

GILMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



Stacy L. Nicholson, Sheriff

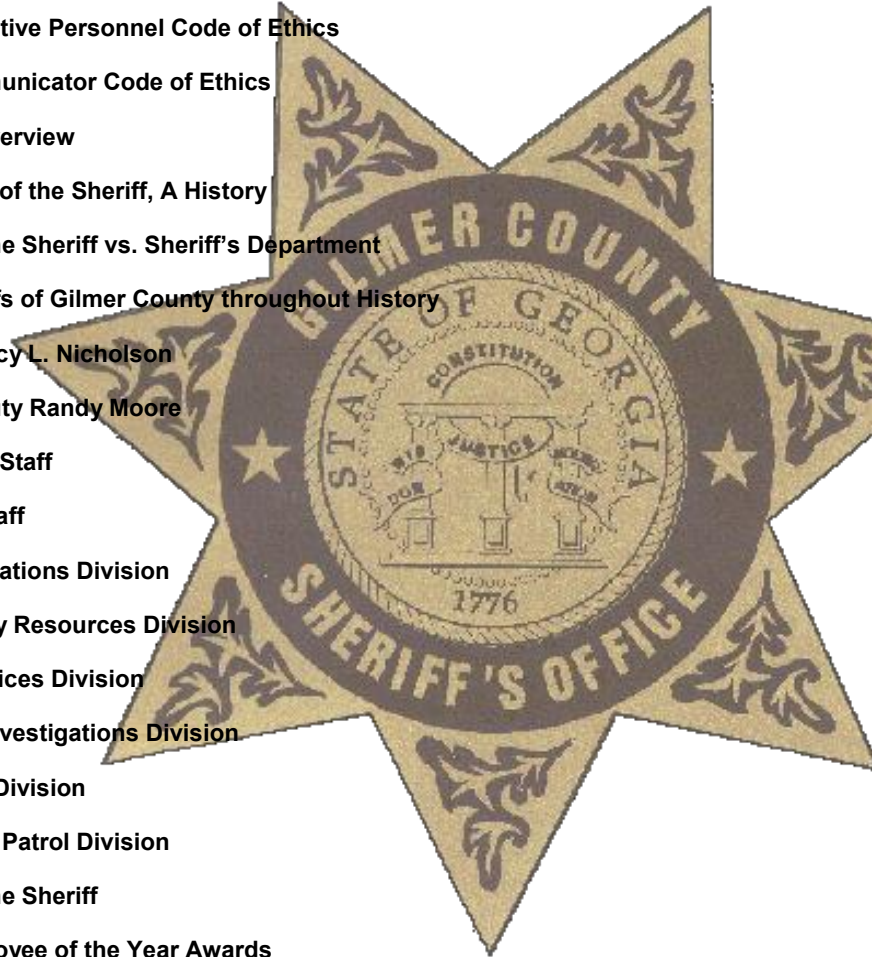
A State Certified Law Enforcement Agency

www.gilmersheriff.com



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A Word from Sheriff Nicholson

The year 2020 was one filled with challenges to not only our agency, but also to the entire country. The devastating COVID-19 pandemic, riots and burning cities, and a bitter and contentious presidential election made this past year one of the most stressful in decades.

Gilmer County was not left unaffected by the events that impacted every facet of our country. Our citizens suffered through lock-downs, the closing of businesses and schools, the wearing of masks and practicing social distancing. Like the community it serves, the Sheriff's Office was also deeply affected by COVID-19.

While many communities around the nation were attempting to "defund" their police, and in some extreme cases even attacking their law enforcement officers, we here in Gilmer County found ourselves blessed with an overwhelming outpouring of support from you, the community that we serve.

During the year, many of our employees shared stories about, and I experienced myself, the random acts of kindness show to us by the citizens of our county as well as from visitors. From buying deputies a meal anonymously to people simply stopping to say "thank you for your service," you, the people, have showed us that we are very fortunate to be serving in this community.

The men and women of the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office, including me, are deeply grateful and humbled by each show of support that we've received. As your Sheriff, I am committed to continuing to provide transparency and the best possible service and protection to all of you. You deserve no less.

Once again, on behalf of everyone in the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office, I want to thank you all for all of the support you've given to us during this very trying time.

Sincerely,

Stacy Nicholson,

Sheriff of Gilmer County, Georgia



Gilmer County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Stacy L. Nicholson
"A Professional Law Enforcement Agency"



Mission Statement

The primary mission of the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office is to maintain social order within the prescribed ethical and constitutional limits, while providing professional law enforcement services.

To attain this, the Agency enforces the law in a fair and impartial manner, recognizing both the statutory and judicial limitations of police authority and the constitutional rights of all persons.

The agency recognizes that no law enforcement agency can operate at its maximum potential without supportive input from the citizens it serves. The Agency actively solicits and encourages the cooperation of all citizens to reduce and limit the opportunities for crime and to facilitate the maximum use of resources.



Gilmer County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Stacy L. Nicholson
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Our Core Values

- Integrity:** We demonstrate this cornerstone of our agency through honesty, accountability and high ethical standards.
- Respect:** We create respect within our agency and community through listening, understanding and acknowledging feedback.
- Adaptability:** We ensure the success of our agency by embracing positive change and by nurturing diversity, creativity and visionary thinking.
- Communication:** We cultivate and maintain excellence by remaining approachable at all levels, communicating openly and building strong relationships.
- Commitment:** We are steadfast in our goals to develop learning opportunities for career-minded professionals and to strengthen efficiency and effectiveness.



Gilmer County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Stacy L. Nicholson

"A Professional Law Enforcement Agency"



The Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my Department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decision. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith and I accept it, as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession...Law Enforcement.



Gilmer County Sheriff's Office
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The Detention Officer Code of Ethics

As a Detention Officer I regard myself as a member of an important and honorable profession

I will keep myself in the best possible physical condition at all times

I will perform my duty with efficiency at all times

I will be exemplary in my conduct, edifying in my conversation, honest in my dealings and obedient in the laws of the city, county, state and country

I will regard my oath as I regard sacred honor

I will not, in the performance of my duty, work for personal advantage or profit

I will at all times recognize that I am a public servant

I will give the most efficient and impartial service of which I am capable at all times

I will be courteous in my contacts at all times

I will regard my fellow officers with the same standards as I hold myself

I will guard the honor and life of my fellow officers as I guard my own

I will be loyal to my fellow officers, my supervisors and my institution

I will accept responsibility for my actions

I will only do those things that will reflect honor on my fellow officers, my institution and myself



Gilmer County Sheriff's Office
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Administrative Personnel Code of Ethics

SERVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST

Serve the public, beyond serving oneself.

RESPECT THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAW

Respect and support government constitutions and laws that define responsibilities of public agencies, employees, and all citizens.

DEMONSTRATE PERSONAL INTEGRITY

Demonstrate the highest standards in all activities to inspire public confidence and trust in public service.

PROMOTE ETHICAL ORGANIZATIONS

Strengthen organizational capabilities to apply ethics, efficiency, and effectiveness in serving the public.

STRIVE FOR PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Strengthen individual capabilities and encourage the professional development of others.



Gilmer County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Stacy L. Nicholson

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TELECOMMUNICATOR'S CODE OF ETHICS

As a tele-communicator I regard myself as a member of an important and honorable profession.

I will recognize the positive relationship between good physical and mental conditioning and the performance of my job.

I will perform my duty with efficiency to the best of my ability.

My conduct and my performance of my duties will be accomplished in an honest manner, contributory to my fellow workers, and observant of the laws of the city, state and country.

I will not, in the performance of my duty, work for unethical advantage or profit.

I will recognize at all times in my duty that I am a public safety employee, and that ultimately I am responsible to the public.

I will give the most efficient and impartial service of which I am capable at all times.

I understand the importance of courtesy and will maintain it as my reference point in all my duties.

I will regard my fellow tele-communicators with the same standards as I maintain myself.

I share a reciprocal affinity and obligation with my fellow tele-communicators, my administration, and my agency.

