State Statute, which was recently revised and rewritten in 2007 and ratified by the North Carolina General Assembly on July 18, 2007. **(House Bill 1197)** The Personnel Advisory Board's function within the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office is to:

- Represent the public interest in the improvements of personnel administration;
- Advise the Sheriff of Buncombe County concerning the personnel administration, including minimum standards of employment established by the Criminal Justice and Training and Standards Council, and the methods used to publicize vacancies;
- To make any investigations which it may consider desirable concerning the administration of personnel in the agency;
- To advise the Sheriff on such personnel rules as he shall establish; and
- To hear appeals, receive evidence, determine facts and make recommendations to the Sheriff in cases of employee appeals of suspension, demotion and/or dismissal, and to determine and establish a rotating board for hiring and promoting within the agency.

Members of the Sheriff's Advisory Committee are:

Willie Mae Brown

Retired from Ball-Icon Glass Company after 28 ½ years

Lifelong member of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church

Also serves on Community Boards of Asheville –Buncombe Community Relations, Quality Forward, Community Action Opportunities, MLK Jr. Association

Joan Creasman

Deputy Commissioner of the Western Regional Office for the North Carolina Department of Insurance

Former Assistant to Sheriff Charlie Long

Resides in the Leicester Community

Don Linn

Chairman of the Board of East/West Inc.

Former President of ETL Corporation

Formerly served on Board of Directors of Asheville Country Day School, Temple Beth ha-Tephila and the North Carolina Wine Wholesalers Association

Graduate of the University of North Carolina

William Mance Jr.

Retired Vice President for Human Resources at Mission Hospital
Former Western Region Manager for WCI, a human resources consulting organization
Retired Army Colonel
Serves on several boards and charitable organizations in the Asheville/Buncombe Area
Graduate of Hampton University and George Washington University

Tom Sobol

Black Mountain Town Board and Mayor for 15 1/2 yrs.
County Commissioner for 16 yrs, Chairman for last 4 yrs.
Chairman of N.C. State Personnel Commission for 10 yrs.
United Way Board for 18 yrs.
United Way Campaign Chair - 2004
Crimestoppers Chairman

Office of Professional Standards

The Sheriff established the “Office of Professional Standards” immediately upon taking office. The Buncombe County Sheriff’s Office of Professional Standards is responsible for maintaining unquestionable standards of character and proficiency within the agency, while continually recommending actions and developing policies, procedures and practices that insure all citizens receive exceptional and appropriate levels of service

The Sheriff has committed that every citizen complaint filed with the agency will be investigated. Some complaints are handled at the divisional level while more serious allegations are forwarded to the Office of Professional Standards. In 2008 the Office of Professional Standards had sixty-three cases referred to them. Each case resulted in a detailed report that was submitted to the Sheriff.

Cases resulting in Commendation	2
Cases Sustained/Founded	24
Cases Unfounded	18
Cases referred back to the Division	3
Cases resulting in exoneration	16

The Office of Professional Standards also handles firearms purchase permits and permits to carry a concealed handgun.



- Carry Concealed Handgun Permits
 - Applications Received 1,078
 - Applications Approved 928
 - Applications Denied 13
 - Applications being Processed 137
 - **TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED 928**



- Pistol Purchase Permits
 - Applications Received 2157
 - Applications Approved 2034
 - Applications Denied 113
 - Applications being Processed 10
 - **TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED 4399***

*(Applicants may receive up to 10 permits per application)

- ❖ **92.1% increase in Carry Concealed Permit Applications from 2007 to 2008 (483 in 2007 to 928 in 2008)**
- ❖ **57.6% increase in Pistol Purchase Permits issued from 2007 to 2008 (2790 in 2007 to 4399 in 2008)**

PATROL

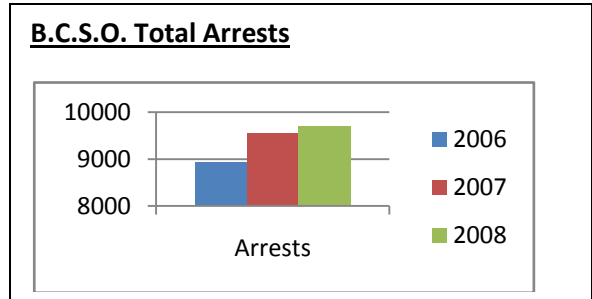
Captain Terry Rogers



64 Member, Full-time Deputy Patrol Force

2008 Calls for Service	54,600
2007 Calls for Service	51,625
Increase over 2007	2,975 (+5.76%)

2008 Total Arrests	9,691
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Average Response time for Emergency Calls 2008	9.21 Minutes
Average Response time for Emergency Calls 2007	10.75 Minutes

The Patrol division had an 11.8% decrease in response time for emergency calls for service.

