FLYING WHEEL

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FLYING WHEEL

Bob Taft
Governor, State of Ohio

Kenneth L. Morckel
Director, Department of Public Safety

Colonel Paul D. McClellan
Superintendent, Ohio State Highway Patrol

Office of Strategic Services
Maj. John T. Born
Capt. Brigette E. Charles

Editor
Kandee Tinkham
e-mail: ktinkham@dps.state.oh.us

Staff
Visual Communications Unit
S/Lt. C. Lance Mathess, Gregory J. Wyatt, Carol M. Conrad, LaDonna L. Adams, Christopher M. Nickell, Laura A. Milem

External Communications Section
Lt. Richard L. Zwayer, Jeff Grayson, Lisa Sinclair, Bradley Shaw

Photographic Services
Brian S. Kitay, Cynthia Bell, William R. Watkins, Karie J. Adelsberger

Reporters
Findlay District
S/Lt. David L. Gillespie
Bucyrus District
S/Lt. Chris Zurcher
Massillon District
S/Lt. Joel P. Smith
Warren District
S/Lt. George Williams
Piqua District
S/Lt. Robert Johnson
Columbus District
S/Lt. Gary Allen
Cambridge District
S/Lt. Virgil J. Wright
Wilmington District
S/Lt. Cliff L. Schaffner
Jackson District
Sec. Lynne A. Schucker
Berea District
S/Lt. Monte R. Morgan
Recruitment & Training
Capt. Andrew J. Stritmatter
Technology & Information Services
AA3 Vicie Reynolds-Bitler
Investigative Services
S/Lt. Howard W. Hudson
Human Resource Management
S/Lt. Brian W. Landis
Licensing & Commercial Standards
Lt. John P. Boster
Finance & Logistic Services
Maj. Lisa J. Taylor

The "Flying Wheel" is published by the Office of Strategic Services in the interest of the entire Highway Patrol family.

In sitting down to write this letter, I'm pressed to recall a time in my Patrol career when so many sworn and professional staff members are positively affecting such dynamic change and events.

In the past year our organization has been involved in four deadly officer-involved shootings. Fortunately, after each incident the troopers involved were able to return home.

I want to recognize the outstanding efforts of the Academy staff because after reviewing in-car videos and incident reports from those shootings, there can be little doubt that the training our officers received helped save their lives.

I am extremely proud that after a 50-year absence, we are welcoming a motorcycle unit back into the Patrol.

Our new Motorcycle Unit will target both reckless driving and traffic congestion-related issues, which are contributing to crashes on metropolitan-area outer belts and interstates. These motorcycle troopers will efficiently and effectively move in congested metropolitan interstate areas and also maximize motorist education and awareness of problem areas.

The re-introduction of motorcycles to our operations is part of a major crash reduction plan on metropolitan outer belts and interstates to address the systemic problem in which three to four people die daily in largely preventable traffic crashes on Ohio roads.

We are leveraging every available resource to save lives and prevent tragedies on Ohio roads. Largely funded by drunk driver fines, we are combining our new Motorcycle Unit with low-manpower OVI checkpoints, in conjunction with nearby saturation patrols.

Our Research Unit continues to push the technological envelope. Through GPS pin-mapping, the innovative use of Google Earth™ to map fatal crashes, and in-depth statistical crash trend analysis, our commanders possess more critical information than ever to assist with operational decision-making and the deployment of troopers.

It's very apparent that throughout the state our personnel remain committed to accomplishing our mission. Trust that what you are doing is making a difference and that *LifeStat 1.0* is reachable if we work together.

Col. Paul D. McClellan

Colonel Paul D. McClellan
Superintendent

Trust that what you are doing is making a difference and that LifeStat 1.0 *is reachable if we work together.*

Troopers return to motorcycles

Substantial summer effort to reduce fatal and injury crashes in high traffic volume areas of Ohio

By Colonel Paul D. McClellan
Superintendent

After an absence of over 50 years, I am excited to see Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers back on motorcycles.

Our new Motorcycle Unit will target both reckless driving and traffic congestion-related issues which are contributing to crashes on metropolitan area outer belts and interstates. Our Motorcycle Unit will operate at one-third the cost of a patrol car tactical squad, and can efficiently and effectively move in congested metropolitan interstate areas and also maximize motorist education and awareness of problem areas.

The unit has six Harley Davidson FLHTP-1 Electra Glide motorcycles, and assigned officers are wearing motorcycle unit-specific uniforms.

The unit, which will operate out of the Academy during a pilot program period, will be led by Staff Lt. Shawn Lee, with supervisors Sgt. John Moore and Sgt. Steve Click. Troopers assigned to the unit are: Jason Highsmith, Marcus Pirrone, Lawrence Roberts, and Josh Weaver.

Earlier this spring, all our motorcycle officers completed the Northwestern University/Harley Davidson Motor Course in Memphis, Tenn. The rigorous curriculum consisted of specialized training in the areas of braking, high- and slow-speed maneuvering, vehicle maintenance, stops and approaches, and hazardous conditions operations.

Congratulations to all the officers for completing this training, and high marks to Sgt. Moore and Tpr. Pirrone for grading out at a perfect 100 percent.

Starting in June, Motorcycle Unit troopers began riding in the Columbus metropolitan area, focusing on metropolitan outer belt and interstate enforcement, and conducting motorcycle safety speech details.

After two years of progress toward the state and national goal of significant traffic crash fatality reduction, preliminary totals indicate an increase in traffic crash fatalities on Ohio roads in 2005. Two areas that particularly concern me are fatal crashes occurring within the metropolitan areas of Ohio and a considerable statewide increase in motorcycle crash fatalities.

The new Motorcycle Unit is part of a comprehensive plan we are implementing this year to address these specific traffic safety issues.

In an effort to address what is being called a systemic threat to safety, troopers will be teaming up with other law enforcement officers to target impaired and reckless drivers near Ohio's largest cities.

Nearly 20 percent of Ohio's traffic crash deaths are occurring in just five metropolitan areas. Troopers and commanding officers are now using highly detailed mapping, such as those provided by Google Earth™ and other Geo-mapping software to better utilize existing manpower. Tracking the effectiveness of traffic stops on impacting traffic crashes is also now possible through Global Positioning System (GPS) mapping of Patrol cruiser locations.

The initiative will run July 1 through the end of August, and is being funded mostly with drunk driver fines.

