# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF ULSTER COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT 2014









Paul J. VanBlarcum Sheriff

Ulster County Law Enforcement Center 380 Boulevard, Kingston, NY 12401 www.co.ulster.ny.us/sheriff

March 2015

County Executive Michael Hein, Legislature Chairman John Parete Ulster County P.O. Box 1800 Kingston, NY 12402

Dear County Executive Hein and Chairman Parete:

We are pleased to issue the Sheriff's Office 2014 Annual Report. In it you will see reflected the truly astonishing range of talents, know-how, experience and teamwork collected in the 257 members of the Sheriff's Office. We appreciate the efforts you have lent in supporting our work to protect and promote the well-being of the people of Ulster County. We are proud to share our accomplishments with you and the public. We welcome any thoughts and look forward to our continuing to serve.

Sincerely, Paul J. VanBlarcum Sheriff of Ulster County

Michael O. Freer Undersheriff Michael O. Freer Undersheriff

Vincent V. Altieri Captain / Criminal Division

James R. Hanstein Superintendent / Corrections Division

Area Code 845	
Administration	340-3802
Criminal Division	338-3640
Corrections Division	340-3644
Civil Division	340-3643
Pistol Permits	340-3639
Crime Tips Hotline	340-3599
Fax (Administration)	331-2810
Fax (Criminal Division)	340-3718
Fax (Corrections/Records)	340-3468
Fax (Corrections/Booking)	340-3436
Fax (Civil Division)	334-8125
Fax (Detectives)	340-3588



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# **2014 Highlights**

In March, the Sheriff's Office teamed up with Keith Bennett's Karate Academy of Kingston to offer the second annual women's self-defense workshop at the Ulster County Law Enforcement Center. Women learned simple but critical hands-on street fighting techniques they could use to extricate themselves from dangerous situations.

From July 9th-14th, approximately 15,000 people descended on the Winston Farm property in the town of Saugerties for the musical event known as the "Hudson Project." The Sheriff's Office, New York State Police and Town of Saugerties Police Dept. had worked diligently planning for the security and traffic at this event for twelve months. The Sheriff's team arrived a week prior to set up a mobile office complex that not only would provide space for its Mobile Command Post vehicle containing emergency

communications equipment, but also a judicial office and arrest processing area. The event was a complete success for attendees and residents. This event was an excellent example of how well law enforcement agencies work together in Ulster County.

On Friday and Saturday August 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, Sheriff's Office personnel were assigned to assist with security for the visit of United States Vice President Joseph Biden in Ulster County to attend the wedding of his nephew. Deputies worked closely with the U.S. Secret Service, New York State Police, Town of Shandaken Police and the New York City DEP Police. Vice President Biden was met at the Stewart Airport in Newburgh, New York and escorted to the Emerson Resort and Spa in Shandaken.

In November, a team of five deputies equipped with five ATVs travelled to Buffalo to help fight the massive lakeeffect snowstorm that blanketed and trapped the city under many feet of snow. The NYS Emergency Management Office had requested the Sheriff's Office's help, and deputies worked side-by-side with New York State Police, checking vehicles, rescuing stranded motorists and giving truckers water and food.

In December, Sheriff VanBlarcum announced a key improvement to the New York Statewide Victim Hotline (VINE) that enables crime victims to receive a text message notification of any change in the custody status of an offender



Deputy Joshua Caliendo, Vice-President Biden, Lt. Eric Benjamin



incarcerated in a county correctional facility in New York State or a correctional facility in New York City.

Sheriff VanBlarcum initiated a Prescription Medication Drop-Off Program to allow the public to dispose of unused prescription medications safely without contaminating the environment. Drop off boxes were installed at headquarters and at Sheriff's Office substations in Esopus, Wallkill and Wawarsing. By December, the boxes had collected 56 pounds of prescription medication.

### ADMINISTRATION



The Sheriff's Administration currently consists of Sheriff Paul VanBlarcum, Undersheriff Michael Freer and division heads Captain Vincent Altieri, Superintendent James Hanstein, Detective Lieutenant Edwin Brewster and Chief Civil Administrator John McGovern.

Administration also includes Administrative Assistant Barbara O'Brien and Sheriff's Confidential Secretary Maureen Krueger. Teresa Pleva holds the title Fiscal Assistant 3, and Melody Brooks and Christine Keck hold the title of Sheriff's Fiscal Assistant 1. This personnel performs administrative, secretarial, budgeting, accounting, payroll, contracts-related and personnel/benefits-related duties.

Notable in 2014 was the implementation in the Sheriff's Office of the new county-wide integrated contracts and financial system, Logos, with staff trained and using the system. The Sheriff's Office moved towards wholly administering computer and technology-related contracts with the transition complete by year-end.

# **Corrections Division**

# I. <u>ADMINISTRATION</u>

#### A. <u>THE DETENTION FACILITY (UCLEC)</u>

The Ulster County Law Enforcement Center (UCLEC) is located at 380 Boulevard, Kingston, NY 12401. The facility houses the Ulster County Sheriff's Office Patrol Division, Corrections Division and the Civil Division. It is 277,000 square feet, which includes inmate housing, a medical department, and classes for G.E.D. through the Kingston School District, among other services. The UCLEC had an original rated capacity of 426 inmates; however, double bunking was instituted in several areas during 2014 increasing the MFC (Maximum Facility Count) to 488 as stated by the New York State Department of Corrections.

The Corrections Division is supervised by a mandated security staff of 158. Built-in design features enable the Corrections Division eventually to be expanded to a higher capacity of 488 with additional double bunking. The Ulster County Law Enforcement Center continually conforms to the Rules & Regulations set forth by the New York State Corrections Law and the New York State Commission of Corrections.

Committed to the jail are prisoners who may be charged with any type of crime or violation, including homicide, sex crimes, DWI, trespassing, etc. In order to provide a safe and secure correctional institution for these inmates, the Sheriff's Office employs both full and part-time correction personnel. These positions consist of correction officers, 11 corporals, 8 sergeants, 6 lieutenants, 2 wardens and a superintendent.

During 2014, Sheriff VanBlarcum promoted Louis Russo and John Becker to the rank of Warden; John Steketee and Joseph Decker to the rank of Lieutenant; and Patrick Ruiz to Corporal.



Corrections Command Staff

#### B. <u>DAILY POPULATION</u>

The 2014 high count of 401 occurred on August 10<sup>th</sup> and the low count of 332 occurred on November 21<sup>st</sup>. The overall daily population averaged 365 in 2014; this represents an increase of 7% from the previous year. Once again the female population remained high, averaging 43 women per day.

#### C. <u>REVENUES</u>

In October of 2007 the New York State Commission of Corrections allowed the Corrections Division to board in inmates from other jurisdictions. As a result of these agreements, Ulster County received a total of 972 inmates for 21,794 days, amounting to a total of \$1,853,646 in revenue. Of the total board-ins, 4 inmates were federal inmates for 73 days. This accounted for \$7,446 of the total revenue. Reimbursement from NYS DOCCS and the U.S. Marshall's Office for travel totaled \$11,595.

The Ulster County Sheriff's Office and Social Security Administration have worked together since 1999 on an Incentive Payment Agreement. This agreement exists with the Ulster County Jail providing inmate information to Social Security whereas Social Security then, if applicable, suspends benefit payments to the person(s) incarcerated. The amount of payment is determined by Social Security receiving the report within 30 days after the date of confinement begins. In this case \$400.00 would be applied per inmate. If the report is received after 30 days, but within 90 days of confinement, \$200.00 would be received. The UC Treasurer's General Fund received \$24,200 from the Social Security Incentive Program for the Fiscal Year of 2014 (FY'14).

**SCAAP** is a federal program that gives partial reimbursement for the cost of incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens, netting Ulster County \$31,472 for the FY '14.

Revenue for the Ulster County Corrections Division amounted to \$1,894,762, a 9% increase in 2014.

#### D. <u>BAILS AND FINES</u>

The Corrections Division processed 541 bail postings and 6 fines. Total monies received by the facility were \$1,275,628 in bails and \$3,195 in fines. We also allow individuals to post bail using credit cards. In 2014, a total of 216 bails were posted by credit card amounting to \$593,407. The individuals that were incarcerated continue to represent a population with major substance abuse, communicable diseases and violent criminal histories. This type of population spends more sentenced time in jail and requires more direct supervision by officers. Many of the inmates represented by this type of population are recidivists – repeat offenders.

#### E. <u>OVERTIME / PART TIME</u>

Overtime and part time compensation for staff are essential in providing coverage for post coverage, staff vacancies, training, one-on-one supervisions, and transportation of sentenced and awaiting-sentence population. In 2014, money spent on overtime was \$984,051 and \$149,353 on part time for a combined total of \$1,133,404.

There were 296 inmates placed on one-on-one supervision which requires an officer assigned to the post 24 hours a day. (Three 8 hour shifts, 24 hours). The inmates were supervised for 365 days with multiple posts on many of the days. The constant supervision post is above and beyond the minimum staffing requirement for the UCLEC. As a result, all of the coverage is accomplished with overtime and part time staffing.



Left: Officer Shawn Roche Right: A-Line lineup

#### F. <u>ACCREDITATION MEDICAL</u>

Corrections staff continues to work closely with Correctional Medical Care (CMC) to maintain accreditation. For the last eleven years, the medical dept. has maintained the Standards of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC).

#### G. <u>N.Y.S. COMMISSION OF CORRECTION/SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION</u> <u>ACCREDITATION PROGRAM</u>

Representatives from the New York State Commission of Correction visited the facility on several occasions in 2014. During these visits they reviewed the following standards: admissions, security and supervision, prisoner hygiene, discipline, visitation, exercise, classification, food service, sanitation, personnel standards and the grievance program. The UCLEC facility continues to meet all of the requirements to maintain the accreditation by the New York State Sheriff's Association.

### II. INMATE RECORDS

#### A. <u>RECEPTION, INTAKE & CLASSIFICATION</u>

The Ulster County Jail's Intake / Classification Unit processed 2,410 initial classification screenings for the FY'14. Classification is based on age, prior criminal history, any gang affiliation, propensity for victimization, history of medical / mental illness, history of sex offenses, history of hostile relationships with other inmates, prior attempts at self injury or suicide, prior escapes or attempted escapes, attitude and behavior during present and prior incarcerations including any history of menacing behavior, victimization during incarceration, and any other information which may affect the safety and welfare of staff or other inmates.

1,685 re-classifications were also processed in 2014. Reclassification occurs if an inmate causes a disturbance, violates a rule or law, or is found guilty in the disciplinary process. It can also change when an inmate exhibits good behavior and follows the rules and regulations of the facility.