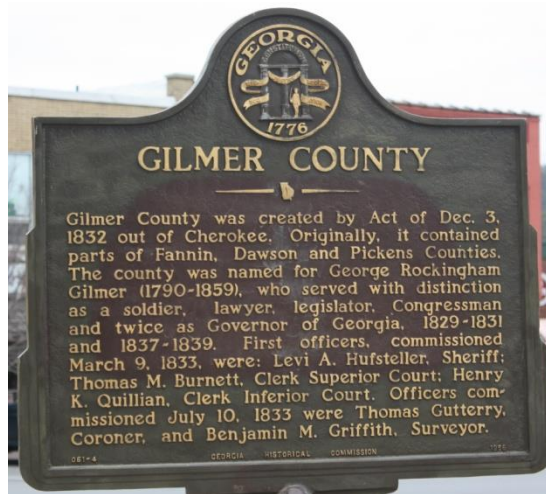
I will accept responsibility for my actions.

I will strive for those values which will reflect honor on my fellow tele-communicators, my agency and myself.

The Gilmer County, Georgia Sheriff's Office

2020 Annual Report

Gilmer County, Georgia was created in 1832 from part of what was then Cherokee County. The county is 432 square miles in area, and according to United States Census Reports the estimated population of Gilmer County in 2019 was 30,674. In 2000, the population was 23,456 and in 1990 there were 13,368 people living in Gilmer County. The population of our county has more than doubled in less than thirty years!



The Gilmer County Sheriff's Office is a professional, progressive full service law enforcement agency dedicated to providing the best possible service and protection to citizens and visitors in our community. The Sheriff's Office is charged with providing general law enforcement and investigative services throughout the unincorporated areas of Gilmer County. The Gilmer County Sheriff's Office provides uniformed patrol, criminal investigations, traffic accident investigation, school resource officers, court security and civil process service, prisoner transportation, warrant service, crime prevention and operation of the adult detention center.

The Sheriff's Office provides service and protection to citizens and visitors twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. The agency responds to all emergency and non-emergency calls received by the agency's 911 center.

In December 2020, the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office had 102 employees not including Sheriff Nicholson. Sixty one of these were State of Georgia certified peace officers (Deputy Sheriffs), eighteen were sworn detention officers and sixteen were communications officers. There were seven civilian personnel working in administrative positions.

Our agency is led by Sheriff Stacy L. Nicholson. Sheriff Nicholson is the 36th man to be elected Sheriff in Gilmer County's one hundred and eighty six year history. Sheriff Nicholson was first elected in 2004 and was sworn in as Sheriff in January 2005. In 2020, Sheriff Nicholson was re-elected without opposition for his fifth four year term.

The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement official in the county. The Sheriff is a constitutional officer provided for by the Georgia State Constitution.

The Sheriff's Office is described in the State Constitution as one of four independently elected county officers.

The Sheriff is not, without unusual circumstances, appointed by a governmental body and is not subordinate to the county government. The sheriff is elected by the citizens and is directly responsible to them. Thus, the sheriff is the only law enforcement official to be selected by and accountable directly to the citizens he or she serves.

In March, 2008, the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office became only the twelfth Sheriff's Office in the State of Georgia to attain Law Enforcement Certification. The agency has maintained the level of professionalism that certification requires and in February 2011 attained recertification. Only through the efforts of the entire agency has this process been accomplished. The agency successfully completed its third state law enforcement recertification inspection in February 2020.

In August, 2011, Sheriff Nicholson created the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office Citizens Law Enforcement Academy. This on-going public relations program brings members of the community into the agency for a fourteen week course consisting of presentations, tours and riding on patrol with deputies. The goals of this program are to bring the community and the agency closer together and foster better understanding between citizens and law enforcement. In today's environment of growing mistrust between communities and law enforcement, it is of the utmost importance that lines of communication remain open and agency transparency be maintained. Since the first session in 2011, almost two hundred Gilmer County citizens have attended the fourteen citizen law enforcement academy sessions. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic of 2020, no CLEA sessions were conducted.

This document was created to provide our citizens, visitors and agency members with a snapshot view of *their* Sheriff's Office and offer a glimpse of the extraordinary men and women who protect and serve our community on a daily basis.

The Office of the Sheriff, A History

The Office of the Sheriff is one of antiquity. It is the oldest law enforcement office known within organized civilization. One of the earliest mentions of the "Sheriff" is in the King James Version of the Bible. In *Daniel, Chapter 3: 3*, Sheriffs are mentioned as supervisors under King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

The Office of the Sheriff is one that evolved out of necessity. Without the laws that required enforcing, there would have been no need for the Sheriff.

The Office of the Sheriff as we know it today originated in early England. Sheriffs have served and protected for well over one thousand years. Around 500 A.D., Germanic tribes from Europe called the Saxons invaded England. This invasion resulted in the consolidation of England as an Anglo-Saxon kingdom.

King Alfred the Great who reigned from 871 to 901 A.D. divided England into geographic areas called "shires." He appointed "Reeves" or overseers to manage the shires in the name of the King. These shires evolved into our modern day counties. As the English language changed over the years, the "Shire-Reeve" as the King's representatives was known became the Sheriff.

In 1116, King Henry I delegated the power to investigate and arrest for crimes against the newly established Penal Code to the Sheriff. In 1215, King John signed the English Magna Carta which established basic rights and freedoms for the people of England. In the Magna Carta, the Sheriff retained the critical task of "keeper of the peace." The role of the Sheriff is prominently mentioned throughout the Magna Carta.

In 1634, the Office and traditions of the Sheriff were brought to the New World. In the newly formed colony of Virginia, one of the first acts performed was the election of the Sheriff. During the American Colonial period, the Sheriff was a central figure as towns and communities were formed in the New World.

As these colonial governments were established, the Sheriff became an officer of the court, collector of public taxes and private levies, keeper of prisons and the public hangman. As the chief arresting officer the Sheriff was required to "Lay hands upon the accused, use all and sundry force to open all doors and commandeer any person, any entity or enactment to accomplish his commission."

In the 18th and 19th centuries, American Sheriff's continued to be tasked with a broad range of duties by the colonial and later state legislatures. Some of these duties included maintaining jails and workhouses, general law enforcement, keeping the peace and the handling of criminals throughout the judicial process.

The Office of the Sheriff has been held in high esteem by the American public dating back to before the Revolutionary War. George Washington's father was a Sheriff in colonial Virginia. Thomas Jefferson wrote in his constitutional assessments that "The Office of the Sheriff is the most important of all executive offices of the country."

Today in the United States there are more than three thousand counties. In all but twelve of these counties, the Sheriff is elected and answers directly to the electorate.

Although the Sheriffs of today do not have the same responsibilities and duties of the ancient Shire-Reeves appointed by English Kings, they hold the position as chief law enforcement officer in the county and are elected by those they serve.

The duties of the modern Sheriff vary from state to state. In the State of Georgia, the Sheriff is active in all three branches of the criminal justice system: law enforcement, courts and corrections.

Article IX, Section 1, Paragraph III of the State of Georgia Constitution establishes that the Sheriff is one of four constitutional officers elected by the citizens. In Georgia, the Office of Sheriff is considered to be both a constitutional office and a county office. The constitutional status of the Office of the Sheriff is evolved from English common law, and from the constitutional provisions extended to certain offices in existence when the first State of Georgia Constitution was ratified.

In Georgia, upon election, Sheriffs serve four year terms and have no term limit other than the will of the people.

Many of the functions and duties of Sheriffs in the State of Georgia are mandated by Georgia Code.

The Office of Sheriff was established in Gilmer County in 1832 when the county was formed from parts of Cherokee County. The first Gilmer County Sheriff was Levi A. Huffstetler who served from 1833 through 1834. In the 186 year history of Gilmer County, thirty-six men have served as the Sheriff. Our current Sheriff is Stacy L. Nicholson, who has served the citizens of Gilmer County since he was first elected in 2004.

Office of the Sheriff vs. Sheriff's Department

What is the difference between the Office of the Sheriff and other county departments? To answer this question, one must understand the definitions of each term. Black's Law Dictionary, defines the terms as follows:

Department: *"One of the major divisions of the executive branch of government...generally, a branch or division of governmental administration."*

Office: *"A right, and correspondent duty, to exercise a public trust."*

The holder of the Office is under a public charge and is duly elected to exercise a public trust. The Sheriff is not appointed by a government body and is not subordinate to the county government. The Sheriff is elected by the people and is responsible to them and as such, is the only law enforcement official that is selected directly by and accountable to the citizens.

Clearly, the Office of the Sheriff is not simply another department of the county government.

Sheriffs and their deputies provide public safety service by mandate and tradition.

Today's Sheriffs are responsible for protecting human life, maintaining the public peace and order, protecting the rights of individuals and their property, crime prevention and the enforcement of laws and ordinances without discrimination or favor.