In March, law enforcement agencies from Ohio's major metropolitan areas met to discuss ways traffic enforcement in metro areas can have an overall impact on safety, while also making inroads in criminal patrol, felony apprehensions, and homeland security.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta recently declared highway traffic deaths a "national tragedy" and called on all Americans to respond by wearing safety belts, using motorcycle helmets, and driving sober.

"Every year this country experiences a national tragedy that is as preventable as it is devastating," said Secretary Mineta. "We have the tools to prevent this tragedy – every car has a safety belt, every motorcycle rider should have a helmet, and everyone should have enough sense to never drive while impaired."

Statistically, our highways have become the most dangerous places to be in Ohio. We literally and figuratively must stop the bloodshed by improving rural traffic safety while also impacting the highest traffic volume areas. We will make an impact by focusing on impaired driving and other crash-causing violations.

In addition to making Ohio roads safer for the majority of law-abiding motorists, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has reported that effective traffic enforcement yields other side benefits like reducing the economic impact of crashes, criminal patrol, including getting drugs out of Ohio communities, and meeting the new homeland security needs of the general public.

Fatal crash maps indicating individual communities and problem areas are available on the Ohio State Highway Patrol Web site, www.statepatrol.ohio.gov.

Our use of mapping by Google Earth™ is already generating interest on the Internet. Frank Taylor, who operates Google Earth™ Blog (www.gearthblog.com) recently added this post to his site, illustrating yet another way our traffic safety message is reaching the public:

"The Ohio State Highway Patrol has just released a well done, and dramatic, collection of placemarks showing the locations and details of fatal traffic accidents in the state during 2005. The number of fatal crashes is stunning. Download the Ohio fatal traffic accidents collection now. They have used icons to represent whether the fatality was in a car, motorcycle, alcohol-related, or commercial. Each placemark contains details on number of fatalities, location, type, alcohol-involved, and the cause. You can zoom in and see the actual location in the satellite/aerial photos in GE, and turn on the roads layer to see better where each happened. It seems quite a few people just drive off the road in rural areas and alcohol is not even involved. The other strong point clearly illustrated is that drinking and driving really is dangerous."

Ride Smart. Drive Smart.

The Patrol and the American Motorcyclist Association's *Ride Smart. Drive Smart.* partnership promotes motorcycle safety and encourages drivers to be aware of motorcyclists. In 2005, there were 177 motorcycle fatalities in Ohio.

Program with American Motorcyclist Association back for second year

To kick-off Motorcycle Awareness Month in May, the Patrol and American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) announced the *Ride Smart. Drive Smart.* partnership for a second consecutive riding season.

Throughout the spring and summer, the Patrol will provide a series of motorcycle safety tips from the AMA to help make it a safe and enjoyable motorcycle riding season in Ohio. Three key safety messages stressed through the program are:

- Ride trained/Ride licensed – emphasizing the importance of riders having a valid motorcycle endorsement, quality motorcycle training, and proper safety equipment. Also, resources are provided to find examination stations.
- Ride sober – incorporating the AMA's national Ride Straight program.
- The importance of drivers being aware of motorcyclists.

"Continuing our partnership with the AMA for *Ride Smart. Drive Smart.* maintains a focus on motorcycle safety for all motorists in Ohio during the riding season," Colonel Paul McClellan, Patrol superintendent, said. "Last year, there were 177 motorcycle fatalities; an increase of over 30 percent from 2004. The only way to significantly reduce motorcycle fatalities is for everyone to share the road and to understand their responsibilities and contributions toward safe travel on our roadways."

Emphasis on motorcycle safety is important when considering, in 2005, there were 4,552 crashes involving motorcycles, which included 177 motorcyclist fatalities, accounting for 14 percent of the state's traffic fatalities for the year.

"The AMA is proud to support the Ohio State Highway Patrol in this important campaign," said Patricia DiPietro, the AMA's Chief Executive Officer. "Our connection to the OSHP goes back more than 70 years, when Jim Davis – the winner of the first-ever AMA-sanctioned race – retired from competition and joined the Patrol to help create its motorcycle-patrol unit in 1933. We're pleased to continue our ties in a way that benefits all motorcyclists."

LifeStat 1.0 Update: Fatal crash picture, January - March, 2006

Provisional data show 246 traffic fatalities (229 crashes) occurred on Ohio roads during January - March 2006:

- 59 were alcohol-related traffic fatalities (58 crashes), accounting for 24 percent of all traffic fatalities.
- 40 percent (102) of traffic fatalities were unbelted.
- 28 percent were speed-related.
- 37 fatalities involved commercial vehicles (15 percent).
- There were six reported motorcycle fatalities.

Governor Taft signs bill to toughen penalties on drugged drivers

On May 11, Governor Bob Taft signed into law Senate Bill 8, which toughens penalties for individuals driving under the influence of drugs. Taft signed the bill at the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Crime Lab in Columbus.

"Too many people in Ohio are putting innocent bystanders, passengers and themselves at risk by driving while impaired. Today, we make our roads and highways safer for all our citizens," said Taft. "This bill sends a clear message to anyone who drives under the influence of drugs: You will be caught, and you will be prosecuted."

Senate Bill 8 is intended to help protect the safety of all motorists by providing law enforcement and prosecutors with the necessary tools to prosecute individuals who are impaired by drugs while operating a motor vehicle or water craft. The bill:

- Establishes specified concentrations as levels for impairment for major drugs;
- Increases the time limit for blood, breath, or urine withdrawal for an alleged violation from two hours to three hours; and
- Updates the current Operating a Vehicle under the Influence (OVI) standards with Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUID) standards.

Senate Bill 8 contains many recommendations from the Governor's Task Force on Impaired Driving, which Taft established in 2003 to identify ways the state can reduce the incidence of impaired driving.

Governor Bob Taft congratulates state Senator Steve Austria, who sponsored the bill, as Stephanie Kaylor, Major John Born, Deborah Eick, whose brother was killed in a crash with a drugged driver, and retired trooper Len Gray look on.

Joining Taft for the bill signing were First Lady Hope Taft, a longtime advocate for increased penalties for drugged driving, and the bill's sponsor, state Senator Steve Austria (R-Beavercreek).

Retired State Highway Patrol Trooper Leonard Gray (Athens) also spoke in support of the bill. Gray was seriously injured on the job in 2002 while investigating a crash when a drug-impaired driver drove through the crash scene and struck him with his car.

"This scar on my head is a permanent reminder of the force of the impact and the events of that day. It is through God's grace that I am alive today and able to be here for this landmark day," Gray said.

