

Legion Post 57 feeds first responders

Annual luncheon
has served as thank
you for 14 years.

By **TONY BRITT**

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More than 50 local first responders had lunch at American Legion Post 57 on Wednesday as part of its second First Responder Luncheon of the year.

Several firefighters, highway patrol officers, police officers, deputies, paramedics and others ate their lunch at the post while other first responders received 'to-go' containers.

Karen Lynch, American Legion Post 57 chef, said the American Legion Post 57 members were happy to be able to provide lunch for local first responders.

"We love it. We love serving our civil service workers," she said. "We love our firemen, our first responders and our police officers. It's a pleasure for us to do this."

Lynch said it took roughly three hours to cook the food, which included 80 pounds of chicken, 35 pounds of cole slaw and 30 pounds of beans.

"It's important to give back to the community for all they do for us," she said.

There were at least a dozen American Legion Post 57 members helping to prepare and serve the food, in addition other handouts that took place during the event.

LEGION *continued on 6A*



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Agriculture Law Enforcement officer Zack Skinner gets a plate of barbecue from American Legion Post 57 volunteers during the post's First Responder Luncheon on Wednesday.

LEGION

Continued From 1A

Lynch said volunteers, American Legion Post 57 members from the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and Legion Riders all participated in the event.

Bill Huggins, post commander for American Legion Post 57, said the post holds the First Responder Luncheon twice a year and has been holding the events for 14 years.

"These guys are out there 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, protecting us and keeping us safe," he said of the importance of the luncheon. "They keep on giving and the least we can do is show our appreciation."

With at least one person from every department in the post helping with the event, Huggins said he was pleased to see so many people willing to participate and help with the luncheon.

"Being veterans, the spouses of veterans and families of veterans, we understand the sacrifices," he said. "While some of these people are not veterans, they are first responders and this is our way of giving back to them."



Photos by TONY BRITT/Lake City Reporter

ABOVE: Columbia County Fire Rescue firefighter Alex English grabs a cookie for dessert after getting lunch at American Legion Post 57.

LEFT: An American Legion Post 57 volunteer (from left) looks on as Columbia County Fire Rescue firefighters Joey Bassett and Tyler Dorris grab a cookie dessert for their lunches.