The Sheriffs of Gilmer County

Stacy L. Nicholson	2005-Present
Billy Bernhardt	1990-2004
Larry Henson	1985-1990
Ferman Stanley	1972-1984
Clarence L. Ray	1969-1972
Robert Worley	1965-1968
Ed Goble	1961-1964
J. H. Hefner	1950-1960
Ralph Davis	1949-1950
Grady Daves	1944-1948
Foster Milton	1943-1944
E. H. Rackley	1938-1943
W. E. Rackley	1933-1938
A. J. Pinson	1929-1932, 1898-1908
R. L. Milton	1913-1928, 1908-1910
J. H. Penland	1910-1912
W. H. Foster	1895-1898
H. M. Bramlett	1891-1895, 1881-1887
M. L. Cox	1887-1891
J. R. Johnson	1877-1881
William Jones	1875-1877
G. H. Randell	1873-1875, 1864-1868, 1860-1862
P. H. Milton	1868-1873
William Stott	1862-1864
James A. Gudger	1858-1860
Austin Painter	1856-1858
William Cox	1854-1856, 1850-1852
William E. Plemmons	1852-1854
Ebenezer Whitzell	1848-1850
John Thomas	1846-1848
Samuel Jones	1844-1846
Johnathan Cox	1842-1844, 1838-1840
John M. Griffeth	1840-1842
John T. Bailey	1836-1838
Isham C. King	1834-1836
Levi A. Huffstetler	1833-1834

Sheriff Stacy L. Nicholson



Stacy L. Nicholson is the elected Sheriff of Gilmer County, Georgia. He was elected to his first term in 2004 and took office in January 2005. Sheriff Nicholson won his fifth term in July 2020 without opposition. Stacy Nicholson is a twenty-nine year veteran of law enforcement.

Sheriff Nicholson began his law enforcement career with the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office on March 3, 1991. Prior to his election as Sheriff, he served in many assignments within the agency including radio dispatcher, jailer, patrol deputy, investigator, chief of investigations and public information officer.

Sheriff Nicholson currently serves as the elected President of the Georgia Sheriff's Association.

Sheriff Nicholson serves or formally served on several committees and organizations which include:

- Immediate Past President of the Georgia Sheriff's Association
- Member of the Georgia Sheriff's Association Training and Standards Committee
- Officer on the Executive Board for Gilmer County Family Connection
- Past President, Fraternal Order of Police, Appalachian Lodge #92

Sheriff Nicholson is very active in our community. He coaches youth sports and enjoys working with our children. Sheriff Nicholson is a past board member of the Appalachian Children's Center.

Sheriff Nicholson attended Berry College and North Georgia College where he majored in Criminal Justice.

Sheriff Nicholson is an avid hunter and outdoorsman. Sheriff Nicholson is a lifelong resident of Gilmer County, graduating from Gilmer High School in 1989. Sheriff Nicholson played football and baseball at Gilmer High and remains a tried and true "Bobcat" fan.

Chief Deputy Randy Moore



Randy Moore serves as the Chief Deputy of the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office. He is second in command of the agency and is responsible for the daily operations of the Sheriff's Office.

Chief Deputy Moore is a thirty-six year law enforcement veteran. He began his career in 1984 with the Alpharetta, Georgia Police Department. He also served with the Woodstock, Georgia Police Department and the Holly Springs, Georgia Police Department where he worked from 1993 until 2005. Randy Moore served as the Patrol Commander until he was appointed Chief of the Holly Springs Police Department in 1997, and led that agency for eight years.

Chief Deputy Moore retired from the Holly Springs Police Department in 2005. He was appointed to the position of Gilmer County Jail Commander by Sheriff Nicholson in January 2005. Chief Deputy Moore was promoted to his current rank and position by Sheriff Nicholson in 2006.

During his career, Chief Deputy Moore has worked in many varied assignments, such as patrol officer, supervisor and manager. He also served as traffic division commander, criminal investigator, field operations commander and administrative services commander.

Chief Deputy Moore is a Life Member of the Georgia Chiefs of Police Association. He is also a State of Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Assessor.

Chief Deputy Moore is a graduate of the State of Georgia Law Enforcement Professional Management Program.

He attended Reinhardt College. Chief Deputy Moore also attended Columbus State College and Gupton-Jones College.

Chief Deputy Moore graduated from Milton High School in 1981.

BUREAU COMMANDERS

Major Adam Smith, Field Operations Bureau



Major Adam Smith serves as the Commander of the Field Operations Bureau. Major Smith is responsible for the administration of the Uniformed Patrol and Criminal Investigations Divisions, Training Unit and Explorer Post #442. He is also the Special Operations Commander. Major Smith is a twenty-six year veteran law enforcement officer. He began his career with the Reinhardt College Department of Public Safety in 1994.

Major Smith joined the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office as a patrol deputy in 1997. During his twenty two years with our agency, Major Smith has served in many assignments. He has been a patrol deputy, detective, sergeant and lieutenant in the criminal investigations division, and agency training officer.

Major Smith held positions as uniformed patrol night shift watch commander, jail administrator and commander of the former Field Operations Division before being promoted to major and appointed to his current assignment by Sheriff Nicholson on April 4, 2016.

He is a graduate of the Georgia Law Enforcement Professional Management program. During his career, Major Smith has completed over 2,500 hours of advanced and in-service training. He also has completed numerous advanced tactical operations training courses.

He is a Georgia P.O.S.T. certified instructor and a certified firearms instructor.

Major Smith is a founding member of the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office SWAT team.

Major Smith is a member of the National Tactical Officers Association.

Adam Smith attended Reinhardt College.

He graduated from Sequoyah High School in Cherokee County, Georgia in 1991.

Major Michael Gobble, Headquarters Bureau



Major Michael Gobble commands the Headquarters Bureau. He is responsible for the administration of the Community Resources, Court Services and Detention Divisions. Major Gobble is a twenty-eight year law enforcement veteran. His career began in 1992 with the Copperhill, Tennessee Police Department. Michael Gobble joined the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office as a patrol deputy in 1997.

During his career with our agency, Major Gobble has served as a patrol deputy, patrol watch commander and commander of the warrants division. He was promoted to captain in January 2013 and assumed command of the newly created Community Resources Division. In May, 2014, Michael Gobble assumed additional duties as the commander of the Court Services Division. On April 4, 2016, he was promoted to major and assumed command of the newly created Headquarters Bureau.

In addition to commanding the Headquarters Bureau, Major Gobble coordinates the C.H.A.M.P.S program which is taught to Gilmer County fifth grade students. He is a certified C.H.A.M.P.S. instructor and actively teaches in the program. Major Gobble is a certified ATV safety instructor and a certified car safety seat technician.

Major Gobble is a founding member of the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office SWAT team. He has completed the Georgia State Law Enforcement Professional Management program and holds all three levels of law enforcement supervision training.

Major Gobble was awarded the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office Combat Award for his actions during an armed suspect incident in 2007.

During his career, Major Gobble has completed over 2,100 hours of advanced and in-service training.

Major Gobble is a United States Army veteran serving from 1989 to 1992 with the 25th Infantry Division and the Tennessee National Guard as an infantryman and cavalry scout.

DIVISION COMMANDERS

Captain Frank Copeland, Communications Division and Office of Professional Standards



Captain Frank Copeland is the commander of the Communications/Addressing Division and the Office of Professional Standards. He is responsible for managing the daily operations of the 911 center and conducting inquiries and investigations into allegations of serious misconduct by any Gilmer County Sheriff's Office employee.

Captain Copeland also serves as the public information officer for the Sheriff's Office and is the agency's Crisis Negotiation Team Leader.

Captain Copeland is a twenty-two year veteran law enforcement officer, beginning his career in Moultrie, Georgia in 1998. He also served with the Woodstock and Holly Springs, Georgia Police Departments before joining the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office in 2005.

During his law enforcement career, Captain Copeland has served in such varied positions as a patrol officer, detective, uniform division commander, administrative division commander and he also served as the interim Chief of Police in Holly Springs, Georgia.

Since joining our agency, Captain Copeland has served as a patrol deputy, court deputy, detective, internal affairs investigator, public information officer, and division commander.

Captain Copeland serves as the commander of the Human Resources, Sexual Offender and Background Investigations and Certification Units.

Captain Copeland is a member of the National Internal Affairs Investigators Association. He is also a State of Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Assessor and Certification Manager. Captain Copeland is certified as an Accreditation Manager by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA)

Captain Copeland is a graduate of the State of Georgia's Law Enforcement Professional Management Program. During his career, Captain Copeland has completed over 1,900 hours of advanced and in-service training.

