

# Smithfield Police Department



2021

End of Year Report

# Table of Contents

## 2021 End of Year Report

### Section 1

---

Organizational Structure	Section 1	Page 3
--------------------------	-----------	--------

### Section 2

---

Neuse Charter School / Smithfield Middle School	Section 2	Page 7
JCC Campus Police Report	Section 2	Page 11
Canine (K-9) Report	Section 2	Page 15
Evidence Report	Section 2	Page 17
Division of Criminal Investigations Report	Section 2	Page 21
Division of Narcotics Enforcement Report	Section 2	Page 24
Records Report	Section 2	Page 29

### Section 3

---

Annual training Report	Section 3	Page 31
Community Policing Report	Section 3	Page 36
New Hires and Professional Certificates	Section 3	Page 42
Promotions and Awards	Section 3	Page 48
Field Training Program Report	Section 3	Page 51

# Section 1

## **Smithfield Police Department Organization**

The Smithfield Police Department is comprised of forty-two full time sworn Law Enforcement Officers and four civilian personnel. The department currently has three part time reserve sworn Law Enforcement officers that can work special events or assignments if needed.

The Chief of Police serves as the ultimate authority for the Department. The Support Services Commander, Patrol Commander and Accreditation Manager work directly for the Chief of Police.

The Accreditation Manager, Animal Control Officer, Records Clerk, Administrative Assistant are all civilian personnel. The Accreditation Manager works directly for the Chief of Police. This position serves a dual role as Evidence Clerk for the department.

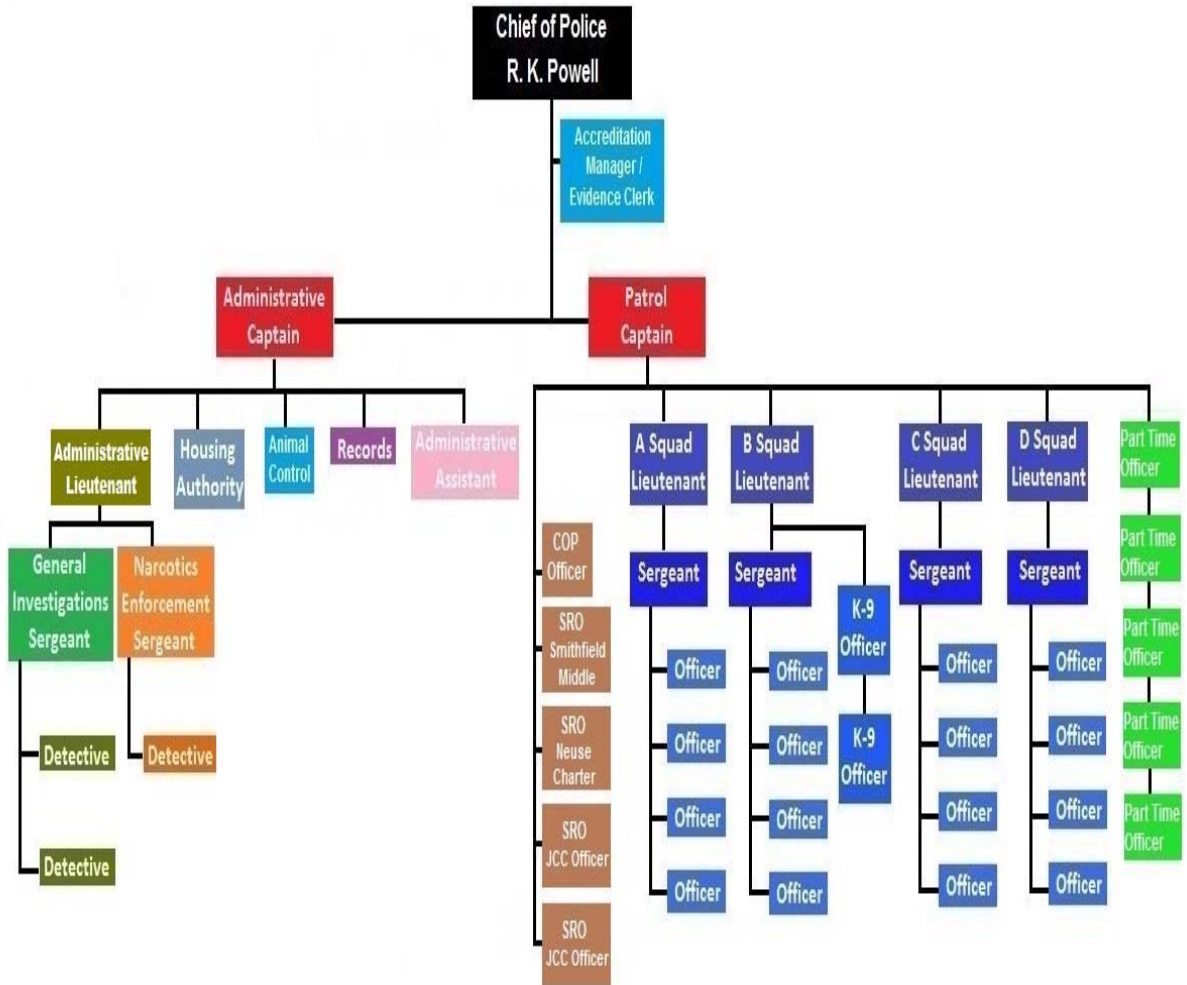
The Support Services Commander which holds rank of Captain and supervises the Investigative Division which includes the Narcotics Division, Animal Control, Records, and the Administrative Secretary/Receptionist; he also serves as the Public Information Officer. He is responsible for the Professional Standards function as well as departmental training and any other duties assigned by the Chief of Police.

The Patrol Commander which holds rank of Captain and is responsible for the Patrol Division, fleet management, radar unit maintenance, equipment maintenance, canine units, reserve officers, school resource officers, community policing, special event planning and any other duties assigned by the Chief of Police.

The Patrol Division consists of four separate squads. Each squad consists of one Shift Commander which holds the rank of Lieutenant, one Sergeant and a four patrol officer positions. The officers assigned to the squads shall answer directly to their respective sergeant, who in turn reports to his/her Shift Commander. The Shift Commanders report directly to the Patrol Commander.

In the absence of the Chief of Police (out of town, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to command), the Captain with the most tenure (by time in the rank) assumes the duties as Acting Chief of Police. This responsibility filters down to the senior Lieutenant (by time in rank) should neither Captain be available.

