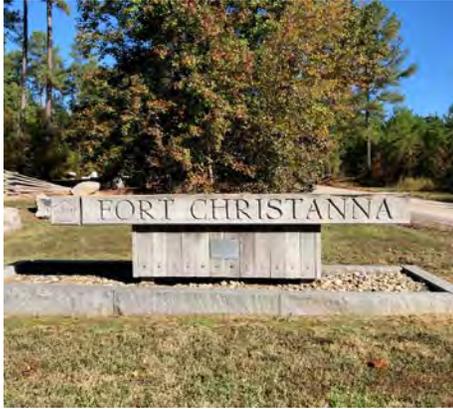


# MEHERRIN RIVER REGIONAL JAIL 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

## REMEMBERING HISTORY....

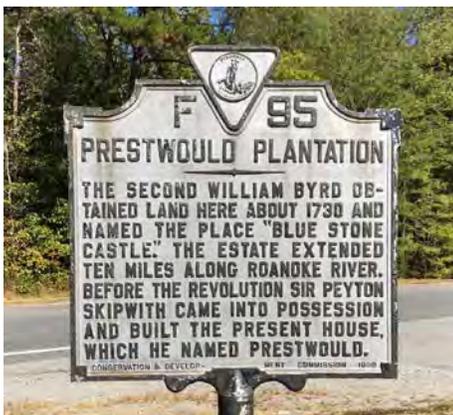
BRUNSWICK COUNTY



DINWIDDIE COUNTY



MECKLENBURG COUNTY



This cover was printed on 110 pound, acid-free, cardstock paper. The final cover image was designed by Shelley Slaughter, Executive Secretary, of the Meherrin River Regional Jail (MRRJ).

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# MEHERRIN RIVER REGIONAL JAIL

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

A letter from the Superintendent:

Over the past year, many accomplishments were realized within Meherrin River Regional Jail Authority. The Jail received the "Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting" for the sixth year as well as received the "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award" for the fourth year. We continued to provide a safe, secure and sanitary facility for staff and offenders while maintaining cost saving measures in our operation.

In our efforts to maintain costs, we evaluated several contracts to include our phone and internet provider. The Jail has recognized over \$23,000 in savings simply by renegotiating and/or switching providers. The current vending machine program was improved and expanded to allow for more machines in additional units. In order to purchase from these machines, the offender must have money on his/her account; this additional revenue could possibly offset debt owed by offenders.

Over this past fiscal year, we established a committee consisting of Mediko personnel, Jail Command Staff and Central State employees to further build our relationship and to brainstorm over ways to assist each other in regards to Central State offenders. In addition, we expanded our On-the-Job training for all new hires and implemented a formalized Field Training Officer Program; the goal is to provide more consistency and allow more time for our officers to develop.

The staff of Meherrin River Regional Jail Authority works hard each year to give back to the communities. Over the course of the past year the charitable and community based outreach activities have helped make the facility shine amongst the citizens of our user jurisdictions. In addition to participating in such events as Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office Cops and Kids program, and donating items to families in need during the holidays, we participated in several job fairs as well as Career Day for Bluestone Middle School.

Moving forward, the Jail plans to implement the use of kiosks throughout the facility. Kiosks will only help to improve the accountability of offender requests, reduce operational costs as well as alleviate potential visitation equipment concerns. In addition, the Jail plans to automate more of the daily responsibilities of our officers such as automating rounds and movement. By doing this it will help the officers perform their duties which in turn helps to maintain a positive morale among our staff.

Sincerely,



Superintendent Crystal L. Willett

# Vision, Mission, & Core Values

## **Vision Statement**

It is the vision of the Meherrin River Regional Jail to be stewards of our community with the highest regard to integrity and excellence. To promote positive growth for both the staff and the offenders entrusted to our care, to be proactive, seeking innovative correctional and rehabilitative practices that hold offenders accountable, and to assist offenders in becoming productive law-abiding citizens.

## **Mission Statement**

The Meherrin River Regional Jail shall promote the safety and protection of the citizens within Brunswick, Dinwiddie and Mecklenburg counties by safely securing criminal offenders at the confines of our facilities. We shall strive to maintain programs and various opportunities for offenders to improve their character and morale to reduce recidivism statistics within our surrounding communities. We further strive to effectively and evenhandedly respect each offender in efforts for rehabilitation and education of skills to assist him/her upon reentry into society. Our entire staff is dedicated to the safety and security of each offender during the period of incarceration adhering to all policies and procedures of the Meherrin River Regional Jail.

## **Core Values**

- Public Safety:** Protect the public, staff and offenders through the highest degree of professional performance at all times
  
- Integrity:** Promote a jail environment that is consistent with human dignity and one that is free from personal prejudices and discrimination
  
- Fairness:** Treat all employees, the public and offenders with fairness, honesty, consideration and dignity while recognizing diversity
  
- Commitment:** Operate the regional jail in an efficient and cost effective manner without jeopardizing the Jail's mission
  
- Professionalism:** Exhibit the highest degree of ethical behavior, professional excellence, quality and competence in all that we do

## Facility Overview

Crystal L. Willett  
Superintendent

Major Brent Wright  
Deputy Superintendent

The Meherrin River Regional Jail has two facilities. The main facility is located in Alberta and the satellite facility is located in Boydton.

The Alberta Facility is comprised of 156,643 square feet with a total of 697 beds, consisting of 596 general-purpose beds, a 32 bed work release center, a 6 bed medical housing unit, a 12 bed center for offender intake, a 12 bed center for transport offenders, a 5 bed center for offender classification, and 34 special management cells. In addition to the housing units, the jail has an administrative section, central control section, general library, law library, kitchen, laundry and separate training room for staff. The housing unit design of the jail provides 5 female units. This allows for separate housing for protective custody, administrative segregation, disciplinary problem offenders, female work release offenders and general population female offenders. There are 9 general population units for the male offenders and 1 male work release unit.

The Alberta Facility's medical housing unit has 4 examination rooms, a dental laboratory, 3 individual cells and a 3 bed medical ward for offenders who require special medical attention. Two of the cells are designated to house offenders with highly contagious conditions.

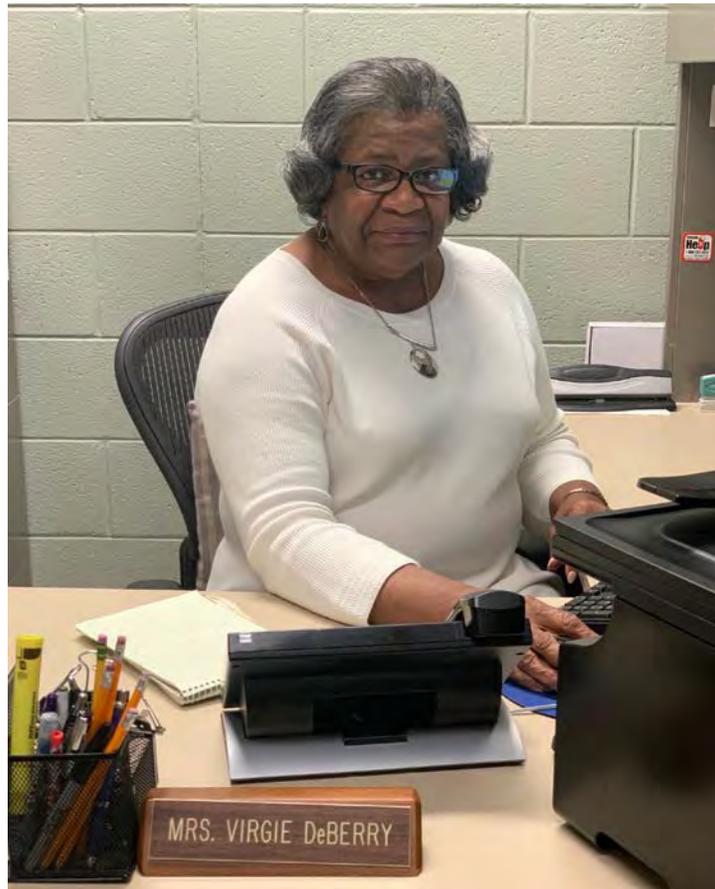
The satellite facility in Boydton is comprised of 40,095 square feet with a total of 115 beds, consisting of 76 general-purpose beds, a 24 bed work release center, a 4 bed medical housing unit, a 7 bed center for offender intake, and 4 special management cells. In addition to the housing units, the jail has an administrative section, central control section, general library, law library, kitchen, laundry and separate training room for staff. The housing unit design of the jail provides 1 female unit, for female work release offenders. There are 7 general population units for male offenders and 1 male work release unit.

The Boydton Facility's medical housing unit has 1 examination room, 1 individual cell and a 3 bed medical ward for offenders who require special medical attention.

The operational design of both facilities is state-of-the-art. Both facilities have numerous electronic systems throughout the facility, including a computerized Digital Optical Fingerprint Capture Machine (Cross Match Live Scan System), a Video Visitation System which also allows for Internet Visits, a computerized Jail Management System for booking, tracking and release of offenders and a sophisticated Computer Network System.

All doors throughout Meherrin River Regional Jail have electronic locks and are controlled and operated by an officer assigned to Central Control. This officer controls access to all areas of the jail via cameras and intercoms. It is impossible for a person to enter or move throughout the facility without the knowledge of the officer in Central Control.

## Administration



Virgie A. DeBerry is the Highlighted Employee for the Administration Division. She is a Greenville County, Virginia native and joined the Meherrin River Regional Jail family in July 2018 as Administrative Coordinator. Prior employments include fifteen years of corrections experience with Armor Correctional Healthcare Inc., The GEO Group, Inc., and Corrections Corporation of America and thirty years of continuous employment with GTE South, Verizon and Contel of Virginia telephone companies. She attributes the many years of her successful working career to a variation of training and experiences in administrative and supervisory positions to include Human Resources Manager, Business Manager, Facilitator, Trainer and Customer Relations Specialist.

Mrs. DeBerry's formal education includes a High School Diploma, Bachelor and Master Degree of Religious Education, Doctoral Degree (Religious Education), Licensed Minister and Certificates in various educational studies. She has received several honors and awards including GEO Appreciation Award, GEO Employee of the Year, Inter-Denominational Bible Institute, Inc., Award of the Year and ABWA Business Woman of the Year. She is an experienced licensed minister volunteering at MRRJ, ministering to the women offenders and several assigned religious positions at her Church.

Mrs. DeBerry strives to be reliable, accept responsibility, and is a hardworking individual who is willing to be trained and obtain essential skills needed to perform at the highest level. She possesses work ethics that include professionalism, being a team player, integrity, self-control, compassion, and shares with others. Her aim is to acknowledge and respect each one in their respectful position.

## **Finance**

The Meherrin River Regional Jail's Finance Department consists of a Director of Finance, a Human Resource Analyst, two Account Clerks, and a Secretary. This department is responsible for the Jail's annual budget, procurement, financial transactions and reporting, and the recruitment, screening, and hiring of all Meherrin River Regional Jail employees.

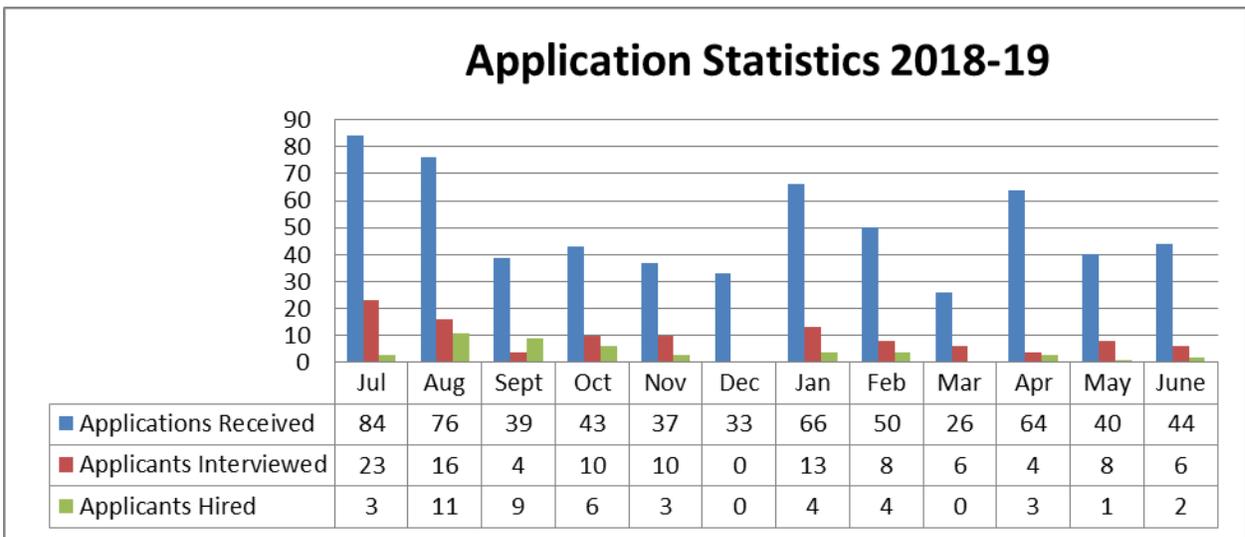
The Finance Director oversees the daily operations of the Finance Department by supervising and assisting the Human Resource Analyst, Account Clerks, and Secretary with their various responsibilities. One of the most important responsibilities of the Finance Director is development of the Jail's annual budget. The budget affects every division within the Jail and each division depends on the Finance Director to include the funding required for its daily operations in the Jail's budget. Other responsibilities of the Finance Director include assisting the Jail's auditors with the annual external audit of the Jail's financial records, preparing the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), purchasing and procurement of jail resources, development and review of financial policies, preparing monthly financial reports, as well as presenting financial updates to Board Members at quarterly Board Meetings.

The Human Resource Analyst is primarily responsible for the Payroll and Human Resource functions of the Jail. Payroll duties of the Human Resource Analyst include maintaining accurate personnel records; processing semi-monthly payroll for all employees at both facilities; tracking employee overtime, leave balances, and merit and benchmark increases; and processing the Jail's monthly salary reimbursement submissions to the Virginia Compensation Board. Human Resource duties include scheduling interviews; making employment offers; conducting new employee orientations; processing performance evaluations; administering employee health and benefit plans; processing new hire and separation paperwork; and keeping staff aware of changes in the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Unemployment Compensation laws, and all labor and employment laws.

