

## What is the KCSO Reserve Division?

The Kalamazoo County Sheriff Office Reserve Division was organized in 1963 as a county civil defense unit, primarily to react to county and national emergencies such as tornadoes or nuclear attack. In 1973 the unit was trained and armed to be a back up for, and lend assistance to the regular Sheriff's Office Staff.

The reserves provide the "extra bodies" necessary to accomplish extraordinary tasks that the Sheriff's Office is called upon to carry out. As an example, of the 350 officers from various county and state law enforcement departments who were needed to control the KKK rally held in Kalamazoo in 1998, approximately 75 were reserve officers. These officers stood shoulder to shoulder with regular full time officers facing the crowds.

Security for the Kalamazoo County Fair is a prime responsibility for the Reserve Division. Reserves also participate in day to day activities of the Sheriff's Department, which include riding on patrol, traffic control for parades, and working shifts at the county jail. The Reserve Division also assists the KCSO Marine Division in doing safety inspections and water law enforcement on the many of the local lakes during the summer months.

Organized as a para-military group with ranks much the same as the Sheriff's Office, a Captain is in command with lieutenants and sergeants in charge of the various sections of the Reserve Division. The sections of the division consist of Transportation, Firearms, Supply, Training, Jail, and Administration.

The Reserve division is an unpaid, volunteer organization. Most officers have full time jobs such as bankers, lawyers, engineers, students, factory workers and farmers. The Division includes both men and women spanning age groups from 21 to 65. The common thread is that all of the reserves have an interest in law enforcement and a desire to keep the community safe.

**For further information about the KCSO Reserve Division, or if you are interested in becoming part of the Reserve Division contact:**

**Kalamazoo County  
Sheriffs Office  
1500 Lamont Street  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001**



**2008 Academy Graduating Class**



**Kalamazoo County  
Sheriffs Office**

**Reserve Division**



## How Do You Become a Reserve Officer?

Every two years applications are solicited through local media such as radio, television and newspapers. The applicants are thoroughly screened, including background checks and personal interviews. Those selected are then appointed to the Reserve Academy, which begins in January of the following year and is sponsored by the Kalamazoo County Sheriffs Office.



Monthly Training (Cruiser Training)

## The KCSO Reserve Academy

With a reputation for excellence, recruits are sent to the academy from such places as Van Buren County, Allegan County, Portage City Police Department and Kalamazoo Township. The Reserve Academy curriculum consists of over 100 hours of intense law enforcement training that gives the recruit a basic understanding of day to day police work. The classes which are held between January and May include basics of law, Use of Force, crime scene investigation, handling domestic disputes, and other facets of law enforcement.

In addition, physical activities such as unarmed restraint techniques, use of chemical deterrents, hard object defense techniques, and felony stops are taught.

The firearms portion of the academy is an intense four weeks of training on the use of deadly force, proper firearm use, and shooting proficiency.

Reserve Academy instructors are Criminal Justice professionals from the various fields being taught. Previous instructors have come from the Prosecutors Office, the County Sheriffs Office, and local attorneys.

## After Graduation

Completion of the academy is not the end of training. There are several required annual qualifications such as firearms and continuum of force. In addition, there are monthly training classes held either on law enforcement subjects or field exercises such as lost person searches, and felony stops. Firearm open shoots are also held in order to stay proficient with a sidearm.

In return for this training, the Reserve Division requires that reserves work a minimum of: (2) jail churches, (1) special event, and (3) days of the county fair per year.

Considering the limited budgets of local law enforcement departments, the Reserve Division is an integral part of continued community safety. It presents the opportunity to truly participate in giving to your community while learning new skills and becoming part of the local law enforcement team.



2008 County Fair