"Prior to this bill, it has been difficult to get convictions on drug-impaired drivers. By setting the per se levels for drugs, Ohio has taken an important step in deterring and prosecuting drugged drivers. Governor, Mrs. Taft, Senator Austria, thank you so much for supporting this legislation and making this important change to Ohio law a reality."

Senate Bill 8 will be effective August 17, 2006.

What's Holding You Back?

As part of the 2006 Click It or Ticket/What's Holding You Back? safety belt campaign kickoff, Colonel Paul McClellan and other Patrol officers joined the Governor's Highway Safety Office and law enforcement agencies from across Ohio at the Columbus Clippers baseball stadium. The Patrol will continue with zero tolerance for safety belt violations when motorists stopped for violations are not wearing a required safety belt or don't have children properly restrained in child safety seats.

Colonel McClellan greeted Todd McCollough and his family at the 2006 Click It or Ticket/What's Holding You Back? kickoff. McCollough and his sons were involved in a serious traffic crash but escaped injury because they were wearing their safety belts.

Team approach defeats criminals in Jackson District

Troopers use traffic enforcement to help sheriffs, police departments, and federal agents fight crime

Troopers in the Jackson District are realizing tremendous traffic safety and criminal patrol success by forging innovative partnerships with sheriffs, local police departments, and other state and federal agencies.

In an effort called MAPS (multi-agency policing saturation), joint tactical squads work together for three-day enforcement blitzes that target traffic violations with an emphasis on recognizing criminal indicators during enforcement contacts.

The efforts were first employed in three operations in Lucasville in Scioto County last year. Another recent operation in Lucasville, as well as efforts in Gallipolis and Marietta, also proved worthwhile.

Jackson District commander Capt. George Maier explained how the program not only impacts crime in a given area, but also contributes to traffic safety: "The way we look at it, each enforcement contact gives us the opportunity to sell *LifeStat 1.0*."

For example, during four operations so far in Lucasville, officers have made nearly 4,800 additional traffic stops. In the most recent blitz spanning May 13 – 15, 46 drivers were arrested for OVI. "For us, it's almost 5,000 additional chances to impact traffic safety," Maier said.

Above: During a Lucasville enforcement effort criminal patrol Tpr. Shaun Smart, Piqua District, seized of one kilo of cocaine and 15 pounds of marijuana.

Right: OIS officers go over intelligence and interview suspects in the staging area set up in the Portsmouth Post's garage.

Recognizing a need

The program was created after the Jackson District staff and criminal patrol coordinator, Sgt. Dick Meadows, attended several networking meetings with law enforcement officers working in and around Scioto County. Meadows said all parties agreed that the area is a "target-rich environment" in regards to criminal activity and that the same names and locations came up time after time in the meetings.

Officers also recognized that the area has historically led the state in the number of pursuits and resisting arrest cases. Ultimately, the idea of a multi-agency saturation/enforcement effort to address criminal activity in and around Lucasville evolved.

That first operation ran from March 31 – April 3, 2005, and utilized personnel from the Portsmouth Post, as well as troopers from every post in the district; criminal patrol and investigative officers from the Jackson District, surrounding districts, and GHQ; Special Response Team units; the Aviation Section; and the Commercial Enforcement Section.

Other agencies working the detail included the Scioto County Sheriff's Office, all local police departments, county and municipal prosecutors' offices, federal and local drug task force operations, the Ohio Investigative Unit, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification, the Ohio Department of Taxation, DEA, FBI, and ATF.

"We brought these agencies together and accomplished more than anyone expected," Meadows said.

In fact, during the first 30 minutes of the operation, officers stopped a suspect who was on the "top five" persons of interest list provided by local law enforcement. The suspect was found in possession of $7,000 in currency and further investigation resulted in the seizure of seven ounces of cocaine from the suspect's residence.

During the three days, officers initiated 33 felony drug cases and seized 17 pounds of marijuana and nearly three pounds of cocaine, in addition to

other narcotics. They also seized 19 weapons and more than $15,000 in cash, shut down three methamphetamine labs, and recovered four stolen cars.

Maier said, "This program brought the best of the Patrol together – Aviation, SRT, OIS, the Crime Lab. A lot of sheriffs and police departments didn't realize we had these resources available. Now, they are excited about what we can do for them and they are sold on *LifeStat 1.0*.

"When Colonel McClellan introduced *LifeStat 1.0*, he said we wouldn't be able to reach our goal alone. Now, agencies where we wouldn't otherwise have our foot in the door are offering their officers overtime to help us work traffic," Maier said.

How it works

Operations begin as the target area is saturated with patrol officers who make numerous traffic stops for moving violations and use the enforcement contacts as an opportunity to talk to violators and sell traffic safety. As always, troopers remain alert for indicators of criminal activity.

When a suspect is arrested, he or she is turned over to an officer with Investigative Services, who documents the case, allowing the patrol officers to get right back on the road enforcing traffic.

As organizers expected, many suspects are tied to various criminal activities. Some are given the option of cooperating with local and/or federal agents to help build cases against additional suspects.

In addition to the controlled purchase of narcotics, which can lead to the arrest of the seller and search warrants to find additional evidence, officers also obtain information crucial to future investigations. Narcotics cases are usually the crux of the enforcement blitzes, but officers have also uncovered numerous stolen vehicles as well as firearms and other weapons.

The efforts have been extremely well received in the law enforcement community and serve as a prime example of the great things that can be accomplished through information- and resource-sharing. The response has also been favorable in the communities where these operations have occurred. "The people are tired of the criminal activity," Maier said.

By removing the criminal element and showing a strong enforcement presence, communities and roadways are made safe. Meadows noted that after each program, at least one person has stopped by the local Patrol post to thank troopers for their efforts.

He also offered this anecdotal evidence of the program's success: A local officer passed a nightclub Sunday morning during one of the blitzes. He thought it was odd that the parking lot was full and stopped to check it out. He was told the cars belonged to patrons from the night before. It seems word had spread that officers were out in force, so everyone who had been drinking left their cars behind and found alternative transportation home.

Intangible benefits

The success of the program has already spread beyond the Jackson District. Meadows reports receiving calls from interested agencies all over the state. Already, a similar operation has occurred in Preble County and scaled down versions have been carried out in Bucyrus and Elyria. At least two more operations are scheduled for this summer with more agencies expressing interest all the time.