The Account Clerks are primarily responsible for processing the day to day transactions of offender trust accounts, including billings and payments received, at the Alberta Facility. They are also responsible for recording the daily financial transactions of the Jail including processing payments received and accounts payable for both facilities, as well as assisting with human resources, procurement, and budget functions and serving as the Records Retention Coordinator for the Jail.

The Secretary is primarily responsible for processing the day to day transactions of offender trust accounts, including billings and payments received; and various other administrative duties at the Mecklenburg Facility.

In an effort to increase our employee recruitment efforts, we implemented several changes in May 2018. These changes include lowering the hiring age from 21 to 18 years old, changing our academy location to a closer academy, advertising on social media and implementing an online employee application system.

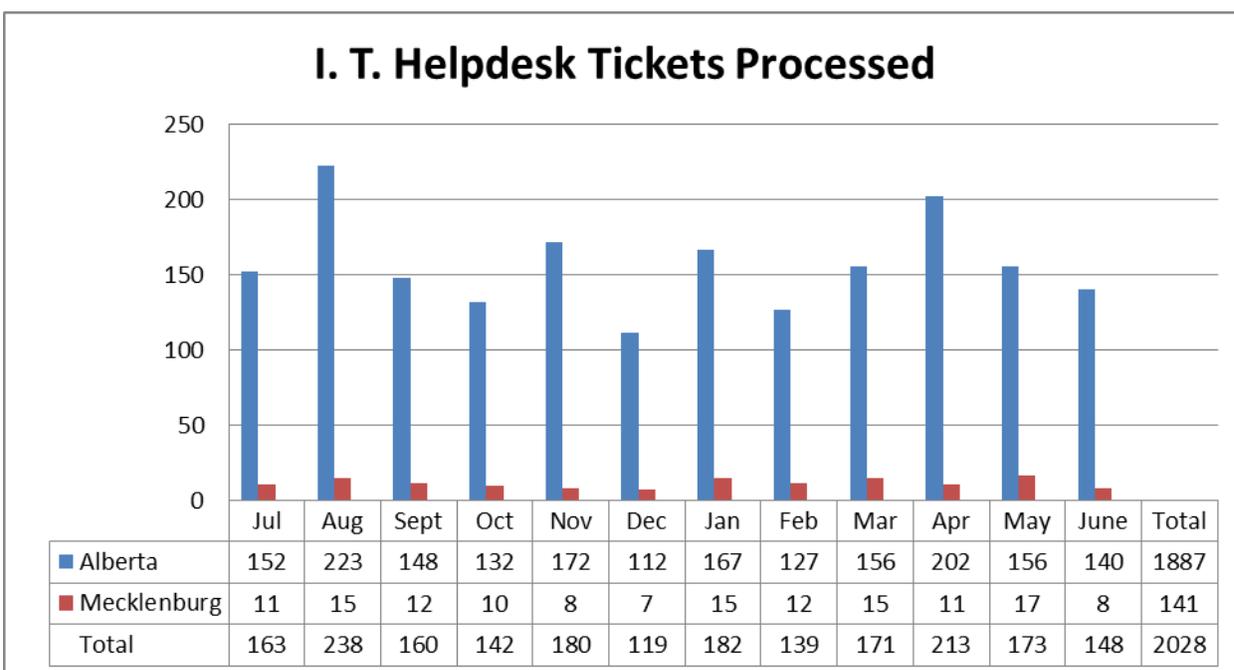


## Information Technology

The Information Technology (IT) Department at Meherrin River Regional Jail maintains all information technology related systems for both the Alberta and Mecklenburg facilities. The department is responsible for all of the computer-related equipment, network and servers, offender management system, staff telephone and voice mail, offender telephones, visitation equipment, copiers, and offender cable TV. The IT Department also ensures that offender information is passed between the various systems for continuity.

The IT Department is staffed with one IT Director, one full-time IT Technician and one part time Offender Phone Technician, all of whom support both facilities. The main goal of the department is to insure that our users have the technology needed to carry out their duties and to support the overall goals of the Jail in a cost effective manner.

Over the past year, the IT Department upgraded the main data center with new VxRail from Dell Technologies. This new hyper-converged hardware consolidates server, storage and virtualization. This also provides the department with a single point of support for the datacenter software and hardware.



## Training

The Training Department is operated under the supervision of the Training Sergeant and the Administrative Investigator. The Training Department is responsible for scheduling and conducting classes that benefit the facility staff and ensure compliance with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and ACA requirements.

New employees are placed in an extensive “on-the-job-training” (OJT) program, which is split into two phases. The first phase of the program requires each new officer to complete forty (40) hours of training, which is conducted through classroom lecture and simulated exercises under the guidance of DCJS certified instructors. The second phase consists of actual on post “real world training” in which the new officer first “shadows” an experienced Field Training Officer (FTO) and then operates the unit under the supervision of the FTO. This training takes approximately 16 days to complete and is highly beneficial, not only to the new officers, but also to the experienced staff and the inmates in the facility as it produces a more competent and consistent officer. The OJT/FTO program is in addition to the 448 hours of academy training new staff will undergo in their first year of employment. During Fiscal Year 2018-2019, 25 officers successfully completed the DCJS Basic Jailors Academy.

Certified Staff are required to complete 24 DCJS hours every two years. The Training Department ensures this is completed by scheduling and conducting In-Service Training. To accomplish this, the Training Department first looks at the needs of the facility and then develops and performs revisions to lesson plans to ensure up-to-date information is taught to the staff. Through our partnership with the Crater Criminal Justice Academy, specialized training is provided to staff as needed. With the continuing use of roll-call training and added supplemental topics added during annual qualifications, our staff has exceeded DCJS requirements.

The Training Department also ensures that civilian staff having regular or daily contact with offenders receive forty (40) hours of training yearly. This year the civilian training program has consisted of self-study courses and classroom training which allows for greater flexibility to accommodate the varying civilian schedules. The Training Department has also continued the “school tour program” which has allowed for positive publicity in the community for MRRJ. During this period 16 students toured the jail and learned about the daily functions of the jail and the possibility of a career.

In addition to providing instruction, the Training Department is a source of information for the jail staff. Through the availability of a library of videos and books, staff has the opportunity to

further their knowledge beyond the scheduled topics of instruction. The Training Department maintains communication with the American Correctional Association, the Virginia Department of Corrections, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, and the National Institute of Corrections, and has a mutually beneficial training relationship with the Brunswick, Dinwiddie, and Mecklenburg Sheriff's Offices, Lawrenceville Police Department, South Hill Police Department, Virginia State Police, and Crater Criminal Justice Academy, which allows for a greater scope of training for our staff.

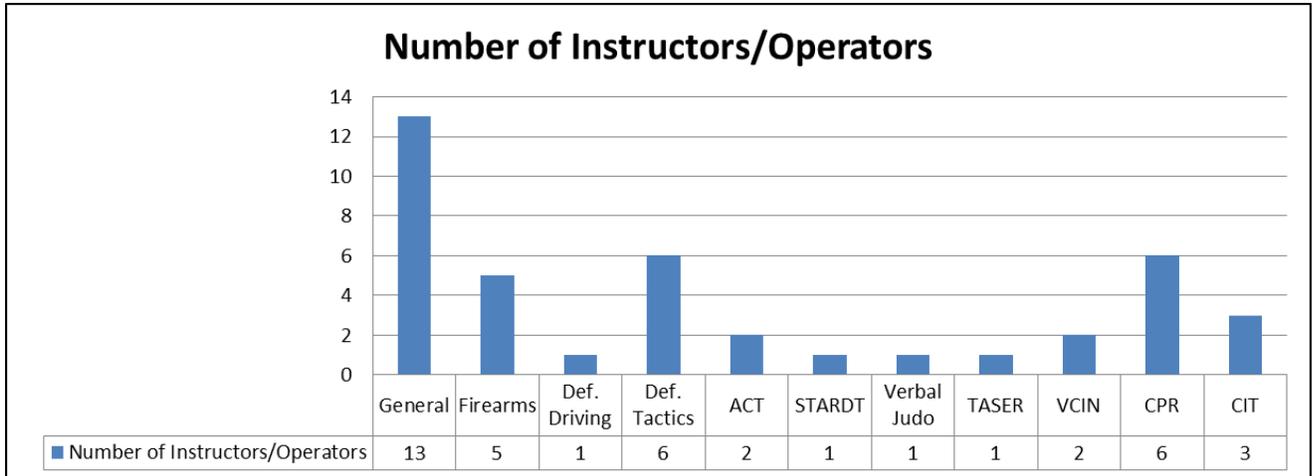
Effective instructors play a vital role to the Training Department; the department benefits from its 13 General Instructors, 5 Firearms Instructors, 1 Defensive Driving Instructor, 6 Defensive Tactics Instructors, 1 Advanced Control Tactics Instructor, 1 Stonewall Tactical Adaptive Response Defensive Tactics Instructor, 1 Verbal Judo Instructor, 2 TASER Instructors, 2 VCIN Instructors, 6 American Health & Safety Institute First Aid / CPR Instructors and 3 Crisis Intervention Team Instructors. The Training Department is currently seeking additional officers that meet the qualifications to become DCJS Instructors. The increased number of instructors will not only assist at MRRJ but will also assist at Crater Criminal Justice Academy. The Training Department is always looking for qualified officers that have expressed an interest in becoming an instructor and when the Training Department feels an individual would be an asset to MRRJ that officer is recruited and encouraged to become an instructor.

To assist in effective facility operations, the Training Department has ensured the continued certification of 41 VCIN operators.

Over the next year, the Training Department will continue to provide advanced training using state of the art equipment. The gun range has been very valuable in allowing the firearms instructors to work with officers that need additional training for qualifications. Realistic training is completed using firearms training simulation and role playing scenarios which allows the officers to experience "real life" situations. The state of the art firearms training facility is a great asset to all personnel that utilize it. The firearms training facility allows instructors to train officers in a setting where split second decisions have to be made in a training environment, and assists officers when faced with a high stress situation. The firearms training center gives officers confidence in what they have been taught and allows MRRJ to build on the officer's fundamental skills and decision making. Over the next year, the annual MRRJ in-service will remain at 8 hour sessions. This will allow for report writing, training videos, as well as, adding some of the techniques from defensive tactics. We will also review and discuss Use of Force and IPC skills.

The introduction of the new 360 OC chemical agent dispensing system will be a valuable asset to

MRRJ. The 360 OC system allows for dispersion of the agent no matter what position the system is held in. The result is officers being able to use this without the worry of what position they are holding the system. It makes for a faster and more efficient delivery time for officers. This is accomplished without losing the desired effects of the chemical agent.



## **Safety & Standards**

The Safety and Standards Officer at Meherrin River Regional Jail is a certified position. The most important responsibility of this position is to ensure the safety and security of the Jail which includes staff and offenders. The Safety and Standards Officer serves as the PREA Compliance Manager for Meherrin River Regional Jail. The Safety and Standards Officer works very closely with the Captain of Security, who is the PREA Coordinator and with the Administrative Investigator, who serves as the PREA Investigator for the Jail. The Safety and Standards Department has to ensure that all employees, volunteers and contractors undergo a thorough background check prior to being allowed to come inside the Jail to work, or participate in any programs to include Religion, and GED Classes. Meherrin River Regional Jail has a ZERO TOLERANCE for all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment against staff and/or offenders.

The Safety and Standards Department is responsible for ensuring the Jail is in compliance with all internal and external audits. All departments contribute significantly to the audits that we undergo annually and/or every three years. These audits consist of the following:

- PREA with a total of 45 standards
- DOC with a total of 89 standards
- LHS with total of 41 standards
- Federal United States Marshall's Audit.

The Jail must comply with all Federal, State and Local Laws pertaining to the statutes concerning prisons and Jails, OSHA Regulations, Fire Codes, Key Control, Fire Extinguisher and Emergency Lighting. The Safety and Standards Officer assists in conducting all audits in Alberta and Mecklenburg. Audits are to help the Jail to become the best that we can be, to be number one, and rise above the rest. With that being said, there are times when we have to implement corrective and preventive actions due to audit findings. These actions only make us better.

Plans are currently underway to prepare for an ACA Audit. The American Correctional Association (ACA) is a professional membership organization composed of individuals, agencies and organizations involved in all facets of the correctional field including adult and juvenile services, community corrections, probation and parole, and jails. There will be a total of 384 standards with 62 of those standards being mandatory. As you can imagine, this will be a huge undertaking, but with teamwork it can and will be accomplished.

The Safety and Standards Department is staffed with one Safety and Standards Officer who has the goal of ensuring the Jail is audit ready at all times.

## Security Division



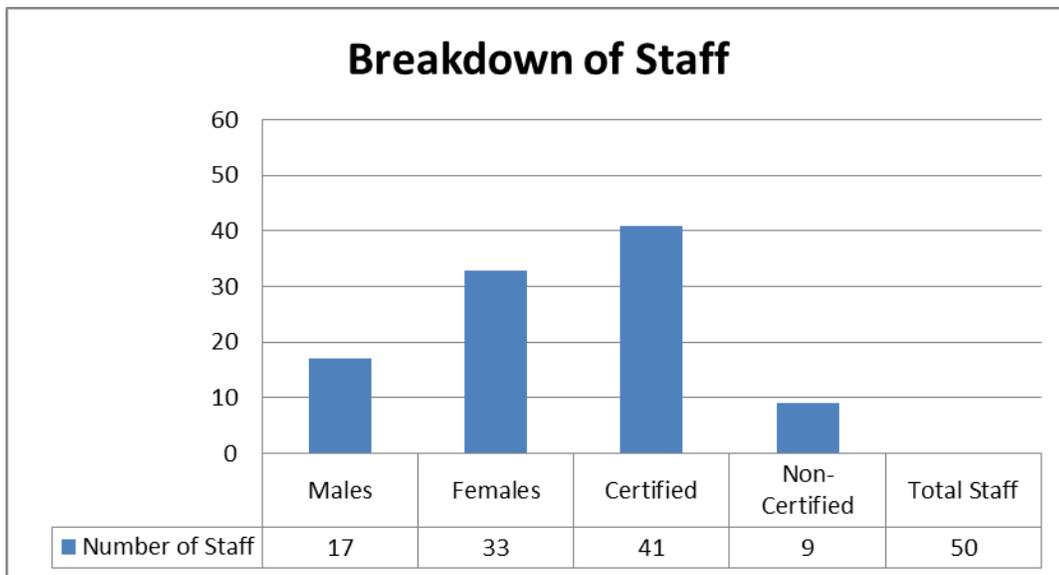
Officer Renita Watson is the Highlighted Employee for the Alberta Security Division. Officer Watson joined the Meherrin River Regional Jail family in April of 2016. She was born in Vance County, North Carolina and raised in Warren County, North Carolina, where she currently resides. She attended Warren County High School and graduated in 1998. After completing high school she attended Vance Granville Community College with a focus on becoming an X-Ray Technician. It was soon after that she realized she aspired to give back to her community in a different way. Officer Watson began her career in corrections at Warren Correctional Institution in 2000.

