

Korina Pittman

Sgt Larry Russ has worked for the Robeson County Sheriff's office for almost 20 years. He has worked as many things including a dispatcher for the county before becoming a deputy. He is a first Sergeant for C squad. What that means is that he is in charge of one of the four squads that rotate protecting the citizens of Robeson County in a 24 hour period. There are eight deputies on a squad and Sgt. Russ said they all have to go through a Basic Law Enforcement class to be certified as a law enforcement officer and then have to go through six months of training when they go on the road.

Sgt. Russ said some deputies never work on the road. Other jobs include working at the courthouse helping with court, working in the jail, serving warrants, and working in the schools. He said there are also different divisions in the Sheriff's office. One works with juveniles and crimes they commit. He said there is a division that does nothing but drug investigations, and one that investigates big crimes that take time to investigate like murder and embezzlement.

His job is to supervise a squad of 8 deputies. They work 12 hour shifts and work for two days and then have two days off. They have to work every other weekend and every 30 days switch from day shift to night shift. He assigns deputies to zones in the county. Robeson County is the largest county, land wise, in the state. It doesn't have the highest population but does have one of the highest crime rates. Sgt. Russ says everyday is different when he comes to work. He usually goes to work before his deputies and makes sure all the paperwork is done so that the dispatchers know which deputy is working in each zone to make sure the calls are assigned properly. The deputies come to the office at the beginning of the shift to pick up any

information and special equipment they need and then stay on the road for the entire time they are on duty.

Sgt. Russ said every night is different. Sometimes they have calls with people complaining about loud noises and sometimes they have to deal with really serious stuff like murders and drugs. Sgt. Russ said the best part of his job is that every day is different, and sometimes you get to help people. He said the worst part of his job is seeing people at their worst. He has never shot anyone, but has had to pull his gun in the line of duty.

Sgt. Russ works for Sheriff Kenny Sealy who was elected Sheriff. Sheriff Sealy is a sworn law enforcement officer, but you don't have to be a sworn law enforcement officer to be Sheriff. Sheriff Sealy has worked for Robeson County for more than 35 years. He has worked for Robeson County longer than almost any other county employee.

In his spare time Sgt. Russ is a 4-H volunteer and leads the Dirty Dozen Shooting Sports 4-H Club. He also plays golf, teaches hunter safety for the wildlife commission, and likes to cook, especially grill.