# Smithfield Police Department Organizational Chart



Revised 03/11/2020

# Section 2

## Division information & Stats



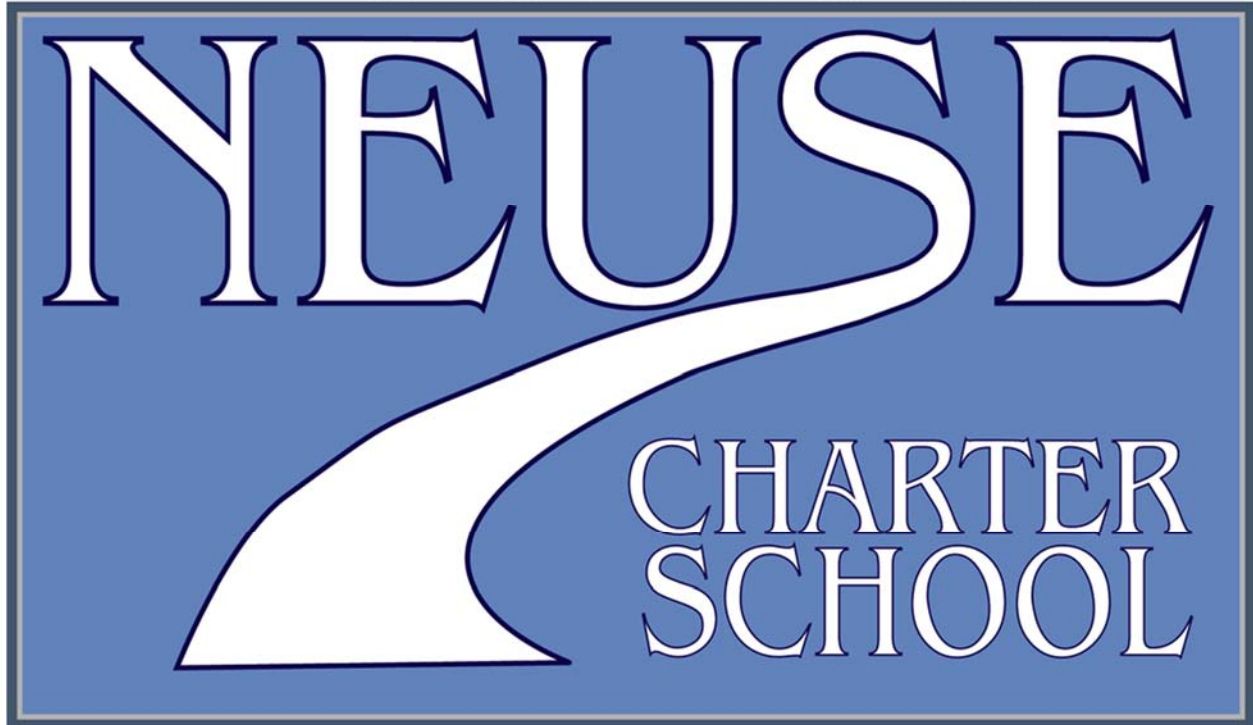
## 2021 Year End Report of Neuse Charter School and Smithfield Middle School

A School Resource Officer (SRO) has an important role in the community and has many responsibilities. Some of those responsibilities are as follows:

- Provide law enforcement and police services to the school and school grounds they are assigned.
- Work to prevent juvenile delinquency through close contact and positive relationships with students.
- Establish and maintain a close partnership with school administrators in order to provide for a safe school environment.
- Attend and participate in school functions.
- Develop and implement classes in law related education to support the educational efforts of the faculty and promote the profession of police officer.
- Work with guidance counselors and other support staff to assist students and help with conflict resolutions.
- Increase the visibility and accessibility of police in the school and be a positive role model.

The role of the School Resource Officer comes with many responsibilities. Not only does the SRO work to keep the school safe, but they also build positive relationships with the students. The School Resource Officer position provides a wonderful opportunity for students to engage with a police officer in a non-threatening environment. So often the only time people encounter police officers is during very stressful situations. Either they have been stopped by the police, have been involved in an accident, or the police have been called to their location after some crime has been committed. The School Resource Officer positions allow students to talk to a police officer and ask questions about what police officers do. The Smithfield Police Department currently has two School Resource Officers; Officer H.W. Sinclair is assigned to Neuse Charter School and Officer R.J. Stewart is assigned to Smithfield Middle School.

Welcome to



Home of the Cougars

### **Neuse Charter School**

2021 has seen a lot of changes with Covid-19. Officer Sinclair has worked closely with the administration to ensure a smooth transition during the year

During the past school year, as in previous years, there have been several issues of bullying in the elementary, middle and high schools. Officer Sinclair has had the opportunity to come into several classrooms in the elementary school and the high school and speak with the students about bullying. He has also had the opportunity to work with the Freshman Seminar class to



discuss bullying and ways to deal with bullies. Through these presentations, a positive dialogue was established between Officer Sinclair and the students.

As in previous years, the biggest issue at Neuse Charter School remains traffic. The school has grown again over the past year and currently has over 900 students. The number of cars coming during student drop off and pick up has increased dramatically over the past few years. Unlike previous years however, we have been able to reroute traffic on the school grounds to help alleviate some of the traffic issues. Administration has also worked with parents to help reduce the number of accidents and traffic complaints on Booker Dairy Road. There has been a marked reduction in the number of vehicle accidents so far this school year.

Officer Sinclair looks forward to continuing to build the relationships established in the first half of the school year and building new relationships as new staff and students join the school.



## **2021 Year End Report of the Smithfield Middle School Resource Officer**

This will make Officer Stewart's fifth year as the Smithfield Middle School Resource Officer. His primary responsibility is to provide immediate response to situations and incidents at the school. These services include, but are not limited to, emergencies of any type, active shooter response, liaison between the police department, parents, and the school, deterring and detecting criminal activity, educating and providing mentorship. An SRO is present during the school week as well as anytime school administration requests their presence during extracurricular activities which includes dances, academic events, sporting events, and public open houses.

The SRO conspicuously monitors Buffalo Rd during arrival and departure times to act as a visual deterrent for speeders and aggressive drivers as well as assisting patrol squads with radar enforcement in the school zone. After school has taken in, the SRO patrols the school building as well as parking lot to protect against potential predators and unwanted persons. Throughout the day security checks are completed on the exterior doors to ensure they are properly closing and secured. The SRO interacts with and monitors students during their lunch period as well as during any large assemblies. Issues which arise at Smithfield Middle School which warrants the filing of Juvenile Petitions is handled by the SRO.

During the previous year Officer Stewart has assisted with numerous events and drills that include but are not limited to lock down drills, fire drills, tornado drills. During the school day the SRO participates in various classes to include gym, intermural and any other class on request. The SRO is able to explain first-hand knowledge and accounts of the Judicial Process and explain potential dangers of drug and alcohol use and abuse.

During the last year the SRO assisted school administration with implementing new security procedures. The SRO assists the school social worker with truancy cases, helps clarify child custody orders, domestic violence protection orders and various other orders. After school the SRO patrols bus stops for potential issues as well as monitor problem areas for illegal bus passing.

## **GO KNIGHTS!**



# 2021 JCC / SRO

## End of Year Report

Johnston County High Schools / Early College and Career technical Learning Academy



The student body at Johnston Community College is very diverse in both age and motive. For example, the college is home to two Johnston County High Schools. Also, the college maintains an active adult continuing education program. Needless to say, we are tasked with both monitoring high school students as young as thirteen, and convicted felons placed in on-campus continuing education classes by the courts.

### **2021 End of Year / SRO JCC**

The 2021 year offered new challenges for both Officer Ealy and myself. The returning students, many of whom were high school graduates, had been on lockdown due to covid nineteen restrictions. Consequently, there was a rise in disruptions due to mental illness. However, being CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) certified, all incidents were handled appropriately with those students referred to services and not criminally charged.

As in the previous year, some of our biggest challenges have been employees. When we receive complaints from parents about instructors, we refer that complaint to a Detective. If no

crime has been committed, we then refer the complaint to Human Resources, strictly advising Human Resources that the Smithfield Police Department will have no further involvement, thus preventing any future liability to the Smithfield Police Department from either party.

In addition, there have been no reported student assaults; and property crimes have been minimal. Those positive results are a direct result of constant officer presence and patrols. When instances have occurred, it has been when we are off duty or when mobile domestic disturbances have traveled onto the college from the surrounding areas.

In addition, we have,

- Completed hundreds of bank escorts ensuring the safety of the courier and the finances of the state,
- We have conducted multiple traffic investigations, keeping the peace calls (terminated employees) and general law enforcement questions from the staff and students at JCC.
- In addition, Officer Ealy has become the regular speaker for the drivers' education program at JCC, giving two talks each year.

- **Parking Enforcement / Parking Lot Safety**

To assist with this challenge, we have strived to remain available for both high schools at JCC. For example, Officer Ealy has been very active with the high school's driver's education program as a regular guest speaker.

One of the main challenges we have continually faced at JCC is traffic enforcement and pedestrian safety in the campus parking lots. Safety in the parking lot becomes especially challenging in between daytime classes Monday through Thursday. To alleviate student concerns, we maintain an active police presence patrolling the parking lots and assisting students as necessary. Also, we do keep an active presence during the night hours as well.