Left: Sgt. Jason Bleau Right: Officer Christina Abadsidis-Rinaldi

The breakdown of the inmates includes County admissions, other counties' admissions, state and federal:

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Total of Ulster			
<b>County Admissions</b>	1,673	358	2,031
Board-ins			
Other Counties	214	25	239
State	121	11	132
Federal	6	0	6
Other	2	0	2
TOTAL	2,016	394	2,410

Of the 2,410 inmates that were processed through the Ulster County Jail in 2014, sentencing was as follows:

	Male	Female	Total
Non-Sentenced	1,483	317	1,800
Sentenced (Definite)	190	41	231
Other (Board-ins, State, Federals, Housed Out)	343	36	379
TOTAL	2,016	394	2,410

The *Local Conditional Release Program* is handled by New York State Division of Parole. Eligibility requirements for inmates include a definite sentence from a local court, with a minimum of 90 days left to serve. Those inmates that are eligible can submit an application to New York State Parole, after serving a minimum of 30 days, and must serve 60 days before release to this program. \*There were no applications submitted for consideration in 2014.

#### B. <u>VICTIM NOTIFICATION (VINE)</u>

The National Victim Notification Network, VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) allows crime victims across the country to obtain timely and reliable information about criminal cases and the custody status of offenders 24 hours a day. Victims and other concerned citizens can also register to be notified by phone, email, or TTY device. Registered users are notified immediately if an offender's status changes, such as release, transfer or escape. When a notification is triggered, VINE automatically continually calls the number(s) and texts or e-mails the victim, according to the contact info the victim has provided.

The Ulster County Sheriff's Office has continued to participate in the statewide victim notification program with Correction Officer Warren Whitaker as coordinator. For the FY'14, the Ulster County Jail received 125,822 calls and made 10,486 notifications to victims. Additionally, 986 new victims requested notification. The general public can gain access by calling 1-888-846-3469 or logging on to www.vinelink.com, which 1,211 victims used. An additional 2,372 victims were notified by e-mail.

#### C. <u>COMPUTERIZATION UPDATE</u>

The Corrections Division has been working with New World Systems (NWS) since July, 2004. NWS provides tailored reports for the Commission of Correction and in-house statistics such as electronic log books, live scans, and digital mug shots. Additionally, it enables other police agencies to interface with our inmates and arrest records.

In 2012 New World Systems, the records management system for the jail, instituted the electronic visiting module. There are 14 officers trained and assigned in working with this program. This enables visiting reports to be printed on all inmates and their visitors. Also, as requested by Albany Veterans Administration, a report was created in order to track inmates whom have served in the U.S. Army and may be able to receive additional benefits. We also currently have 39 officers trained in the booking aspect of New World and another 159 whom are able to keep electronic activity logs and look up basic inmate information. We continue to upgrade the system in order to move towards a full electronic system and eliminate the use of log books and paper.

The Ulster County Sheriff's Office Corrections Division subscribes to the E-Justice Portal Access. This agency currently has 45 active members with who have access to the E-Justice Portal Access. Uses include Daily Jail Reporting (DPRF), Wanted Persons Inquiries, Criminal History Information, NYS Sheriff's report and State Ready & Parole Ready reporting to NYS DOCCS.

#### D. <u>PRISON RAPE ELIMATION ACT</u>

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), a federal law enacted in 2003, was created to eliminate sexual abuse in confinement. In addition to providing federal funding for research, programs, training, and technical assistance to address the issue, the legislation mandated the development of national standards. The National Prison Rape Elimination Commission developed recommended national standards for reducing prison rape. The final standards became effective June 20, 2012, when they were published by the Department of Justice (DOJ) in the Federal Register. More recently, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released final standards for DHS confinement facilities, effective May 6, 2014.

#### E. <u>AFFORDABLE CARE ACT</u>

The Affordable Care Act, also known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), and informally as Obamacare, was signed into law by President Barack Obama on 23rd March, 2010. The aim of the Act is a health care law to improve the health care system of the United States by widening health coverage to more Americans, as well as protecting existing health insurance policy holders.

Beginning January 1, 2014 correctional facilities were to begin enrolling eligible inmates into Medicaid through qualified navigators. With a slow start across the state the Corrections Division was able to enroll 100 inmates into the system, saving the County of Ulster substantial amount of money in inmate medical care.



Left: C.O. Richard Shultis and Cpl. Michael Spallino Right: Lt. John Steketee, Cpl. Spallino and Lt. Chris Ferro

### **III. FACILITY OPERATIONS**

#### FACILITY REPORTS

#### A. <u>GRIEVANCES</u>

A grievance is an inmate's written complaint concerning facility policies, procedures, rules, practices, programs, or the actions or inactions of any person or services within the facility. All attempts are made to resolve the grievance in house. The Grievance Officer is designated by the Superintendent and available to help the inmate through the grievance process. Categories for inmate grievances are taken from the New York State Minimum Standards. Corporal Jennifer Decicco continued as the primary full time grievance coordinator in 2014, with Corporal Tracy McCoy serving as a secondary coordinator.

TYPE OF	# OF	RESULTS	
GRIEVANCE	COMPLAINTS		
Medical	48	Denied	65
Food Service	5	Accepted	0
Legal Service	14	Withdrawn	2
Commissary	7	Resolved in House	84
Exercise	2	Returned	2

Staff Conduct	48	I/M Released	7
Maintenance	1	Pending	7
Religion	4	Processed	0
Visits	2	Unfounded	0
Miscellaneous	45	Appeal to SCOC	9
TOTAL	176	Total	176





A typical modular housing unit

Inmate discipline hearings Officer C.O. Michael Arcadipane

#### B. <u>INMATE HEARINGS</u>

The Ulster County Jail disciplinary hearing panel reviewed 1,536 hearings by C.O. Michael Arcadipane. Several years ago the NYS Minimum Standard Section 7006 was amended to allow the County to place a surcharge on any inmate found guilty at a disciplinary hearing. A total of \$5,525 was collected in surcharges from 953 inmates involved in disciplinary matters and incidents in 2014. Hearings were ranked and placed in the following categories:

CATEGORY	2011	2012	2013	2014
Failure to comply	310	250	295	339
Assaults on other inmates	119	97	94	126
Assaults on staff	9	8	13	6
Contraband	44	76	81	88
Smoking	28	60	33	41
Destruction of property	12	21	38	102
Disorderly conduct	225	161	175	176
Abusive language or threats	177	181	183	214
Miscellaneous	331	263	291	420
Throwing of any Liquid or Substance	26	13	11	23
Failure to Attend School	17	0	4	1
Totals	1298	1130	1218	1536

\*A total of \$29.51 was imposed for destruction of County property in 2014.



C-Line lineup

#### C. <u>REPORTABLE INCIDENTS</u>

As mandated by the New York State Correction Law, the New York State Commission of Correction provides an internal and commission review of all incidents of a serious or potentially problematic nature. The following is a list of incidents that are to be reported to the Commission:

REPORTABLE INCIDENT CATEGORIES	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Deaths	0	0	1	2	0
Assaults	20	14	7	5	10
Sexual Assaults	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Suicide	6	1	1	0	1
Self Inflicted Injuries	0	0	0	1	1
Accidental Injuries	4	3	4	2	3
Contagious Illness	0	0	0	0	0
Inmate Group Actions	0	0	0	0	0
Major Disturbances	0	0	0	0	0
Individual Inmate Disturbance	15	14	19	19	12
Natural / Civil Emergency	0	0	0	0	0
Major Maintenance or Service Disruption	0	0	0	0	0
Minor Disturbances	4	7	3	2	0
Personal Group Actions	0	0	0	0	0
Firearms Discharges	0	0	0	0	0
Fires	0	0	0	0	0
Escapes	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Escapes	1	0	0	0	0
Absconders	0	0	0	0	0
Contraband	16	10	0	0	0
Hostage	0	0	15	16	17
Total:	66	49	50	48	42
Arrests:	19	8	14	14	21

#### D. <u>GANG INTELLIGENCE UNIT</u>

In an effort to combat the growing gang presence, the Gang Intelligence Unit gathers and validates information regarding individuals identified as members of Security Risk Groups (SRG). The Ulster County Sheriff's Office Gang Intelligence Unit works closely with the Ulster Regional Gang Enforcement Narcotics Team (URGENT). These include the Towns of Lloyd, New Paltz, Plattekill, Shandaken and Woodstock, United States Probation, and the United States Immigration Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.).

Upon admission, with the assistance of U.R.G.E.N.T., inmates are assessed based on self-admission, tattoos, clothing colors, beads, and hand signs. With the gathered information, the Gang Intelligence Unit can evaluate and analyze ways that provide decisions regarding housing and transporting inmates. The individuals' propensity for engaging in Security Risk Group related activity is evaluated. This information allows the facility to better plan searches, to appropriately adjust inmate housing, work assignments and visits to avoid potentially violent situations.

As seen in the following numbers listed, a total of 82 gang members entered the Ulster County Jail in FY'14. All of these gang members have been positively identified by members of the Gang Intelligence Unit and have had all of their personal information and gang affiliations documented and stored for further reference.

#### **Categories:**

Bloods:	49
Crips:	16
Latin Kings:	10
Other	7
Total Confirmed	82

#### E. <u>SHERIFF'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM</u>

The Ulster County Sheriff's Emergency Response Team (S.E.R.T.) is under the direction of Major Becker, C.O. Norman James and C.O. Anthony Maggio. S.E.R.T. was established in 1990. The original team started with 8 officers, and grew to 23 specialized trained staff. Throughout the team's tenure, they have participated in numerous high risk, high security transports and trials. One of their main functions is to conduct facility shakedowns on a regular basis. S.E.R.T. members are assigned to handle facility problems, escort inmates to and from housing units and are prepared at a moment's notice to quell problems before they escalate. From time to time, S.E.R.T. is called upon to handle crowd/riot control for requesting agencies. They completed over 600 hours of training. This training consisted of physical training in the weight room, chemical agents, cell extraction, cell searches, jail shake-downs, Article 35/Use of Force, hostage survival, and fire fighting and firearms certification. The Corrections Division and the Patrol Division continue to be joined together forming a larger and stronger S.E.R.T. team.



Sheriff's Emergency Response Team

#### F. <u>K9 UNIT</u>

The K9 Teams prove to be a valuable asset to facility operations of the Ulster County Law Enforcement Center. The K9 teams share information with the Gang Intelligence Unit and local police agencies, from their pro-active security approach in visits. Each visitor is subject to narcotics and contraband searches. With the combined efforts of the K9 Team, Visiting Team and the Sheriff's Road Patrol, numerous arrests were made for both inmates and visitors through expired driver's licenses, and registration.