Captain Howard Ensley, Court Services Division



Captain Howard Ensley commands the Court Services Division. He is responsible for the administration of the division and oversees all of its functions and operations.

Captain Ensley is a forty seven year veteran peace officer, beginning his career with the Murray County Georgia Sheriff's Office in 1973. Prior to joining our agency in March 2013, Howard Ensley served the citizens of Murray County as their Sheriff for twenty four years.

Howard Ensley served as a deputy in the Court Services Division prior to his promotion to lieutenant and assignment as the Court Services Watch Commander. On April 4, 2016, he was promoted to captain and assumed command of the Court Services Division.

Captain Ensley is a 2001 graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy. He also is a graduate of the Georgia Sheriff's Academy and the Cobb County Police Academy. Captain Ensley is a past president of the Georgia Sheriff's Youth Home and is an active member of the Georgia Sheriff's Association. He has attained over 1,900 hours of advanced and specialized training.

During his long and distinguished career, Howard Ensley has dedicated himself to the advancement and betterment of all phases of law enforcement. Captain Ensley enjoys spending his off duty time on his small farm and especially enjoys his time with his grandchildren.

Captain Howard Ensley holds the distinction of being the longest active serving law enforcement officer in the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office.

Captain Brian Shepard, Criminal Investigations Division



Captain Brian Shepard is the commander of the Criminal Investigations Division. He is a twenty one year veteran of law enforcement. Captain Shepard began his law enforcement career as a patrol officer with the Marion, South Carolina Police Department in 1999. In January, 2002, he was hired as a patrol officer and K-9 handler by the Griffin, Georgia Police Department. Captain Shepard attained the rank of sergeant while with the Griffin PD.

In April, 2008, Brian Shepard was hired by the Butts County, Georgia Sheriff's Office where he served as a patrol deputy and K-9 handler. Upon his promotion to sergeant, he was assigned to the Butts County narcotics unit.

In May, 2013, Brian Shepard began his career with the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office. He was assigned to the uniformed patrol division as a patrol deputy and K-9 handler. In April 2016, Brian Shepard was promoted to sergeant and assigned to supervise a patrol shift. While in the uniformed patrol division, Captain Shepard also served as K-9 supervisor and field training coordinator.

In January 2018, Brian Shepard was promoted to the rank of Captain and assigned to his present position.

Captain Carol Daves, B.S, M.P.A., Detention Division



Captain Carol Daves commands the Detention Division of the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office. In this assignment, Captain Daves serves as the administrative and operational head of the Adult Detention Center

Captain Daves is a twenty year veteran law enforcement officer. All of her law enforcement experience has been with the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office. During her tenure with our agency, Captain Daves has served as a radio dispatcher, patrol deputy, juvenile crimes detective and is currently assigned as the commander of the detention division. Captain Daves' experience also includes service as a special needs teacher in Cherokee County, Georgia and as a social services manager with the Division of Family and Children Services in Forsyth County, Georgia.

Captain Daves holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Brenau University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Columbus State University.

She graduated from the North Central Georgia Law Enforcement Academy in 1992.

Captain Daves graduated from the Georgia Law Enforcement Professional Management Program and the Georgia Law Enforcement Command College.

During her career, Captain Daves has received over 1,200 hours of advanced peace officer training.

Captain Daves proudly holds the distinction of being the first female to serve as a deputy sheriff with the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office.

Captain Brian Crump, Uniformed Patrol Division



Captain Brian Crump is the commander of the Uniformed Patrol Division. He is responsible for the administration and operation of this division.

Captain Brian Crump is an eighteen year veteran law enforcement officer. He began his career with the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office in 2002 as a detention officer. Captain Crump attended the basic law enforcement academy in 2003 and after graduation was assigned as a deputy in uniformed patrol. Brian Crump spent four years in uniformed patrol working both day and night shifts. He also was briefly assigned to the Court Services Division during this time. In 2007, he was promoted to sergeant and assigned as a shift supervisor and field training officer in the Field Operations Division. In 2012, Brian Crump was promoted to lieutenant and assigned as a shift commander at the Adult Detention Center.

In 2013, then Lieutenant Crump was transferred from the Detention Division to the Field Operations Division where he assumed duties as the patrol night shift watch commander.

On April 4, 2016, Brian Crump was promoted to Captain and assigned as the Uniformed Patrol Division Commander.

Captain Crump is a graduate of the State of Georgia Law Enforcement Professional Management program. He is also a recognized traffic accident reconstruction expert, and a certified field training officer. In recognition of his experience and continuing advanced training, Captain Crump has obtained the highly respected Georgia Sheriff's Association Senior Deputy Certification.

In addition to his duties as Uniformed Patrol Division Commander, Captain Crump also serves as the senior advisor for the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post. He is a founding member of the agency's Honor Guard and is active in the GCSO Citizens Law Enforcement Academy as a presenter. Captain Crump is a certified Crisis Intervention Team member.

During his career, Captain Crump has completed over 2,100 hours of advanced training.

Captain Crump has received several awards from the Mothers against Drunk Driving organization for his accomplishments and commitment to their cause. Captain Crump was named Field Operations Division Deputy of the Year in 2009.

Lieutenant George D. Ellis, Certification Manager



Lieutenant George Ellis serves as the agency's state law enforcement certification manager. He also serves as the agency grant manager and coordinator of the citizen law enforcement academy.

Lieutenant Ellis is a forty two year law enforcement veteran, beginning his career in 1978 with the Winter Springs, Florida Police Department. In 1979, he was hired by the Orange County, Florida Sheriff's Office. He retired from that agency in September, 2005 as a Lieutenant after a 26 year career.

During his career, Lieutenant Ellis has worked in uniformed patrol, motorcycle and DUI units, street vice, narcotics and organized crime units, community affairs, SWAT, underwater search and recovery, honor guard and training. He was an instructor in the Central Florida Criminal Justice Institute in Orlando, Florida for over 20 years. He is certified as police motorcycle instructor, and while in Florida conducted investigations related to cults and ritual related crimes.

George Ellis joined the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office in July 2008 as a patrol deputy. In November 2009, he was appointed to his current position by Sheriff Nicholson. He was promoted to sergeant in August 2012, and to lieutenant on January 5, 2015.

Lieutenant Ellis holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice Administration from Columbia College. He is a graduate of the 106th Administrative Officers Course, and the 33rd Command Officer Development Course at the University of Louisville's Southern Police Institute. During his career, Lieutenant Ellis has completed over 5,000 hours of advanced and in-service training.

Lieutenant Ellis is a State of Georgia certified criminal justice instructor, field training officer and departmental training officer. He is Georgia crisis intervention team qualified.

George Ellis is a State of Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Manager and Assessor. He is also qualified as a CALEA Accreditation Manager.

Lieutenant Ellis is a United States Marine Corps veteran having served from 1974 through 1978 as an infantryman. He was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps in 1978 holding the rank of Corporal.

He graduated from Winter Park High School in Winter Park, Florida in 1974.

General Staff

Uniformed Patrol Division Watch Commander



Lieutenant Dan King, Night Watch Commander

Lieutenant Dan King is a twenty-two year law enforcement veteran. He began his career in 1998 with the Atlanta, Georgia Police Department, patrolling the areas of Little Five Points and East Atlanta. In 1999, Dan King moved with his family to Cherokee County, Georgia and he began his career with the Woodstock Police Department.

Dan King spent twelve years with the Woodstock P.D., rising to the rank of Captain. He served as a detective, traffic unit commander, community relations commander and field operations commander.

Lieutenant King's service with the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office began in July 2013. He has served as a patrol deputy, detective, detention shift supervisor, patrol shift supervisor and field training officer with our agency prior to his current assignment.

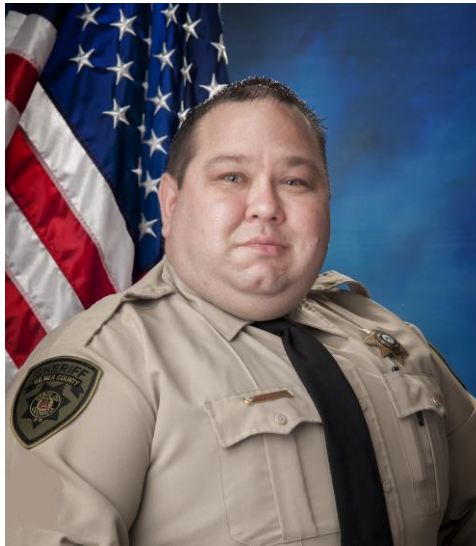
Dan King was promoted to lieutenant on June 1, 2019, and assumed the duties of the night shift watch commander in the uniformed patrol division.