Also, Officer Ealy and I have, on multiple occasions, assisted with event parking during conferences special events and Covid related events in the parking lot.

- **Care Team / Students in Crisis**



In a college setting like JCC, we do have dual roles as both enforcement and emotional support and encouragement. For example, Officer Ealy and Officer Parker are both members of the Johnston Community College Care Team. Our roles within the team are to be active participants within the affairs of those suffering a mental health crisis.

- **Community Outreach**

Officer Ealy and I were very fortunate to be active participants in multiple community outreach events. For example, we assisted with Covid testing, as traffic control during the Pandemic.

- **Chid Care**

Officer Ealy and I, when possible, read books to the children in the daycare. It should be noted the many of the children know us by name.

- **Safety and Security**

We took multiple 10-50 reports and assisted with in-area calls on numerous occasions.

In addition, we investigated multiple crimes, for example

Disorderly Conduct

Assault Physical

Found Property

Larceny, Theft of Auto Parts

To name a few as well as responding to multiple disturbance and suspicious person calls.

- **Relentless Officer Presence**

Consequently, Officer Ealy, I believe that the single biggest accomplishment we have achieved is a low call volume, low property crime, and nearly non-existent call history via relentless officer presence and patrol.

## Smithfield Police Department 2021 K-9 Unit Report

The Smithfield Police Department has had a K-9 Unit in effect since 2010 to provide the police department with much needed tools for the service of the community. The unit is made up of two K-9 teams. One of which is assigned to A and B squad's and one assigned to C and D squad.

K-9 Officer J. Sittig and his partner Karuz works with A and B squad. K-9 Officer A. Berna and her partner Titus work with C and D squads.

The K-9's, are trained in the detection of narcotics, finding evidence and also to track people. The K-9's, have been utilized to track missing persons and also to find fugitives. The K-9's, are also bite trained to protect their handler and to protect others as well.



We currently have one German Sheppard and a Dutch Sheppard that were obtained through Ventosa Kennels in Scotland Neck, North Carolina. The K-9 teams have to constantly train to comply with state regulations and have to recertify the K-9's every year. This is to ensure that the K-9's are withholding to the standards that are set by the state.

## K-9 activities for 2021

Marijuana: 5.2 Grams  
Heroin: 61 Grams  
Cocaine: 19.5 Grams  
Methamphetamine: 19.1 Grams  
Currency: \$200  
Tracks: 2  
Prescription pills: 18 Dosage units





## Evidence 2021 Year End Report

The most important part of any case is the preparation and storage of evidence. The chain of custody cannot be questioned. We must be able to show where the evidence is and every time anyone has encountered the evidence prior to it going to trial. In some cases, the evidence must be maintained for over 20 years due to orders surrounding the disposal of evidence. Due to case law, DNA evidence must be maintained indefinitely. The evidence must be properly handled for it to be admissible in court.

Patrol Officers or Investigators collect evidence and package it for submittal to the SBI lab for analysis or to be held for court purposes. The evidence and evidence sheets are inspected by the officer's respective supervisor before being placed into the temporary evidence storage lockers. There are twelve attached lockers to the front of the evidence room and four larger separate lockers in the booking room. Evidence that is too large is placed in a secure outside facility. The lockers are emptied each business day by the evidence custodians.



The department currently has two evidence custodians that are responsible for the evidence room. One is a sworn police officer (Administrative Lieutenant) and the other holds a civilian position (Accreditation Manager) within the police department. These individuals are the only people that have access to the evidence room. These individuals have other duties as well as the evidence room and must make sure to allot time to the evidence room so that it does not get backed up with items to be entered. It takes a minimum of 20 hrs a week to keep the evidence room in proper working order. Some weeks this is difficult due to other issues that arise during the work week. We also must make sure that evidence is taken to the SBI Lab in a timely manner. We have currently set up a time for evidence to be taken to the lab every three

weeks. The schedule assigns the Administrative Lieutenant or the Accreditation Manager with this task.

The evidence must be logged into the records management system prior to being placed into the appropriate storage bin that is in the evidence room. The proper paperwork must be completed and signed each time the custody of evidence exchanges from one person's control to another person. If it goes to the lab or court the appropriate paperwork must be completed and the officer taking it must sign for the evidence prior to it leaving the evidence room. The custody of the evidence then must be changed in the records management system to reflect that the item(s) have gone to the SBI lab or to court.

The evidence room consists of one large room that is secured with two locks and is monitored by a security system (alarm). The evidence room is not very large and is often cramped due to the amount of evidence that is collected. A gun safe for securing weapons (mainly long guns) is also in this room, as well as a refrigerator that is used to keep items cold (biological items, etc). A large steel cabinet is against the back wall so that narcotics, handguns, jewelry, and currency can be secured. One wall is covered with shelves that contain bins for each of the officers that are employed at the department as well as some that are no longer here. These bins maintain the officer's evidence that has been collected.



A drying cabinet for wet items is on the outside of the evidence room but has been placed inside a metal cabinet that is secured with a lock. The key to the lock has been provided for the entry of the drying cabinet by an officer or detective for items that are collected after hours which need to be dried. The key is then to be placed into a temporary storage locker, which may only be accessed by the evidence custodians, so as not to compromise the chain of custody or to provide an opportunity for anyone to tamper with the evidence. The importance surrounding the chain of custody cannot be emphasized enough when it comes to the success of a case when it goes to trial.

Evidence disposal is a time consuming, yet mandatory, part of maintaining the evidence room. The Smithfield Police Department publishes an ad in the legal section of the News & Observer regarding found and seized property. This ad is mandatory by state law and is used to notify the public of our intent to release or destroy items stored by the Smithfield Police.

The evidence custodian prepares a list of all items assigned to each officer which are in the evidence room. The officer then checks the disposition of each case and determines which items may be released, destroyed, auctioned, or must be kept. Once the officer has completed his/her list it is given back to the evidence custodian. The evidence custodian then pulls each item that can be released, destroyed, or auctioned and places it into a pending disposal location within the evidence room.

The evidence custodian then prepares a list of all items that are to be released, auctioned, or destroyed. This list is then approved for disposal by a member of the Johnston County District Attorney's Office as well as a Superior Court Judge. Once the list is approved for disposal, a copy is provided to the Johnston County Clerk of Courts Office.

The evidence custodian releases, auctions, or destroys all items that are on the list. The case officer or evidence custodian attempts to contact the owners of all items which may be released. If all avenues of contact have been exhausted, then the item is destroyed.

The evidence custodian must contact and set up appointment times for items that may be released to the Johnston County Sheriff's Office, Johnston County Clerk's Office, North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles, individual owners, gun dealer, or burnt in an incinerator.

The evidence custodian disposes of all items on the list pursuant to North Carolina and Federal Laws and is accompanied by a witness. Once all items are disposed of, the evidence custodian must then remove all items from the records management system. The evidence sheets for all items disposed must be marked and scanned into our records housing system (LaserFiche).

The following chart shows the types and amounts of items that were seized and logged into the evidence/property room during the year of 2021. It also shows the amount of money that was seized and logged into evidence. A total amount for narcotics could not be calculated due to various types of measurements depending upon the type of drug (pills, plants, seeds, powder, liquid, rock, vegetable, etc).

Items Entered	Number of Items	Amount
Guns	51	
Drugs	536	
Bikes	7	
Money	21	\$10,340
Miscellaneous Items	842	
Total	1457	

A total of 3350 items were disposed of and 1457 items were logged into evidence during the year of 2021. These items are added to the items that already have been logged into evidence. There are currently 3702 items, with 286 items being held for Federal Cases. Space tends to become an issue when it comes to the storage of evidence because more comes in than can be disposed.