In October of 2014, we added a new K9 team to our department consisting of Officer Maggio and K9 Maverick. They work together with our veteran team of Officer Caunitz and K9 Jagger. Both teams are responsible for daily routines such tasks as visitor searches for contraband, car searches (both visitors and employees), perimeter checks, shake downs, checking inmate mail, searching work crew inmates and road blocks. The K9 Teams conducted a total of **14,289** searches including **8742** visitor lockers, **5517** visitors, **19** housing units, **0** car searches and **11** other miscellaneous searches. The K-9 Teams also received requests from other outside agencies for assistance and also participates in community activities such as demonstrations. The teams also participate annually in **72** hours of narcotics training and tracking.

#### G. <u>NIMS (NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM)</u>

Under Homeland Security Presidential Directive-4, Sgt. Charles J. Polacco III continued to assist disciplines within Ulster County as the NIMS Coordinator to become compliant with the directive HSPD-4(Homeland Security Presidential Directive-4).

Sgt. Polacco continued to assist disciplines with the adoption of NIMS and the implementation of objectives set for 2014. In 2014 several disciplines received ICS (Incident Command System) training, while others wrote EOPs (Emergency Operations Plans). Some of these plans were tested by conducting

table top exercises. Disciplines also set up NIMS Compliance Assistance Support Tool (NIMSCAST) accounts through the County NIMS Coordinator. This program reports the disciplines process of NIMS compliancy to the State and federal government.

Disciplines are working on planning full scale exercises, which will assist them in prevention, protection against, response to, and recovering from the effects of incidents, regardless, of cause, size, location, or complexity.

#### H. TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS

Transport activity remained steady in all categories. Transport officers must be thoroughly trained and provided with the equipment necessary to accomplish their task with efficiency and safety. Officers selected for this unit must exhibit the highest degree of mental, emotional and physical capabilities to successfully transport inmates. When transporting inmates for court appearances, the transporting officer must be alert to all conditions and potential hazards which surround the movement of the inmates to and from court. The transports also include those inmates with scheduled medical appointments, funeral and deathbed visits and any other transport of inmates in our custody. Specialized equipment, vehicles and S.E.R.T. may be utilized for high-profile inmates, high-risk inmates or transports for inmates with special medical and mental needs.

CATEGORY	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number of Officer Hours	25,411	18,629	16,975	18,485
Number of Officers Utilized	5,054	5,348	4,840	5,590
Number of Inmates Transported	6,720	7,488	6,839	8,094
Total Miles	132,390	163,629	129,259	126,259
Local Courts Transports	1929	1,977	1,868	1,857
State Transports	84	93	73	75
Medical Transports	395	524	316	493
Psych. Transports	0	0	0	0
Work Detail	196	207	202	192
Other *	545	577	616	805
Board – Ins	0	0	0	0
U.S. Federal Board-Ins	5	5	3	2
Total Trips	3,154	3,383	3,078	3,424

\* Includes corrections assistant errands, funeral details, death bed visits, escort cars, UCAT, etc.

Department vehicles were utilized for transportation to the following sites throughout the state: County Court, Kingston City Court, village, town and Family courts, medical, dental and psychiatric examinations, drug and alcohol rehab facilities, the Public Defender's Office, court order pickups at State correctional facilities, other county jails. Transports deliver inmates to psychiatric facilities (Mid-Hudson, Marcy). During this past year, we've also been picking up U.S. federal inmates from airports or Albany County Jail. Transports also include those inmates with scheduled medical appointments, and any other transport of inmates in our custody.

In addition, department vehicles are also utilized for corrections staff to attend and/or participate in training (Basic Academy, Firearms Academy, certification and re-certification of firearms).

#### I. <u>FIRE SAFETY</u>

Due to the size and complexity of the Ulster County Law Enforcement Center and the Commission of Correction Minimum Standard 7039, staff and resources are required to perform several mandated fire, safety and security inspections. The Sheriff's Office has one full time staff member appointed to the Fire Safety Officer position or FSO, Officer George R. Hill, and three additional staff members (Sgt. Charles Polacco, Cpl Joseph Decker, and Officer Ryan Pettit) all trained by the standards put forward by the Commission of Corrections (COC) and the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control (NYSOFPC). The additional staff has been identified to assist in a relief capacity for the full time FSO.

The Fire Safety Officer's (FSO) core job duties include weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi- and annual inspections of all the facility and fleet fire protection, detection and control equipment such as fire extinguishers, automatic sprinkler systems, alarm systems and any equipment related to health safety, OSHA or PESH mandates. The FSO is responsible for fire safety and health training to the Sheriff's Office, and under direction of the Sheriff, other County departments and local municipalities. Additional responsibilities include accompanying Department of Labor, OSHA, PESH, COC or any other regulator agency that relates to the fire and health safety or any other inspections of the facility.

The FSO is responsible for the coordination of any type of drills or exercises mandated by the regulatory agencies that fall within the parameters of the Sheriff's Office, such as annual disaster drills, and quarterly housing unit fire drills.

The FSO coordinates with all responding agencies and acts as the department liaison during any emergency involving fire suppression. Additionally the FSO facilitates facility formularization training to the local fire department and conducts walk through training.

#### J. <u>VEHICLES</u>

The total mileage logged by the Corrections Division for 2014 was 126,827. There are 8 vans, 1 pickup, 3 SUVs and 2 K9 vehicles and 1 cargo trailer for the work crew. The Corrections Division is the primary transport for inmates in the Ulster County Corrections Division.

<b>VEHICLE #</b>	YEAR / MAKE	ENDING MILES
302	2006 Ford 12 Passenger Van	59,510
303	2010 Chevy Tahoe	87,154
304	2014 Ford 8 Passenger Van	4,624
305	2014 Ford 8 Passenger Van	3,968
306	2008 Chevy Van	53,498
307	2004 Ford 12 Passenger Van (Work Crew)	63,309
308	2011 Chevy Tahoe (K9 1)	29,012
309	2012 Chevy Tahoe	24,617
310	2006 Ford 11 Passenger Van	55,204
311	2010 Chevy Express Van (For S.E.R.T.)	42,474
312	2011 Chevy Tahoe	25,007
313	2005 Ford 12 Passenger Van	80,212
314	2012 Chevy Silverado	6,147
315	2009 Chevy Tahoe	92,266
K9-6	2013 Chevy Caprice	37,139

Sheriff	2000 Trailer Express (Work Crew)	
		126,259

## IV. SUPPORT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

#### A. <u>FOOD SERVICES</u>

Food services for the Ulster County Jail and the Community Corrections Program are provided by ARAMARK Correctional Services. Ulster County Jail maintains 2 full time county cooks, while ARAMARK employs a Food Service Manager, and three other kitchen workers. The facility cooks prepared and served 402,675 meals to inmates and Corrections staff in 2014.



#### B. <u>COMMISSARY</u>

ARAMARK is responsible for all purchases by inmates through commissary. Profits generated from the sale of commissary goods offset the cost of the games, recreation equipment, television sets, and cablevision. There is no financial impact on Ulster County taxpayers for any of the above items purchased for inmate use in accordance with the New York State Minimum Standards. The FY'14 gross proceeds from inmate commissary were \$111,257 an increase of 7.2 % from last year.

#### C. <u>INMATE TELEPHONES</u>

I.C. Solutions serves as the inmate telephone system provider. The system offers the population access to call cell phones; there are also several different ways for the inmates to make just collect calls. There are debit and prepaid accounts. Total revenue for telephone service was \$230,544, an increase of 11.9% from the previous year.

#### D. <u>MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES</u>

Correctional Medical Care Inc. (C.M.C.) contractually provides forensic services to the Ulster County Jail. Under the contract with C.M.C., a psychiatrist provides 16 hours of service per week. For the year of 2014, 1,622 inmates were seen by the psychiatrist. In addition, the psychiatrist is part of a group of doctors that are on call 24 hours a day. This is an invaluable tool to the correction facility as inmates can be in crisis at anytime. C.M.C. also provides a forensic manager 40 hours per week. We continue to maintain constant supervisions which are monitored closely, tying up valuable staff hours as well as housing space.

Due to the facility layout and procedure changes, the Certified Social Worker (C.S.W.) was able to see 828 inmates. Inmates seen by the Discharge Planner numbered 1,736.

#### E. <u>MEDICAL SERVICES</u>

2014 was the eleventh full year of medical services provided by Correctional Medical Care Inc (C.M.C.). The medical staff completed 2,104 new inmate screenings in addition to 5,255 inmate sick call visits. An additional 1,504 inmate visits were made to the physician and dentist. C.M.C. remains an accredited agency with the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) and the New York State Sheriffs' Association (NYSSA).

#### F. <u>INMATE EXERCISE</u>

Inmates are entitled to exercise periods which, at the discretion of the chief administrative officer, shall consist of at least 1 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours during each of five days per week; or at least one hour seven days a week. The availability to exercise in the facility greatly increased, due to the layout of the housing units.

#### G. <u>INMATE VISITATION</u>

In 2014, approximately 11,212 civilians visited 8,047 inmates in separate visiting blocks. Staff members have worked closely with supervisors, S.E.R.T. and the K9 Unit in locating contraband. They have also utilized effective communication skills, passing on valuable information gathered while speaking with inmates during visitation.



Left: Lt. Michael McGirr, Officer Joe Martini and Officer Chris Ryder Rt. Officer Warren Whitaker

A total of 7 arrests were made in the visiting area this year. These arrests were contraband related. Tickets were issued as a result of road blocks and license checks using Mobile Cop.

Visitation security was enhanced by the combined efforts of the Criminal and Corrections Divisions. The department K9 acts as an additional measure for preventing contraband from entering the facility by outside sources.

#### H. <u>INMATE WORK DETAIL</u>

Each year, the work detail has worked setting up the Ulster County Fairgrounds and Seamon's Park in which the inmates plant for the Mum Festival. In addition, they set-up for the Garlic Festival held in Saugerties each year. They sheet-rock, hang insulation, paint, plant, and build new structures. 445 inmates participated in the work detail crew, working 3,322 hours for Ulster County.

This detail helps inmates after release with the labor skills they have learned and applied. It also prepares them to be employable members of society and give back.

In 2014, the detail worked at various locations, including fire departments: West Hurley, Glasco, Woodstock and Lake Hill. Other work details included various churches, town halls and other non-profit organizations throughout the community.

#### I. <u>EDUCATIONAL SERVICES</u>

Eligible youth are entitled to receive educational services and are encouraged to become involved in the programs offered by the Kingston City School District as they may obtain skills and credentials necessary to function more productively both during incarceration and after release. All youths between ages 16 and 21 who are admitted to U.C.L.E.C. are interviewed during an intake screening as to the last level of schooling they have completed. The Kingston School District distributes a handbook on the services provided. Youths are mandated to attend school as soon as they are incarcerated.

