

Ask the Chief.....

What does the Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol do and where does it receive its funding?

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol has multiple missions during the boating season on Lake Erie and waterways around Lake County.

Its first mission is to help make the boating season safe and enjoyable for our residents and visitors. Our Marine Patrol Deputy Sheriffs are specially trained in areas such as marine navigation and water rescue. They use these skills to respond to stranded boaters, search for missing boaters, respond to environmental hazards on the lake and inland waterways, conduct boat inspections to insure that the proper safety equipment is being used, enforce boating laws such as BUI (boating while intoxicated) laws and proper boating safety. As well, the Marine Patrol responds with specially trained divers to assist with lost swimmers or locate submerged boats. As well, the Marine Patrol provides assistance to the United States Coast Guard when requested.



A second mission for our Marine Patrol is to participate in the Federal governments' Northern Border Initiative. Patrolling our local waterways, as well as international waters in Lake Erie, the Marine Patrol works to deter and prevent terrorism and smuggling, trafficking, and illegal immigration. What many people do not realize is that the U.S. - Canadian border is a very expansive security challenge that runs 5,500 miles across Canada and the United States. There are roughly 300,000 people and over \$1.5 billion dollars in trade that cross the northern border each day. The Lake County Sheriff's Office plays an integral role in helping to secure that border. Besides monitoring shipping lanes, our patrol unit has been dispatched by the Northern Basin dispatch center to respond into international waters to monitor and check ships as they enter United States waterways to insure they have the proper documentation to enter the Country.



Our Marine Patrol receives funding from two sources. Annually we receive approximately \$25,000 from a grant through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Additionally, our Office receives approximately \$40,000 annually from the federal government's Northern Border Initiative. Our current watercraft was funded by the State of Ohio.

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