In some cases, we use secured storage areas at the local wrecker services to store vehicles, if the vehicle must be processed or stored for evidentiary purposes. The department needs a facility that would accommodate these items. If an extremely large item is stored for an extended time, it becomes a matter of expense for the department and storage for the wrecker services who want to free up their space for other projects. This type of area would only strengthen the chain of custody issue since no one else would have access to this type of evidence during the crucial evidence gathering time and the extended storage time if that becomes an issue.

In conclusion this area is very important to the department since the chain of custody when dealing with evidence can make or break a case when it goes to court. We will continue to grow with the times and stay on top of the most current procedures when it comes to dealing with evidence, however space is a major issue and the need to expand is becoming a greater and greater need.

## **Criminal Investigation Divisions**

### **2021 Year End Report**

#### **General Information:**

The Smithfield Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division is comprised of four investigators, one being a Sergeant, and one a Lieutenant. The Sergeant supervises the field operations, and certain assigned administrative duties by the Lieutenant. The two general investigators, Sergeant and Lieutenant carry a case load and are responsible for providing investigator expertise 24 hours a day, 7 days week via an on-call schedule with the assistance of a Narcotics Sergeant and Narcotics Investigator. The Narcotics Investigators were added to the on-call schedule with the loss of a general investigator's position in 2015. An Administrative Captain oversees the division and is the spokesperson/ media contact. The Administrative Captain does not have a case load or a criminal on-call schedule.



#### **Operations and Statistics:**

The general investigators are responsible for serious, and/or high-profile misdemeanors, and felony cases that the patrol division does not retain. Felony cases assigned are those of homicide, violent assaults, robberies, suicides, suspicious deaths, sexual assaults, sex assaults

against children, frauds, and some burglaries. General Investigators are also responsible for pre-employment background investigations for new hires within the police department, performing CVSA (Computer Voice Stress Analyzer) exams, and assisting the Department of Social Services. During the 2021 calendar year, 98 cases were assigned to four general investigators with 6 general crime cases being assigned to two narcotics investigators for a total of 104 criminal cases. Most of the on-call cases originally assigned to Narcotics are re-assigned to a general investigator. These case numbers do not include assisting the Department of Social Services, other law enforcement agencies, and assistance provided to the Narcotics Division in their normal duties.

In 2021, of the 104 criminal cases assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division, 18 are still being actively investigated, 12 have been investigated and deemed unfounded, which means there was no crime or the crime did not occur in our jurisdiction, and 35 are in an inactive status. These inactive cases currently do not have sufficient leads to pursue and can be reopened if new leads or information arises. The remaining 39 cases were closed by arrest or exceptionally cleared.





**Closing Statement:**

As with other towns the size of Smithfield that have adequate manpower, most felony cases such as burglaries and frauds are assigned to general investigators whether leads are prevalent or not in an attempt to develop those leads/suspects. However, with a low number of detective positions, most cases are assigned back to patrol with the most serious being assigned to the general investigators for investigation. What makes our general investigators so unique and diverse, they are trained in all fields of criminal investigations. Without a crime scene technician, investigators call in other detectives to assist on certain crime scenes. Other departments that are our size have the capabilities of having specialized divisions that work specific crimes such as crimes against children, sex crimes, white collar crimes, major crimes, property crimes, domestic assault/family crimes, and have their own crime scene investigators. This leaves the narcotic investigators to specialize in their field. Our investigators continue to ensure that the citizens, businesses, and visitors in Smithfield are receiving the best and most professional service that can be provided by any law enforcement agency. Our goal remains to thoroughly investigate and close cases with the least amount of stress to victims and their families as possible. With the trends and negative sentiment in today's society, it is also our mission with integrity, honesty, and trustworthiness as always, in the past and present to remain fair and firm in the law, to protect, to serve, and investigate with the upmost professionalism.

## **Smithfield Police Department**

### **Division of Narcotics Enforcement (DNE)**

#### **General Information:**

The Smithfield Police Department currently has one (2) two full time employee assigned to the Narcotics Division of Criminal Investigations as of June 2021. A Supervisor (Sergeant) and a Detective are assigned to the Division of Narcotics Enforcement (DNE). The Division operated with one Detective (Supervisor) from August 2019 until June 2022 before an additional Detective was transferred to the Division. In addition to narcotics investigation, Detectives assigned to the Division of Narcotics Enforcement are also used to augment the Criminal Investigations Division. DNE Detectives are assigned an on-call schedule to respond to calls from the Patrol Division to handle criminal investigations, in addition to investigating narcotics violations. During 2021 DNE Detectives were assigned seven (7) criminal cases as the lead investigator for the criminal investigations (not narcotics related), these cases include such crimes as.

- Assault with a deadly weapon
- Sexual assault
- Robbery
- Child Abuse
- Fraud
- Property Crimes

Narcotics Detectives were assigned the only homicide that occurred in the Town of Smithfield during 2021, Detectives were able to clear the case with the arrest of the offender before years end.

In addition to Criminal Investigative duties, The Division of Narcotics Enforcement is also responsible for investigating narcotics, vice, and alcohol related crimes which, threaten the wellbeing of the community. DNE Detectives investigate such crimes as; possession of controlled substances, sale and manufacture of illegal narcotics, places being maintained for the purpose of sale of illegal narcotics, pharmaceutical diversion, prostitution, the sale of non-tax paid alcohol and locations established for the sale of non-tax paid alcohol. Detectives also investigate the illegal sale of alcohol and tobacco to underage persons in the Town of Smithfield DNE Detectives pursue prosecution of offenders under both state and federal law.



## Current Operations:

DNE Detectives in cooperation with the United State District Attorney's Office and the Federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms are currently working a narcotics investigation that is targeting narcotics traffickers that are distributing large amounts of methamphetamine in the Town of Smithfield. The investigation has led to numerous suspects being identified and the case have been forwarded to the United State District Attorney's Office and are awaiting Federal Grand Jury for indictments. The investigation has targeted suspected narcotics dealers within the Smithfield Community.

During 2021 the Detectives assigned to the Division of Narcotics Enforcement continued the working relationship with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, North Carolina Division of Alcohol Law Enforcement, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, the United States Marshal's Service, and the United States District Attorney's Office to prosecute narcotics traffickers and violent felons on a federal level. With these relationship, numerous investigations conducted by Division of Narcotics Enforcement Detectives have been adopted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for Federal prosecution. These investigations include violations related to.