Officer Watson was presented with the opportunity to see how things differed from the prison setting that she was used to and a jail setting when she became employed with Meherrin River Regional Jail. Since she began her career with the Jail, she has strived to uphold the policies and procedures of the facility with dignity and astute professionalism. Officer Watson passes on her determined work ethic and pride for her job to new officers hired as the primary training officer on her shift.

Officer Watson's dedication to her career in corrections and her enthusiastic demeanor exemplifies that of an outstanding officer and should be used as a model that all officers should strive to achieve.

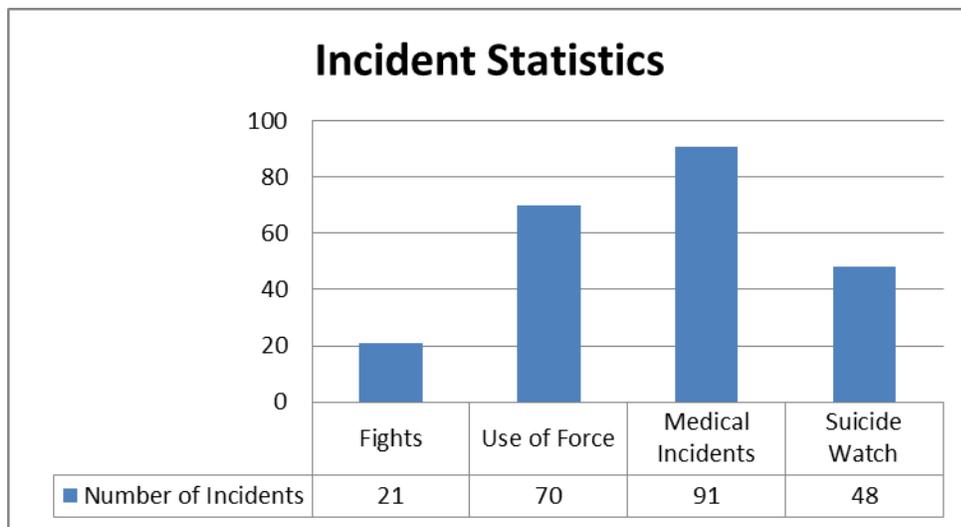
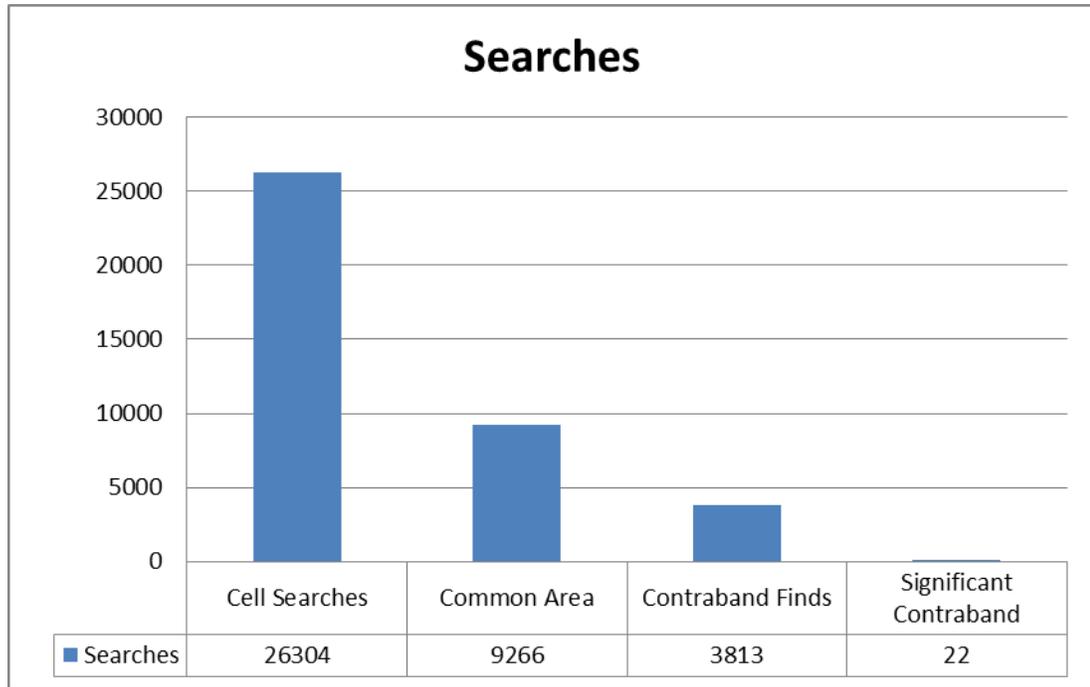
## Alberta Facility

The Security Division is responsible for the health, safety, security and welfare of the offenders incarcerated at the Meherrin River Regional Jail. We are the police officers of this internal community. It is our mission to ensure public safety by keeping those individuals incarcerated under law, separate from society and protecting those incarcerated from each other. We have **16** housing units, with the total facility holding an average of **395** offenders. The Security Division manages this community with Officers assigned to units, **2** Officers patrolling units, **1** Sergeant, and **1** Lieutenant supervising the security team. The Day shift team consists of **20** Officers, **1** Sergeant and **1** Lieutenant. The Night Shifts maintain **19** Officers with **1** Sergeant and **1** Lieutenant. There are **4** teams operating on 12 hour shifts from 0600-1800 hrs. and 1800-0600 hrs. Each team reports 30 minutes prior to the start of the shift for a formal briefing and training period. The rotation schedule of the shifts is a motivating factor for the staff. We currently have **17** male Officers and **33** female Officers. Our staffing at this time is **50** Officers with an authorized strength of **78** Officers. Currently we have **41** Officers that are certified and **9** awaiting certification through the academy.



Performing these duties involves continuous searching, controlling, policing, guiding and providing structure to the unstructured. From July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, the Officers of the Meherrin River Regional Jail successfully conducted **26,304** cell searches and **9,266** common area searches. Of these searches, **3,813** netted nuisance contraband items. These searches also netted **22** significant contraband items such as drugs, lighters, cigarettes, etc. In the policing of the units, there were **21** fights, **6** assaults on staff members, **70** uses of force, and **91** recorded

medical incidents. We initiated **48** suicide watches during this year. We have had a very successful year with **0** major disturbances and/or forced escapes.





Officer Patti Starkweather is the Highlighted Employee for the Mecklenburg Security Division. She is a 7 year veteran at Meherrin River Regional Jail. Officer Starkweather moved to Virginia in December of 2000 from Phoenix, Arizona. She began her career in corrections with Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office in June 2003 until 2012 when the Jail transitioned to Meherrin River Regional Jail.

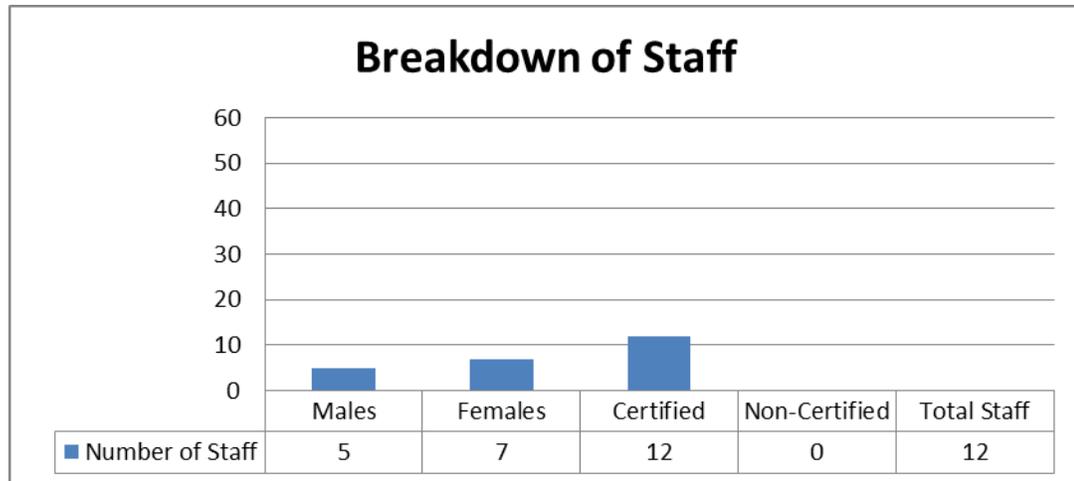
While employed with Meherrin River Regional Jail, Officer Starkweather has had the opportunity to become an Instructor for ASHI (American Safety Health Institute).

Officer Starkweather has been a great asset to Meherrin River Regional Jail. She will be retiring in November of 2019 and is looking forward to spending more time with her family.

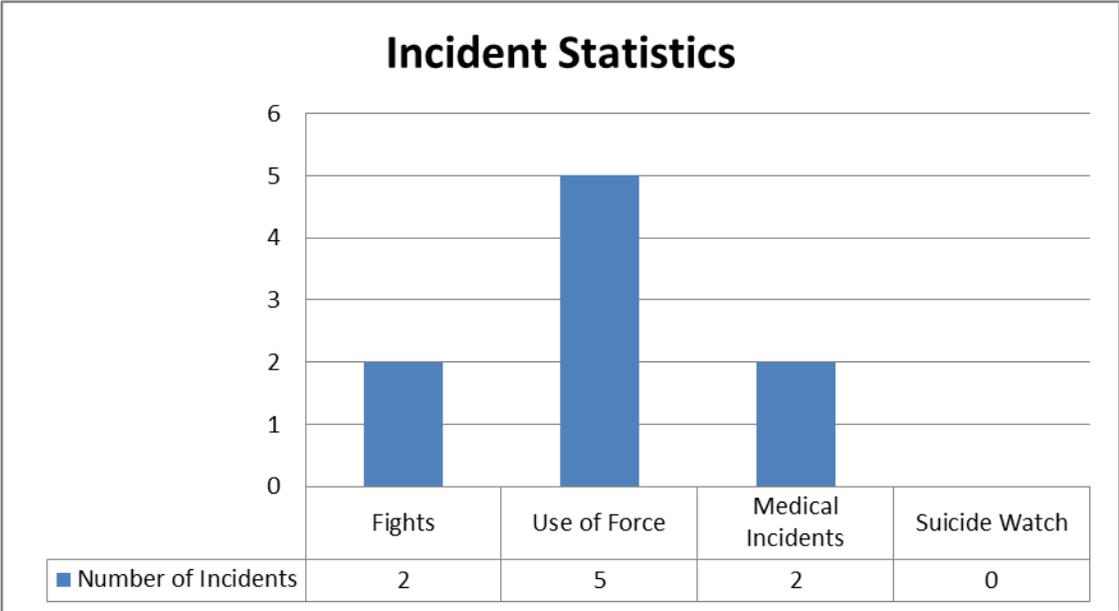
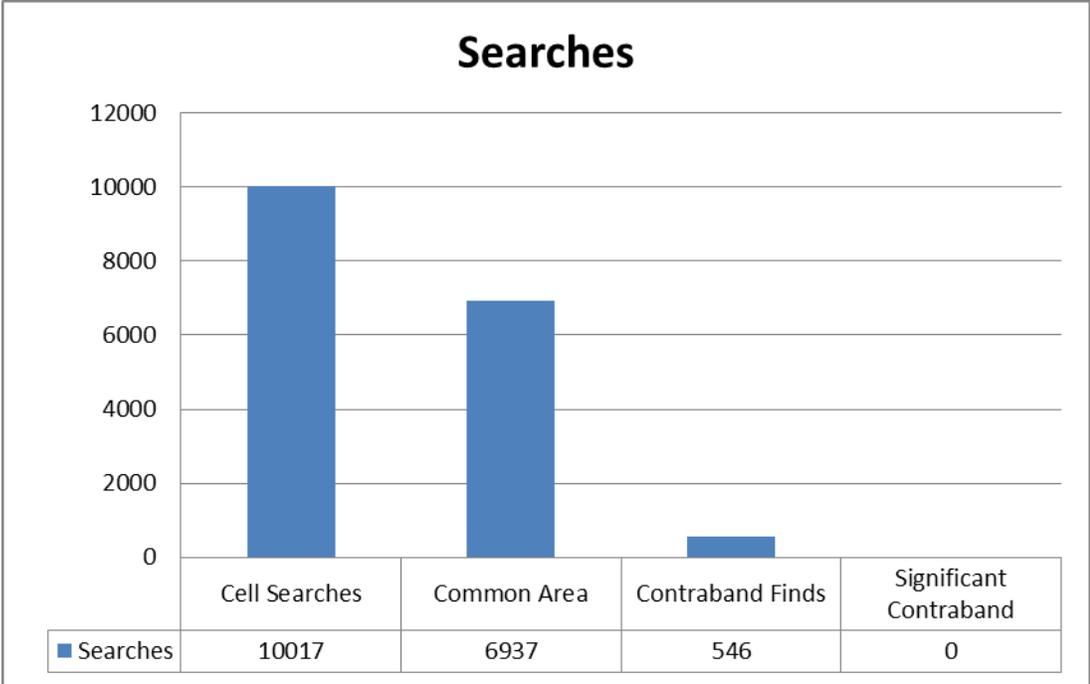
### Mecklenburg Facility

The Security Division is responsible for the health, safety, security and welfare of the offenders incarcerated at the satellite facility for Meherrin River Regional Jail located in Boydton. We are the police officers of this internal community. It is our mission to ensure public safety by keeping those individuals incarcerated under law, separate from society and protecting those incarcerated from each other. This facility began housing offenders February 17, 2013. We have **6** housing units and **2** Work Release units, with the total facility holding an average of **24** offenders. The Security Division manages this community with **1** Officer assigned to B & C unit and **1** Officer assigned to D & E unit, while a Roving Officer covers F & G units as well as Intake and Segregation. One Sergeant supervises the security team. The Day shift teams consist of **4** Officers and **1** Sergeant. The Night Shifts

maintain **4** Officers with **1** Sergeant. There are **4** teams operating on 12 hour shifts from 0600-1800 hrs. and 1800-0600 hrs. Each team reports 30 minutes prior to the start of the shift for a formal briefing and training period. The rotation schedule of the shifts is a motivating factor for the staff. We currently have **5** male Officers and **7** female Officers. Our staffing at this time is **12** Officers with an authorized strength of **16** Officers. Currently we have **12** Officers that are certified that received certification through the academy.