The relationships the Patrol is building with federal, state, and local law enforcement are extremely valuable. Maier noted, "Through this process, the group effort has evolved. There is a lot more information-sharing, which impacts other areas of our operations like homeland security. The information is flowing back and forth and we have cooperative enforcement. That's really the key."

At a Glance

Results from the Jackson District's joint criminal patrol enforcement efforts:

Lucasville/Scioto County*

Activity

Traffic stops	4,789
Total arrests	1,447
OVI arrests	125
Felony arrests	115
Case investigations	211
Drug cases	146
Search Warrants	18

Seizures

Recovered stolen vehicles	6
US Currency	$51,927
Marijuana	32 pounds
Cocaine	3,232 grams
Crack Cocaine	542 grams
Meth	16 grams
Meth Labs	5
Weapons	53

*Over three operations in 2005 and one May 13 - 15, 2006.

Marietta/Washington County
April 6 - 9

Activity

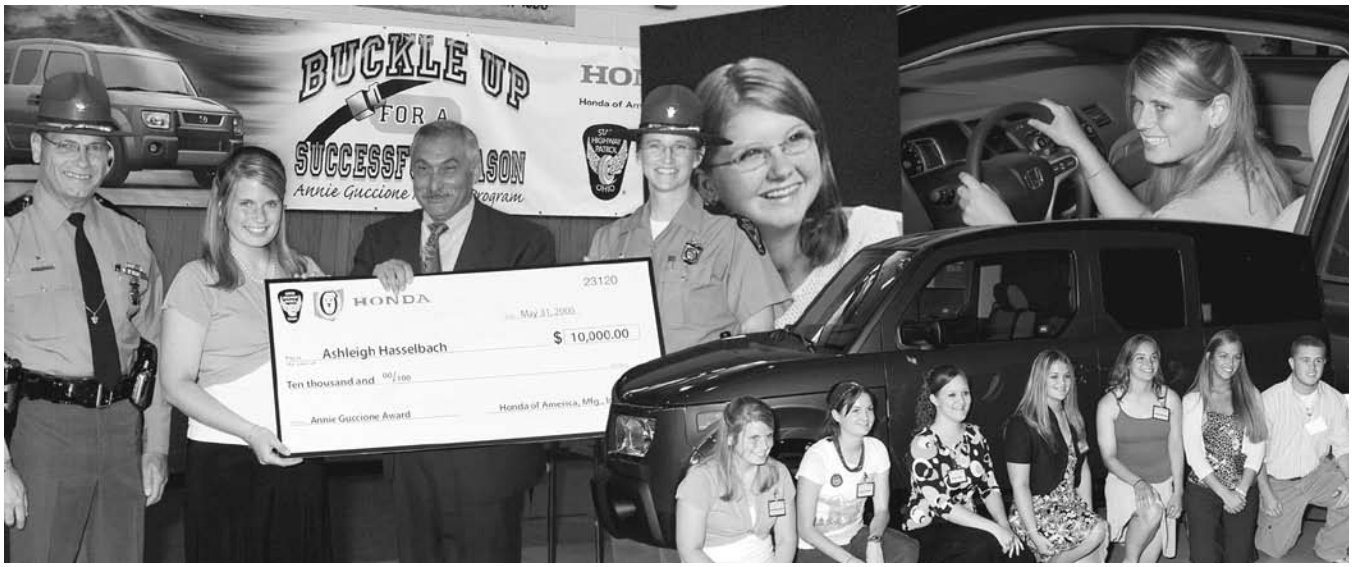
Traffic stops	1,126
Total arrests	303
OVI arrests	9
Felony arrests	12
Drug cases	32
Search Warrants	3

Seizures

Recovered stolen vehicles	1
US Currency	$1,923
Marijuana	3 pounds
Cocaine	6 grams
Crack Cocaine	38 grams
Meth Labs	1**
Weapons	1

**Three others identified.

Annie Guccione Awards



Through the Annie Guccione Awards, the Patrol and Honda Manufacturing of America recognized eight Ohio high school students who positively impacted their communities as traffic safety advocates.

Ashleigh Hasselbach of Fremont Ross H.S. takes state honors in first *Buckle Up For A Successful Season* Annie Guccione Awards

Ashleigh Hasselbach from Fremont Ross High School was named the state winner of the Annie Guccione *Buckle Up for a Successful Season* Awards program during an event at the Patrol's Training Academy on May 31.

The Annie Guccione Awards recognize Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) high schools, and junior and senior students from those schools, who actively promote traffic safety issues. Honda of America committed approximately $100,000 to the program.

"Honda is excited to be a part of this partnership. Sometimes you find those projects that just click and this is one of those," said Lynn Dennison, Assistant Vice President and General Counsel of Honda of America Manufacturing.

Hasselbach, who was selected from eight district winners, was given a choice between a new Honda Civic, Honda Element, or $10,000 in financial assistance for college. She chose the money for college. Her winning program, "Click It! Pull Tight," showed young children the proper way to sit and wear safety belts and informed parents on the appropriate safety restraint for children in their vehicles.

The awards program is named for Annie Guccione, a 16-year-old junior from Canal Winchester High School, who became the face and voice of *Buckle Up for a Successful Season* when she spoke at the program kick-off event at Canal Winchester High School in August 2004.

Additional information on the *Buckle Up for a Successful Season* program, including a video of Annie Guccione's remarks from the August 2004 event, can be found at www.statepatrol.ohio.gov/season.htm.

Annie Guccione Awards District Winners

Name	High School	Hometown
Ashleigh Hasselbach	Fremont Ross H.S.	Lindsay
Melissa McCracken	Jackson H.S.	Canton
Tracee Gruskiewicz	Grand Valley H.S.	Rome
Matthew Reed	Sidney H.S.	Maplewood
Elizabeth Allen	Canal Winchester H.S.	Carroll
Adam Fitch	River View H.S.	Coshocton
Bailey Ogden	Western Brown H.S.	Williamsburg
Trisken Emmert	Jackson H.S.	Wellston

Each district winner received $1,000 in financial assistance for college from Honda and a fully paid enrollment to the Honda Teen Defensive Driving Program of the Mid-Ohio School in Lexington.

Patrol Officers
Memorial Ceremony

Family and friends of the Patrol gathered at the Academy on May 5 to honor our 35 officers killed in the line of duty as part of the annual Patrol Officers Memorial Ceremony.

Each year, the Patrol hosts this event to commemorate those who gave their lives in service and to reaffirm our commitment to making Ohio a safer place to live and work. A large turnout demonstrated the gravity of the sacrifice made by the Patrol's fallen officers.