Training hours completed in 2008	5,560 Hours
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The deputy selected as “officer of the year” was Dean Hannah.



K-9 Enforcement

Lt. Kevin Calhoun Trainer – Deputy Jeff Drake

There are four K-9 Teams assigned to the Patrol Division to perform law enforcement functions and narcotic searches, one K-9 Team assigned to a School Resource Officer for narcotic searches and one K-9 Team assigned to the Facility Security Officer for explosive searches.

The K-9 Unit conducts a number of law enforcement functions that include tracking, article searches, suspect apprehension, narcotic/explosives detection searches and public demonstration for churches and other community groups.

2008 K-9 Statistics

Area/Building/Evidence Searches	16
Tracks	20
Controlled Substance Searches	130
Controlled Substance Seizures	1,277 grams
Cash Seized	\$2,200
Arrests/Charges	123
Citations	80
Search Warrants	15
Public Demonstrations	17
Training Hours	825 Hours

C.I.D.

Captain Rusty Sweezy
Criminal Investigations Division

The Criminal Investigations Division is divided into specialized units designed to target specific types of crimes. The units are Major Case, Special Investigations, Field Investigations, Property Crimes, and the Buncombe County Anti-Crime Task Force (BCAT – which is included separately in this report). The division as a whole handled more than 3200 cases in 2008.



	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Investigations Initiated	1,876	3,172
Cleared	890	1,585

Training hours completed in 2008 3,073 Hours

The “Major Case” section initiated 159 cases of which 125 were cleared or closed.

The Sheriff initiated the “BEST (Breaking and Entering Suppression Team)” section in late 2007 that assigned several investigators to a team that focused on property crimes. The BEST team handled 1061 cases in 2008 of which 1033 were cleared or closed.

The Field Investigators opened 885 cases in 2008, of which 840 were cleared or closed.

The “Special Victims” unit opened 919 cases of which 900 were cleared or closed.

The Computer Crime unit handled 58 cases of which 55 were cleared or closed.

B.C.A.T



Buncombe County Anti-Crime Task Force

In 2007 the Sheriff, in cooperation with other local and State agencies, restructured and renamed the Metropolitan Enforcement Group. The "Buncombe County Anti-crime Task Force" (BCAT) will now investigate drug and drug related crimes. The task force filed 162 drug related charges in 2008. The task force seized approximately \$3,814,256.00 in property and narcotics in 2008, representing an increase of \$2,323,148.00 from 2007.

Overall Case Clearance Rate	
2008 B.C.S.O.	50%
State Average	24%

Civil Process



Captain David Sharpton

North Carolina General Statute 1A-1, Rule 4, states that the civil process function for the entire county is the responsibility of the sheriff. No other law enforcement agency can do this. The sheriff and his deputies are the only law enforcement officers in the county that have the authority to serve a court-issued paper.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Total Civil Papers Received	25,179	25,911
Includes		
Domestic Violence Orders	898	733
No Contact Orders	206	139
Writs of Execution	831	1060
Child Support – Orders for Arrest		
Issued	1,522	803
Served	717	579
Criminal Arrest Warrants Served	12,513	12,767

Money Collected on Civil Actions

Funds Collected on Behalf Plaintiffs	\$404,047.05	268,159.21
Sheriff's Fees Collected	\$126,961.29	148,755.00
Total Collected	\$531,008.34	416,914.21

Property / Evidence

Items of Property	Received		Disposed/Destroyed	
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Drugs	1,237	1,183	403	977
Guns	594	519	506	598
General / Other	1,739	2,027	469	1,568
Totals	3,570	3,729	1,378	3,143
Property Released to Owner	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>		
	898	562		

Detention

Major Glen Matayabas

The Buncombe County Detention Facility is a 604-bed, adult local confinement facility utilizing a direct supervision style of inmate management. The facility confines pre-trial and sentenced local, state and federal inmates. Court Security supervises 7 District Courts, 2 Superior Courts, Metal Detector as well as Court Holding which is a temporary holding area for inmates awaiting their scheduled court appearance.