Performing these duties involves continuous searching, controlling, policing, guiding and providing structure to the unstructured. From July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 the Officers of the Meherrin River Regional Jail satellite facility successfully conducted **10,017** cell searches and **6,937** common area searches. Of these searches, **546** netted nuisance contraband items. These searches we had **0** significant contraband items. In the policing of the units, there were **2** fights, **0** assaults on staff members, **5** uses of force, and **2** recorded medical incidents. We had **0** suicide watches during this year. We have had a very successful year with **0** major disturbances and/or forced escapes.



## Support Services



Officer Zachary Ramsey is a 4 year veteran at Meherrin River Regional Jail and is the Highlighted Employee for the Support Services Division. He grew up in Southampton County where he attended and graduated from Southampton Academy High school. After High school Officer Ramsey moved to Brunswick County in 2011 and started attending Southside Virginia Community College majoring in Administration of Justice. He made the Dean's list many times during his time at SVCC and graduated with an Associate Degree in Administration of Justice in May 2014.

Officer Ramsey began his career with Meherrin River Regional Jail in October of 2014. He started on Night Shift A where he worked for 3 years and in December of 2017 became one of Meherrin River Regional Jail's Work Force Officers and still proudly holds this position today.

Officer Ramsey looks forward to furthering his career with Meherrin River Regional Jail. He is proud to be an employee of Meherrin River Regional Jail and hopes to be a part of bettering the institution throughout his career.

## **Programs**

The Meherrin River Regional Jail offers several programs for the offenders at MRRJ. The Programs Department continuously seeks new programs and services to provide for the offenders here, as well as focusing on improving our existing programs.

Thanks to volunteers and donations from Brunswick, Mecklenburg, and Dinwiddie counties, we are able to provide the offenders access to bible study, the law library, the general library, special education programs, anger management, life skills and substance abuse classes. Offenders are also offered the opportunity to participate in the GED program. The criteria that must be met are the offender must not currently have a GED or Diploma and they must be sentenced to do one year or more. If these requirements are met, they will be T.A.B.E. tested and the T.A.B.E. score will determine if the offender will be eligible to participate in the GED program.

In addition, we partner with CAPUP to address the successful re-entry and de-institutionalization of felons in the Commonwealth of Virginia. A representative with CAPUP comes on-site with our offenders who are scheduled to be released and provides them with an assessment and information they will need when returning to the community.

The Programs Officer oversees and coordinates all programs and clerical services offered to the offender population.

### **Life Skills Programs & Substance Abuse and Anger Management Programs**

Offenders participate in group sessions for Life Skills Programs which last 6 weeks and receive a certificate upon completion of the program. Employment, credit history, credit cards, budgeting, resume writing, and information on education and college are all items discussed to prepare offenders for their release back into the community.

All offenders incarcerated at Meherrin River Regional Jail are eligible to participate in the Substance Abuse and Anger Management Program. This program is designed to provide education and support to offenders with drug, alcohol addictions and anger issues. All of the facilitators for these groups have counseling experience and/or specific training.

A total of 178 offenders participated in these programs for this fiscal year.

### **Religious Services**

Bible study is offered once a week per pod and is conducted in our designated female indoor rec area. We also currently have one Chaplain that visits on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. depending on the day. Chaplain Ivan Hargrove visits 2 days a week at the Alberta Facility and is available on call when requested by the Mecklenburg facility. Chaplain Hargrove provides confidential one on one counseling for both staff and offenders whenever requested. Bibles, Christian literature,

Christian coloring books, and Bible lessons are available when requested. Quran's are available for those of the Muslim faith that request them. Chaplain Ivan Hargrove also helps in the application process for different programs for offenders.

### **Special Education**

Any offender between the ages of 18-21 with special education needs who wishes to further their education is placed in this state mandated program. We have state certified teachers that volunteer their one-on-one time with Meherrin River Regional Jail. So far we have assessed 21 offenders with 3 participating in the special education program.

### **Library Services**

The general library is available to all offenders on a weekly basis. At this time, the Alberta Facility's library contains over 3,500 books and the Mecklenburg Facility contains over 633 books. New books are added as they are donated monthly. Some of the topics include, but are not limited to, suspense, romance, thriller, action, adventure, religious, and science fiction. Our library program is still growing and accepting donations. As of June 30, 2019, 5,404 books have been checked out of the Alberta Facility library and 616 out of the Mecklenburg Facility library. Offenders at the Alberta Facility also receive The Brunswick Times Gazette, Times Magazine, ESPN Magazine and Good Housekeeping Magazine and the Mecklenburg Facility receives the Mecklenburg Sun, Times Magazine and ESPN Magazine, on a weekly basis.

In addition, the law library services are provided to the offenders at both facilities, who wish to research legal matters pertaining to their case. The law library contains the Lexus Nexus software installed on a desktop computer for offenders to research their legal matters. So far, our law library has been utilized 365 times at the Alberta Facility and 1 times at the Mecklenburg Facility.

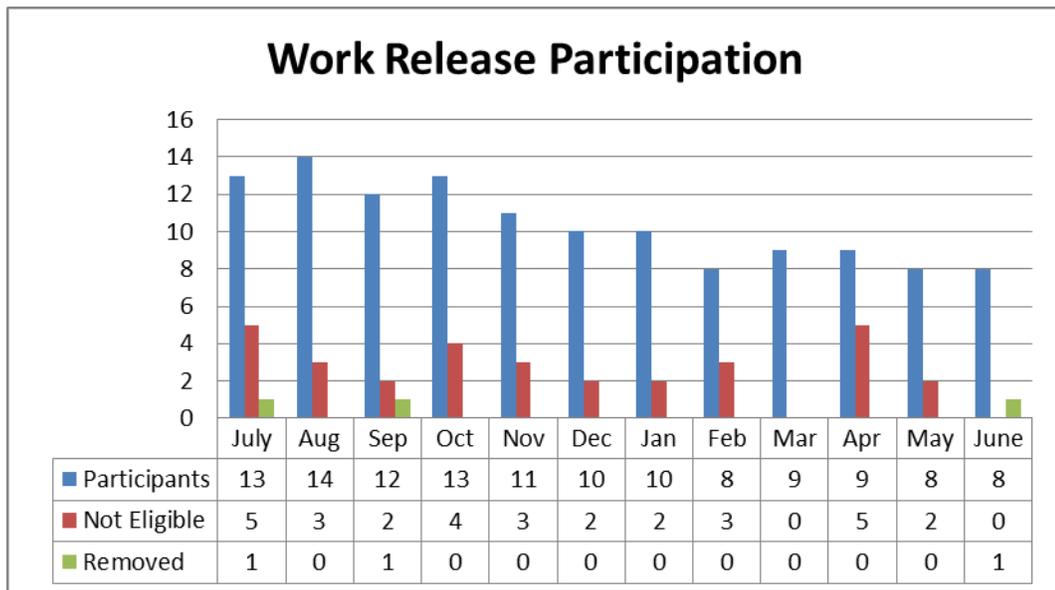
### **Clerical Services**

Meherrin River Regional Jail offers clerical services to all MRRJ offenders. These services include notarizing, photocopying of legal material, and providing legal forms to offenders.

## Work Release

The Meherrin River Regional Jail offers alternate programs to offenders housed within the facility. An example of this type of program is the Work Release Program. The Facility has designated two (2) housing units for offenders placed on the Work Release Program. Housing Unit “WR1” has the capability of housing up to sixteen (16) male participants, and Housing Unit “WR2” has the ability to house up to sixteen (16) female participants. MRRJ Mecklenburg has two (2) designated housing units for offenders placed on the Work Release Program. Housing Unit “WR1” has the capability of housing up to twenty (20) male participants, and Housing Unit “WR2” has the ability to house up to four (4) female participants. Before an offender is placed on the program they are thoroughly screened for eligibility. If the paperwork from the sentencing court notes “Work Release”, the Work Release Officer checks the offender’s current sentence and severity of the charges, and forwards his/her findings through the chain of command for approval. If the offender has been declared eligible for the program, a check of their criminal history, a drug screening, and full time employment verification is conducted prior to entrance into the program.

The goal of the Work Release program is to prepare offenders for their release back into the community, helps to reinforce and maintain good work habits, and allows them to continue to provide for their family and/or work to pay fees. During the fiscal year, 15 offenders participated in the Work Release program. The facility collected \$56,700 from offenders participating in the program to help offset the costs of their incarceration. During 2018-2019 there were 3 offenders removed from the program for disciplinary violations.



## Work Force

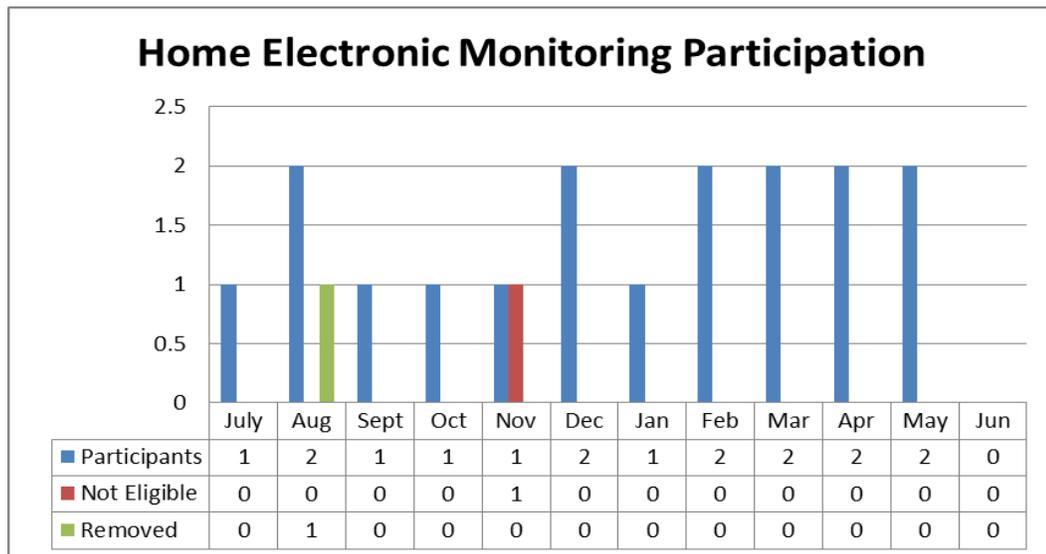
The Meherrin River Regional Jail has seventeen offenders designated and approved to work for the localities of Brunswick, Dinwiddie and Mecklenburg. These minimum security offenders maintain the counties’ grounds and provide assistance on special jobs that require extra manpower.

The three jurisdictions allow Brunswick, Dinwiddie and Mecklenburg to pick up the offenders Monday through Friday. The selected offenders do not receive any monetary compensation for their work, although they can receive good time off of their jail sentence if they qualify. The Jail also has Officers designated to supervise work force crews to maintain the grounds at both facilities, the gun range, pick up litter within all 3 jurisdictions, and assist with special projects.

## Home Electronic Monitoring Participation

The Meherrin River Regional Jail offers alternate programs to offenders housed within the facility. An example of this type of program is the Home Electronic Monitoring Program (HEM). MRRJ has an agreement with 3M Electronic Monitoring that provides a tamper-proof ankle bracelet that is monitored through a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit. Before an offender is placed on the program they are thoroughly screened for eligibility. If the paperwork from the sentencing court notes “Home Electronic Monitoring”, the HEM Officer checks the offender’s current sentence and severity of the charges, conducts a check of their criminal history, and forwards his/her findings through the chain of command for approval. If the offender has been declared eligible for the program, a drug screening and employment verification is conducted prior to entrance into the program.

The goal of the Home Electronic Monitoring program is to help reinforce and maintain good work habits. During the fiscal year, 5 offenders participated in the HEM program. The facility collected \$8,860.00 from offenders participating in the program to help offset costs of their incarceration.



## Visitation



**Family/Friends Visitation**



**Offender Visitation**

Meherrin River Regional Jail encourages each offender to maintain contact with their family and friends through bi-weekly visits. Visitation is allowed Monday through Friday, and is scheduled between two and seven days in advance by the visitor using the visitation scheduling system. Each offender is given two thirty minute visits each week with additional visits allowed to be scheduled for a small fee. There can only be one onsite visit per day. The visits can last from thirty minutes to one hour depending on the visitor's living distance from the facility.