Due to a change in the teaching structure, the Kingston City School District now has (3) full-time teachers with one teaching assistant and one counselor. The teaching staff offers various studies, including adult and teen Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) preparation studies, remedial studies, life skills, review and actions for personal choice (APC). Currently, the teachers use contact area teaching. This is a more hands-on approach. Math, social studies, science, language arts and writing have been more specifically addressed. This has proven to be benefiting the students, as it offers a much more structured environment and gives teachers the ability to target each individual student's needs. The educational services also provide employment preparation education.

TASC statistics for 2014: (Class time is based on 5.5 hours per day, 212 days per year).

- 179 Enrolled in class
  - 3 Adults Passed
  - 6 Youths Passed

#### J. <u>REHABILITATION</u>

With the reorganization of inmate programs and resources available to the inmate population, we are now able to provide a sufficient number of programs to meet the needs of the growing inmate population.

**Volunteer Registry**- The volunteer registry program continues to be a very successful program in the identification of volunteers visiting the facility. Applications are kept on file and reviewed yearly for all volunteers.

**Law Library**- The law library is updated on a regular basis. On a routine schedule, outdated law materials are replaced with the appropriate updates as per the N.Y.S. Minimum Standards. The mobile computer kiosks allow for more time per housing unit for law studies.

**Programs** - Long standing programs continued their services this year. Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotic Anonymous, and religious services of several different faiths were routinely attended by both male and female inmates. The female population is offered several programs: Ulster Literacy, which teaches the fundamentals of reading and writing, the YWCA which offers parenting class that has been well received, and the Maple Ridge and Woodcrest communities which continue with crafts, as well as other seasonal events.

### V. TRAINING & AWARDS

#### A. <u>AWARDS</u>

#### **Correction Officer of the Quarter**

The Officer of the Quarter program was initiated to recognize officers of the department for their role as correction professionals in the overall operation of the facility and their contribution to the local criminal justice system.

2014 Officers of the Quarter were:

1st Quarter -	Correction Officer Jason Hetrick
2nd Quarter -	Correction Officer Travis Rossman
3rd Quarter -	Correction Officer Christopher Ryder
4th Quarter -	Correction Officer Jared Speenburgh

#### B. <u>TRAINING:</u>

Training and staff development is an integral function of jail operations. Training Coordinator Sgt. Eddie Torres has responsibility to implement the facility's training program.

There are a total of 23 certified BMP/COC instructors within the Ulster County Corrections Division.

#### **Certified Trainers include**:

Major Louis Russo Major Jon Becker Colonel James Hanstein C.O. Eamon Cunningham Cpl. Joseph Decker C.O. Vincent Decker C.O. Bradford Ebel C.O. Bradford Ebel C.O. Matthew Blum C.O. George Hill C.O. Chris Howe C.O. Annmarie Legg C.O. Scott Burke C.O. Paul Juliano C.O. Anthony Maggio Cpl. Tracy McCoy Sgt. Charles Polacco III C.O. Wilbur Prutzman, Jr. C.O. Matthew Bogert Lt. Nicholas Scott II Lt. John Steketee Sgt. Eddie Torres C.O. Norman James

In addition to all being General Topic Instructors, many are certified in specialized "Train the Trainer" topics such as Legal Issues, Firearms, Chemical Agents and Effective Communication, Defensive Tactics, Direct Supervision, Suicide Prevention and Ethics Awareness.

As an accredited agency, the Sheriff's Office recognizes member training as an important factor in its responsibility, and such training receives increased emphasis and effort by the training coordinator. Continual training consists of an ongoing in-house service training program and search for outside applicable training courses or seminars. To satisfy the requirements of the NYS Sheriffs' Association, all staff members are required to receive 21 hours of in-service training annually. I.C.S. 200 was accomplished among the supervisory levels throughout the department. Overall, in 2014, the Training Unit provided

15,875 hours of training to 3,393 members of the Corrections Division and other county employees. The Basic Academy for newly hired correction officers is comprised of 160 hours within one year from the date of hire for peace officer training. We have sponsored several Correction Officer Basic Academy Courses. Instructors have also assisted other agencies in the field of legal services, defensive tactics, gang intelligence, report writing, and firearms. We also participate in career days and K9 presentations in local schools and other organizations.



### C. <u>MEMORIAL</u>

On April 15<sup>th</sup> 2014 Correction Warden Ray Acevedo passed away after a long illness. Warden Acevedo completed 34 years of service prior to his untimely retirement in June of 2013.

Ray began his career in 1978 rising through the ranks before eventually attaining the rank of Warden. He was well known in the Corrections community for his vast knowledge of legal issues and his overall friendliness with his peers and staff. He will be missed.



# **Civil Division**

The Sheriff serves as the enforcement officer of the courts and legal community regarding civil matters. The Civil Division serves and executes the various legal processes issued by the non-criminal courts of the state and its subdivisions, as well as the legal community and the public.

The purpose of civil process is to give a defendant notice that a legal action or a proceeding is going to commence. Although any citizen 18 years or older can serve process if he or she is not party to the action, Sheriff's deputies are asked to serve process because of their traditionally good record keeping practices and professional service.

Specific civil processes include income executions, property executions, evictions, orders of attachment (seizures of property which may be used to satisfy a judgment), orders of seizure (seizures of items of personal property whose ownership and possession is disputed), and civil arrests. In each case, papers must be delivered in person to the defendant.

The Civil Division carries out pistol permits licensing, background checks, accident reports and accounting for jail bail and fine monies and the jail commissary.

Because of its role in evictions, the Civil Office often is called on to perform the service of guiding landlords and tenants through the process, trying to protect both tenants from illegal evictions (both actual lockouts, or constructive evictions resulting from the cutting off of essential services such as heat, water, etc...) and landlords from malicious vandalism.

There was an increase in number of papers received for service, due largely to the number of evictions. Executions papers continue to decline. The overall average of **revenue** collected by the Civil Division was **decreased by 6%** over last year due to the continuing decline if the economy.

#### **Civil Papers Docketed 2014**

866
1,146 (27 reserved)
579 (248 new, 5
reserved)
1,725
47
2
0
3
1
6
59
1,784
1,267

Services Summary 2014	
Family Court	144
Evictions completed	122
Evictions cancelled	239
Evictions incomplete	46
Summons	113
Other services	75
Total services	739
Returns	35
Jurors served	41
Subpoenas returned	12
<b>Total papers served</b> (income and property executions, summonses)	2650

During 2014, the Civil Division took in a total of \$3,642,207.72, comprising monies from income executions, property executions, fees and bail. Of this, the County retained the fees summarized below and disbursed the remainder to creditors and others as required.

	Fees Collected 2014	Fees Collected 2013
Income executions	\$175,054.57	\$191,389.85
Property executions	\$12,106.74	\$17,880.23
General / misc. fees	\$101,315.87	\$95,652.04
Pistol permit fees	(\$28,159.00)	(\$30,556)
(included in general		
fees figure above)		
Total	\$288,477.18	\$304,922.10

#### **Pistol Permit Statistics 2014**

New Licenses Issued	449
Dealer/Gunsmith Licenses Issued	21
Duplicate Licenses Issued	589
Amendments Processed	4,507
New Applications filed	462
Fingerprints	92

The Pistol Permit section is tasked with enforcing judges' orders to pistol permit holders to turn in their guns when charged with misdemeanors and/or felonies, as well as under Mental Health regulations. The Civil Division maintains a secure gun vault to store weapons seized or surrendered pursuant to judicial orders resulting from arrests and/or mental health orders, as well as for the estates of those who pass away in possession of handguns.

# **Criminal Division**

The Criminal Division has three main branches: Road Patrol, Detectives, and Security Services. URGENT overlaps internally with the Criminal Division and also with the Ulster County Jail. The Criminal Division has 79 sworn personnel consisting of 57 full time deputies encompassing supervisors, patrol deputies and detectives, plus 22 part-time deputies. It also includes 3 full time dispatchers and 7 full time security guards, also augmented by part-time staff in each category.

# **ROAD PATROL**

The Road Patrol operates from the Ulster County Law Enforcement Center and also from substations located in Wallkill, Esopus, Shandaken, at the Joseph V. Resnick Airport in Wawarsing and at SUNY Ulster. Our Navigation Unit operates from the United States Coast Guard station in Saugerties and the Rondout Creek in Kingston.

The Road Patrol comprises the main law enforcement force of the Sheriff's Office. These deputies patrol roads, trails and waterways, give assistance and protection, enforce the laws, and arrive on the scene when a crime or incident occurs. The department enforces orders of protection and maintains the governmental registry of sex offenders. New oversight practices have increased documented violations and arrests.

In 2014, the Criminal Division responded to 16,164 calls for service (even with 2013); made 2,108 arrests (up 24% compared to 2013); responded to 787 accidents and issued 4,160 traffic tickets.

Sheriff VanBlarcum promoted Joseph Sciutto and Francis Gillespie to the rank of Detective.

Deputies David Hughes, Michael Rell and Gary Zwerdling retired from the agency during 2014.

The following pages detail activity at the substations in Wawarsing, Wallkill, Esopus, Shandaken and at SUNY Ulster. They describe training and special units and programs within the Criminal Division.

#### Wawarsing Station Zone 1 Patrolling the Village of Ellenville, and the Towns of Wawarsing, Rochester, Marbletown.

155 Airport Rd. Napanoch, NY 12458 (845) 647-2677

During 2014, the Zone 1 substation was manned by six deputies under the supervision of Sergeant Glenn VanKleeck and Sergeant Stuart Mc Kenzie.



March 4 Animal Complaint

Deputies assisted the S.P.C.A. with the removal of more than 50 cats from a home occupied by a woman and her disabled daughter. Neglect and lack of veterinarian care and spaying had led to filth and an exploding population of kittens afflicting the household.

# March 4 Deputies track down stabbing suspect in Wawarsing.

This agency assisted in locating a subject wanted by the City of Kingston Police Department in connection with a stabbing that took place in Kingston. Deputies located a suspect in Wawarsing in possession of the knife used in the crime and turned the man over to Kingston Police.

#### August 27 Armed robbery and shooting in Wawarsing

Deputies responded to a report of a gunshot wound victim on Port Ben Road in Wawarsing. On arrival, they found the victim, a woman. Investigation revealed that she had been shot by a man with a shotgun as the result of a drug deal that turned into a robbery.

Complaints	3,585
Non-criminal	2,951
Criminal cases	634
Domestic incidents	138
Arrests	397
DWI/DWAI	36
Warrant	70
All other	291
Motor Vehicle Accidents	319
Property Damage	257
Personal Injury	61
Fatal	1
TSLEDs	893
Civil papers served	61
Miles patrolled	153,781

#### Wallkill Station Zone 2

Patrolling the Towns of Shawangunk, Gardiner, Plattekill,

Marlborough, Lloyd, New Paltz

Route 208, Wallkill (845) 895-3011 During 2014, the Zone 2 substation operated with six deputies under the supervision of Sergeant Christopher Lutz.