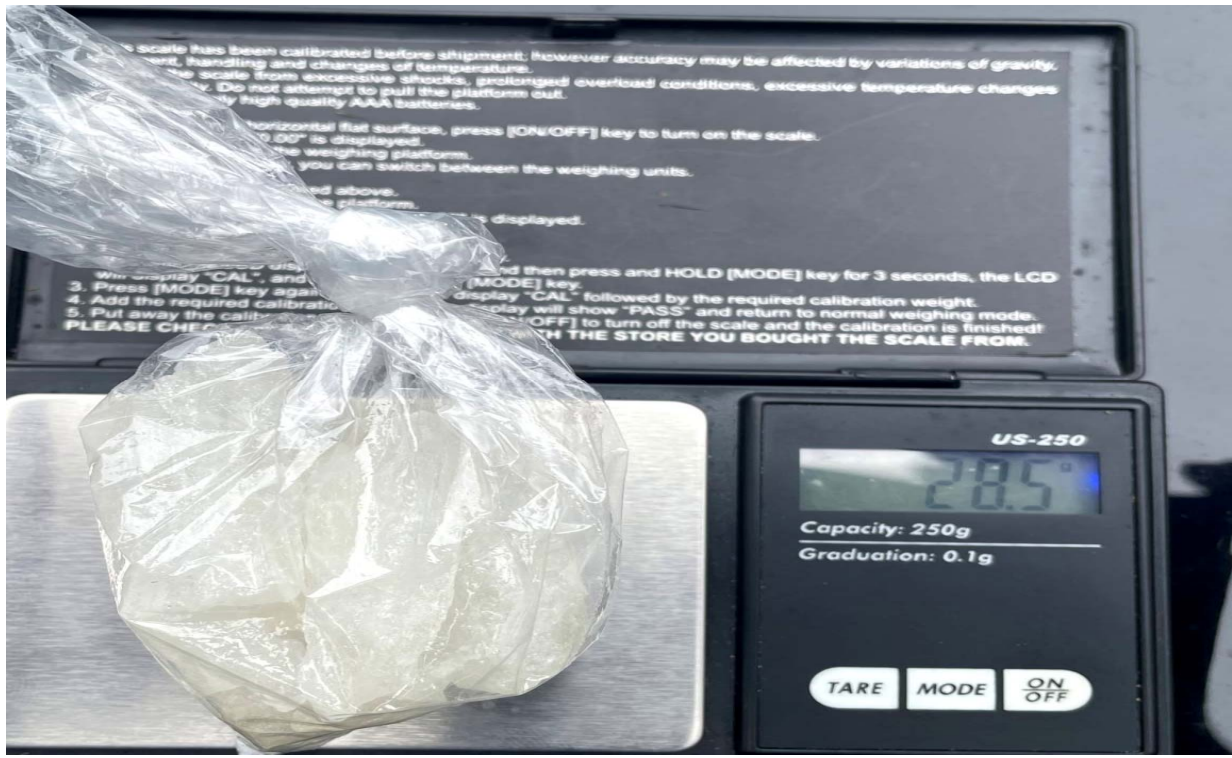
- Distribution of Heroin
- Manufacture of Methamphetamine
- Distribution of Cocaine (Crack)
- Death by Distribution
- Weapons violations
- 

The relationships developed by DNE Detectives with these agencies have greatly benefited the Smithfield Police Department with numerous investigations, to include locating sexual assault suspects and recovering victims from kidnapping incidents

From January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021, DNE detectives generated the following statistics regarding narcotics investigations. These statistics represent the quantity of investigations conducted by DNE detectives through informant and citizen tips, undercover purchases of drugs, adoption of investigations from patrol division, surveillance operations and area specific street patrols.

Narcotics Investigations	Criminal Investigations	Firearms Related Investigations Opened:
65	30	8

Annual Seizures:



Methamphetamine Seizures: 620 grams



MDMA Seizures: 4480 grams

Cocaine (Crack\powder): 20 grams

Marijuana: 253 grams

Heroin: 33.3 grams

Fentanyl: 6.2 grams

Firearms Seizures: 8

Prescription Medication: 38.5 dosage units

U.S. Currency: \$38,092.00

Division of Narcotics Enforcement Goals:

1. Continue to work with other local, State and Federal agencies to identify, charge and successfully prosecute drug traffickers in Smithfield.
2. Continue to exchange information between DNE and other Divisions within the department to improve the “Team” approach to combating the narcotics trade in Smithfield.

In the upcoming year, the Division of Narcotics Enforcement plan to continue working in conjunction with other law enforcement agencies (both state and federal) to combat the narcotics trade. Efforts to share information and to pool resources will move forward, and we will work as a team with surrounding law enforcement agencies to maximize our effectiveness and to identify changing trends within the narcotics trade. Detectives will continue to be proactive in their investigative and enforcement duties and will continue to execute search warrants on the residences and businesses of suspected narcotics traffickers in Smithfield along with street level narcotics and vice investigations.



## RECORDS

The Records Section is responsible for data entry, crime analysis and submission of statistics to the State Bureau of Investigations. The department currently has one (1) Records Clerk, which is assisted by the department’s Administrative Assistant.

In most instances, a uniformed patrol officer takes the initial report. Once the report is complete it is submitted electronically through the Records Management System. The officer will then turn in all handwritten notes and in-car camera recordings to the records section. The records section then verifies that all criteria are met for submission to the State Bureau of Investigations. Once verified, reports and all supplemental case information are scanned into the department’s Laser Fiche system. This system allows the general public access to annotated reports. Access is granted for viewing through the public terminal in the police department lobby. The public can also receive a copy of a report through email, fax or picking up a copy in person. The records staff is available Monday through Friday from 8 am until 5 pm, excluding holidays.

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>Calls for Service</b>	<b>19,676</b>	<b>18,398</b>	<b>22,743</b>
<b>Incident Reports Taken</b>	<b>1,674</b>	<b>1,434</b>	<b>1,612</b>
<b>Accident Reports</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>901</b>
<b>Arrest Reports Taken</b>	<b>1,092</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>1,092</b>
<b>Citations Issued</b>	<b>1,779</b>	<b>1,618</b>	<b>3,711</b>
<b>Parking Tickets Issued</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>15</b>

# Section 3

## Annual Training Report

# Smithfield Police Department Annual End of Year Firearms Report 2021



## I. State of North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standards & Smithfield Police Department Minimum Training Requirements

The North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standards Division have compiled a guideline for all law enforcement agencies throughout the State of North Carolina. The minimum standards are listed as follows:

### State of North Carolina Annual In-Service Firearms Qualifications Specifications

(a) All certified law enforcement officers shall qualify for both day and night use with their individual and department-approved service handgun(s) and long guns (rifles and/or shotguns) at least once each calendar year. For the purpose of this specification, service handgun shall include any semi-automatic pistol or revolver. In addition to the requirements specified in Rule 09E .0105 of this Subchapter, the course of fire shall not be less stringent than the "Basic Training Law Enforcement Officers" course requirements for firearms qualification.

(b) All certified law enforcement officers who are issued or authorized to use a shotgun, rifle or automatic weapon shall qualify with each weapon respectively at least once each calendar year.

(c) The qualifications required by Paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Rule shall be completed with duty equipment and duty ammunition or ballistic equivalent ammunition to include lead-free ammunition that meets the same point of aim, point of impact, and felt recoil of the duty ammunition, for all weapons.

(d) All certified law enforcement officers who are authorized to carry an off-duty handgun(s) shall qualify with each such handgun consistent with the specifications as outlined in Rules .0105(1) and .0106(a) and (g) of this Section.

(e) To satisfy the training requirements for all in-service firearms qualifications, an officer shall attain at least 70 percent accuracy with each weapon.

(f) The qualifications required by Paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Rule must be achieved at least once in a single day in no more than three attempts in a single day for each course of fire and for each weapon for which qualification is required. Individuals not qualifying in a single day for each course of fire or for a certain weapon for which qualification is required shall be deemed as having failed and 12 NCAC 09E .0103(4) and (5) shall apply.

(g) The In-Service Firearms Qualification Manual as published by the North Carolina Justice Academy shall be applied as a guide for conducting the annual in-service firearms qualification. The Smithfield Police Department has required more than the minimum standards set by the State of North Carolina. These modifications have been made in an effort to reduce liability and provide a safer environment for the citizens of Smithfield, NC. These modifications are defined in the General Orders Manual and are as follows:

*Smithfield Police Department General Orders 403A: Firearms*

The Smithfield Police Department adheres to the State of North Carolina Criminal Justice Training and Standards Annual In-Service Firearms Qualifications Specifications as referenced above. However, in addition, the Smithfield Police Department requires:

- Officers must qualify with at least 85% accuracy, both day and night, with their issued pistol(s) (in contrast to the 70% State requirement).
- Officers must qualify with at least 85% accuracy when utilizing a shotgun or rifle for a day and night course of fire (in contrast to the 70% State requirement).
- Officers received approximately 15 hours of training in a combination of classroom and range training (in contrast to the State minimum requirement of 6 hours).