The ceremony began as our District Troopers of the Year escorted family members of the deceased to their seats in the Academy courtyard while the Drum and Bugle Corps played.

Tpr. Michael Maughmer, Jackson DHQ, performed the "Star-Spangled Banner," and State Trooper of the Year John Westerfield, Wapakoneta, led guests in the "Pledge of Allegiance."

Colonel Paul McClellan and Kenneth Morckel, Ohio Public Safety director, addressed the audience before a 21-gun salute, the sounding of "Taps," and a memorial fly-over by Patrol and Columbus Police helicopters.

Tpr. James Drake, Canton, tolled the Academy bell as retired Tpr. Charlie Linek, president of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees' Association, read the roster of the deceased.

Following the roll call, Amy Parker, granddaughter of retired Colonel Anson Cook sang "God Bless America" and the Columbus Police and Fire Pipe and Drums provided an emotional performance of "Amazing Grace."

This year, we also honored the Patrol officers who gave their lives while serving in the armed forces. Plaques bearing the likeness of Patrolman Jean Lindsey, Patrolman Paul Stansberry, Patrolman Walter Winkle, and Patrolman Frank Yakos, who were killed while serving in World War II, are now on display in Heritage Hall. The plaques were made possible thanks to the generosity of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees' Association.

Top: 2005 District Troopers of the Year escorted family members to their seats prior to the ceremony.

Bottom: A rose was placed on the memorial for each fallen officer as the roster of the deceased was read.

Troopers save life of Canfield tow truck driver — twice

When tow truck operator Tony Delmont, 73, suffered a heart attack while clearing a crash scene, Canfield officers Sgt. Rick Brown, Tpr. Eric Brown, and Tpr. David Zatvarnicky knew exactly how to respond.

The officers were investigating a commercial vehicle crash on State Route 45 in Jackson Township on January 31 when Delmont arrived to help clear the scene.

A few minutes later, Zatvarnicky looked up from his field sketch and saw Delmont lying unconscious in a ditch. He immediately called for an ambulance while Sgt. Brown and Tpr. Brown began performing CPR. Meanwhile, Zatvarnicky retrieved an automated external defibrillator (AED) from his patrol car.

Although the officers were trained and certified on AED use, none had used the device in an emergency situation before. They followed their training and successfully used the AED to restart Delmont's heart. Emergency medical personnel arrived a short time later and transported Delmont to a Youngstown hospital where he spent nearly two weeks and was fitted with a pacemaker.

Sgt. David Zatvarnicky, Sgt. Rick Brown, and Tpr. Eric Brown greet Canfield resident Tony Delmont at the Canfield Post on April 17. The officers saved Delmont's life after he suffered a heart attack at a crash scene on January 31.

Amazingly, it was not the first time that a trooper saved Delmont's life. On November 26, 1977, he was clearing a crash scene on Interstate 680 near State Route 11 when a loaded car transporter struck his tow wrecker, causing it to crash into him.

Tpr. Charles Ruth, who was also at the scene, immediately provided first aid to Delmont and quickly realized that his injuries were life-threatening.

Concerned that it would take too long for an ambulance to reach them, Tpr. Ruth carried Delmont to his patrol car and rushed him to a nearby hospital, which doctors said saved Delmont's life. Tpr. Ruth, a member of the 78th Class who retired in August 1988, received a Certificate of Recognition for his actions.

Delmont was on hand at the Canfield Post on April 17 when Rick Brown, Eric Brown, and David Zatvarnicky received letters of commendation from the superintendent for their life-saving actions. Zatvarnicky was promoted to sergeant on February 22 and now serves at the Springfield Post.

After 37 years, Merit recipient appreciates significance of award

Generally speaking, it is a rare thing for a civilian to earn the Patrol's Superintendent's Citation of Merit, which is given for "acts of heroism and bravery, knowingly exposing oneself to obvious peril, or reaction to a situation automatically, without regard to personal safety, to effect aid or rescue." Thirty-seven years ago, 15-year-old Andrew Liming earned the honor for helping Patrolman Ron Keiber of our former St. Mary's Post rescue two unconscious crash victims from their burning vehicle.

In contacting the Patrol recently, Liming admitted that as a teenager, he didn't truly understand all the accolades at the time and would have preferred to just forget the traumatic things he saw on May 13, 1969, no matter how brave everyone said they were. Now with a little perspective, he knows that even though the husband and wife he rescued suffered serious injuries, they would have died in their car had he not acted to assist Patrolman Keiber.

So when he came across his award recently, he contacted us with a fresh appreciation of his actions and our organization.

From right: Colonel Paul McClellan, retired Colonel Robert Chiaramonte, Andrew Liming, and Lt. Colonel Mike Finamore. Colonel Chiaramonte presented Liming with a Superintendent's Citation of Merit in 1969.

Liming visited our Academy for the second time in his life on May 2. After lunch with Colonel Paul McClellan and members of the senior and Academy staffs, Liming toured the Academy and was again thanked for his heroic actions that day.

Trooper's heroism earns national recognition

Root wins IACP's Division of State and Provincial Police 2005 North Central Trooper of the Year

Tpr. Dallas Root of our Lebanon Post won the Division of State and Provincial Police 2005 Trooper of the Year for the North Central Region and was one of four nominees for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Trooper of the Year award.

Root earned the recognition for risking his life to rescue a crash victim from an icy pond in Warren County. He previously received the Patrol's highest award for valor, the O.W. Merrell Award for Meritorious Service, and the Superintendent's Citation of Merit for his efforts.

On February 24, 2005, Root responded to reports of a tractor trailer in a ditch on northbound Interstate 71. At the scene he found the truck had actually run about 50 feet into a pond and was almost completely submerged. The driver was in the freezing water, hanging onto a rearview mirror.

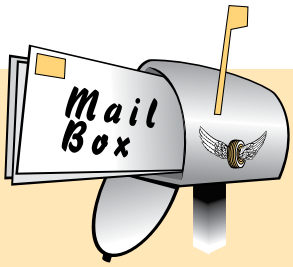
Tpr. Dallas Root, Lebanon, is greeted by IACP President Mary Ann Viverette, chief of police in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and Colonel Paul McClellan at the IACP's annual conference in Washington D.C.

Four bystanders had unsuccessfully tried to reach the man with a rescue rope and were trying to persuade him to swim to shore. The man said he could not swim and it was apparent he was getting tired and having trouble hanging on.