Lieutenant Dan King is a certified instructor, speed detection instructor, field training officer and also holds a certification as a detention officer.

During his career, Dan King had obtained over 3,100 hours of advanced and specialized training. He is a graduate of the State of Georgia Law Enforcement Professional Management Program, and Northwestern University's Command College.

Lieutenant King served in the United States Army prior to starting his law enforcement career.

Adult Detention Center Watch Commanders



Lieutenant Chris Couch, Day Shift Watch Commander

Lieutenant Christopher Couch is an eleven year veteran law enforcement officer. He served as a detention officer prior to successfully completing the basic law enforcement academy in 2010. Lieutenant Couch has spent his entire career as a member of the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office, serving as a detention officer, detention sergeant, uniformed patrol deputy and sergeant.

In August 2017, Christopher Couch was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and assumed his current duties as the adult detention center day shift watch commander.

Lieutenant Couch was named the 2009 detention division officer of the year while serving as a detention officer. He is a graduate of the State of Georgia Law Enforcement Professional Management Program and has over 1,400 hours of advanced and in-service training. Christopher Couch is a certified field training officer.

Lieutenant Couch graduated from Pickens High School and resides in Pickens County with his wife and two children.



Lieutenant Evan Smith, Night Shift Watch Commander

Lieutenant Evan Smith serves as the night shift watch commander at the Gilmer County Adult Detention Center.

Lieutenant Smith is a ten year veteran law enforcement officer. He served as a detention officer prior to completing the basic law enforcement academy in 2012. Evan Smith has spent his entire law enforcement career serving the citizens of Gilmer County. He has held positions as a detention officer, detention corporal and sergeant, uniformed patrol deputy, deputy first class and sergeant.

Lieutenant Smith was serving as a night shift sergeant in uniformed patrol when, in February 2019, he was promoted to lieutenant and assumed his present duties as the night shift watch commander at the adult detention center.

Evan Smith is a United States Navy veteran, serving from 1998 until 2006. He also served in the United States Army Reserve from 2011 through 2017.

Lieutenant Smith has attended over 1,100 hours of advanced and in service training during his career. He received the Detention Officer of the Month Award for March 2019.

Evan Smith graduated from North Cobb High School in 1994.

Court Services Watch Commander



Lieutenant James Knight

Lieutenant James Knight serves as the Court Security Watch Commander. He is responsible for scheduling and overseeing the daily operations of the personnel assigned to the Court Services Division. Lieutenant Knight also manages the safety and security functions at the Gilmer County Courthouse.

James Knight is a sixteen year veteran law enforcement officer, beginning his career with the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office in 2004. Lieutenant Knight has served as a detention officer, patrol deputy and K-9 deputy. In 2011, he was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to supervise a uniformed patrol shift.

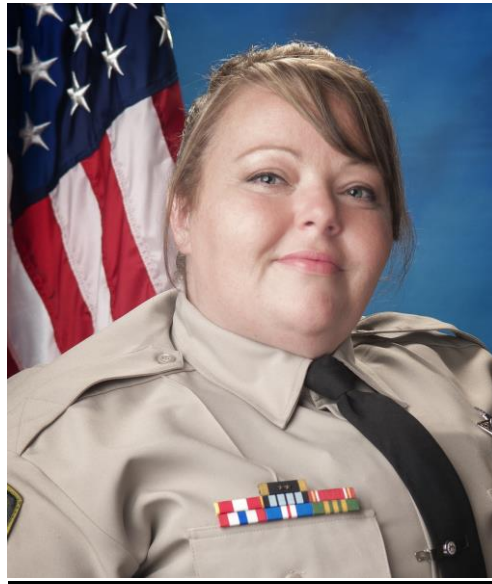
On April 4, 2016, James Knight was promoted to Lieutenant and assigned as the court security watch commander.

Lieutenant Knight is a graduate of the State of Georgia Law Enforcement Professional Management Program and has completed over 1,700 hours of advanced training.

James Knight is a 1991 graduate of Fannin High School. He is dedicated to serving and protecting the citizens of Gilmer County.

Lieutenant Knight enjoys spending his off duty time with his wife and children.

School Resource Unit Commander



Lieutenant Misty Williams

Lieutenant Misty Williams serves as the School Resource Unit commander. She is a twenty year veteran law enforcement officer, all of which has been with the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office.

Lieutenant Williams began her law enforcement career in March, 2000. Misty Williams graduated from the North Central Georgia Law Enforcement Academy, and, at the time, became the third female to serve as a deputy in Gilmer County.

During her career, Lieutenant Williams has served as a detention officer, detention sergeant, patrol deputy, court services deputy, and communications officer. She was assigned as a school resource deputy in 2013. Misty Williams was awarded the School Resource Officer of the Year award by Sheriff Nicholson that same year.

She was promoted to Corporal in 2015, Sergeant in 2018, and Lieutenant in 2019, all while assigned to the SRO unit. Lieutenant Williams is a graduate of the State of Georgia's Law Enforcement Management Program and had completed over 2,200 hours of advanced, specialized and in-service training.

Lieutenant Williams is a certified School Resource Officer and certified CHAMPS instructor. She is also actively involved with the agency's Explorer post. She is a member of the Georgia Gang Investigator Association.

Misty Williams also graduated from the inaugural Intermediate Gang Investigator course held in 2018.

Lieutenant Williams is a native of Gilmer County, and graduated from Gilmer High School in 1998.

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

The Gilmer County Sheriff's Office Communications Division is commanded by Captain Frank Copeland. This division is located in a new, state of the art communications center which opened in 2009.



Communications Division officers staff the communications center 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Communications Division personnel work 12 hour shifts. Each shift is supervised by a communications sergeant.

Division operators are responsible for all public safety related communications within Gilmer County. Operators are responsible for receiving all 911 emergency calls and non-emergency calls on the 706-635-8911 non-emergency telephone line.

The Sheriff's Office Communications Division is responsible for dispatching and communications support for the following agencies:

- Gilmer County Sheriff's Office
- Gilmer County Fire/Rescue Department
- Gilmer County Emergency Medical Service
- City of Ellijay Police Department
- City of Ellijay Fire Department
- City of East Ellijay Police Department

Communications officers are considered the "life line" for the law enforcement, fire service and emergency medical personnel of Gilmer County. Communications personnel are the vital link between a citizen in crisis or in need and the public safety personnel sworn to protect and serve.

Communications officers are also tasked with running teletype checks for wanted persons and warrants checks.

They conduct vehicle registration and tag checks when requested by law enforcement officers. Driver's license status checks are also performed by communications officers. The Communications Division conducts criminal background checks for the public upon request.

The Communications Division serves as Gilmer County's link to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) as well as the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC). All law enforcement agencies in Gilmer County make inquiries to NCIC and GCIC through our communications center.

Enhanced 911

The Gilmer County Sheriff's Office Communications Center is equipped with an Enhanced 911 (E-911) system. The Federal Communications Commission is rolling the E-911 system out in three phases. The Gilmer County Sheriff's Office E-911 system is in Phase II which is the most advanced of the three. When a call comes in to the GCSO Communications Center, the operator is provided automatically with the following information:

Landline Telephone:

- Calling Telephone Number and Physical Address
- Name that the telephone number is registered in
- Prior call history at address

Cellular Telephone:

- Calling Cellular Telephone Number
- Cellular Carrier
- Calls can be tracked on map

A little known fact is that a person can dial 911 from a cellular telephone even if it is not active. All that is needed is power and a signal.

Computer Aided Dispatch

Computer Aided Dispatch, commonly referred to as CAD, is used to enter all information received from a 911 or non-emergency caller. This information is entered into the computer by the communications officer. The CAD tracks all information such as the time the call was received and the time it was dispatched. All of these data are then available for future reference and as information to units responding to the same address on subsequent calls for service. The system is fully compatible with Mobile Data Terminals (In-vehicle computers) when this technology is obtained by Gilmer County.