#### January 15 Stabbing in Gardiner

Deputies and the New York State Police responded to a report of a stabbing at a home in Gardiner and found a man and woman bleeding from stab wounds. The homeowner was identified as the attacker and charged with assault and criminal possession of a weapon. The victims' injuries were determined not life-threatening.

#### May 8 Father-son burglary in Plattekill

That night, deputies were deployed a grocery store in Plattekill in response to an alarm with signs of illegal entry. They searched the building and found a suspect hiding in a storage closet. Investigation revealed the man had been driven there by his 19-year-old son, with

the two communicating by hand held radio devices while the father was inside the store. Both were charged with burglary, and it has been found that they are involved in similar incidents in Dutchess County.

#### December 11 Burglary in Shawangunk

Investigation of a reported burglary on Bates Lane led to a search warrant being executed at a motel in New Windsor. The search turned up items believed to have been stolen. A 32-year-old New Windsor man faced charges including attempted burglary, criminal mischief, criminal possession of stolen property, tampering with evidence, as well as criminal possession of a controlled substance, possession of burglar's tools and resisting arrest. The investigation is continuing and additional charges may be filed.



Deputy Shannon Britsky and Deputy Christopher Heimink

Complaints	1594
Non-criminal	1261
Criminal cases	261
Domestic incidents	72
Arrests	253
DWI/DWAI	9
ABC 65c	1
Warrant	54
All other	189
Motor Vehicle Accidents	122
Property Damage	93
Personal Injury	28
Fatal	1
Civil Papers Served	40
TSLEDs	674
Miles patrolled	119,779

#### **Esopus Station Zone 3**

Patrolling the City of Kingston, Towns of Esopus, Rosendale, Hurley, Kingston, Ulster, Saugerties Salem Street, Port Ewen, New York (845) 338-3640 The Zone 3 substation in the Esopus Town Hall comprises nine full time patrol deputies supervised during 2014 by Sergeants Kevin Richards and Chad Storey.



Complaints	3,448
Non-criminal	2,763
Criminal cases	685
Domestic incidents	58
Arrests	437
DWI/DWAI	37
ABC 65c	5
Warrant	75
All other	320
Motor Vehicle Accidents	183
Property Damage	140
Personal injury	43
Fatal	0
TSLEDs	1,561
Civil papers served Miles patrolled	52 160,220

#### January 25 Fight and shooting at dance club in Lloyd

Deputies and members of U.R.G.E.N.T. had the Home Dance Club in Highland under surveillance because of violence at the bar the previous weekends. A fight broke out with shots fired. Deputies converged on the bar and gave chase to the shooter who fled by car. The man displayed a handgun when pulled over, prompting an officer-involved shooting. Deputies recovered three handguns, and five persons were charged with possession of a loaded firearm.

#### June 5 Bath salts seized after traffic stop at Mountain Jam

Deputy Joshua Caliendo was conducting interdiction at the Mountain Jam music festival in Hunter. After stopping a car for speeding, the deputy conducted a probable cause search of the vehicle and recovered 4 ounces of bath salts with a street value in excess of \$20,000, along with other narcotics. The two occupants of the car were arrested and charged with the felonies of possession of methamphetamines and conspiracy and one was also charged with criminal impersonation.



#### Shandaken Station Zone 4 Patrolling the Towns of Shandaken, Woodstock, Olive, Denning, Hardenburgh Route 28 Shandaken, New York (845) 688-2233 This substation operates from Shandaken Town Hall on Rte. 28 with two deputies assigned under the supervision of Sergeant Wallace Fulford.



Complaints	
Non-criminal	691
Criminal	63
Total	754
Domestics (included in	25
criminal statistic)	
Arrests	36
DWI/DWAI	1
Warrants	4
All other	31
Motor Vehicle Accidents	36
Property Damage	31
Personal Injury	5
TSLEDs	217
Civil papers served	36
Miles patrolled	63,306

In 2014, the Shandaken Substation was remodeled and painted. The exterior of Shandaken Town Hall was also cleaned and repainted with the assistance of the inmate work crew from the Ulster County Jail.

#### February 26 Armed bank robbery in Boiceville

Deputies responded to a reported armed robbery at the Community Bank on Rte. 28. A man had walked into the bank and demanded money while threatening tellers with a gun. The suspect fled in a car, later found in Mount Tremper. The robber Nicholas Liakis was later located in his home in possession of both the money and the gun.

#### April 23 Search for distraught male in Shandaken

Deputies assisted NYSP and Shandaken Police in the search for a Suffolk County man who was reported distraught and suicidal and was thought to be in Shandaken. The man's car was located on Oliverea Rd. Searchers combed a wooded area nearby and found the man deceased by a self-inflicted gunshot to the head.

#### November 6 Shooting suspects located at Budget 19 Hotel

Deputies took part in an investigation of a reported shooting at Hess Express in Margaretville. Deputies and other agencies tracked down the three suspects, including two who lived in Shandaken, at the Budget 19 Hotel on Rte. 28 in the Town of Ulster, and they were taken into custody.

#### SUNY Ulster Station Zone 7 Patrolling the Towns of Rosendale, Marbletown, Hurley and Esopus

491 Cottekill Rd. Hasbrouck Hall Room 131 Stone Ridge, NY 12484 (845) 688-6131

This substation on the SUNY campus in Stone Ridge operates with five deputies assigned under the supervision of Sergeant Glenn M. Buchinger.



Complaints	
Non-criminal	2,360
Criminal	408
Domestics	124
Total	2,768
Arrests	
DWI/DWAI	17
ABC 65c	4
Warrants	36
All other	333
Total	390
Motor Vehicle Accidents	
Property Damage	104
Personal Injury	27
Fatal	1
Total MVAs	132
TSLEDs	352
Civil Papers Served	25
Miles patrolled	57,770

#### July 13 Dispute at Hudson Music Festival leads to arrest on multiple drug charges

Deputies from Zone 7 were assigned to the Hudson Music Festival and responded to a dispute at a Sunoco on 9W in Glasco arrested one of the disputants, a man from Virginia in a maroon Dodge Durango, who was blocking buses from entering the festival. After placing him under arrest for DWI, they searched his vehicle and uncovered a stun gun, Ketamine and vials of Ecstasy. The man was arrested on multiple felony drug possession charges and was remanded to the Ulster County Jail.

Further search of the man's car a few days later revealed 54 silicone containers filled with hashish (*pictured*, *right*), secreted in the dashboard and console. The suspect was additionally charged with Criminal Possession of Marihuana in the Third Degree as a result.



#### **Patrol Training and Awards**

For the year 2014, the Training Office was completely re-organized. All training files were brought up to date and are current. The use of the POSS system has greatly enhanced the record keeping process. 122 members of Patrol, Security and Civilian staff received 10,384 hours of specialized, in-service and special teams training.

All department members attended the County mandated Diversity Training.

- 1 member completed the Basic Course for Police Officers.
- 2 members successfully completed Instructor Development Course.
- 1 member completed Firearms Instructor Certification.
- 3 members completed NYS DCJS Field Training Officer training.
- 1 member completed BTO training.
- 3 members completed High Risk Patrol training.

Criminal Division instructors were utilized at the following schools:

- a.) Basic Police Officer Academy
- b.) Instructor Development
- c.) Breath Analysis Operator
- d.) Field Training Officer
- e.) Standardized Field Sobriety Testing
- f.) Basic Course in Police Supervision
- g.) UCLETG Police Academy Training
- h.) NYS EnCon Basic Marine Law Enforcement
- i.) NYS DCJS Weapons of Mass Destruction/Terrorism/Fraudulent Documents
- j.) Radar/LIDAR
- k.) High Risk Patrol
- 1.) Aerosol Subject Restraint
- m.) Taser

All members of the entire Sheriff's Office attended the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal "Drive to Survive" training on March 13, 2014. Three classes were held throughout the day.



"Drive to Survive"

#### **Deputy Sheriff of the Quarter Program**

The Deputy of the Quarter program was initiated to recognize members of the Sheriff's Office Criminal Division who distinguish themselves as law enforcement professionals. 2014 Deputies of the Quarter were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Dispatcher Jay Rowe 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Deputy Thomas Nace 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Dispatcher William Busch 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Deputy Damon Alberts

Each was presented with a plaque and the recipients are shown in order below with their supervisors.







#### SPECIAL UNITS

#### **Ulster County STOP DWI**

Under a memorandum of agreement with Ulster County STOP DWI, the Sheriff's Office performs sobriety checkpoints and selective enforcement details to distribute information and enlist the cooperation of the driving public to identify problems and increase public awareness. Below is a summary of this campaign during 2014.

Total Task Force hours	997
STOP DWI monthly expenditures	\$41,873
Arrests by Task Force	DWI: 18 DWAI: 1
Tickets issued by Task Force	163
Arrests by routine Sheriff's patrols	DWI: 166 DWAI: 17
Alcohol/drug related crashes	31 (up from 26 in 2013)

#### Ulster County Emergency Response Team (UCERT)

The UCERT Team under the command of F/Sgt. Allen Rowe had 11 callouts for incidents in 2014. Two of those were notable incidents in the County.

**February 9** Team members were requested to assist the New York State Attorney General's Office and the A.S.P.C.A. with their investigation of an illegal bird fighting operation. The investigation and subsequent warrant services were conducted in Brooklyn and in Plattekill. UCERT served two search warrants with the assistance of URGENT in Plattekill, resulting in three subjects taken into custody. Team members searched two residences and a large number of farm outbuildings. Many required forcible entry as they were locked in various manners.

**August 30 and 31st** Team members were requested to assist the U.S Secret Service in providing security for United States Vice President Joseph Biden while he attended his nephew's wedding in Mt. Tremper. UCERT provided a security detail at the Emerson Hotel and the wedding location for 26 hours. The security operation was run with 3 overlapping shifts utilizing all team members.

The Memorandum of Understanding for UCERT was completed for ratification by all agencies involved.

Team members also participated in planning and organizing training sessions. The team participated in multiple training scenarios and range days throughout the year. Trainings were also conducted with NYSP Special Operations Response Team, Kingston Police Dept. Emergency Service Unit and the NYC DEP SWAT Team.

Members attended the New York Tactical Officers Training Conference in April and took part in planning and operating several school lock-down drills throughout the county.

Members completed a Basic SWAT Operators Course and all team members are scheduled to be certified in SWAT Operations as of the end of 2015.