Realizing that time was running out, Root stripped down to his undershirt and uniform pants and tied the rescue rope to his belt. He asked the bystanders to hold onto the rope as he went into the icy water.

He then swam out to the truck driver and reached him just as the man went underwater. Root pulled him up and swam for shore as the bystanders pulled on the rope. When he reached the bank, he instructed the bystanders to remove the victim's wet clothing and cover him with blankets. Emergency medical personnel arrived moments later and transported the driver to a local hospital.

Root joined the Patrol in 2004 as a member of the 142nd Academy Class. He has served at Lebanon throughout his career. He is also an active reservist in the Air National Guard.



On April 7, I was pulled over for over speeding near Sandusky on the Ohio Turnpike by a polite and courteous trooper. I would like to convey my gratitude to him for giving me a warning for which I promised to from then on abide by and be more careful in observing the speed limits, not just in Ohio, but other states. Maybe it was my arthritic knee (I'm 71), or just following the flow of the vehicles ahead of me.

I would like to congratulate all members of the Ohio State Patrol whose dedication to the traffic laws of the State of Ohio is admirable and the bottom line is the safety of the motorist. My deepest gratitude to the Chief of the Highway Patrol, too, for without his guidance and perseverance, there is a possibility of more accidents happening on the highways of Ohio.

Tomorrow, I'll be leaving for Ohio again. I hope I'll see the trooper as a good observer of the speed limit. Thumbs up to all.

Leo Cabrera
Canada

On January 1, I was pulled over by someone who changed my life in more ways than one, Trooper Crabtree. To make this short and sweet, I was charged with OVI and was helped by the classes I was sentenced to and stopped drinking. He changed the way I look at law enforcement. He was very sincere, honorable, and on task with his work.

I would like to send him a sincere thank you from me and my family for all he has done for us, especially me. I don't know where I would be right now if it weren't for him.

Tyler VanHoose
Kentucky

Please accept this overdue "Thank You" to your troopers. We were visiting the Ohio State Fair last August and had our plate stolen off our van. We drove to the nearest gate and were greeted by two very nice officers. Since we were parked off the grounds of the State Fair, they had to radio for the Columbus Police. It took over an hour for the Columbus Police to respond.

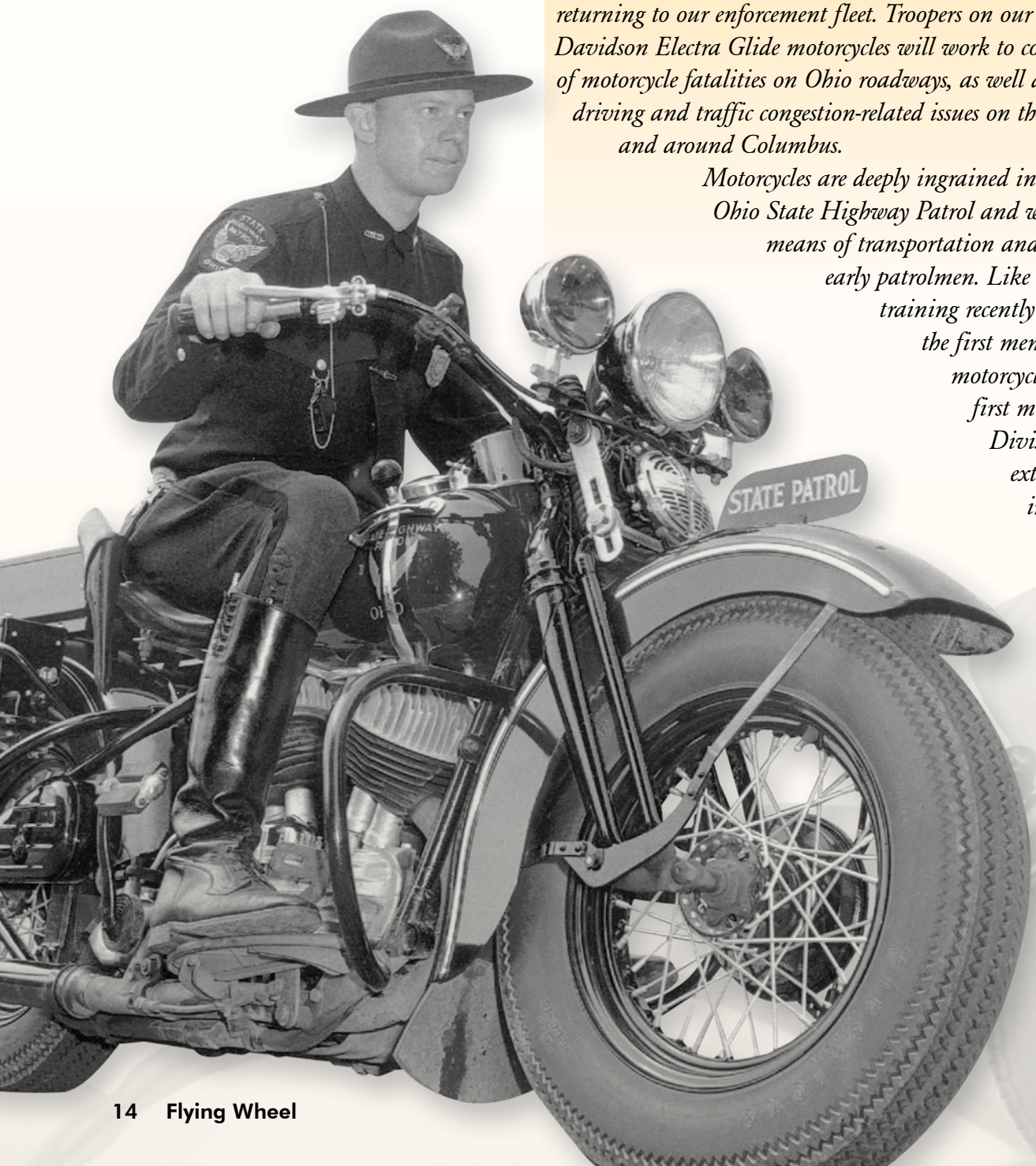
During this time, your officers checked with us three times to let us know that we were not forgotten. They were kind and reassuring and told us that we would be fine traveling home to West Virginia without a plate on our vehicle. If all the troopers are as helpful as they were, Ohio is a great state.