Addressing

The Addressing and Mapping Section is an integral part of the Communications Division. The addressing and Mapping section determines the addresses of all new construction in Gilmer County. Due to the predominately rural nature of Gilmer County, addressing is done via a “metering system.” This system measures distances from the beginning of a road to the location’s driveway. Public safety services are then able to know the approximate distance to an address from an intersection or beginning of a road.

The section also changes addresses when required and provides descriptions of structures at a location to the public safety units responding. Addressing and Mapping section personnel assist the public with concerns they might have regarding their address. Correct addresses can be confirmed through the section’s computer database which is updated daily. This section provides current address information to other county agencies such as the Tax Assessor and county planning and zoning.

The Addressing and Mapping Section has a Geographical Information System which keeps mapping current throughout Gilmer County. This information is provided to communications officers via the computer aided dispatch system and provides the most up to date data possible. This provides emergency services units with timely information on new or existing streets, structures, forest service trails and landmarks. This function is invaluable in assisting public safety units in responding in a timely manner to the correct locations when called.

Other duties of the Addressing and Mapping Section are:

- Assists the public with Criminal History and Open Records requests
- Maintains the telephone database which ensures the proper telephone number is reflected when a call for service is received by the communications center
- Maintains a database of all addresses in Gilmer County including a description of each address
- Developed and maintains a direction guide for every road in Gilmer County
- Developed and maintains an Emergency Service Number (ESN) database which ensures the correct public safety personnel respond to any call for assistance within Gilmer County

COMMUNITY RESOURCES DIVISION

The Community Resources Division is commanded by Major Michael Gobble. The division was created by Sheriff Nicholson in January of 2013 in furtherance of the goal of making the agency more responsive to the community that it serves. The Community Resources Division provides numerous citizen oriented programs such as safety programs, crime prevention and awareness presentations and other interactive community based activities. The School Resource Unit is the primary unit assigned to the Community Resources Division.



The Gilmer County Sheriff's Office School Resource Unit consists of one Lieutenant, one Sergeant, and five deputies. Each member of this unit has received specialized training as a school resource officer. Each School Resource Deputy is also certified as a Georgia Sheriff's Association C.H.A.M.P.S (Choosing Healthy Activities and Methods Promoting Safety) instructor.

The School Resource deputies are assigned to one or more schools within the Gilmer County School System.

When schools are in session, the School Resource Deputies spend their daily tours of duty at their assigned schools.

While at their assigned schools, Resource Deputies provide a variety of services:

- Act as a highly visible law enforcement representative on the school campus providing safety and security for students, faculty and staff, and visitors

- Act as an extension of the school administration in matters involving crimes or in unique situations as requested by the administration
- Provide a positive role model for the students
- Conduct the 12 week course of instruction in the Georgia Sheriff's Association approved C.H.A.M.P.S. (Choosing Healthy Activities and Methods Promoting Safety) Course for all fifth grade students.



- Act as a resource for school administration, teachers and staff, students and parents in dealing with non-criminal problems or issues
- Provide security at school related extracurricular activities, such as sporting events
- Make presentations to students, faculty and staff in matters related to gangs, drug or alcohol abuse, school violence, bullying and other crime related issues

The agency's School Resource Deputies play a vital role in maintaining a safe and secure learning environment for students on campus as well as giving students the opportunity to interact with the deputies on a personal, non-enforcement level.

In addition to the duties the School Resource Deputies perform at their schools, they are an important part of the Sheriff's Office community relations function. Some of the many services that our School Resource Deputies provided to the community during 2020 were:

- Providing Security for the Domestic Violence Task Force
- MADD and SADD classes regarding impaired driving
- Firearms Safety courses to area Boy Scouts
- Career Day presentations at Gilmer County Schools
- Babysitting Safety Classes
- Participating in the County's "Teen Maze" program

All of Gilmer County's School Resource Deputies are members of the Georgia Association of School Resource Officers.

Deputies of the School Resource Unit make presentations at Gilmer High School Career Day, present gang awareness classes, alcohol and drug awareness classes, DUI prevention demonstrations, and racism awareness classes. Classes in bullying prevention and awareness were also conducted by School Resource Deputies in Gilmer County schools.

The School Resource Unit also provides valuable assistance to the Uniformed Patrol and Court Services Divisions by providing additional personnel to these units when schools are not in session.

COURT SERVICES DIVISION



The Court Services Division is commanded by Captain Howard Ensley. The Court Services Division is based out of the Gilmer County Courthouse and is tasked with numerous responsibilities. The Court Services Division is part of the Headquarters Bureau and consists of one Captain, one Lieutenant, one Sergeant, two Corporals, five full-time sworn Deputies, a warrants clerk and an administrative assistant.



This Division is primarily responsible for the security of the courthouse and also for the safety of Judges, jurors, attorneys, courthouse employees and visitors to the building. These deputies are tasked with ensuring the safe and undisturbed functioning of the courthouse.

The Court Services Division is also responsible for providing security at non court related activities within the courthouse such as County Commission meetings.

The Court Services Division is responsible for serving and executing arrest warrants, civil process, such as evictions and writs, as well as summons, probate orders and condemnations.

Another important function of the Court Services Division is that of extraditions and prisoner transport. The deputies of the Court Services Division are tasked with traveling out of the county and on occasion outside of the State of Georgia to return fugitives to Gilmer County to face trial. Deputies assigned to this division are also tasked with transporting convicted felons to state prisons as well as returning them to Gilmer County for any required court proceedings.

The Court Services Division is also responsible for transporting juvenile offenders to and from juvenile detention facilities.

Deputies of the Court Services Division serve and execute mental health evaluation and involuntary commitment orders. Court Services Division deputies also transport these individuals to appropriate medical or mental health facilities within Gilmer County and outside our county.

The Court Services Division conducts fingerprint checks to ensure that applicants for firearms permits in Gilmer County meet standards set by the State of Georgia.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION



The Criminal Investigations Division is commanded by Captain Brian Shepard.

This division consists of the Criminal Investigations Unit and the newly created Crime Suppression Unit. The Criminal Investigations Unit is responsible for conducting follow up investigations on preliminary reports submitted from the uniformed patrol division or other sources. The Crime Suppression Unit is primarily responsible for targeting violent criminals and those with outstanding felony warrants.

The Criminal Investigations Division is staffed by one captain, three detective sergeants, one crime suppression unit sergeant, two detective corporals, one detective first class and two crime suppression unit deputies first class, who have received specialized training in the field of investigations. There is also one K-9 assigned to the crime suppression unit.

Criminal Investigations Unit

The detectives investigate crimes against persons (such as assault, battery, robbery, stalking, kidnapping, sexual assault, rape, terroristic threats and domestic violence) and crimes against property (such as burglary, theft, criminal damage and auto theft). They also investigate suspicious or unattended deaths and suicides.

This unit is also responsible for investigating all crimes against children, such as cruelty to children, child molestation, enticing children and statutory rape. Missing adults and juvenile cases are also investigated by Criminal Investigations Unit.

While each detective in the Criminal Investigations Unit is trained as a generalist and is able to conduct investigations of reported crimes of any type, they are also trained in a specific area of investigations.

All of the detectives are assigned to one (or more) specific investigative duty:

- **General Assignment**
- **Crime Scene**
- **Burglary**
- **Financial Crimes**
- **Crimes against Children**
- **Family Violence**

At least two detectives are assigned to each of the above investigative areas.

The Criminal Investigations Unit maintains a Crime Scene Unit consisting of two trained detectives. The Crime Scene Detectives process and collect evidence as well as prepare any required documentation for presentation in subsequent court proceedings. The Crime Scene detectives also photograph or video tape items of evidentiary value found at crime scenes.

The Criminal Investigations Unit works closely with the Appalachian Circuit District Attorney's Office, partnering with assistant district attorneys and their investigators in preparing cases for successful prosecutions.

The Criminal Investigations Unit is also responsible for the agency Property and Evidence facility. All evidence, contraband and property obtained or seized by deputies is stored in this facility. The Criminal Investigations Unit is tasked with ensuring the security and accountability of all property and evidence held by the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office. One detective is assigned the additional duties of Property and Evidence custodian.

The Criminal Investigations Unit has one detective trained as a forensic interviewer of child victims. This detective works hand in hand with the Appalachian Children's Center while conducting criminal investigations involving child victims.

The Criminal Investigations Unit conducts regular "roll call" meetings with each shift in the Uniformed Patrol section. These meetings encourage a closer working relationship between detectives and patrol deputies which results in a better exchange of information leading to a higher clearance rate for reported crimes.