**II. Smithfield Police Department Firearms Classroom Training**

All Smithfield Police Officers receive annual firearms classroom training on the basic marksmanship fundamentals to include, but not limited to, proper:

- Grip
- Stance
- Draw
- Sight alignment
- Sight picture
- Trigger manipulation
- Breath control
- Follow through
- Weapon nomenclature



- Cover
- Concealment
- Use of Force

Also included in the annual firearms classroom training is the Departmental Use of Force Policy, OSHA lead exposure on the range and HR-218 Law Enforcement Safety Act (National Concealed Carry for Law Enforcement Officers) are reviewed and discussed in detail.



### **III. Smithfield Police Department Range Operations**

Range Operations for pistol, shotgun and patrol rifle were conducted at the Johnston Correctional Instituted Range located near Turnage Rd and Hwy 70. The range is owned and operated by the North Carolina Department of Corrections. The Johnston Correctional range is free of charge for our sworn officers to use.

Criminal Justice Educations and Standards Commission also has a mandatory Day and Night Combat Course. The course of fire was left to the agencies firearms instructors to design and implement. No set standard was established by the state, however, it was stressed that the combat courses should incorporate stress, decision making and be relative to the environment officers could encounter while performing their duties and responsibilities. Officer with the Smithfield Police Department satisfied this requirement by participating in a day and night combat courses.

#### **Day Combat Course**

## Single Officer Response to an Armed Suspicious Subject

The student will start the exercise in the briefing position that conceals the course from view of the student during the briefing. The student will have his department issued pistol that will be loaded with two rounds of ammunition.

**Briefing:** The student is responding to a suspicious subject acting strangely in an open area of the local park. There are no people around the area that the subject is in. The subject is pacing in a circle holding a knife or other sharp object in one hand and appears to be angry and yelling. The student will be informed that there may be areas of cover that can and should be utilized during this course. The student will be informed that the scenario may result in a shoot or no shoot situation and the student should take the appropriate actions. There will be a standard silhouette target present, this target will be used if the student uses proper de-escalation techniques and will only be used to measure the student's grade for accurate firing of their duty weapon.

**Response:** Once the briefing is complete, the student will move around the concealment to the area at the 10-yard line between the short cover position and the tall cover position where the scenario begins. The subject will be represented at the 0-yard line by a realistic threat target holding a knife or other sharp object. The instructor will tell the student as they are moving up to the position that the subject is just standing there yelling and threatening to kill themselves and others. The officer should then recognize cover options and utilize them while attempting to de-escalate the situation through verbal interaction with the suspect. Upon effective verbal de-escalation by the student, the instructor will advise the officer that the subject throws the weapon away and stands with their hands up. The student will then be instructed to engage the standard silhouette target with the two (2) rounds in 5 seconds (again this is completed for the purposes of grading accuracy to meet testing requirements, the realistic target also known as the subject holding the sharp weapon is NOT shot by the officer).

To pass this course, the student must perform the following;

- Attempt to de-escalate the situation through verbal interactions
- Recognize and properly utilize available cover
- Have both rounds fired within the silhouette of the target
- Demonstrate safe gun handling and weapon manipulation skills.

### **Night Combat Course**

#### Decision Making and Weapon Manipulation

The student will start the exercise in the target engagement position at the 10 yard line. The student will be facing four (4) realistic targets that are positioned in a line at the 0 yard line. Two (2) of the targets will be threat targets (shoot targets) that the student should engage with two

rounds each and two (2) of the targets will be non-threat targets (no shoot targets) that the student should not engage. Each of the realistic threat targets will start by being concealed by a cardboard backer with attached cord to reveal the shoot or no shoot target. The instructor will reveal two (2) targets at a time by pulling the cardboard backer off by the string, the other two (2) targets will be revealed in the same manner as soon as the officer starts to shoot. The student will engage each target appropriately, using verbal commands and shooting only the targets that present a clear threat. The student will be required to properly clear any malfunction and continue the course.

To pass this course, the student must perform the following;

- Each threat target (shoot target) must have two (2) rounds in the silhouette of the target
- Not engage (shoot) the non-threat targets (no shoot targets)
- Demonstrate safe gun handling and weapon manipulation skills
- Use proper verbal commands during the encounter

#### **IV. 2021 Smithfield Police Department Firearms Statistics and Results**

Smithfield Police Dept. Cumulative Department Average= 95.5%

Smithfield Police Dept. Individual Cumulative High Score = 99.95%

Smithfield Police Department Individual Cumulative Low Score = 90.2%

Number of Officers qualifying 99% or higher = 4

Number of Officers qualifying 95% to 98.9% = 19

Number of Officers qualifying 85% to 94.9% = 17

Total Officers qualifying = 40

## Community Policing Report 2020

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Smithfield Police Department faced some challenges with regards to the Community Oriented Policing Program in the first half of 2021. Schools were closed for the winter and spring months. Thankfully, however, town events began to pick up in the summer months and the holiday season gave way for many opportunities for the police department to fraternize with the citizens of Smithfield.

The position of Community Oriented Police Officer was vacant until the 27<sup>th</sup> of September when Officer J. S. Carroll assumed that role.

October began with the Third Streatery event where Officer Carroll passed out stickers to the children and spoke with citizens.

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, Officer Carroll and Captain J. Grady attended the Boo Bash at the Sarah Yard Community Center. That same evening, Officer Carroll attended Trick-Or-Treating at the Eden Woods subdivision and passed out glow sticks to the trick-or-treaters.

On October 30<sup>th</sup>, Officer Carroll and Officer L. G. Hufton hosted a trunk for Trunk-Or-Treat hosted by Smithfield Parks and Recreation and also attended the town Egg Haunt at Smithfield Community Park.

The month of October ended with Officer Carroll and A squad passing out glow sticks to trick-or-treaters Halloween night throughout the town.

November was also a busy month for the Smithfield Police Department and town events. On November 6<sup>th</sup>, Officer Carroll and Officer J. Barbour assisted with Touch-A-Truck. They both opened their patrol vehicles and allowed citizens and children to learn about police cars. They both were also available to answer questions and speak with citizens.



2021 Touch-A-Truck

Officer Carroll, Chaplain Shambaugh and C Squad attended the Veteran's Day Memorial Service on November 11<sup>th</sup> at Smithfield Community Park. Not only did the police department provide security for the event, but officer passed out stickers and jumped in the bounce house with some of the children. Officers also spoke with citizens at the event.



2021 Veteran's Day Memorial Service

Officer Carroll assisted Smithfield Parks and Recreation on November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Swimsgiving event hosted at the Smithfield Recreation and Aquatics Centers. Citizens donated non-perishable foods items and were allowed to swim for free.

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Officer Carroll utilized a list of citizens who had recent house fires to locate any family that may be in need of a Thanksgiving meal.

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, Officer Carroll and Smithfield Parks and Recreation brought turkeys and Thanksgiving meals to families in need throughout town. A Christmas tree had also been donated by Lieutenant J. Beyer, so on November 24<sup>th</sup>, the donated tree along with decorations provided by the police department were delivered to family in need within the town.

The year ended with a bright and merry December for community policing within the town of Smithfield. On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the town of Smithfield hosted the annual tree lighting event. Smithfield Police Department provided security and traffic control for the event, as well as being available to citizens for any questions or concerns.

The annual Grinch 5K was hosted on December 4<sup>th</sup> by Smithfield Parks and Recreation and the Smithfield Police Department. Officer Carroll and Officer A. Berna ran the 5K. Chief R. Powell attended along with Officer Hufton. Toys were donated by the participants in lieu of an entrance fee and the toys were then given to the Johnston County Department of Social Services for the children in their care.



2021 Grinch 5K

Smithfield Police Department also provided security and traffic control for the annual Christmas Parade on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, Officer Carroll and Sergeant Tyndall attended the Cars and Coffee event at Xtreme Shades located in Smithfield. Toys were donated during the event to the JoCo US Veterans Corps for children in the area.