Kevin and Marla Cutright
West Virginia

Motorcycles were primary vehicle for a young Ohio State Highway Patrol

More than 50 years after the last one left the road, motorcycles emblazoned with the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Flying Wheel are returning to our enforcement fleet. Troopers on our six new Harley Davidson Electra Glide motorcycles will work to combat an increase of motorcycle fatalities on Ohio roadways, as well as to target reckless driving and traffic congestion-related issues on the interstates in and around Columbus.

Motorcycles are deeply ingrained in the history of the Ohio State Highway Patrol and were the primary means of transportation and enforcement for early patrolmen. Like the specialized training recently completed by the first members of our new motorcycle unit, the very first members of our Division also received extensive instruction in motorcycle riding.



While there was a great deal of debate as to what topics the first class of Patrol officers needed to study and master, superintendent Colonel Lynn Black and assistant superintendent, Fred "Fritz" Moritz decided on a curriculum with a heavy emphasis on close-order drill (which Black believed taught courtesy, discipline, and unity) and motorcycle instruction.

The first class, which trained at Camp Perry on the shores of Lake Erie, started with 112 members. Only 60 men graduated, and while many factors contributed to the high wash-out rate, a number of recruits failed to earn their commissions because they could not master the art of motorcycle riding, even under the tutelage of the Patrol's expert motorcycle instructor, former racing champion Jim Davis.

The class completed training on Wednesday, November 15, 1933, a windy and bitterly cold day with passing snow flurries. There had been talk of a formal graduation ceremony, but this idea was replaced with a simple swearing-in and inspection. Black, addressing his new force one final time before departure, urged his men to "at all times remember that promotion of true safety and the welfare of the people of Ohio should inspire and motivate your work."

With that, the 60 original patrolmen, now 54 patrolmen and six lieutenants, together with Captain Black took the oath of office from Common Pleas Judge J. F. Allyn of Ottawa County. Their 54 motorcycles and six Plymouth coaches were ready, as were the substations, and in the early afternoon the men broke camp.

For many, the trip to assigned substations was brutal, with the combination of weather and distance being almost unbearable. The story of Patrolman [later lieutenant] A. O. Smith gives a feel for the trip.

He was assigned to Sidney, a distance of approximately 125 miles. As he told a reporter several years later, it was -3 degrees when he passed through Fremont, and he was forced to stop at every roadside stop and gas station to warm up.

He tore up some newspapers and stuffed them into his uniform, and later bought a piece of cloth, cut holes in it, and wore it over his head (his cycle had no windshield or leg guards). For the last 10 miles, he rode standing up and flexing his knees. But despite the hazardous journey, all 60 made it to their stations, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol was officially in operation.

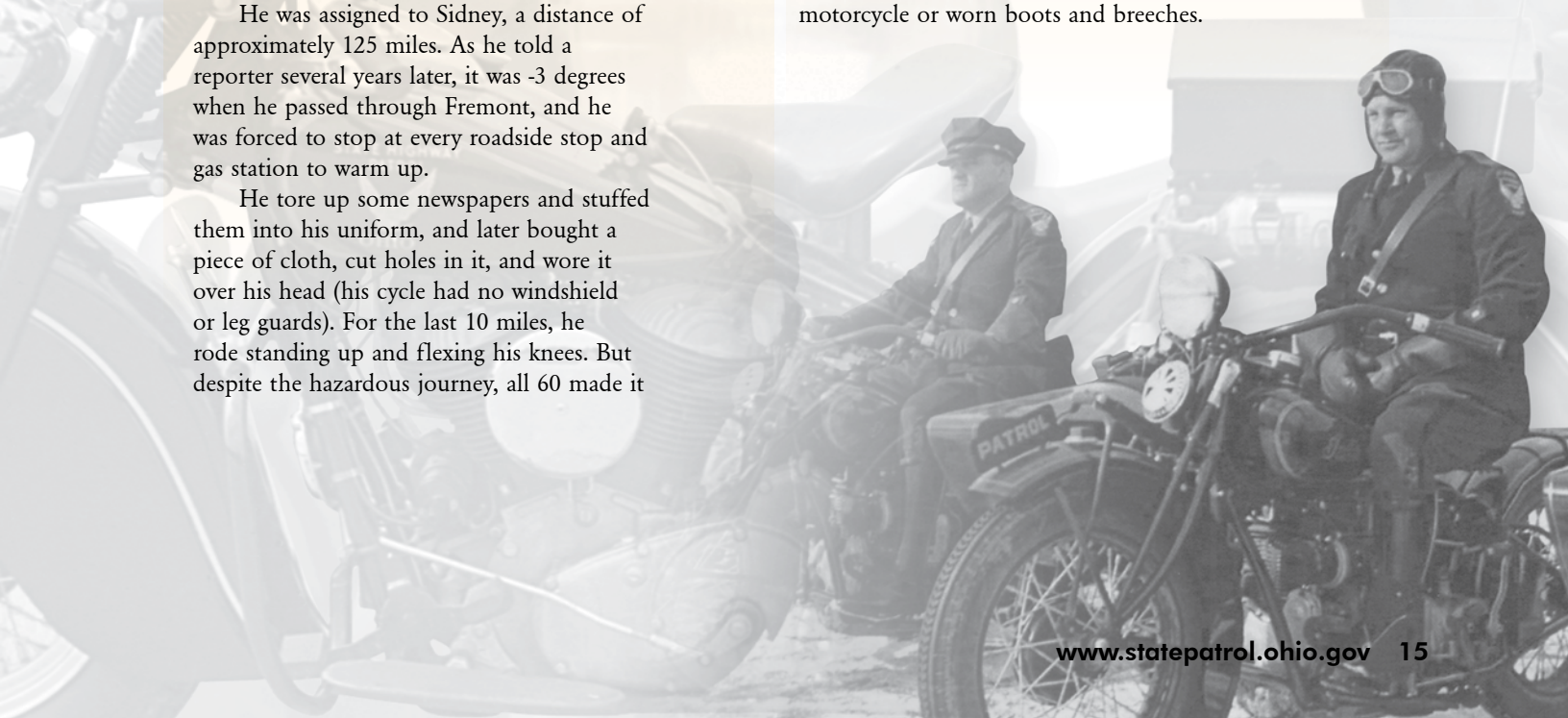
In November 1933, the Patrol owned 53 Indian motorcycles and one Harley Davidson. Additional Harley Davidson motorcycles were purchased in 1938 and by 1939, the Patrol owned 93 motorcycles and 91 patrol cars.