Facility Capacity

Annex	80 males
North Tower	276 males
Central Tower	152 males & 96 Females

Total Inmates Booked

2006	13,725
2007	16,382
2008	16,243



Average Length of Stay in Detention

2006	10.73 days
2007	8.24 days
2008	9.2 days

Average Daily Population

2006	460
2007	474
2008	427

Assaults 2008

Inmate on Inmate	39
On Detention Officer	5

Warrants Served by Detention 4,031

Number of Visitors to the Detention Facility 7,198



The Detention Facility served 475,497 meals in 2008 at an average cost of \$1.16 each.

Detention Officer John Inks was selected as the Detention Officer of the Year for 2008.

The Detention Center continues to train officers in a variety of topics and recorded 20,020 hours of training in 2008.

Communications



Director Brooke Hazlett

The Communications Division of The Buncombe County Sheriff's Office is the link between citizens and officers for which the Sheriff's Office safeguards lives and property. Each other division within the Sheriff's Office relies on the Communications Division for obtaining, maintaining, and dissemination of information. The Communications Center was relocated during 2008 and is now located in the Erwin Hills area.

Dispatcher Tawana Brewer was awarded the Employee of the Year award for 2008.

The Communications Division receives thousands of calls monthly. These include a diverse volume of calls, of which are Emergency 911, routine, animal control, and general geographic information calls.

Calls received in 2008 220,000

Calls requiring dispatch of an officer

54,600

In 2008, the communications division averaged in excess of 4,000 calls per week.

Dispatch functions are also provided to Woodfin and Weaverville Police Departments, including their DCI requirements. The Buncombe County Sheriff's Office also has DCI service agreements with a total of 15 outside agencies, performing their DCI transactions.

Chaplains

Crisis Counselor Richard Baird

The Buncombe County Sheriff's Office Chaplaincy is made up of specially trained ordained and non-ordained chaplains. Our chaplains provide a valuable service to law enforcement, their families and to the citizens when crisis and tragedy occurs. The services of our volunteer chaplains are provided without cost to our citizens.



Our chaplains work alongside law enforcement officers and personnel on a day-to-day basis through regular agency visits, ride-alongs and participating in sheriff office events and community projects. They have assisted with the Reassurance luncheon and the Awards Banquet in 2008.

The sheriffs' office has fourteen volunteer chaplains who have faithfully served for many years. These include Allen Rash, Bill Day, Robert Teague, Sonia Bureson, Chuck Waldrup, Kent Withington, Garry Rogers, Lewis Melton, Art Slagle, Terry and Ann Threadwell, Rex Collins, Joe Chandler and Charles Shelton. The Chaplaincy program is overseen by Richard Baird, Sheriffs' Crisis Counselor.

The chaplains have made numerous hospital calls and death notifications. They have also worked with families who have experienced tragic events in their lives. They help provide resources, conduct funerals and weddings when asked. Chaplains provide 24 hour, seven day a week, on call status. This equals 8700 stand-by hours logged in each year.

Animal Control

Lieutenant Helen Hall

The duties of Animal Control were given to the BCSO on July 1, 2006. We currently employ 6 full time officers who work Monday through Friday, 13 hrs – each day on duty and 11 hrs each day on-call. We work on-call each weekend only to answer emergency calls for service. Some of our services provided last year include:

	2007	2008	Change
Total Calls for Service	10,675	11,273	598
Animal to Human Bites Investigated	359	389	30
Animal Cruelty Investigations	572	592	20
Animals Picked Up	957	1177	220
Dangerous Animal Investigations	257	141	-116
Injured or Sick Animals Investigated	354	435	81
Barking Dog Complaints	378	364	-14
Strays Reported	2,493	4,267	1774

The Animal Control division assisted the public in obtaining services such as:

	2007	2008	Change
Spay/Neuter	127	233	106
Rabies Vaccination	1,399	2,573	1174
Micro-Chipping	99	294	195

School Resource

Lieutenant Mike Ruby

The School Resource Division consists of 1

Lieutenant, 1 Sergeant and 13 School Resource

Officers (SRO). A SRO is assigned to each Middle

and High School in the County School System. They are responsible for investigating all criminal activities in the schools and working with school officials to maintain a safe educational environment. One of the SRO's most important responsibilities is to build rapport with students through positive interaction thus building a positive relationship between students and the law enforcement community. Some of the SRO's activities include spending some time in the classroom teaching law enforcement topics, coaching athletic teams, chaperoning field trips and counseling students.