#### **Detective Unit**

The Detective Unit is commanded by a Detective Lieutenant and supervised by a Detective Sergeant. There are 7 division members assigned to the unit and one assigned to the multi-jurisdictional, intercounty Family Violence Task Force. The Detective Unit apprehends offenders who elude arrest by deputies and investigates incidents and offenses such as death cases, sex offenses, violent felony offenses, burglary and stolen property offenses, gambling offenses, and controlled substance offenses. The duties of the Detective Unit supplement those of the uniformed Patrol Unit.

2014 Cases: 367			
Closed by investigation	148	Closed, prosecution declined	19
Closed by arrest	<b>88</b>	Closed, victim refused to	7
		cooperate	
Remaining Open Cases	49	Closed, exceptional clearance	2
		(including warrants)	
Closed, pending further	46	Closed, unfounded	8
development			
Cases by type			
Abortion 2 <sup>nd</sup>	1	Larceny, felony	7
Assault, all types	10	Lost Property	1
Background investigations	33	Missing Person	16
Burglary, all types	50	MVA, fatal	1
Child abuse	3	MVA, injury	4
Cold cases	3	Narcotics investigation	1
Contraband, UC Jail	8	Possession stolen property	1
Counterfeiting	1	Rape, all types	6
Criminal Contempt	1	Reckless endangerment	2
Criminal Impersonation	1	Requests for assistance	35
Criminal mischief	3	Requests for patrol	21
Criminal possession of controlled	2	Robbery	3
substances			
Death investigations (including suicide)	35	School incidents, all types	3
Forgery/Possession of Forged	3	Sex offense, all others (non-	10
Instrument	-	rape)	
Found property	4	Stolen vehicles	3
Fraud	7	Suspicious activity/person	4
Gun trafficking	1	Unauthorized use of motor	1
-		vehicle	
Harassment, all types	7	Unlawful surveillance	1
Homicide, all types	1	Vehicular assault	1
Identity theft	20	Warrant Investigations/Arrests	36
		(U.S. Marshal Taskforce	
Internet related / ICAC	1	Welfare check	2
Landlord/tenant dispute	1		
Larceny, misdemeanor	10		
Larceny, misdemeanor	10		

#### Warrants

Active warrants on file with the Sheriff's Office are published on the Sheriff's website: <u>www.co.ulster.ny.us/sheriff</u>. The public is encouraged to review the list. The Active Warrants link lists the wanted person's name, date of birth, last known address (town/city), the offense, and the date of issuance of the warrant. The presence of a person's name on the list is not considered as probable cause to detain the subject, and the public is not to act on its own concerning any listed warrants. Confirmation of the existence of a valid warrant is made to authorized individuals only.

Total Warrants Received	250
By category:	
Bench Warrants	104
Arrest Warrants	92
Family Court Warrants	47
Probation Warrants	2
Civil Warrants	1
Warrants Closed by Arrest	202
Warrants Closed by Other	63
(Vacate/Recall)	
<b>Total Warrants Closed</b>	265

#### Highlights

Five arrests were made from the Sheriff's Office Top 10 Most Wanted List. For the second year in a row, the number of warrants closed exceeded the number received. Fifty-seven warrants related to child support were closed for a total amount of money owed of \$890,151.

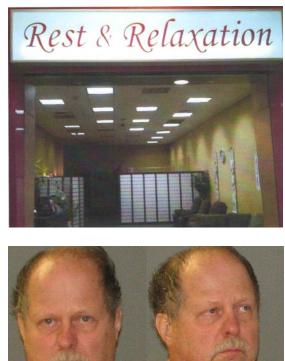
#### **DETECTIVE UNIT SIGNIFICANT CASES 2014**

# Rest and Relaxation Spa Arrest (2098-14), case agent Det. Sgt. Markiewicz

Between February and June, an investigation was conducted into a complaint of unlawful surveillance by hidden cameras at the Rest and Relaxation Spa in the Hudson Valley Mall. Discovery of two hidden cameras led to the arrest of owner Wen Shing Chen for unlawful surveillance. The business entity was also charged under the NYS Education Law for having massage therapists operating without a license. This case was recently resolved via a plea agreement.

# Michael Yukoweic (3921-14), case agent Detective Unit

On April 11, several agencies responded to the area of the intersection of Routes 44/55 and 299 in Gardiner for a subject who reportedly discharged a long gun toward guests at the Minnewaska Lodge. Michael Yukoweic barricaded himself in his residence when initial responders attempted to interview him. After several hours of attempting to make contact with him, an NYSP robot entered his residence and Mr. Yukoweic surrendered. He was charged with Reckless Endangerment 1<sup>st</sup>. During the execution of a search warrant in his residence, documents were discovered suggesting Mr. Yukoweic was currently or previously involved in the Sovereign Citizen movement.



# Assist New Paltz PD with Homicide (4281-14), case agents Detectives Bruck and Rell

On April 20, Detectives Bruck and Rell were assigned to assist New Paltz Police in the investigation into the shooting death of Ryan Gray at Murphy's Bar in New Paltz. It was later determined the shooter was Basheem Bennett and he was subsequently charged by New Paltz Police. Bennett later pled guilty to murder and is awaiting transfer to state prison.

### Assist Russell County Sheriff's Office, Alabama with Homicide (9767-14), case agents Detectives Bruck and Miller, Det. Sgt. Markiewicz

On August 10, agency members and the Town of Plattekill Police responded to 10 Peace Road in Plattekill for a fight call. It was determined one of those involved, Christian Grissom, was wanted for murder by the Russell County Sheriff's Office in Alabama. He was taken into custody and a search warrant was later executed at the residence of his mother where he was staying. Several articles, to include a vehicle, were seized and later turned over to the Russell County Sheriff's Office. This case remains pending trial.

# Shooting in Wawarsing (10540-14), case agent Detective Unit

On August 27, deputies and troopers responded to an address on Route 209 in Accord for a report of a man having shot his ex-girlfriend then heading to the home of his current girlfriend. After taking suspect Ryan Noval into custody, detectives searched his home and automobile and recovered a shotgun and other evidence. It was later learned Noval and his girlfriend, Nicole Halter, robbed the victim, who met the two to sell heroin to them.

# Capture of Jahson Marryshow (8249-10), case agents Det. Sgt. Markiewicz and United States Marshals Service

On September 14, after being on the run for nearly 4 years, Jahson Marryshow was captured in Eugene Oregon at an ultimate Frisbee tournament. He had been wanted since late 2010 after being indicted by an Ulster County grand jury for the June, 2010 armed robbery of the Bank of America in Woodstock. He was also charged with stealing a car used in the robbery and setting fire to a barn as a diversion while the bank was robbed. He was extradited to New York and remains in the jail pending trial.







# Hess Station Robbery (13199-14), case agent Detectives Unit

On October 22, this agency handled the armed robbery of the Hess gas station on Ulster Avenue. Within 24 hours and with the assistance of a tip by a trooper who recognized the suspect in the security video, a search warrant was executed at the residence of Cassidy Buckley in Woodstock. Proceeds and the gun believed to have been used in the robbery were recovered, as well as two additional illegally possessed handguns. This case remains pending court action.

# Thomas Pfeiffer Abortion Case (15062-14), case agent Detective Sciutto

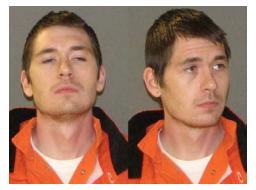
On December 3, this agency responded to a report of domestic incident on DeWitt Mills Rd. in Rosendale Martha Vazquez, had been in a physical altercation earlier in the day with her boyfriend, Dr. Thomas Pfeiffer, over an apparent unplanned pregnancy. Dr. Pfeiffer was alleged to have forced Ms. Vazquez to consume "Plan B" pills in an attempt to prevent/terminate a pregnancy. Dr. Pfeiffer was charged with abortion, strangulation, assault and other related offenses. This case remains pending court action.

#### Christopher Francis Burglaries (15381-14), case agent Detective Montfort

On December 11, detectives began investigating several burglary/larceny incidents in Shawangunk. Deputies Heimink and Alberts developed a confidential informant, who implicated Christopher Francis. Francis was taken into custody at the EconoLodge in New Windsor. Detectives searched his room, finding much stolen property. This arrest led to the closing of multiple open cases from at least two agencies.

# Assist NYSP Highland and Marlboro PD with Homicide (15995-14), case agents Detectives Bruck and Sciutto

On December 27, this agency assisted Marlboro Police and NYSP Highland with the investigation into the homicide of Nicholas Pascarella by his son, Nicholas Pascarella, Jr. It was later learned the elder Pascarella allegedly sexually abused his son years ago and had begun sexually abusing his grandson (Pascarella Jr.'s son). Pascarella Jr. is alleged to have confronted his father in the driveway of his home and beat him to death with a baseball bat. This case remains pending court action.









# **Navigation Unit**

During 2014 the unit patrolled on the water for 1,040 hours. It conducted 675 on-water safety inspections of bridges, railroad lines, fuel storage and like buildings and structures; 226 vessel safety boarding inspections; 92 vessel/person assists; and 26 search-and-rescues. Deputies issued 144 warning tickets and 33 tickets, reported 3 vessels lost/stolen and investigated one accident.



The navigation unit responded to the Greene

County/Catskill area for a search and rescue of an overturned vessel, with 2 people reported in the water. Both victims were recovered and transported via M27 to Dutchman's Landing. They were turned over to the Greene County Sheriff's Office and EMS.

Members of the team also conducted 10 boater safety classes for the boating public and 1 boater safety course for construction workers of the new Tappan Zee bridge construction site, for a total of 257 people trained. Members assisted in a training sponsored by the Kingston City Fire Department on boat handling and emergency operations.

The unit cooperated closely with the U.S. Coast Guard throughout the season. It provided M27 as a work platform to rebuild a damaged navigation tower at the mouth of the Rondout Creek. It also assisted the Coast Guard with Operation Drywater, a 3-day combined operation for BWI on the Hudson River. Coast Guard crews also returned several times throughout the summer to perform customs boarding inspections on foreign flagged vessels. These operations consisted of boarding and inspecting such vessels for proper documentation, citizenship paperwork and boater education. The navigation unit assisted in 85 boarding inspections.

The navigation unit assisted in the setting up of a safety zone in the Rondout Creek for the launching of a new barge built at the Feeney Shipyard. It also assisted setting up safety zones for school sailing races, including the Kingston High School Crew races in the Rondout Creek and the Marist College Crew races in the Hudson. The Navigation Unit also helped to provide safety and security for the swim portion of the Hudson Valley Triathlon.

One unit member completed the Marine Patrol Vehicle Operations Course, and 2 members attended and were certified in the Marine Seated Battery SFST Course.

Vessels M26 and M27 are equipped with the Blue Force Tracking system and updated software.

### **In-Water Rescue Unit**

#### **Call-Outs**

The team was deployed to Shandaken again in the spring as part of its campaign to clear debris from the Esopus Creek left from spring water runoff. The campaign has reduced water emergencies on the creek during tubing season.