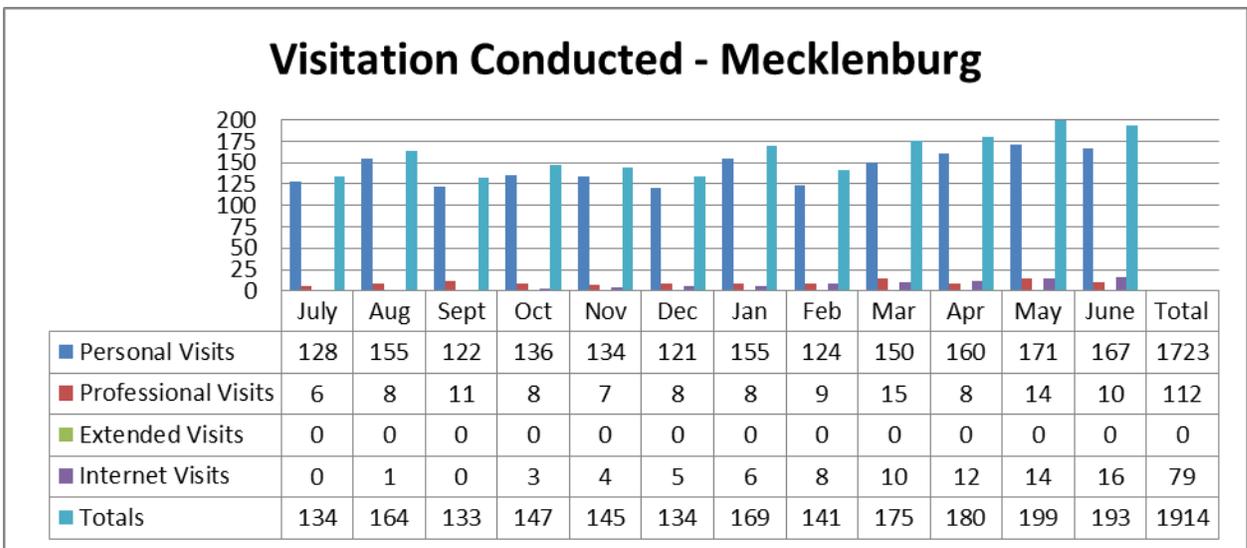
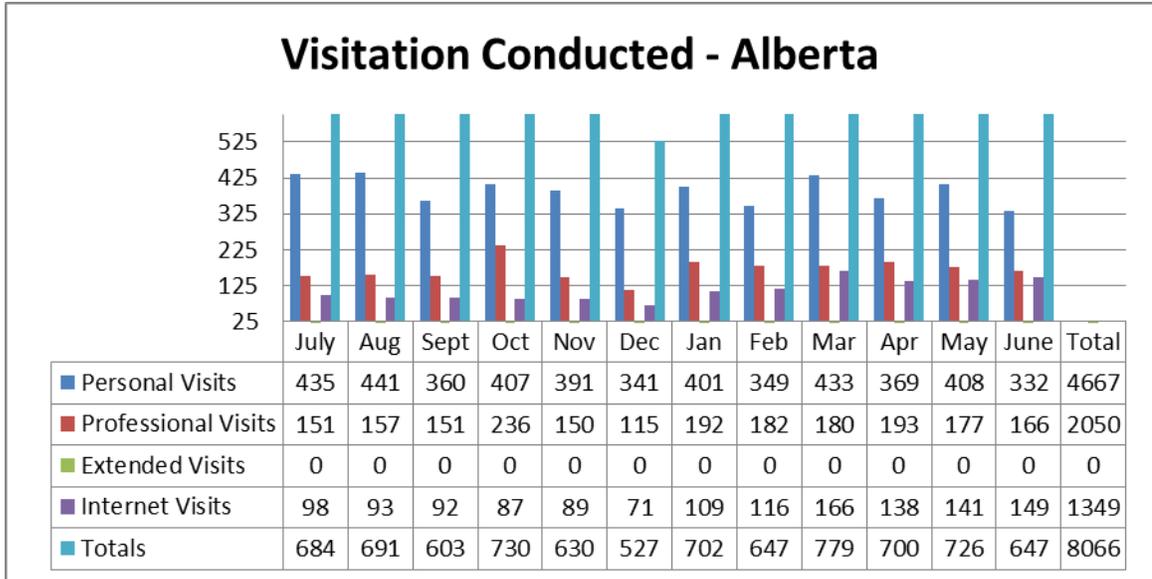
Family and friends will visit with the offender via video conference from the Visitation Center located in the Lobby of each facility. When the visit begins, the offender and visitors will be connected by computer where they can see and talk to each other. For convenience, the visitors may visit at either the main facility in Alberta or the satellite facility in Mecklenburg for on-site video visits with offenders at either facility.

Only attorneys and law enforcement personnel are allowed direct contact visits with offenders. Attorney visits have to be scheduled with the visitation officer and are held in rooms that provide attorney-client privacy.

Meherrin River Regional Jail also offers internet-based visitation. This is a paid service offered to family, friends, and attorneys to visit with the offender from the comfort of their home or office. Children can also visit without being exposed to the harsh reality of a jail setting. MRRJ allows one internet visit per day with up to five internet visits per week for each offender from family and friends. Internet Visitation is a great solution for those who have extended distances to travel to the facility. We have had visits from as far away as California. The Internet Visitation service is also available on Android-based devices as well.

During the period of July 1, 2018 thru June 30, 2019, there were 8,066 visitors recorded at the Alberta Facility and 1,914 visitors at the Mecklenburg Facility. Of those visits, 4,667 were visits from family and friends, 2,050 were from attorneys and 1,349 were internet visits at the Alberta Facility and 1,723

were visits from family and friends, 112 were from attorneys and 79 were internet visits at the Mecklenburg Facility.



## Commissary

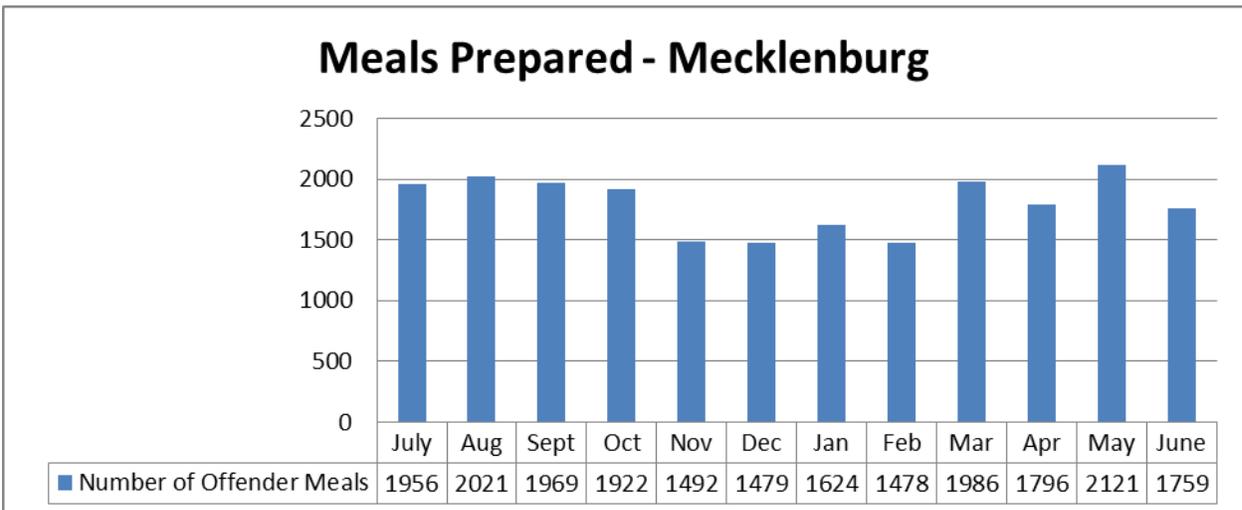
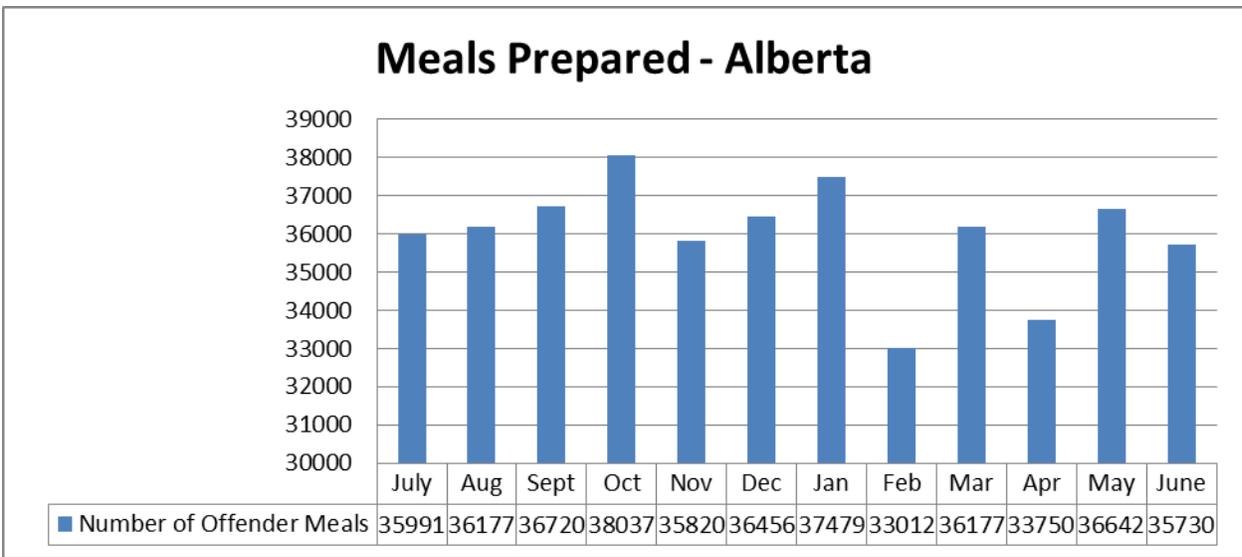
During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, Keefe Commissary provided all commissary services to the offender population. When offenders are booked into the facility, any cash they have in their possession is taken by the booking officer and deposited in a kiosk to be deposited on the offender's account to be used during the offender's incarceration. Once a week offenders are allowed to purchase items from the jail commissary such as personal hygiene necessities, snacks, and clothing. Family and friends can purchase a Secure Pack once a week that includes personal hygiene necessities and snacks from [www.meherrinpackages.com](http://www.meherrinpackages.com). A Jail ATM is located in the lobby so that family and friends may make a deposit for the offender to use when purchasing commissary. Family and friends may also visit [www.jailatm.com](http://www.jailatm.com) to make a deposit online using a credit card. The revenue generated from the sale of commissary is used to purchase items such as magazines, newspaper subscriptions, and recreational equipment that benefit the offender population.



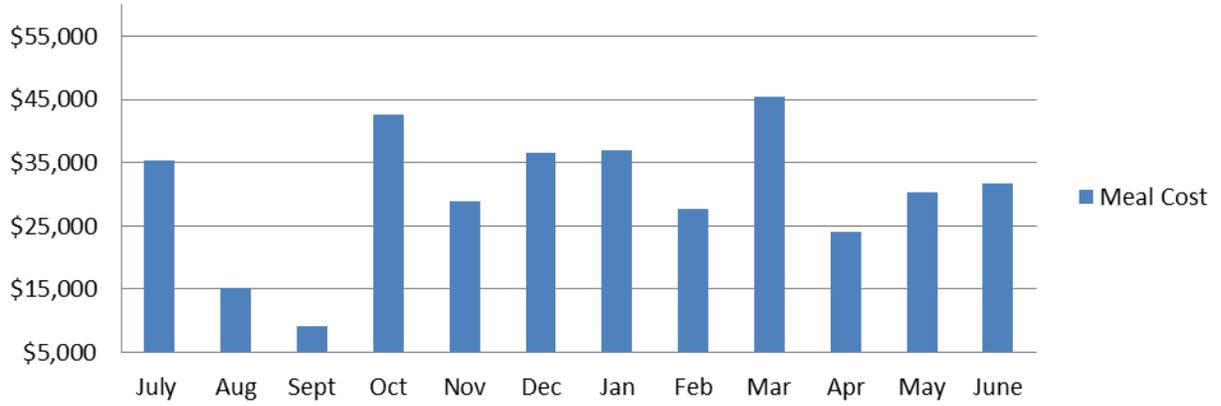
## Food Service Department

The Meherrin River Regional Jail prepares all meals according to the guidelines set forth by the National Academy of Science and a registered dietician. Offender meals are also monitored by the Department of Corrections to ensure they remain compliant with the daily guidelines. The Brunswick County Health Department routinely inspects the kitchen, all kitchen equipment, and storage areas on a semi-annual basis at the Alberta Facility and Mecklenburg County Health Department inspects the Mecklenburg Facility, to ensure that the facilities meet all standards set forth by the health department.

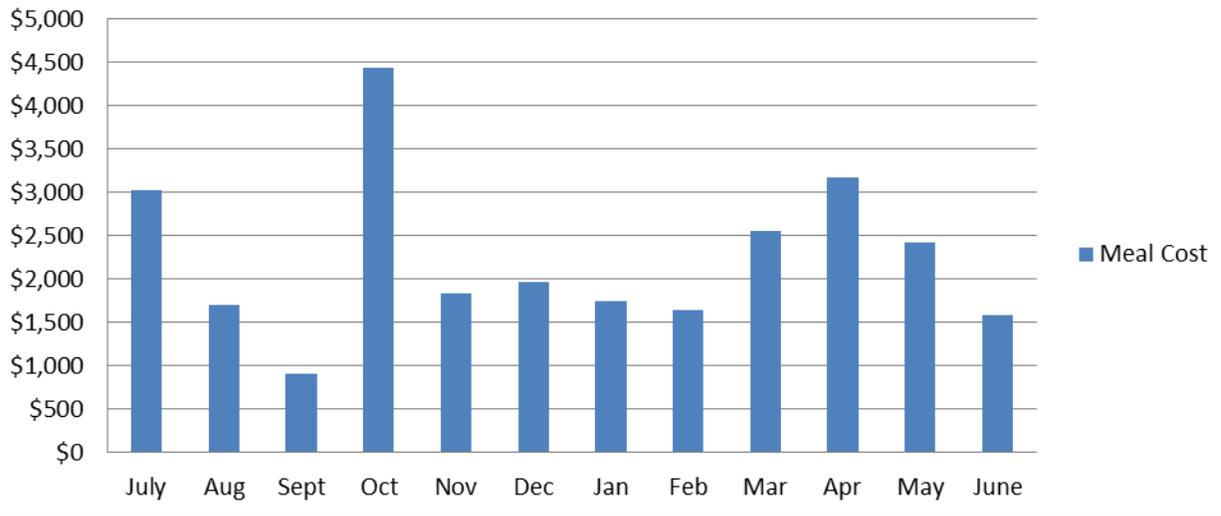
During July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, 431,991 offender meals were prepared for the Alberta Facility and 21,603 offender meals for the Mecklenburg Facility.



### Cost of Meals - Alberta



### Cost of Meals - Mecklenburg



## Operations



Thomas Vigilante is a 5 year veteran at Meherrin River Regional Jail and is the Highlighted Employee for the Operations Division. He was born in Hampton, Virginia in 1982 and moved to Bracey, Virginia when he was 14 years old. Mr. Vigilante attended Park View High School and began working as a Jail Officer at Meherrin River Regional Jail in June 2014.

He attended Central Virginia Criminal Justice Academy in Lynchburg within the first year of his employment. A few months after returning as a Certified Officer, Mr. Vigilante moved to the Transportation Department as a Transportation Officer where he still works today.

Officer Vigilante is a dedicated employee who shows great work ethic and attention to detail. He assists other areas of the Jail when needed and does so without hesitation. He works well with court personnel, as well as, with all of his fellow employees while serving the surrounding communities.