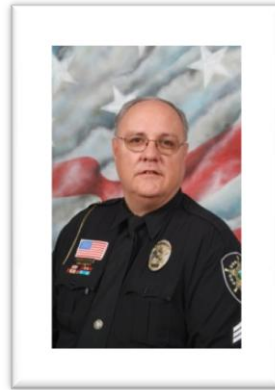
2008 Statistics

Cases Initiated	353
Cases Cleared	257
Cases Closed / Leads Exhausted	75
Cases Open	21
Arrests Made	211

During summer break 2008, SRO's conducted two ON TRACK leadership development programs for rising 8th and 9th grade students. ON TRACK is a program designed for students that have shown some

leadership ability but have not had the opportunity to develop their skills. Students are selected by their SRO. They are challenged during this two week program to become positive role models and leaders in their community. Students participate in team building and leadership activities. School Resource Officers dedicate an immense amount of time and effort to make these programs a success. In 2009 a new mentoring component will be added the On-Track program.

Crime Prevention



Sergeant Steve Oxner

The Crime Prevention / Community Relations Unit has achieved many accomplishments during 2008. Some of these include:

- A new office/training facility was secured, renovated and occupied at Westwood Baptist Church. Much of the renovation work was accomplished by Crime Prevention personnel.
- A new program called 'Managing Panic' was developed by Sgt. Oxner to address the increase in acts of violence in houses of worship all across the country. The unit has taught several seminars across the county to various denominations and has provided a comprehensive analysis of the security risk for seven churches across Buncombe County. To date, this unit is the only one in the country providing such a service to churches.
- A series of "Workplace Violence Prevention" Training was provided to 481 Buncombe County Health Center, DSS, and Child Care Services workers.
- Graduated 2 Sheriff's Citizens Academies.
- Coordinated the 2008 Mountain Santa gift drive for 128 needy children.
- Trained and organized 23 new Community Watch programs across the county.
- Coordinated a series of kid programs with Buncombe County Parks & Recreation at all of the county pools where information was exchanged and Kid ID's were created.
- Coordinated with Parks & Recreation to present safety information for senior adults several times throughout the year.
- Cooperated with NCSHP, Asheville Fire Dept, and Highpoint PD in an effort to reduce automobile crashes through the 'Vehicle Injury Prevention' program at Asheville High School.

2008 Crime Prevention Statistics

Adults Impacted	5,739
Children Impacted	6,081
Safety Presentations	55
Children ID Cards Produced	269
New Community Watch Programs	23
Residential Security Surveys	36
Public Service Announcements	9

SRT / STORM

The Sheriff's Response Team (SRT) and the Sheriff's Tactical Order Restoration Management team (STORM) continue to be utilized for high risk situations. The eighteen member SRT squad trains monthly and responds to call outs in our community. The fifteen member STORM Team is based in the detention center and trains to handle high risk situations in the detention facility, courthouse, and other centrally located County properties.

The STORM Team completed 12 missions during the year resulting in 0 injuries to staff or inmates. The Team coordinated the moves and relocations of all inmates during the opening and retro-fit projects at the Detention Facility as well as performing security details at various county properties to quell possible threats. The Team is in the process of becoming the first agency in the state to certify all of the members as Cell Extraction Response Team Operators through the North Carolina Justice Academy. Several members of the Team completed 110 hours of training related specifically to the jobs deemed critical to the purpose of the STORM Team. The team continues to train on a monthly basis. In conjunction with several groups in Buncombe County the Team logged an impressive 236 hours of volunteer community service.



Giving Back to Buncombe County

Sheriff's Office employees engage in numerous activities as volunteers giving back to the community they protect. Some of these activities for 2008 included:

- Reading at local elementary schools and joining the students for lunch
- Working with Habitat for Humanity on local projects
- Employees contributed to the United Way through payroll deduction
- Sponsored 128 children for the annual County Christmas event
- Supporting the "On-Track" Program along with Eblen Charities
- Presentation of Colors at civic events by the Sheriff's Honor Guard
- Serving a Holiday Meal to participants in the Senior Reassurance program
- Youth Activities such as coaching, teaching fire prevention and internet safety
- Supporting the Special Olympics
- Working with area Churches in a variety of ways
- Collecting and sending items to overseas soldiers
- Adopting and fostering animals from the shelter and supporting animal rescue groups