On December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, Officer Carroll and Lieutenant B. O'Branovich gathered toys and clothing for the Johnston County chapter of the Fraternal Order of Police to be donated to families in need in Smithfield and the surrounding areas.

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, Officer Carroll and Sergeant T. Lee passed out hot chocolate and holiday cheer to students at West Smithfield Elementary School.

On December 18<sup>th</sup>, Officer Carroll and Lt. O'Branovich assisted the Johnston County Fraternal Order of Police with the annual Shop with a Cop event by bringing gifts and clothing to families in need in Smithfield and in Johnston County.



2021 Shop with a Cop



2021 Shop with a Cop



On December 21<sup>st</sup>, Officer Carroll met with representatives from the JoCo US Veterans Corps and was able to obtain many toys for the children that regularly attend the Sarah Yard Community Center.

Lastly, on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Officer Carroll attended a Christmas party hosted by Smithfield Parks and Recreation at the Sarah Yard Community Center. Gifts were given to children at the center on that date.



2021 Christmas Party at Sarah Yard Center

For what started out as a slow and uneventful year, 2021 ended with smiles and cheer. The Smithfield Police Department values the citizens we serve and we look forward to what 2022 brings. We will continue to foster ties with our community and we will strive to make them stronger.

## **Report of New Hires**

### **Police Department New Hires 2021**

The Smithfield Police Department saw several new faces join our agency in 2021. During the course of the year, we saw 9 new employees join the agency. Below, you will see the names and information on those who are still employed with the agency. At the end of 2021, the agency was left with 6 remaining vacancies, of which our administration is working diligently to fill with qualified, quality employees as soon as possible.

#### **Officer Jonathan Boyce**



Officer Boyce joined the Smithfield Police Department in January 2021, after graduating Basic Law Enforcement Training in December of 2020. Originally from Pocatello, Idaho; Officer Boyce worked in the corporate world of the Research Triangle prior to BLET, and is honored to be able to serve the citizens and visitors of Smithfield as a way of giving back to society and his community. Officer Boyce has been assigned to the Patrol Division.

**Officer Jonathan Joyner**



Officer Joyner joined the Smithfield Police Department on January 19, 2021 and has been assigned to the Patrol Division. Officer Joyner attended Basic Law Enforcement Training at Johnston Community College, and upon graduation, joined the Smithfield Police Department. .

**Officer Derek Leagan**



Officer Leagan joined the Smithfield Police Department in January 2021 and has been assigned to the Patrol Division. Officer Leagan previously served as an officer with the Wilmington Police Department for approximately 3 years, and the Burgaw Police Department for 2 and a half years. Officer Leagan attained the rank of Master Patrol Officer with the Smithfield Police Department this past year and is a graduate of the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

**Officer Alyssa Berna**



Officer Berna joined the Smithfield Police Department in March of 2021. Officer Berna began her career with the New Bern Police Department after graduating from Basic Law Enforcement Training in 2016. While at New Bern, Officer Berna worked in the Narcotics unit, among other assignments. Officer Berna has recently been assigned as a department K-9 Officer, graduating from K-9 Handler school in December. Officer Berna has been assigned to the Patrol Division and looks forward to serving and being a part of a tight knit community.

### **Chaplain Paul Shambaugh**



Chaplain Shambaugh re-joined the Smithfield Police Department in April of 2021. Shambaugh originally worked for the Smithfield Police Department from 1987 thru 1989, when he left to join the Garner Police Department. Chaplain Shambaugh retired from the Garner Police Department in 2015 and has worked for several other police departments on a part-time basis since his retirement. Chaplain Shambaugh also worked full-time for the NC License and Theft Bureau, retiring with them in March 2021. Chaplain Shambaugh is an asset to the agency, assisting the Patrol Division with staffing shortages as needed, and has also already been a great help to many officers with his chaplain services. Chaplain Shambaugh is available to any officer, or staff member who needs someone to talk with, and be with in times of need; including counseling, family crisis, and work related issues. Chaplain Shambaugh has taken courses with a few chaplaincy organizations to make himself a great asset to the agency.

### **Officer Jennifer LeCrone**



Officer LeCrone joined the Smithfield Police Department in May 2021 and has been assigned to Patrol Division. Officer LeCrone previously served as a Police Officer with Goldsboro Police Department after completing Basic Law Enforcement Training at Wayne Community College.

**Officer Dante Scarboro**



Officer Scarboro joined the Smithfield Police Department in December 2021 and has been assigned to the Patrol Division. Officer Scarboro graduated Basic Law Enforcement Training from Johnston Community College, just prior to joining the department. Officer Scarboro grew up in the Selma area and is a graduate of North Johnston High School. Prior to beginning his Law enforcement career, Officer Scarboro played semi- professional basketball.

**Officer Anthony Moss**



Officer Moss joined the Smithfield Police Department in November 2021, and has been assigned to the Patrol Division. Officer Moss previously served as a Patrol and Narcotics officer with the Laurinburg and Maxton Police Departments for approximately 7 years. Officer Moss also worked for the Hamlet Police Department, where he was meritoriously promoted from Patrol Sergeant to Lieutenant and meritoriously from Patrol Lieutenant to Administrative Captain, and served as Interim Chief from November 2020 until April 2021.

# Professional Certificate Awards

The North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission established the Law Enforcement Officers' Professional Certificate Program. This program recognizes officers for their achievements in competence, education, training and years of experience as a full time, sworn law enforcement officer. An officer must apply for each of these certificates once they have met qualifications in both years of service as well as educations and training points. There are three levels of Professional Law Enforcement Certificate Awards, which are General, Intermediate and Advanced. Each application is reviewed and then voted on by the Commission.

The Smithfield Police Department has forty-two (42) sworn police officer positions. Currently the Department has a total of nine (9) officers who hold the General Law Enforcement Certificate, six (6) officers who hold the Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate and sixteen (16) officers who hold the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate.

During 2021, the following officer received a certification award;



Sergeant Sean Cook

On November 19, 2021, Sergeant Cook was awarded his Advanced Law Enforcement certificate from the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission.

# Smithfield Police Department

## 2021 ADVANCEMENTS, PROMOTIONS, & AWARDS

### Promotions & Awards

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Members of the Smithfield Police Department are eligible for advancement through Career Ladder as well as promotions within the department.

The career ladder program provides for the advancement of police officers who demonstrate increasing levels of knowledge, skills, and abilities. An entry level Officer obtains **POI** (Police Officer I) when they have met the requirements to be employed as a Police Officer with the Town of Smithfield. Once eligible for Career Ladder advancement, an officer can be advanced to **POII** (Police Officer II) and **MPO** (Master Police Officer). Each level of Career Ladder has certain minimum requirements which must be met for the candidate to be advanced. A brief description of the minimum requirements for each advancement is as follows:

#### **POII advancement**

- A. Must have completed the following as a POI:
  - Successfully completed one (1) year probation and probationary requirements as a POI
  - Receive Radar Certification
  - Receive Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Certification
  - Receive Intoximeter Certification
- B. Been awarded the Basic Law Enforcement Certificate by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission
- C. Have received a rating of "Satisfactory" or higher on the last annual performance appraisal

#### **MPO advancement**

- A. Served as a POII for one (1) year
- B. Complete training hours to include
  - 40 hours of Management/Supervision training
  - Field Training Officer Certification



- Complete Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Certification
- C. Have received a rating of “Better than Satisfactory” or higher on the last two (2) annual performance appraisals or a rating of “Outstanding” on the last annual performance appraisal

In 2021, the Smithfield Police Department advanced the following personnel through Career Ladder:



**Officer D. A. Leagon was advanced from  
from POII to MPO**



**Officer C.E. VanHalen was advanced  
from POII to MPO**

As an officer moves through Career Ladder the requirements become more stringent as the Officer is now looking a potential promotion. Promotions within the department are Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain. As mentioned earlier in Career Ladder advancement, there is a minimum requirement for each promotion and a brief description is as follows:

**Promotion to Sergeant**

- A. Served as a Master Police Officer for two years
- B. Completed a total of 172 training hours
- C. Must complete a First Line Supervision course within twelve months of being promoted to Sergeant
- D. Been awarded the Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission
- E. Have received a rating of “Better than Satisfactory” or higher on the last two annual performance appraisals or a rating of “Outstanding” on the last annual performance appraisal.