The Criminal Investigations Unit also conducts regularly scheduled multi-agency intelligence meetings. These meetings with other agencies develop better cooperation between different organizations and provide information that assists in identifying suspects conducting their crimes across jurisdictional boundaries.

The Criminal Investigations Unit also partners with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation on major case and drug related investigations.

Crime Suppression Unit (CSU)

The Crime Suppression Unit was formed at the direction of Sheriff Nicholson on June 1, 2019. The unit is made up of a sergeant and two deputies, one of which is a K-9 handler. The unit is responsible for serving arrest warrants on violent or dangerous felons, other high risk arrest warrants and search warrants. The CSU also conducts extra patrols in areas that have experienced a rise in criminal activity, narcotics investigations and directed traffic enforcement.

The personnel assigned to the CSU have received additional advanced and specialized training that makes them better equipped to combat criminal activity in our county. The CSU works cooperatively with the Criminal Investigations Unit, Uniformed Patrol Division and other agencies such as the United States Marshal's Service.

DETENTION DIVISION



The Gilmer County Sheriff's Office Detention Division is commanded by Captain Carol Daves. The Gilmer County Adult Detention Center is located at 106 Brett Dickey Memorial Drive. The Adult Detention Center staff consists of six certified peace officers, seventeen uniformed detention officers and four civilian support personnel. The Adult Detention Center is responsible for securely housing suspects arrested in Gilmer County while awaiting trial, persons convicted of misdemeanors and sentenced to jail for up to twelve months and convicted felons awaiting transfer to state prisons to begin their sentences. All persons taken into custody in Gilmer County, no matter what law enforcement agency made the arrest, are processed at the Adult Detention Center.

Detainee in the Adult Detention Center are separated by gender. Juveniles who are taken into custody may be booked at the Adult Detention Center but are not housed there unless they have been adjudicated as an adult by a competent court.

While housed at the Adult Detention Center, detainees are provided with all necessary medical and dental treatment.

Detainees are provided access to a law library, exercise area and regularly scheduled visitation with family and friends. Detainee workers, under the close supervision of detention officers, conduct building maintenance, laundry service, food preparation and general upkeep of the facility. In addition to Detention Center security and detainee supervision duties, detention officers maintain security and control of detainees being treated at outside medical facilities, book incoming suspects and out process detainees being released. Adult Detention Center officers are also tasked with ensuring the safety of visitors to the facility.

The Adult Detention Center has a state of the art automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS) that is connected directly to state and federal fingerprint data bases. This system makes identifying persons via fingerprints a matter of minutes instead of days or weeks.

The Adult Detention Center is also the location of the agency's Intoxilyzer 9000 unit which is used to measure the breath alcohol level of persons submitting to the test.

UNIFORMED PATROL DIVISION



The Uniformed Patrol Division is commanded by Captain Brian Crump. This division is part of the Field Operations Bureau. The Uniformed Patrol Division consists of the following units:

- Uniformed Patrol Section
- Explorer Post #442
- Training Unit

Uniformed Patrol Section

The deputies of the Uniformed Patrol Section are the most visible members of the agency. The Uniformed Patrol Section consists of 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, 5 Sergeants, 6 Corporals and 8 Deputies. Uniformed Patrol deputies are the first responders to a citizen's call for law enforcement services within the unincorporated areas of Gilmer County. Uniformed Patrol deputies are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They work 12 hour shifts. There are two shifts, one day and one evening. Each shift is commanded by a Lieutenant who acts as Watch Commander. The on-duty deputies are supervised by a shift Sergeant. Gilmer County is divided into three patrol zones, each of which has at least one deputy assigned.

Uniformed Patrol deputies are tasked with conducting preventative patrol, responding to both emergency and non-emergency requests for service, conducting preliminary investigations and writing initial reports, and making physical arrests when required.

Uniformed Patrol deputies also investigate traffic crashes, conduct traffic related enforcement and DUI enforcement.

Training Unit

One of the most important functions in any professional law enforcement agency is that of training. Sheriff Nicholson is committed to maintaining the highest level of training within our agency. This unit is responsible for coordinating the training function within the Sheriff's Office. The State of Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) requires 20 hours of in-service training annually for law enforcement officers to maintain state certification. Agency policy requires that each sworn deputy receive 30 hours of training annually. During 2020, we averaged more than 50 hours of training for sworn personnel. This number was significantly lower than in previous years due to restrictions in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Training included but is not limited to:

- Firearms requalification
- Defensive Tactics
- NARCAN
- First Aid and CPR refresher Training
- Scenario Based Tactical Training
- Legal Updates

In addition to the in-service training provided by the Sheriff's Office, all personnel are encouraged to apply for advanced training courses outside the agency at facilities such as the Georgia Public Safety Training Center.

Explorer Post #442



The Gilmer County Sheriff's Office Explorer Program was developed to educate and involve young citizens in law enforcement, to interest them in possible law enforcement careers and to build mutual understanding between our youth and law enforcement. The educational aspect of exploring provides knowledge of the law enforcement function in one's community, whether one enters the career of law enforcement or not. Through involvement, the Explorer Program establishes an awareness of the complexities of police service.

The Gilmer County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post was chartered in 2008 by former deputies Sam Smith and James "Slugger" Strawbridge. Then Sergeant Brian Crump took over the post in 2010 after it had been idle for approximately one year. The Post was re-chartered in 2010 and consisted of three explorers, Senior Post Advisor Captain Brian Crump and associate advisors Sergeant Jason Reed and Sergeant Scott Camp. The post grew slowly for the first couple of years and then began to grow more rapidly. Sergeant Clint Waldrip joined the post in 2011 as an associate advisor.

When not training for competitions, the explorers and their advisors meet on a bi-weekly basis. Our meetings consist of discussions and scenario based training on law enforcement topics.

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

The Office of the Sheriff consists of Sheriff, Stacy L. Nicholson, Chief Deputy Randy Moore, the Human Resources Unit, the State Certification Unit, and the Office of Professional Standards. The Office of the Sheriff is located at the Gilmer County Courthouse.

The Office of the Sheriff is the executive staff organization of our agency. It also functions as the administrative section. All members of the Office of the Sheriff report directly to Sheriff Nicholson or Chief Deputy Moore.

Human Resources Unit

The Human Resources Unit reports directly to the Chief Deputy. This unit is responsible for new applicant processing, employee records management, benefit management and worker's compensation claims processing.

Office of Professional Standards

The Office of Professional Standards is commanded by Captain Frank Copeland. In addition to the traditional "internal affairs" responsibility, the Office of Professional Standards also performs additional duties that ensure citizens and visitors to Gilmer County receive the most effective and efficient law enforcement services possible.

The Office of Professional Standards is divided into three units, each of which performs unique functions that contribute to maintaining and improving the outstanding service our agency provides to the community.

Internal Affairs Section

The Internal Affairs Unit was established by Sheriff Nicholson to provide the agency's "quality control" function. This Unit ensures that all personnel conduct their daily duties in accordance with Sheriff's Office policies and procedures as well as state and federal laws.

When a complaint of a serious nature is received, it is investigated by the Internal Affairs Unit. Allegations of a Sheriff's Office employee's inappropriate behavior, misconduct or failing to abide by agency policy or procedures are generally investigated by the Internal Affairs Unit. Complaints that are investigated by Internal Affairs:

- Allegations of Corruption and Perjury
- Gross Misconduct
- Allegations of Excessive Force or Brutality
- Use of Deadly Force
- Civil Rights Violations

- Sexual Harassment Complaints
- Harassment in the Workplace
- Any Administrative Investigations at the direction of the Sheriff

Allegations of a less serious nature are generally referred to the accused employee's division for investigation.

Certification Unit

This unit was created by Sheriff Nicholson in 2009 and is responsible for ensuring that the agency maintains compliance with all required standards of the Georgia Law Enforcement Certification program. In 2008, the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office became one of only 12 Sheriff's Offices in the State of Georgia to attain the coveted and respected Law Enforcement Certification.

The agency's certification is valid for three years. This program is voluntary and being awarded this certification reflects that the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office is among the "best of the best" of law enforcement agencies in the State of Georgia.

In February 2020 the agency underwent a thorough inspection by state assessors and was found to be in compliance with all applicable state standards. The Sheriff's Office was re-certified for three years as a result of this inspection.