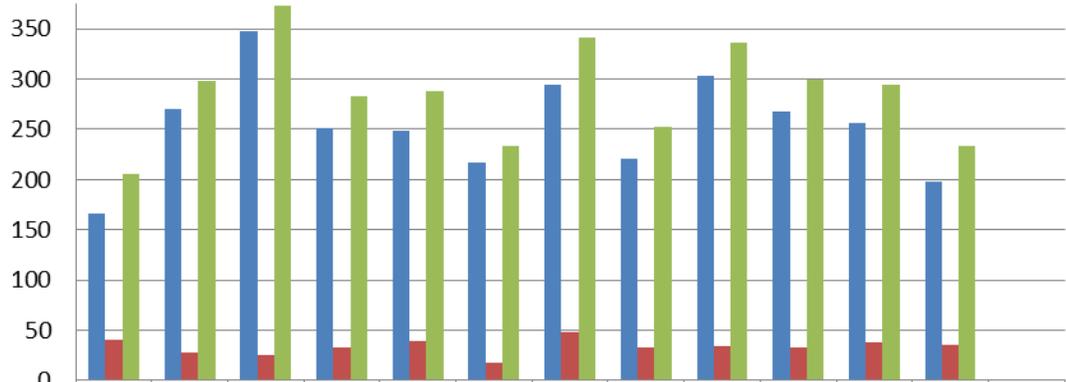
## **Maintenance Department**

The goal of the Maintenance Department is to provide a safe, secure, and comfortable environment for all visitors, staff, and offenders. The duties include troubleshooting and complex maintenance work on building and kitchen equipment, conducting facility inspections and maintaining a Preventive Maintenance Program at our two locations; our main site located in Alberta and our satellite facility located in Mecklenburg, where they float between the two sites as needed. This is done with minimal outside support from contractors. The Maintenance Department ensures that all Federal, State and Local regulations are adhered to for American Correctional Associations (ACA) and Department of Corrections (DOC) regulations.

The department's staff consists of a Maintenance Director, an Assistant Maintenance Director and two (2) Maintenance Technicians all of which are on duty five days a week. At least one staff member is on-call for emergencies at all times. The Maintenance Director and Assistant Maintenance Director are certified Corrections Officers. Their certifications allow the Maintenance staff to assist other departments when they are short staffed or additional assistance is needed to maintain facility safety. The other two Maintenance Department employees are non-certified. They both have extensive backgrounds in maintenance, with experience in mechanical, plumbing and electrical work.

Also included in the Maintenance Department are one (1) Warehouse officer, one (1) Grounds officer and one (1) IT Technician. The Warehouse Officer and Grounds Officer are both Certified Officers and can assist other departments when they are short staffed. The Warehouse Officer's duties consist of maintaining the facilities inventory of supplies needed to operate, ordering supplies when needed both for staff and the offenders, unloading trucks and keeping a daily inventory of all supplies. The Grounds Officer's duties consist of maintaining the grounds at the Alberta facility and the Gun Range. This includes supervising the offender work force crew, keeping the landscape at both sites manicured and neat for the public and staff, painting, picking up trash, snow removal, and any other projects that may occur. The IT Technician is non-certified and is overseen by the Assistant Maintenance Director. The IT Technician's duties are to maintain the security electronics such as the camera systems at both facilities as well as assisting the IT Department when needed.

## Work Orders Processed

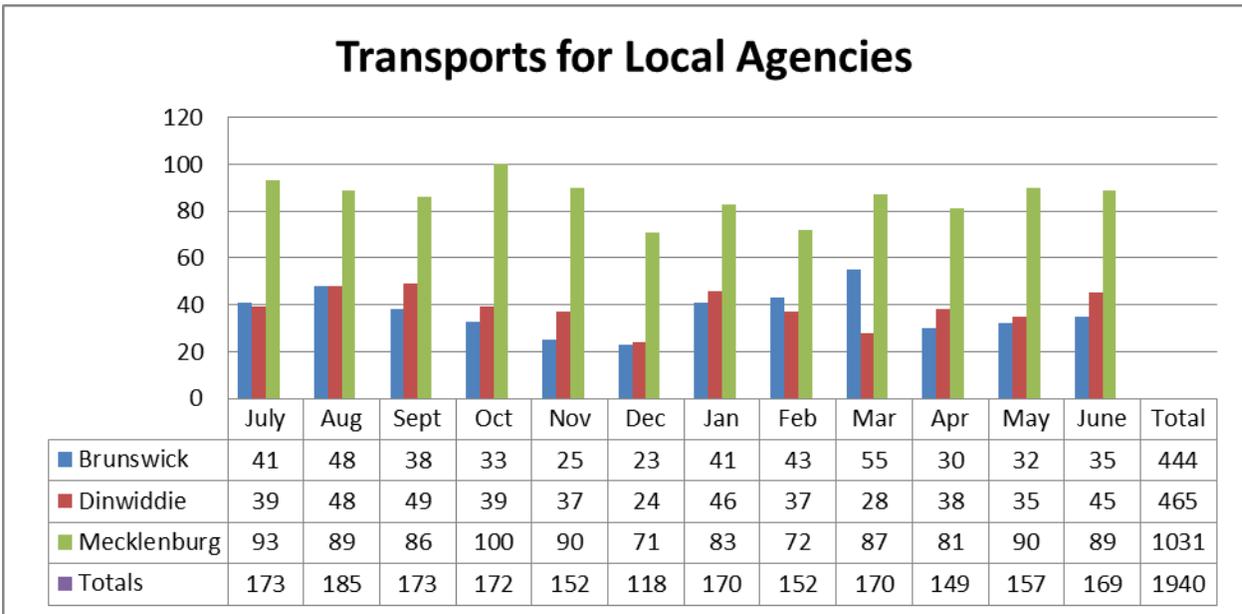


	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
■ Alberta	166	270	348	251	249	217	294	221	303	268	256	198	3041
■ Mecklenburg	40	28	25	32	39	17	48	32	34	32	38	35	400
■ Total	206	298	373	283	288	234	342	253	337	300	294	233	3441

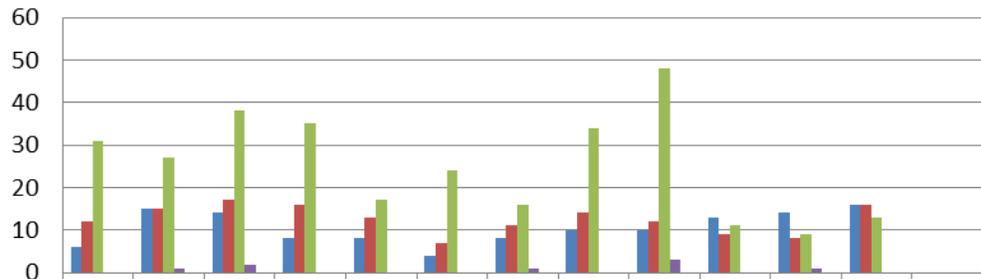
## Transportation

The Transportation Department of the Meherrin River Regional Jail consists of 1 Sergeant, and 6 officers. The Transportation Department provides safe and secure transportation of offenders to and from the Brunswick, Dinwiddie, and Mecklenburg County courts, Federal courts, the Virginia Department of Corrections (DOC), local and regional jails, and medical facilities; VCU Community Memorial Hospital located in South Hill, Virginia and Medical College of Virginia/VCU Medical Center located in Richmond Virginia, as deemed necessary.

The primary duty of the Transportation Department is to provide safe and secure transportation to and from the facilities. Personnel assigned to the Transportation Department receive specialized training in the use of firearms, defensive tactics, personal searches, high-risk transports and personal/public protection.



### Transports for Medical, Federal Court, DOC and Other Agencies



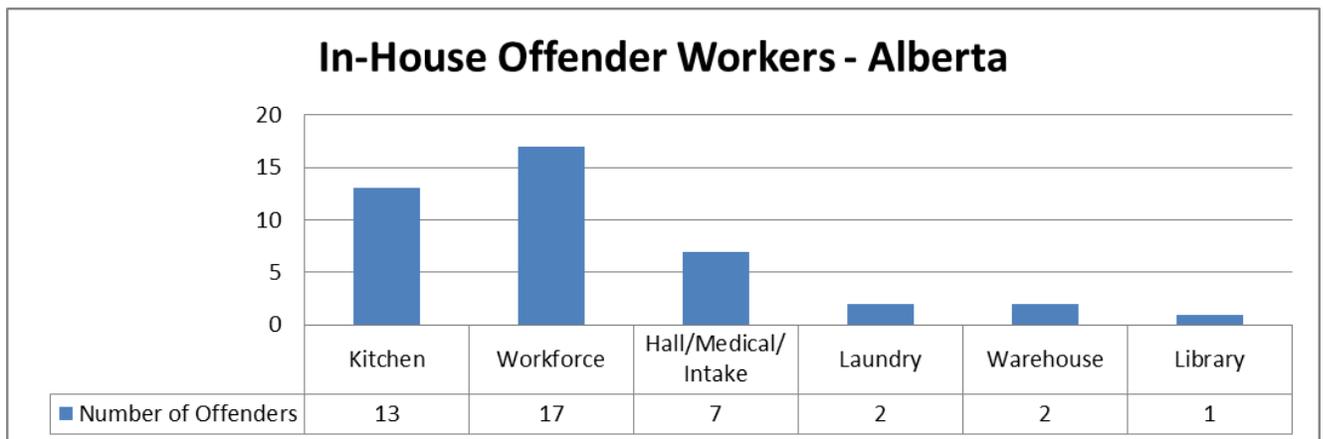
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Total
■ Medical	6	15	14	8	8	4	8	10	10	13	14	16	126
■ DOC	12	15	17	16	13	7	11	14	12	9	8	16	150
■ Federal Court VA	31	27	38	35	17	24	16	34	48	11	9	13	303
■ Other Agencies	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	8
■ Total	77	92	88	137	61	63	88	81	111	66	83	64	1011

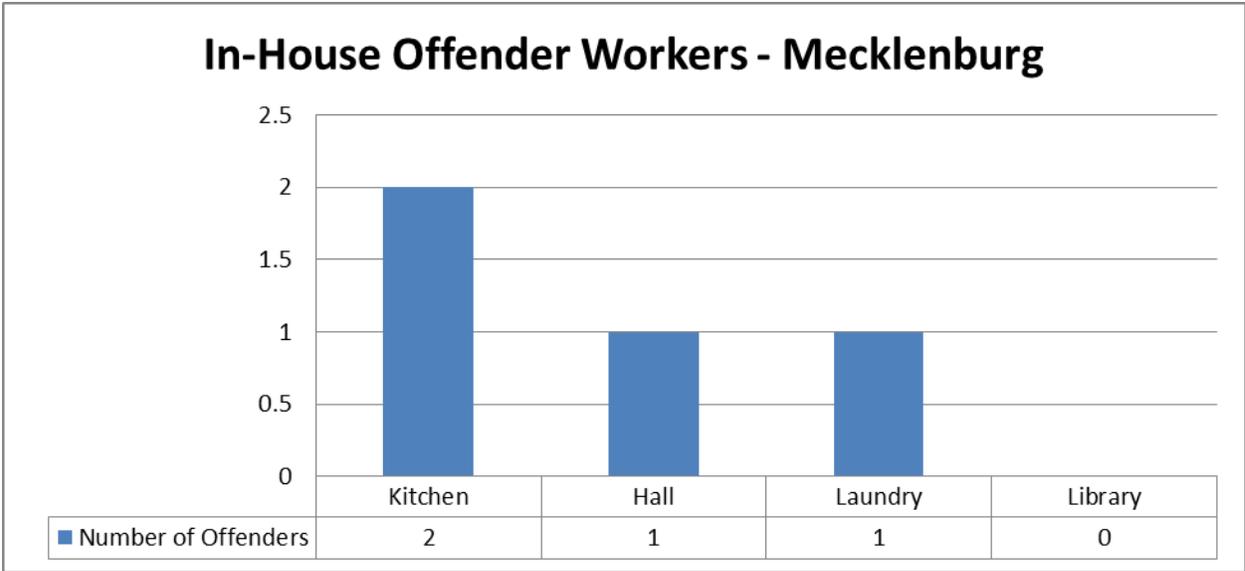
## Classification

The primary goal of the Classification Section is to assign each new offender to a custody level based on their current charges, criminal history, and medical condition. Once classified, offenders are placed in minimum, medium, or maximum custody.

Before moving an offender into general population, the Classification Officer is responsible for ensuring that all offenders have been tested and cleared of having tuberculosis. Once the offender has been cleared by our medical department, the Classification Officer then determines where offenders will be housed based on an interview conducted within the first 72 hours of the offender's arrival at the facility. Every ninety (90) days, offenders are re-classified to determine if their custody level should be changed to a higher or lower level.

The Classification Section also works closely with Security and Support Services to provide offender workers within the facility. Offender workers are responsible for maintaining cleanliness throughout the facility in accordance with guidelines established by the Department of Corrections and the American Correctional Association. Offender workers are placed in their positions based on feedback provided by security and various other departments, as well as their previous work experience. Starting in July 2018 thru June 2019, there were a total of 42 offender workers for Alberta and 4 offender workers for Mecklenburg assigned on a monthly basis throughout the facility for inside and outside work.



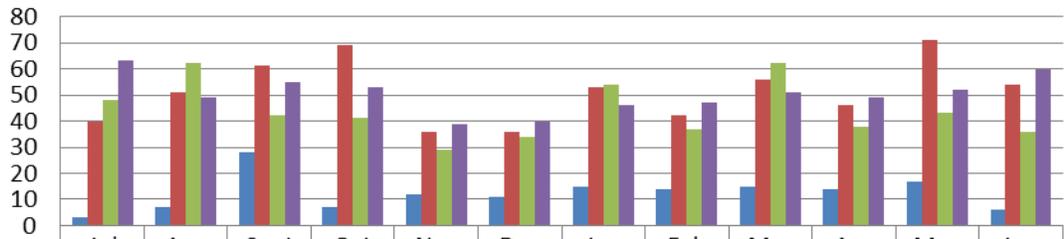


The Meherrin River Regional Jail classifies offenders based on three separate custody levels. Offenders who have committed non-violent offenses are placed in the least restrictive level, which is minimum custody. Offenders who have violent criminal histories and are currently incarcerated on violent offenses will be placed in the most restrictive level, which is maximum custody. Only offenders who are classified at the minimum or medium level of custody are eligible to become workers. The criminal history of the offender will determine if they can become a worker inside or outside of the facility. Custody levels are determined by using a point scale system developed by The National Institute of Corrections. This system has proven to be widely successful in the classifying of offenders.

Meherrin River Regional Jail has policies and procedures in place to determine whether an offender with behavioral, medical, or mental health issues has needs that are to be addressed. After the initial interview has been completed by classification and medical staff, the housing of each individual is determined based upon their recommendations. Offenders who could possibly be dysfunctional in general population because of medical or mental health issues are placed in protective custody. These offenders are closely monitored by the security staff and receive weekly assessments by classification and medical staff to ensure their safety and determine if they may become eligible to be housed in general population.