**Promotion to Lieutenant**

- A. Served as a Sergeant for two years
- B. Within 12 months of promotion to Lieutenant, an officer must complete a Law Enforcement management program such as AOMP, FBI National Academy, etc;

- C. Have been awarded the Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission;
- D. Have received a rating of “Better than Satisfactory” or higher on the last two annual performance appraisals or a rating of “Outstanding” on the last annual performance appraisal.

**Promotion to Captain**

- A. Served as a Lieutenant for two years;
- B. Have completed a Law Enforcement management program such as AOMP, FBI National Academy, etc;
- C. Have been awarded the Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission
- D. Have received a rating of “Better than Satisfactory” or higher on the last two annual performance appraisals or a rating of “Outstanding” on the last annual performance appraisal.

In 2021 Smithfield Police Department promoted the following personnel:



**S. L. Cook was promoted to Sergeant  
in April 2021.**

## Annual End of Year Field Training Program Report



The Smithfield Police Department's Field Training Officer (FTO) Program is necessary to ensure that recruits are trained to be professional and effective law enforcement officers. The goal of the program is to produce officers who are an asset to the department and the community.

The FTO program also helps limit liability toward the Town of Smithfield. Law Enforcement Agencies, who do not properly train their officers, run the risk of being sued if it can be shown that training could have prevented or mitigated an error. The FTO program is essential and must be taken seriously. This is where recruits learn the fundamental skills that form building blocks for the remainder of their careers.

The FTO program is a structured program that all new recruits are required to complete. Prior to this, they must have completed Basic Law Enforcement Training and be certified by the State of North Carolina. The Field Training program has both formal and informal components. It also includes both hands-on and classroom training. There are eight phases of training lasting a minimum of 50 days.

Training can be extended if a recruit needs additional time to satisfactorily complete the requirements of field training. While this is rare, occasionally a recruit is

unable to reach the standards set by the department in order to be released from training and must be separated from the department.

Training is broken down into eight phases, during which each recruit is assigned to a Field Training Officer. This is an experienced officer who has successfully completed a program in properly training of new officers. During each phase, the recruit is required to perform and learn certain duties. These tasks cover a variety of subjects and include most situations that the recruit will face while on duty. When a task is successfully demonstrated by a recruit, it is documented by his or her training officer. The Phases are as follows:

**PHASE 1-Orientation Phase (variable number of days).**

The recruit enters Phase 1 upon the date of hire and remains in this phase until the recruit is sworn in.

**PHASE 2-Observation Phase (3 Days)**

Phase 2 begins the formal instruction of the new recruit.

**PHASE 3-6 Field Performance (10 Days/phase)**

Under the guidance of the recruits FTO, the recruit performs the duties of a Patrol Officer for 10 working days. The daily performance is documented by the FTO. At the completion of the 10 day observation, the FTO, Team Supervisor (Sergeant), and Team Commander (Lieutenant) will document the overall performance of the recruit and either release the recruit to the next phase of training or extend that phase for remedial training to be conducted.

**PHASE 7-Solo Phase (7 Days)**

During this phase, the recruit will perform the duties of a Patrol Officer with the FTO only shadowing the recruit as a back-up officer. If the recruit demonstrated competence in his/her abilities to perform these duties, the recruit will be recommended to be released from training.

**PHASE 8-Completion of Training**

This phase serves only as an administrative process where all files, forms, and documentation are completed.

During 2021, Six (6) new officers have successfully completed the Field Training program; Including Officer P. Shambaugh who is filling the role as the departments Chaplin.



*Chaplin P. Shambaugh*

The department currently has two (2) active patrol officers who are trained and certified as Field Training Officers. There are fourteen (14) other FTO's that currently work in other assignments, such as investigations or in supervisory roles. These investigators and supervisors can be utilized if the need arises, however the department aims to utilize patrol officers to train new recruits.



The department has an FTO Coordinator, who oversees all FTO paperwork as each phase is completed. This is another form of ensuring that the recruit and the FTO have completed all necessary paperwork associated with field training, as well as documenting what types of situations and scenarios the recruit has been exposed to and trained on.



***"Training new officers to be Leaders in our community"***

## Traffic Operations and Governor’s Highway Safety Program



Traffic safety is one of the primary patrol functions within the Smithfield Police Department. Officers are expected to respond to motor vehicle collisions, direct traffic when needed, and to conduct enforcement activity to ensure the motoring public complies with motor vehicle laws. In addition to investigating collisions and conducting traffic enforcement, the Smithfield Police Department also has designated Officers who are qualified to assist parents with the proper installation of child car seats. This service can be requested by contacting the police department during business hours to schedule an appointment.

The number of traffic collisions, along with enforcement actions, have been impacted significantly by Covid-19 and subsequent shutdowns. As shown in the below table, traffic collisions and enforcement actions were reduced significantly in 2020 as fewer motorists traveled. The table will also show that 2021 largely saw a return to normal traffic collisions within the town.

	2019	2020	2021
Motor Vehicle Collisions	912	764	904
DWI Offenses	91	84	96
Citations Issued	1771	1600	3746

In 2021, the Smithfield Police Department was the recipient of a grant from the North Carolina Governor’s Highway Safety Program. Dedicated to reducing the numbers of traffic crashes and fatalities in North Carolina, the Governor’s Highway Safety Program promotes efforts to reduce traffic crashes in North Carolina and promotes highway safety awareness through a variety of grants and safe-driving initiatives. This grant helped to fund two full-time traffic officer positions, along with providing funds to equip the officers, at the Smithfield Police Department. The Smithfield Police Department traffic team

has been operating since January of 2021, with Officers J. Atkinson and J. Barbour assigned as traffic team officers.

Since the inception of the traffic team, Officer Atkinson and Officer Barbour have worked diligently in investigating motor vehicle collisions, conducting targeted traffic enforcement, and reaching out to the community to promote safe driving practices. Our traffic team has also participated in and organized a number formal and informal targeted enforcement operations. Specific operations include:



- Numerous school zone speed enforcement operations which have resulted in dozens of offenders being cited for operating at speeds greater than 15mph over the school zone speed limit.
- A multi-agency DWI checkpoint organized by Officer Barbour on Halloween (10/31/2021), which resulted in more than 10 DWI arrests.
- Two criminal enforcement operations targeting criminal activity and traffic violations along the I95 corridor. These operations resulted in numerous wanted persons and fugitives being apprehended, the recovery of stolen firearms, and Officer Atkinson seizing 3,600 grams (approximately 8 pounds) of marijuana and \$2,369.00 in US Currency.

In addition to providing targeted traffic enforcement and conducting special traffic operations, traffic team officers have proven to be a valuable asset to patrol shifts while they are on duty. Traffic team officers frequently investigate most calls for service related to traffic safety and motor vehicle collisions. This service has allowed patrol officers to focus on other calls for service and other law enforcement duties and investigations. In addition, both of our traffic team officers have committed to attending specialized training to obtain skills and certifications which are crucial to performing their duties and providing excellent service to the citizens of Smithfield. This specialized training ranges from criminal interdiction training, to car seat installation certification, to specialized training in communicating with citizens via American Sign Language.

In all cases, Smithfield Police Officers are on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to respond to emergency calls relating to motor vehicle collisions, traffic control, and traffic safety. Whether it's members of our traffic team, when on duty, or a patrol shift, Smithfield Police Officers are available for the needs of our citizens.