The Certification Unit is also tasked with researching, applying for and administering funding through federal, state and private sector sources via grant programs. Obtaining funding through grants provides the agency with the ability to purchase state of the art equipment, technology and training that would not be available through the Sheriff's Office fiscal year budget. Funding through grants relieves some of the burden on already hard pressed budgets.

The Certification Unit became responsible for administering and coordinating the Citizens Law Enforcement Academy upon its creation in 2011.

Sexual Offender Registry and Background Investigations Unit

The Sexual Offender Registry and Background Investigations Unit is responsible for registering and tracking of all sex offenders located in Gilmer County in accordance with state and federal requirements. This unit is also tasked with conducting thorough and complete background checks on all applicants seeking employment with the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office.

GILMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE EMPLOYEE of the YEAR AWARDS for 2020

Sheriff Nicholson is proud to recognize these employees for their outstanding job performance during 2020:

Communications Officer of the Year: **Sergeant Ashley Laney**

Detention Officer of the Year: **Detention Officer First Class Arthur Margis**

Deputy Sheriff of the Year Court Services: **Deputy Sheriff Michal Morrison**

Deputy Sheriff of the Year Uniformed Patrol: **Deputy First Class Brandon Cass**

Deputy Sheriff of the Year School Resource Unit: **Sergeant Greg Dotson**

Detective of the Year: **Detective Russell Henson**

Citizen's Law Enforcement Academy

In May, 2011, at the direction of Sheriff Nicholson, the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office began the process of creating a Civilian Law Enforcement Academy (CLEA). In June, 2011 Sheriff Nicholson authorized the initial session of our CLEA and it began in August, 2011.

The course is conducted by the Gilmer County Sheriff's Office and all presenters in this program are Gilmer County Sheriff's Office employees. Topics include law and criminal procedures, conducting traffic stops, use of force, K-9 demonstrations, ride-alongs with patrol deputies and much more.

The primary goal of the program is to build a closer bond between the community and the agency through communication and education.

Students have full access to the sheriff's office, learning about everything from communications to court room security. Students do ride-alongs with uniform patrol deputies and other units. The students find CLEA an "eye-opening" experience and it gives them a new appreciation of the excellent service the sheriff's office provides. One student observed "This is a program that every citizen of Gilmer County should participate in!"

The Citizens Law Enforcement Academy is a free 14 week course that meets from 7 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. on consecutive Tuesdays.

The Academy is open to those who live or work in Gilmer County and are at least 21 years of age.

The Academy provides students with personal training and provides knowledge of law enforcement techniques and procedures in a friendly environment.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020, the sheriff's office did not present a CLEA session. The agency remains committed to this valuable program and will schedule future sessions when it is safe to resume.

Anyone interested in the CLEA may contact the course coordinator, Lieutenant George Ellis at 706-515-2654 or gellis@gilmersheriff.com



Gilmer County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Stacy L. Nicholson
"A Professional Law Enforcement Agency"



Agency Contacts

Stacy Nicholson, Sheriff, sheriffnicholson@ellijay.com 706-635-4162, Fax-706-635-4172

Chief Deputy Randy Moore, chief.moore@gilmersheriff.com 706-635-4643, Fax-706-635-4641
1 Broad Street, Suite 103, Ellijay, Georgia 30540

Headquarters Bureau- 706-635-4162, Fax-706-635-4172
1 Broad Street, Suite 103, Ellijay, Georgia 30540
Major Michael Gobble, Commanding. Major.gobble@gilmersheriff.com

Field Operations Bureau- 706-515-2868, Fax- 706-515-2869
1561 S. Main Street, Ellijay, Georgia 30540
Major Adam Smith, Commanding. asmith@gilmersheriff.com

Court Services Division-706-635-4162, Fax-706-635-4172
1 Broad Street, Suite 103, Ellijay Ga. 30540
Captain Howard Ensley, Commanding. capt.ensley@gilmersheriff.com

Criminal Investigations Division-706-635-4646, Fax-706-635-4604
9 Southside Square, Ellijay, Ga. 30540
Captain Brian Shepard, Commanding. bshepard@gilmersheriff.com

Communications Division- 911/Communications Center- 1 Broad Street, Suite 10, Ellijay, Ga. 30540
Emergency- 911
Non-Emergency- 706-635-8911
Addressing- 1 Broad Street, Suite 10, Ellijay, Ga. 30540, 706-635-4653, Fax-706-635-4699
Captain Frank Copeland, Commanding. fcopeland@gilmersheriff.com

Community Resources Division- 706-515-2612, Fax-706-635-4641
1 Broad Street, Suite 10, Ellijay, Ga. 30540
Major Michael Gobble, Commanding. Major.gobble@gilmersheriff.com

Detention Division- 706-635-4625, Fax- 635-6625
Adult Detention Center-106 Brett Dickey Memorial Drive, Ellijay, Ga. 30536
Captain Carol Daves, Commanding. cdaves@gilmersheriff.com

Uniformed Patrol Division-706-515-2868, Fax- 706-515-2869

1561 S. Main Street, Ellijay, Ga. 30540

Captain Brian Crump, Commanding. bcrump@gilmersheriff.com

Office of Professional Standards-706-515-2657, Fax-706-635-4641

1 Broad Street, Suite 103, Ellijay, Ga. 30540

Captain Frank Copeland, Commanding. fcopeland@gilmersheriff.com



Gilmer County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Stacy L. Nicholson

"A Professional Law Enforcement Agency"



Useful Telephone Numbers

All Emergencies	911
Non-Emergency	706-635-8911
Georgia State Patrol	706-632-2215
Georgia Bureau of Investigation	1-888-233-5680
Georgia Driver License Office (Blue Ridge)	706-935-5268
Georgia Probation Office	706-635-5125
Gilmer County Tax Commissioner's Office (Motor Vehicle Tags)	706-635-4762
City of Ellijay Police Department	706-635-7430
City of East Ellijay Police Department	706-276-3111
Superior Court	706-635-4462
Probate Court	706-635-4763
Magistrate Court	706-635-2515
District Attorney's Office	706-635-5381
Public Defender's Office	706-698-7322
Division of Family and Children Services	706-635-2361

In Memoriam



Deputy Sheriff Brett C. Dickey

End of Watch: Tuesday, February 13, 1996

Deputy Sheriff Brett Dickey, a four year veteran, was shot and killed in the line of duty while attempting to serve an arrest warrant. Deputy Dickey was thirty years old.

We will never forget his ultimate sacrifice while protecting the citizens of Gilmer County.

“Blessed are the Peacemakers:

For they shall be called the children of God”

Matthew 5:9

ROLL OF HONOR

Gilmer County Sheriff's Office Medal of Valor Recipients

Deputy Sheriff Brett Dickey	February 13, 1996
Deputy Sheriff Mark Sanford	February 13, 1996
Deputy Sheriff Christopher "Bo" Hughes	June 1, 2012

Gilmer County Sheriff's Office Medal of Merit Recipients

Ms. Danielle Weaver	May 14, 2013
Deputy Sheriff Rodney Sawyer	December 12, 2013
Deputy Sheriff Mark Sanford (Retired)	January 10, 2014
Deputy First Class Mark Patrick	April 3, 2015

Gilmer County Sheriff's Office Purple Heart Award Medal Recipients

Deputy Sheriff Brett Dickey	February 13, 1996
Deputy Sheriff Mark Sanford	February 13, 1996

Gilmer County Sheriff's Office Distinguished Service Medal Recipients

Detective James Turner	May 25, 2012
Lieutenant Thomas Speir	September 18, 2012
Deputy Sheriff Samuel Smith	October 24, 2012
Deputy Sheriff Michael Lerman	December 7, 2012
Addressing Supervisor Warren Swem	December 21, 2012
Sergeant George Ellis	May 2, 2014
Ms. Misa Luong	November 23, 2016

Gilmer County Sheriff's Office Sheriff's Citation Medal Recipients

Deputy Sheriff Clint Waldrip	January 10, 2014
Corporal Rodney Sawyer	February 3, 2017
Detective First Class Scott Camp	February 1, 2018



Gilmer County Sheriff's Office
Sheriff Stacy L. Nicholson
"A Professional Law Enforcement Agency"



2020 Budget Report*

	<u>AMOUNT BUDGETED</u>	<u>AMOUNT EXPENDED</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
Law Enforcement	\$3,413,315.00	\$3,844,004.00	113%
Detention Center	\$2,079,633.00	\$2,498,174.00	120%
Emergency 911	\$903,777.00	\$966,416.00	107%

*-source: Gilmer County Board of Commissioners Report