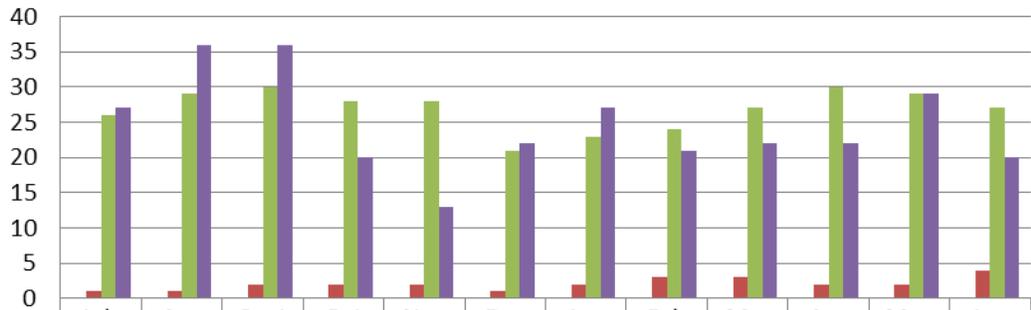
From July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, 1,290 offenders were classified at the Alberta Facility and 347 offenders were classified at the Mecklenburg Facility. Of that number of offenders classified in Alberta, 526 were minimum custody, 615 were medium custody and 149 were maximum custody. Of that number of offenders classified in Mecklenburg, 322 were minimum custody, 25 were medium custody and 0 were maximum custody. There were also an additional 899 offenders processed into the facilities that were not classified due to being released prior to seeing classification.

### Classification Statistics by Level of Security - Alberta



	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Maximum	3	7	28	7	12	11	15	14	15	14	17	6
Medium	40	51	61	69	36	36	53	42	56	46	71	54
Minimum	48	62	42	41	29	34	54	37	62	38	43	36
Unclassified	63	49	55	53	39	40	46	47	51	49	52	60

### Classification Statistics by Level of Security - Mecklenburg

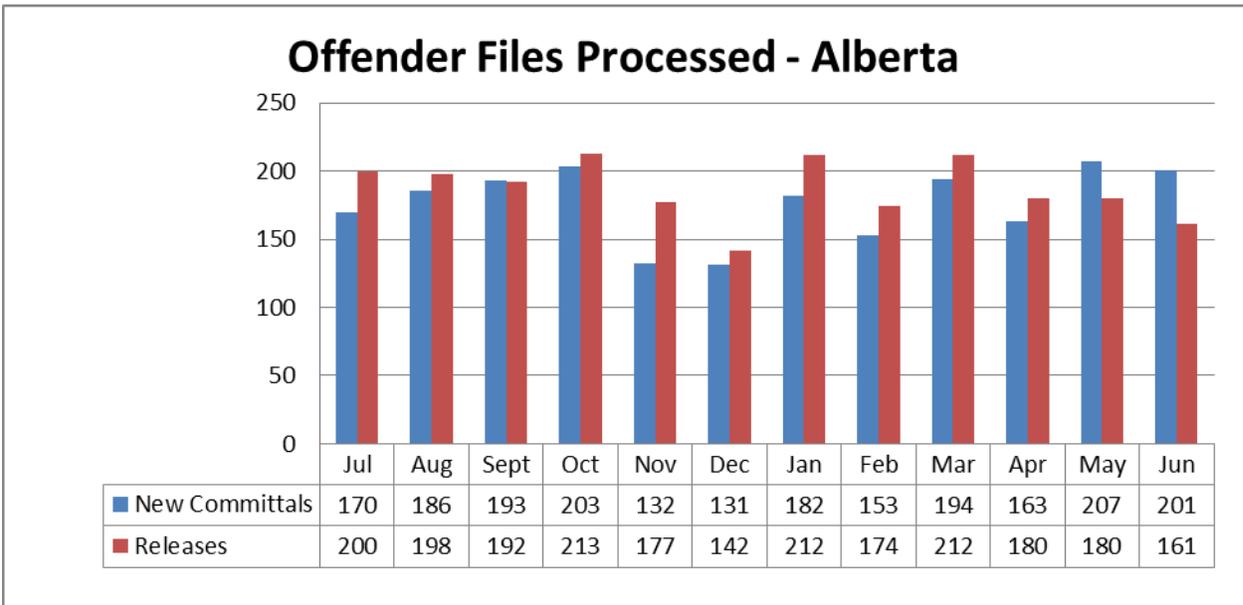


	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Maximum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medium	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	2	2	4
Minimum	26	29	30	28	28	21	23	24	27	30	29	27
Unclassified	27	36	36	20	13	22	27	21	22	22	29	20

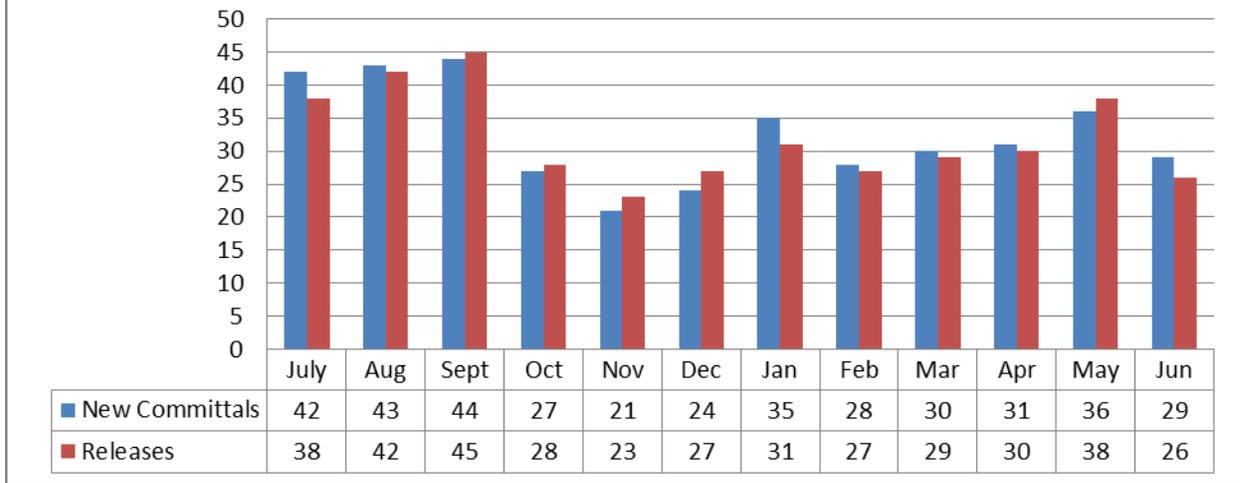
## Records

The Records Department is one of our most vital areas within the Jail. This department is responsible for entering all dispositions received from the courts, which determines if an offender is eligible for release. The Records Department ensures that all court appointments are documented in the Jail’s computer system which ensures the offender is present in the appropriate court on the correct date and time. This section of the facility also works closely with surrounding jurisdictions to make sure transport orders are received for court appearances and time for credit spent at other facilities is calculated during time computation.

The Records Department also reviews all booking information on newly committed offenders to ensure all charge and bond information is correct and that all necessary paperwork is in the folder before an offender is released from the facility. From July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 the Alberta Records Department processed 4,356 offender folders. Of those folders, 2,115 were new committals into the facility and 2,241 were offenders released from the facility. The Mecklenburg Records Department processed 774 offender folders. Of those folders, 390 were new committals into the facility and 384 were offenders released from the facility.



## Offender Files Processed - Mecklenburg



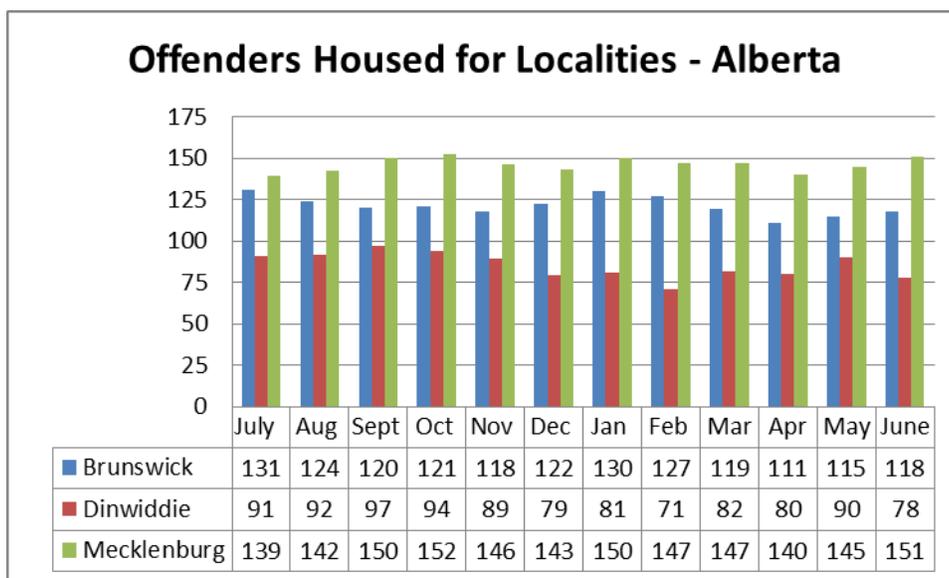
The Records Department is also responsible for keeping track of offenders who serve their time on the weekends. A “weekender” is someone who serves their incarceration Friday thru Sunday because of a work or school schedule. The Records Department keeps track of the days served so that the offender is released on the correct day and time. Working closely with the Department of Corrections is crucial to the Records Department because it ensures that offenders are transferred to a state correctional facility in a timely manner based on the length of an offender’s sentence and the severity of their charges. Offenders who remain at the facility sixty (60) days after being sentenced by the courts are considered to be “Out of Compliance”. This past fiscal year, there were 850 offenders housed here at Meherrin River Regional Jail in an “Out of Compliance” status.

## Local Inmate Data System (LIDS)

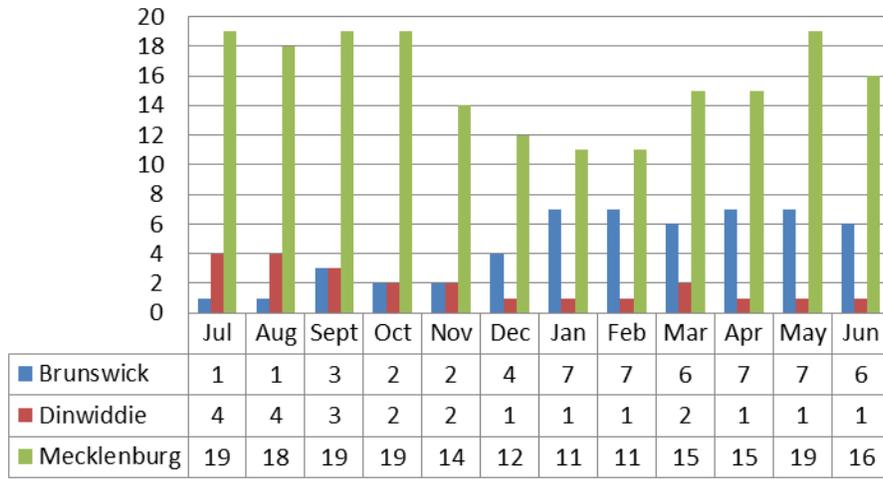
The primary goal of the LIDS Technician is to maintain the offender records on a daily basis. The LIDS Technician ensures the accuracy and integrity of all data entered into Meherrin River Regional Jail's Jail Management System and the Virginia Compensation Board's LIDS-CORIS system. Each offender record is reviewed to ensure that all data, including the commitment and/or release dates, demographic information, and court dispositions, is entered properly so this information can be submitted accurately to the Virginia Compensation Board. Per Diem payments are paid to the facility based on the information uploaded to the LIDS-CORIS system.

The LIDS Technician is responsible for the monthly reconciling of all detainees and their respective days served for each locality that Meherrin River Regional Jail serves. If any inconsistencies or errors are found, they are corrected and the total number of days is certified and approved within the LIDS-CORIS system, then submitted to the Virginia Compensation Board for approval.

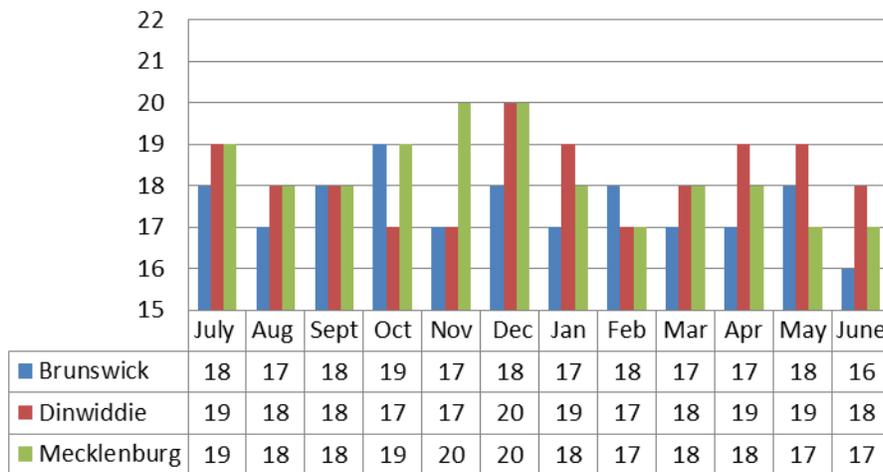
The Meherrin River Regional Jail is audited, at a minimum of every two years, by the Virginia Compensation Board to ensure that the facility is in compliance with the guidelines that the Board has established.