During boating season, the unit was called out to assist the cruise ship *Niagara Adventure* docked at the Hudson Valley Maritime Museum on the Rondout Creek. The captain of the passenger-laden ship had reported having hit a submerged object. Divers found damage to the port side propeller and shaft.

On October 22, while on a training exercise, the team responded to a report of a man having jumped off the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge. The Sheriff's boat M27 raced to the scene, where divers located the victim, loaded him onto the boat, sailed back to shore and turned his care over to an EMS unit. Although the man's heartbeat was restarted during transport to a hospital, he subsequently died at the hospital.

#### Trainings

The team conducted a joint dive with NY State Police divers at the United States Coast Guard base in Saugerties. A ship-search training was done on the cutter *Wire*, involving practice on the Sheriff's underwater video camera. The recording was transferred to a thumb drive and TOT to staff on the cutter.

The team underwent its annual training on all department boats, watercraft, side scan equipment and waterways including the Hudson River and the channel. Unit members participated in monthly trainings throughout the year, including one in which a car was submerged on the bottom of the Hudson River so that divers could practice search methods, rigging, lift bag work, and crane hookup.

#### **Demonstrations and Community Events**

2014 started out with a training, demonstration and ice dive at the Boy Scout Camp in Greene County, conducted jointly with the Greene County Sheriff's Office.

In February, the team assisted at the Alzheimer's Association's Sub-Zero Heroes fundraiser in Highland. Unit members cut a hole in the ice of Berean Lake for the jump and helped jumpers safely out of the frigid water and back to shore after their plunges for a good cause.

IRWT assisted at the Hudson Valley Triathlon, the New Paltz Boat Race, a water safety class at the Woodcrest Community in Rifton and a Safety Day at Plattekill Elementary School.

At the Ulster County Fair in July, the Sheriff's Office unveiled its brand new dive tank. Divers demonstrated water rescue and scuba techniques. The team's response vehicle and small boat were also on display at the fair.





### Sheriff's K9 Unit

The Criminal Division K9 Unit consists of five agency members and their canine partners. The stories below tell of these amazing skilled K9s who are relied upon by a range of police agencies to perform police work beyond human powers.



Self generated K9 uses	81
Assist UCSO members	39
Assist other agencies	104
Narcotics vehicle searches	120
Area searches	29
Building searches	41
Narcotics building	21
searches	
Narcotics outside searches	2
Bus terminal searches	18
Currency searches	11
Currency seized as a result	\$96,161
of K9 sniffs	
Tracking suspects / non-	59
suspects	
Article searches	13
Perimeter contain	9
Apprehensions	8
Special details	2
Crowd control	1
Demonstrations	19
Finds / Narcotics	40
Finds / Persons	6
Finds / Weapons	1

#### K9 Unit Notable Cases 2014

#### Sgt. Wallace Fulford and K9 Drago

During 2014, Sgt. Fulford and Drago conducted the majority of K9 demos at community festivals, safety days, schools and other gatherings. Drago also was used to find narcotics and currency throughout the year, at events such as Mountain Jam and the Hudson Festival Project and in U.R.G.EN.T. operations.

#### **Deputy James Mullen and K9 Triton**

**March 15** The team assisted Woodstock Police and NYSP at the scene of a possible burglary in progress. K9 Triton was the deployed into a house at the scene and alerted on an attic door in a bedroom. Officers found a suspect hiding in the attic and arrested him.

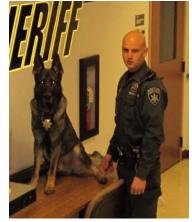
March 3 Deputy Mullen and Triton were dispatched to 11 Hardenburgh Lane in Rosendale for a violent unruly suspect who had assaulted a member

of the household and refused to surrender. The deputy deployed K9 Triton into the house and the dog apprehended the suspect and pulled him to the ground. The suspect then

began choking the dog, at which point an officer used a Taser. The subject continued to resist but eventually was handcuffed.

The same day Triton was deployed to conduct a currency "sniff" of a suspect caught trespassing on the Law Enforcement Center property. K9 Triton searched the currency for the odor of narcotics and alerted on the money. \$43,975 was seized.





**April 18** URGENT requested K9 Triton to "sniff" currency in their custody. K9 Triton alerted to \$9,500, which was seized.

**April 25** While assigned to URGENT, Triton was deployed around 2 cars in the driveway of 97 Beaver Dam Rd. The dog alerted on areas of the doors of both vehicles, a white Nissan Altima and a black BMW. The canine's search yielded cocaine, marihuana and \$6,300 in currency.

**May 28** During a traffic stop on Route 209, Triton identified 3.5 grams of crack cocaine, 2 bags of heroine and \$3,929 in currency.

**July 2** Triton was deployed to 55 North Front Street in Kingston to help Kingston Police catch a suspect who had fled on foot. Triton located the suspect hiding under a porch, and he was taken into custody on a Robbery 1<sup>st</sup> warrant through NYS Parole.

**July 10** Triton alerted on a package from the U.S. Post Office containing over 8oz of marihuana. The marihuana was then control-delivered, and the suspect was taken into custody.

**July 17** Triton was deployed on a vehicle in an impound yard following a previous arrest. The dog's alert led deputies to find marihuana and hallucinogenic mushrooms.

**August 2** Triton was deployed in a house at 127 Chapel Hill Road in the Town of Lloyd, alerting on a shoe box which contained 6 grams of cocaine.

**August 20** Triton conducted a "sniff" of \$5,000 in seized currency and gave a positive alert for the presence of narcotics.

**November 28** Triton was deployed to search an automobile following a stop in the City of Kingston. A strong alert was given to a bag containing a cardboard box. A further search of the box revealed a large quantity of controlled substance/pills.

#### **Deputy James Slinsky and K9 Kilo**

**April 9** When a suspect threatened to stab police who arrived to take him into custody, Kilo was deployed to secure the perimeter of the property. The suspect exited the building and surrendered to the K9.

**April 24** Deputy Slinsky and Kilo responded to the City of Kingston to assist KPD detectives with the search of a vehicle. Kilo alerted on 120 bundles of heroin in the vehicle.

May 1 The pair was deployed to assist New York State Police with a



vehicle search. Kilo alerted inside the vehicle between the rear seat and third row seat, but nothing was initially found. Troopers contacted Deputy Slinsky again after they impounded the vehicle and executed a search warrant. Troopers discovered a trap where Kilo alerted and recovered \$16,000.

**June 18-19** During a two-day investigation, K9 Team Slinsky and Kilo searched more than 30 buildings and large wooded areas on the property of a Hasidic camp, looking for an individual wanted on an

indictment warrant. They tracked down the wanted person who surrendered to the threat of K9 deployment.

**July 29** Kilo was deployed after patrol units responded to a burglary. Kilo tracked to a house and deputies made contact with the man inside. He barricaded himself inside the residence and refused to come to the door. A search warrant was executed and the suspect was taken into custody. The proceeds from several residential burglaries handled by the Sheriff's Office and NYSP were completely recovered.

July 31 Kilo was diagnosed with lymphoma.

August 20 Kilo was deployed to track from the scene of an armed robbery in Ellenville. The canine tracked to a house where the suspect was found, hiding in the basement. Kilo then alerted on a fresh odor in the basement. Deputies found a gun there.

**September 22** The team assisted NYSP in a search of a car following an armed robbery with shots fired. Kilo alerted on a car parked near the victim's residence, which was searched, yielding 4 pounds of marijuana, six ounces of hashish and \$5,600.

**October 9** Deputies deployed Kilo in a wooded area in Esopus to help search for a suspect. The suspect surrendered on the threat of the dog being deployed and was found to possess a loaded illegal handgun.

### Deputy Kyle Frano and K9 Dozer

October 1 - 31 Deputy Frano and K9 Dozer completed a 120hour patrol school with Deputy Tom Lattin.

Deputy George Carlson and K9 Grif pictured below.





# **Security Services Unit**

Uniformed deputy sheriffs and security officers, under the supervision of Sgt. George Goodwin, provide security at the County Office Building, Department of Social Services, Mental Health, Probation, Veteran Services Agency and the Trudy Resnick Building. Notable in 2014 was the closing of the Flatbush Building when the County moved several departments to other County properties. The Veteran Services Agency post and the Flatbush security post relocated to the Business Resource Center on Albany Avenue.



Security Guard Steven Ross at the Ulster County Dept. of Probation

Department of Social Services		
Magnascanner count	290,294	
Weapons held for safekeeping	1,918	
Incident reports	80	
Assistance calls	658	
Investigate report of fire	1	
Illegal weapons	0	
Warrant arrests	31	
Other arrests	28	
Medical calls	16	
Parking calls	12	
TSLEDs	9	
Parking tickets	12	
-		
Ulster County Probation		
Magnascanner count	26,724	
Weapons held for safekeeping	80	
Incident reports	23	
Emergency calls	0	
Assistance calls	299	
Warrant arrests	30	
Other arrests	7	
UTTs issued	13	
Office of Mental Health		
Code Blue alarms	28	
Stand by	16	
Escorts	903	
Smokers	501	
Medical emergencies	8	
Non-criminal complaints	34	
Criminal complaints	1	
Lockouts	9	
Weapons secured	51	
Other / Misc	1,819	
(Security checks, battery boosts,		
assistance requests, fire drills)		

# **Community Oriented Policing (COP) Programs**

### **Child Passenger Safety**

The program's main purpose is to improve the safe transport of children by encouraging the secure and correct installation of child car seats throughout Ulster County.



In 2014, the Criminal Division used its 16<sup>th</sup> annual grant from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to train the following public service agencies in child passenger safety:

Ulster County Dept of Social Services Family of Woodstock Center for Spectrum Services ABCD Child Development Mid-Hudson Health & Safety - SUNY Ulster Myer Elementary School – Grades K-3 Bruderhof Community- Rifton Kids Peace of UC Plattekill Head Start Saugerties Head Start Ellenville Head Start Kingston Head Start Marlboro Safety Day Saugerties Cedargrove Fire Dept Ulster Hose Fire Dept – Children's Safety Day YWCA & YMCA of UC

### **Car Fit for Seniors**

Trained deputies offer a 30 minute class to help older drivers stay healthy and continue to drive for as long as safely possible. During 2014, 519 seniors took the Car Fit class at events such as Senior Day at the Ulster County Fair and "Live, Laugh & Learn" at SUNY Ulster.

# Senior Citizen of the Year

The Ulster County Sheriff's Office and the Office for



Deputy Deb Prusack shows how to buckle up.



the Aging partner together for a very important event each year, the "Senior Citizen of the Year." Seniors from across New York are nominated for their lifetime civic contributions, and an event is held in Albany to honor the awardees. Deputy Deborah Prusack represents the Sheriff's Office on the Ulster County Office for the Aging Advisory Council, providing the opportunity for input on the advertising, recruiting and selection of nominees for the prestigious award.