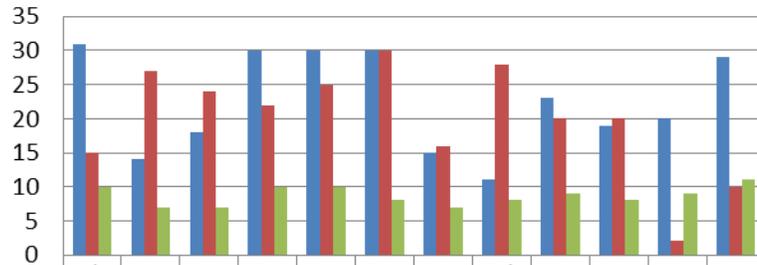
### Offenders Housed for Localities - Mecklenburg



### Average Length of Stay (by days) - Alberta



### Average Length of Stay (by days) - Mecklenburg



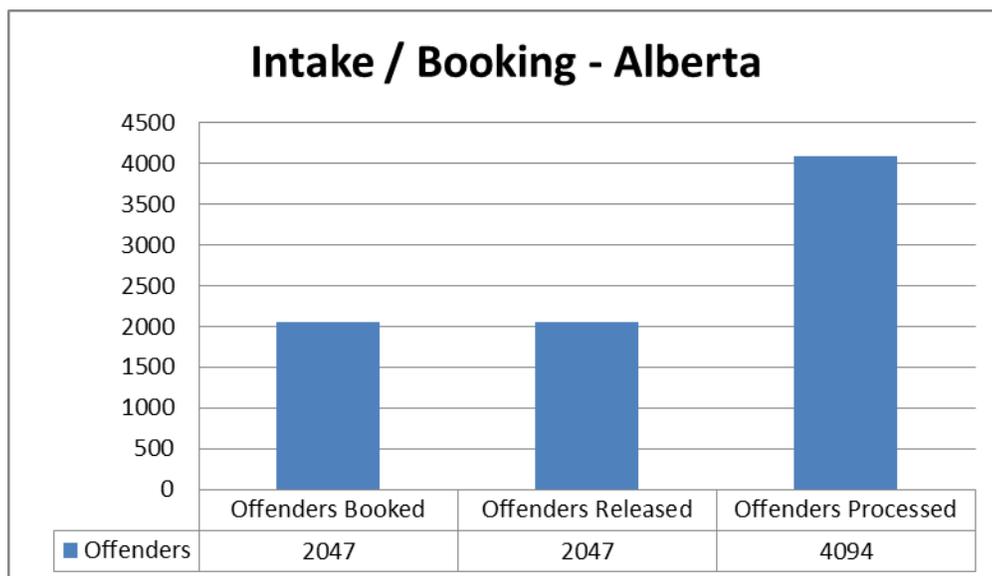
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
■ Brunswick	31	14	18	30	30	30	15	11	23	19	20	29
■ Dinwiddie	15	27	24	22	25	30	16	28	20	20	2	10
■ Mecklenburg	10	7	7	10	10	8	7	8	9	8	9	11

## Intake/Booking

The Intake Process is the foundation for the offender's incarceration. The process begins when an offender is accepted into the Meherrin River Regional Jail. The Intake Officers review and ensure all committal documents are accurate prior to accepting custody from the arresting officer. Once custody has been accepted, the Intake Officer conducts a pat down search for weapons or contraband, collects the personal property of the individual being incarcerated, and inventories the property. The officers then generate a computer record of the individual by entering all pertinent charges, personal information, medical history, identifying scars, marks or tattoos.

The Intake Officers are responsible for fingerprinting each person arrested. Fingerprints are transferred electronically via Livescan to the Virginia State Police Department for processing. The Livescan computer enables the Intake Officer to retrieve clearer and more accurate fingerprints. If the individual has an outstanding warrant, the State Police will notify the Meherrin River Regional Jail within minutes via the Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) of receiving the fingerprints so the appropriate action can be taken. Another advantage is the capability to store fingerprints of all individuals printed. This is a tremendous help to local, as well as, national law enforcement agencies who are conducting investigations and may need fingerprints of a certain individual.

Initial intake is the most critical time of incarceration. It requires the Officers to be observant to all behaviors and actions of the newly committed individuals. It is during this time that it is most likely an individual may have thoughts of suicide or self-mutilation and will act upon these thoughts. The Intake Officers must be able to spot potential hazards and act immediately. During this fiscal year, the Intake Officers booked in **2,047** offenders at the Alberta Facility and **390** at the Mecklenburg Facility. They also processed for release, **2,047** individuals at the Alberta Facility and **384** at the Mecklenburg Facility without serious incident to officer or offender. A total of **4,868** offenders were processed by Intake in this fiscal year.



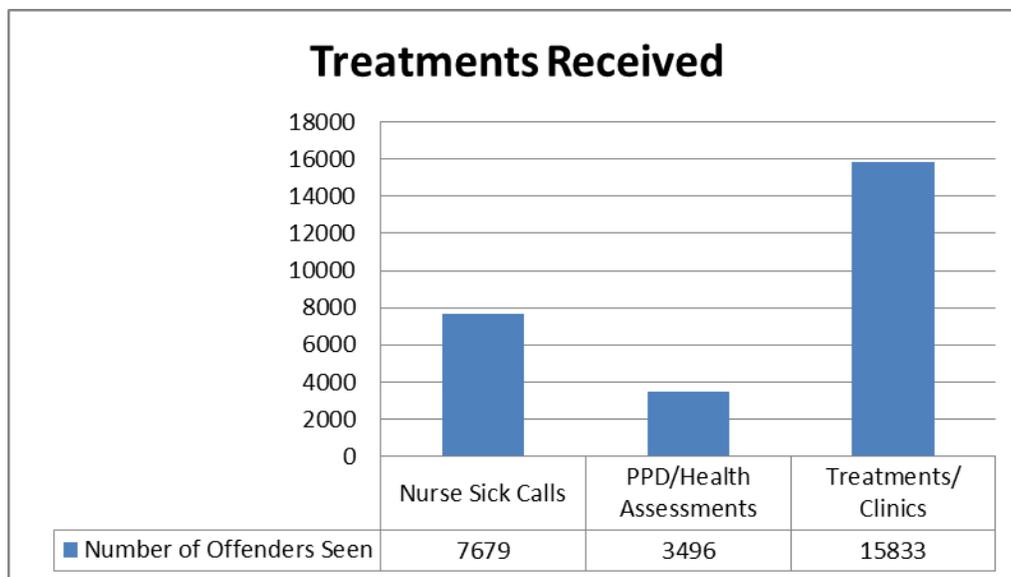
## Intake / Booking - Mecklenburg



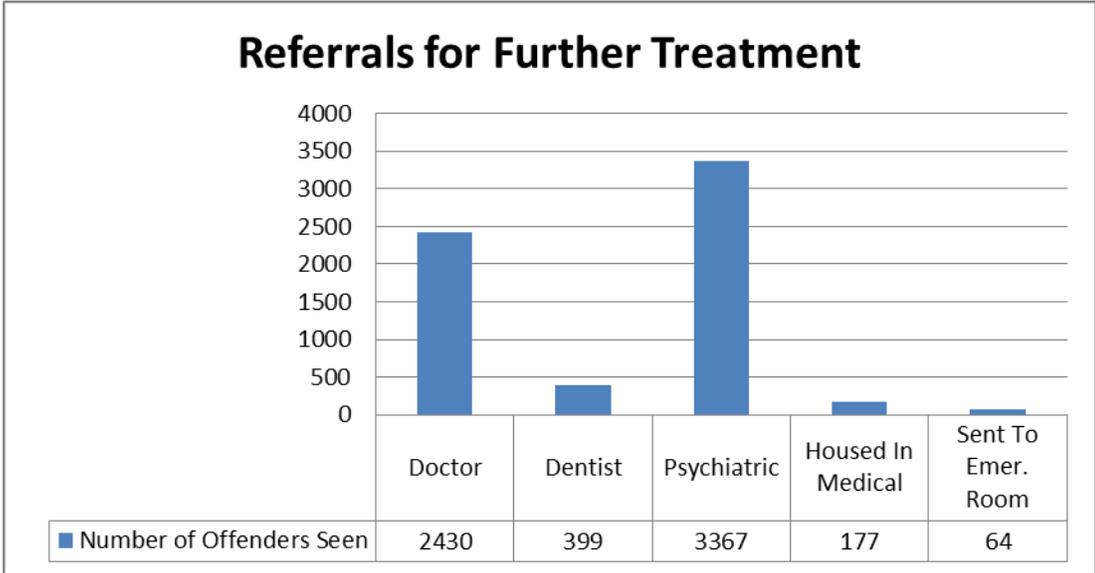
## Medical Department

Mediko's primary mission is to provide quality health care to all offenders. Services include not only general health care but also dental care and mental healthcare services. The Medical Department consists of two (2) Physicians, one (1) Psychiatrist, one (1) Dentist, four (4) Registered Nurses, seven (7) Licensed Practical Nurses, one (1) Mental Health Professional, one (1) Administrative Coordinator and one (1) Medical Records Personnel.

Daily operations include two (2) pill calls, sick calls, wound treatment clinics, blood pressure checks, and blood sugar checks, as well as, emergencies that may occur. Mediko also coordinates with local hospitals and clinics making arrangements for offenders to go to outside medical resources when their problems require treatments beyond the scope of the department's practice. Mediko also educates offenders about options for mental health and healthcare follow-ups when released from incarceration.



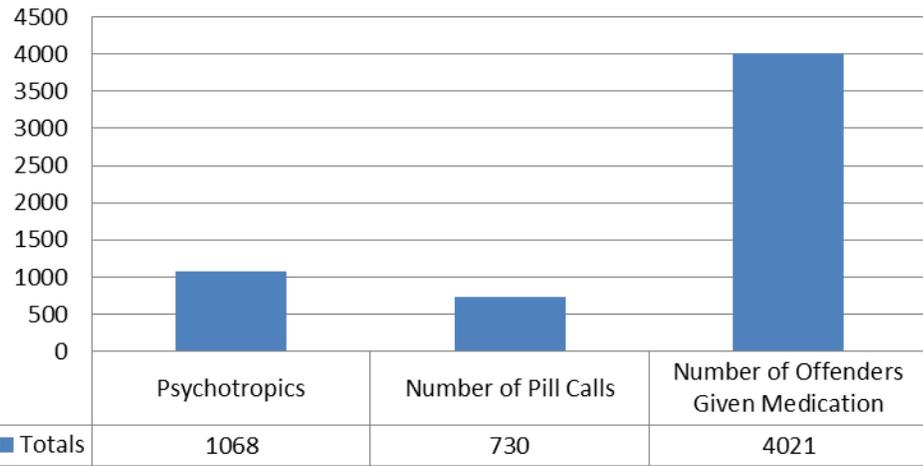
The number of sick calls totaled **7,679**. In addition, **3,496** PPD'S (Purified Protein Derivative) / Health Assessments were performed, as well as **15,833** treatments / clinics. They are currently seeing the offender population with chronic health problems. They are currently providing continual assessments, education, and support to those with such issues as infectious disease, hypertension, diabetes, and psychiatric illness. Dr. Kazlauskas and Dr. Liu have had over **2,430** offender visits and addressed a wide array of illnesses. Once seen by the doctor, a plan of care is put in place which includes maintaining medication compliance, follow-up care, and proper education.



Upon the approval from the Superintendent, Dr. Kazlauskas and Dr. Liu, the Medical Department offers a “Keep on Person” (KOP) medication program allowing responsible offenders with minor health problems to keep medications with them in their cells and take them on their own as needed. During the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019, **4,021** offenders were given medication, either through Pill Call or the KOP Program. We hope that giving the offender a little responsibility for their own healthcare will increase the likelihood of medication compliance once they are released.

The Medical Department continues to be a demanding, fast paced environment. The success of the department is a result of the dedicated teamwork of our skilled medical staff. The department sets very high goals and standards to provide the highest quality of medical care to our offender population.

## Medication



## **Employee Recognition**

The Meherrin River Regional Jail strives to recognize supervisors and officers who have received special recognition for achievements, not only in jail operations, but also in various off-site activities.

This year, the facility continues to recognize these employees that have made the facility shine in the community. The following employees have demonstrated dedication to excellence, and true professionalism, reflecting greatly on the facility. The facility commends these individuals for their accomplishments and is certain they will continue to strive for excellence.

### **Employee of the Year**



James Flynn is a 7 year veteran at Meherrin River Regional Jail. He grew up in Chase City, Virginia and attended Bluestone Senior High School. While working for another company, he was presented with a very fortunate opportunity to become a Jail Officer at Meherrin Regional Jail in

2012. Officer Flynn started working in Security and later transferred to the Transportation Department as a Transportation Officer, where he is still currently employed.

Officer Flynn is a dedicated, reliable, and motivated officer. He has made Meherrin River Regional Jail his family and strives for safety for the offenders, himself and his co-workers. He was chosen as the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Employee of the Quarter and later chosen as the 2018 Employee of the Year. Officer Flynn hopes to remain a strong and positive role model for the new and upcoming Officers in the many years to come.

### Supervisor of the Year



Rodney Jacobs is a 7 year veteran of Meherrin River Regional Jail. He grew up in Norfolk, Virginia where he graduated from Granby High School and later from Saint Leo University. Rodney started his career with the Norfolk Police Department in 1985 where he had numerous specialized assignments to include K9 handler and trainer, and sniper on the Emergency Response Team. His

final assignment was Range Master and he retired in 2012 to begin the next chapter of his life with Meherrin River Regional Jail.

Rodney is the Administrative Investigator for the Jail and conducts very thorough internal and criminal investigations for the Jail. He also initiates and manages the initial hiring process for prospective employees by conducting an extensive background investigation and is also part of the panel that interviews potential employees. He works very hard to ensure the Jail hires the most eligible qualified personnel, and maintains an open door policy to help with any issues that may arise during employment.

Rodney was chosen as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Supervisor of the Quarter and later chosen as the 2018 Supervisor of the Year.

Rodney currently resides in Macon, North Carolina where he lives on a farm with his lovely wife Lisa and their son. They have several horses and dogs that they enjoy and keep them busy in their spare time.

## Virginia Association of Regional Jail's Pistol Tournament



The Meherrin River Regional Jail participated in the 7th Annual David Arnold Memorial Pistol Competition at the 21st Annual Virginia Association of Regional Jails Conference on April 16, 2019. Regional Jails from all over Virginia compete with each other and demonstrate their firearm training and skills.

The Meherrin River Regional Jail team members were Capt. J. Lucy, Capt. J. Booth, Lt. W. Townsend, Sgt. S. Smith, Sgt. B. Snead, Officer M. Stith, Officer J. Flynn and Officer A. Gatti.

The competition offers four classes of competition: Master, A, B and C Classes. This year, Capt. J. Booth won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Masters Class, Sgt. S. Smith won 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the Masters Class and Officer M. Stith won 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the A Class! Congratulations to all of these exemplary employees on your dedication and hard work!

This event, in conjunction with the conference, allows officers and staff from all over the state to come together and share information and experience. In addition, there is training classes offered, as well as, lectures on the newest products available to the industry.