#### **Project Lifesaver**

Project Lifesaver is a search-and-rescue program to help locate individuals who have wandered, such as those afflicted with Alzheimer's, dementia and autism. In 2014, the Sheriff's Office upgraded its tracking equipment and continued to publicize the program and increase the number of clients.

#### Yellow Dot

The Sheriff's Office offers this free program designed to give emergency first responders quick access to individuals' vital medical information.



Funded through the NYS Sheriffs' Association, Yellow Dot consists of a kit containing medical information cards and Yellow Dot stickers directing responders to the cards.

#### Sheriff's Summer Camp

The NYS Sheriffs' Association Institute Summer Camp offers a camp experience to economicallydistressed children across New York who otherwise might not have a chance to go. Located in Penn Yan, NY, the camp helps foster good relations between these children and the men and women of law enforcement, with deputies serving as counselors and conducting demonstrations related to police work. In 2014, the Ulster County Sheriff's Office sent 24 children to the camp.



Left: Sheriff's Pre-Camp Picnic for families June 18, 2014. Below: Children depart for camp July 13, 2014.



# URGENT

URGENT combats drugs, gangs, illegal firearms and other criminal activity around the clock. This inter-agency task force operates under the command of Detective Lt. Edwin Brewster of the Sheriff's Office. The unit is a steady disrupting force against criminal activity ranging from cocaine and heroin trafficking to New-York-based gang operations active in Ulster.



The following agencies have members assigned to URGENT: Ulster County Sheriff's Office, Town of Lloyd Police, Town of Plattekill

Police, Town of Woodstock Police, Town of Shandaken Police, Town of New Paltz Police, Ulster County Probation, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the United States Marshals.

CASES / ARREST	<b>TS / CHARGES</b>	SEIZUI	RES
Cases opened	165	Guns	21
Assists	27	Assists	1
Arrests		Cash Assists	\$113,493.00
Persons arrested Assists	132 26	Stolen documents	23
Gang members arrested	BLOODS 5 CRIPS 2	Cocaine (grams) Assists	1,365.30
Gang field interviews	53	Ketamine (grams)	5.5
Charges		Heroin (decks) Assists	1,612 110
Felonies	338	Marijuana (lbs)	23.13
Assists	35	Assists	.6
Misdemeanors	98	Hash (grams)	14.7
Assists	13		
Violations	19	MDMA (grams)	4.2
Assists	3		
Search warrants	11	Pharmaceuticals (pills)	411
Assists	4	Assists	
			39
		Psilocybin mushrooms (grams)	12.1
		Assists	210

LSD

### **URGENT SIGNIFICANT CASES 2014**

#### **Operation Spring Cleaning**

In April, U.R.G.E.N.T. concluded OPERATION SPRING CLEANING. The arrests were a result of a 7-month drug trafficking investigation which involved approximately 100 undercover drug buys, multiple "buy/bust" operations and the execution of several search warrants. Further, over 1000 "bags" or "decks" of heroin, several ounces of cocaine and crack cocaine



16

and over 500 diverted pharmaceuticals were recovered during the investigation.

30 defendants were charged with felonies in the case and all faced multiple charges.
25 charged with felony Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance, 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree
2 charged with Criminal Sale of Marihuana.
2 criminal street gang members: Shalimar Cason of Brooklyn (CRIPS) and Detrell L. Pittman of Ellenville (BLOODS)

The breakdown of drug type for each of the 30 arrests is as follows:

Heroin	10
Crack cocaine	7
Cocaine	5
Oxycodone	6
Marihuana	2

Also in April, U.R.G.E.N.T. concluded a 6-month investigation into the **Nicholas Giammichele cocaine trafficking operation** which resulted in the seizure of over a kilogram of cocaine (approximately 2.45 pounds). Members of URGENT and the Ulster County Emergency Response Team (U.C.E.R.T.) executed search warrants simultaneously at 7128 Route 209 and 97 Beaver Dam Road in Wawarsing. Several persons were detained at each location. A search of the apartment a 7128 Route 209 revealed cocaine, marihuana, drug packaging material and a disguised gun. A search at 97 Beaver Dam Road revealed over a kilogram of cocaine, marihuana, diverted pharmaceuticals, a shotgun, two rifles and approximately \$7000.00 in cash. A BMW 3-series sedan was seized from the location.

The investigation revealed that Nicholas R. Giammichele, AKA: "G", was obtaining several kilograms of cocaine per month and converting it to crack cocaine which was then distributed throughout southwestern Ulster County. It is estimated that Giammichele's proceeds from his drug sales exceeded \$150,000 per month. He was



taken into custody and charged with Operating as a Major Trafficker, a class A-1 felony, and other felony drug and weapon charges. The wholesale value of the seized cocaine was approximately \$35,000. The "street" value if distributed as crack cocaine was approximately \$120,000. Giammichele was charged federally in the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York and is awaiting trial.

In June U.R.G.E.N.T. conducted an **extensive heroin trafficking** investigation, having received intelligence about a man selling heroin in Saugerties, Kingston, Lake Katrine, Red Hook and Rhinebeck. URGENT made contact with one Brian K. DeJoy of West Coxsackie, who sold significant amounts of heroin to undercover members. DeJoy was taken into custody in the parking lot of Price Chopper in Saugerties, as he was selling 100 "bags" or "decks" of heroin. Further, he was found to possess an additional 250 "bags" or "decks" of heroin located inside a rental vehicle he was operating. DeJoy faced felony criminal sale and criminal possession charges. He was arraigned and remanded to the Ulster County Jail in lieu of \$50,000 cash bail and \$100,000 property bond.

In September U.R.G.E.N.T. concluded a 6-month **drug trafficking investigation** that focused on the **Rosendale-High Falls-Stone Ridge** area. In spring, URGENT had identified several mid level traffickers in the area who were distributing cocaine and also MDMA. After a series of undercover buy operations,

several involving purchases of significant weights of cocaine, arrest warrants were issued, resulting in the arrests of 7 men from Rosendale, High Falls, Kerhonkson and Stone Ridge.

In 2014 members of URGENT, Plattekill Police and the Ulster County Sheriff's Office had received numerous complaints about drug sales at **52 Old Unionville Road in Plattekill**. The location has been a consistent nuisance with criminal activity including heroin and marihuana transactions, people gathering to use drugs, and home invasion style armed robberies. URGENT conducted an extensive investigation. In November, URGENT, Ulster County Sheriff's Office and Plattekill Police executed a search of the

residence and occupants, revealing heroin, electronic scales, marihuana, drug packaging material, rifles, disguised handguns, numerous hypodermic syringes and drug paraphernalia. 4 individuals were arrested.

In December, shortly after the original raid of the house, additional heroin traffickers "moved in" and several previous occupants returned and continued to sell and use heroin and other drugs there. URGENT obtained a second search warrant for the location. Consequently, members of URGENT and Town of Plattekill Police executed another search warrant in early January of 2015.



The occupants of the residence had barricaded the doors of the home. Upon entry, members encountered numerous persons and pit bull dogs. A search revealed: approximately 70 "bags" or "decks" of heroin, approximately 1 pound of marihuana, diverted pharmaceuticals, drug packaging material and electronic scales. 4 arrests were made, including re-arrests of two dealers, Dominick Beltempo, Jr. and Daniel Beltempo, who are now held in jail without bail. Members of URGENT and Plattekill Police are working with Town officials to condemn the nuisance residence.

# **Sheriff's Office Departmental Awards 2013**

Recipients recognized at the Sheriff's Annual Awards Banquet May 22, 2014.

### Letters of Recognition

C.O. Robert Johnson C.O. Robert Rodriguez C.O. Dwain Caunitz & J	C.O. John Barbiani C.O. Paul Juliano Jagger	C.O. Carel Soltys C.O. Anthony Maggio		
Dep. James Mullen (2) Dep. Kyle Frano (2) Dep. Timothy Dupree	Dep. James Slinsky Dep. Robert Shamro Dep. Joseph Stenta	Dep. Emmett Vedder III Dep. James Riley Dep. Jonathan Geuss		
	Excellent Duty A	ward		
Lt. Ernest Taylor Cpl. Edward DeCicco C.O. Robert Rodriguez C.O. Michael Coughlin C.O. Robert Leonardo	Sgt. Eddie J. Torres Cpl. Joseph Decker C.O. Scott Burke C.O. Vincent Decker	Sgt. George Gunning Cpl. Jennifer DeCicco C.O. Michael Arcadipane C.O. Christopher Howe		
Dep. Christopher Zacche Det. Debra Robertson Det. Peter Monfort	eo Dep. Joseph Sciutto Det. Jason Bruck Dep. Emmett Vedder III	Dep. Lillian Tuey Det. Craig Miller Dep. James Riley		
Detective Division Unit Citation (Vehicular Manslaughter) Detective Division Unit Citation (Rape Case) URGENT / Detective Unit Citation (Firearms Trafficking Investigation)				
Exceptional Duty Award				
Dep. Kyle Frano (2) Det. Jason Bruck	Dep. Jonathan Geuss C.O. Vincent Decker	Dep. Shannon Britsky		
Child Support Enforcement Initiative Det. Sgt. Abe Markiewicz and Dep. James Tiano				
Dep. Francis Gillespie	Marihuana Trafficking / Currency Sr. Prob. Off. Dennis Doy			
URGENT Unit Citation (Operation Summer Sweep)				
Lt. Michael McGirr C.O. Craig Williams C.O. Vincent Martelli C.O. Adam Hendricks	Intake/Booking Unit Citation to the Cpl. Robert Toolan C.O. Anthony Maggio C.O. Travis Rossman	ne following members: C.O. Michael Coughlin C.O. Tyrone Brodhead C.O. Matthew Bogert		

URGENT Unit Citation (Town of Lloyd Narcotics / Prostitution Investigation)

#### Honorable Service Award

Lt. Eric Benjamin Det. Sgt. Dirk Budd Det. Jason Bruck Det. Peter Monfort Dep. Emmett Vedder III Sr. Prob. Off. Dennis Doyle Det. Margaret Waage C.O. Scott Burke Dep. Kyle Frano Dep. Damon Alberts Dep. Dave Hughes (3)

#### Lifesaving Award

Deputy Scott Buchinger

Deputy James Slinsky & Kilo

Sheriff's Achievement Award

Ellen Kirkpatrick, Correctional Medical Care

**Civilian** Commendation

Gerald Gust

Civilian Employee of the Year

Teresa Pleva

Deputy of the Year

Deputy Thomas Lattin

Correction Officer of the Year

C.O. Warren Whitaker