Prior to heavy manpower losses during World War II, each post consisted of a corporal and five or six patrolmen. District headquarters were staffed by a lieutenant, three or four sergeants, a corporal, and an average of nine patrolmen. Included in the district figures was a "stolen car specialist," specially trained in identification work and fingerprinting. Radio division units numbered 12 at Columbus and four at each district headquarters (except Cambridge which had two).

By this time, cars outnumbered motorcycles 142 to 100, with 16 of the 100 cycles actually assigned as training vehicles. After the war, motorcycles were used less and less as the benefits of patrol cars mounted.

Safety was one concern. Early issues of the *Flying Wheel*, which was known as *Signal 20* prior to 1940, include many reports of officers injured in motorcycle accidents. In fact, in the first five years of the Patrol's existence, four patrolmen – Leroy Bedell, James Ivory, Charles Timberlake, and Charles Gannon – died of injuries sustained in motorcycle crashes. Another issue was the increased amount of equipment officers carried.

By 1953, motorcycles were used only for parades and center-lining details. The Patrol's final 27 motorcycles were removed from all Patrol operations in 1955. When the Patrol celebrated its 30th anniversary in 1963, none of the original 60 officers remained and a growing number of men had never patrolled on a motorcycle or worn boots and breeches.



Nine complete Northwestern's School of Police Staff and Command

The Patrol was well-represented at the graduation of the 220th School of the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety's School of Police Staff and Command. Nine officers completed the 10-week program conducted in Columbus at the Shipley Building:

- Capt. James Holt, Warren District
- PO S/Lt. Gary Rice, Field Operations
- Lt. Richard Grau, Gallipolis
- Lt. Dean Laubacher, Walbridge
- Lt. Charles Linek, Human Resource Management
- Lt. Chad McGinty, Mt. Gilead
- Lt. Patrick Vessels, Circelville
- Lt. Clifton Spinner, Academy
- Sgt. Matthew Crow, Fremont.

The School of Police Staff and Command provides upper-level instruction in several management areas and is designed to provide graduates with the knowledge and skills to assume increased responsibilities.

Members of the 220th School of Police Staff and Command with Colonel Paul McClellan at graduation ceremonies on March 24 (from left): Lt. Charles Linek, Sgt. Matthew Crow, Lt. Dean Laubacher, Lt. Clifton Spinner, Lt. Patrick Vessels, Colonel McClellan, Capt. James Holt, Lt. Richard Grau, Lt. Chad McGinty, and PO S/Lt. Gary Rice.

Lieutenants graduate Southern Police Institute

Lieutenants Michael Marucci, Ravenna, and Rodney Tyler, Administrative Investigations, graduated from the Southern Police Institute's Administrative Officers Course at the University of Louisville on May 12.

The Southern Police Institute consistently is ranked among the top law enforcement educational and training schools in the nation. The 12-week Administrative Officers Course is designed to develop competent law enforcement managers who are capable of assuming positions of leadership in their respective agencies.

Marucci and Tyler each have been with the Patrol for 16 years.

Michael Marucci

Rodney Tyler

Law enforcement agencies discuss metro area traffic safety

On March 28, over 100 officers from 29 different law enforcement agencies met at the Columbus Division of Police Training Academy for the Metro Traffic Law Enforcement Seminar to discuss metro area traffic safety.

In Ohio, between 2001 and 2005, there were 37,247 crashes on outer belts and bypasses in Ohio's five major metropolitan areas, including 107 fatal and 9,732 injury crashes.

The seminar included presentations on the value of metro area traffic law enforcement; how effective law enforcement can combat the increase of traffic deaths, and highway and community crime; and how effective metro traffic law enforcement can lead to success in crime prevention, drug interdiction, vehicle theft recovery, and homeland security.

The keynote address from Commander John A. Garrett of the Metropolitan Nashville (Tenn.) Police Department, highlighted the recent traffic safety and crime reduction successes in Nashville.

The seminar was sponsored by the Patrol, Columbus Division of Police, and Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police.

Certificate of Recognition

Patrol inspectors catch another school bus defect

Tpr. Clark Wilson and Motor Vehicle Inspector Albert Nemeth, Berea DHQ, received Certificates of Recognition for their attention to detail in recognizing a safety concern on a new model of school bus and preventing the possible injury or death of schoolchildren.

While inspecting a new school bus on February 8, Wilson and Nemeth found the rear bumper of the bus was undersized, failing to meet construction standards and leaving the fuel tank exposed and susceptible to damage in a rear end collision.

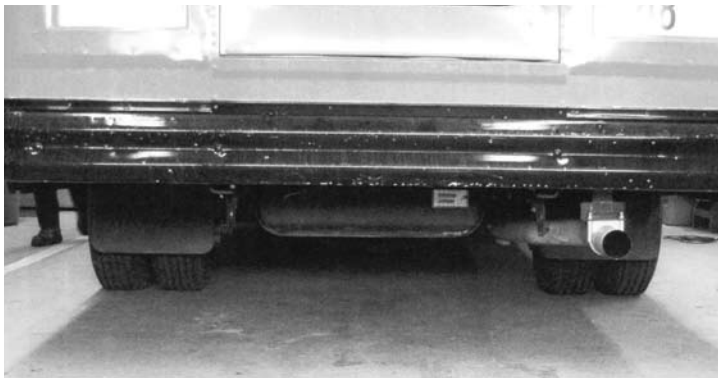
In 1988, a church bus converted from a school bus was involved in a collision near Carrollton, Kentucky. The fuel tank ruptured in the crash, causing a fire that killed 27 children and adults on the bus. Investigation of this crash resulted in changes to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety standards to provide additional protection of school bus fuel tanks.

After discovering the problem, Wilson and Nemeth contacted the Patrol's Office of Licensing and Commercial Standards, which in turn contacted the bus manufacturer. The manufacturer reviewed the information provided by Wilson and Nemeth and issued a recall through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

It was the second recent recall initiated by the attentiveness of Patrol inspectors. On November 30, 2005, Tpr. Lee Burnem and Motor Vehicle Inspector Hugh Livesay, Jackson DHQ, were the first to find that the control arm that operates the service door of another new model bus caused a catch point that could snag an article of clothing or a drawstring. That manufacturer also issued a recall through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Clark Wilson

Albert Nemeth



For the second time in two months, Patrol inspectors discovered a potentially deadly safety defect on a new model of school bus. In this instance, Tpr. Clark Wilson and MVI Albert Nemeth found the rear bumper of the bus was undersized and left the fuel tank exposed and susceptible to damage in the event of a rear end collision.

Trooper saves crash victim

Tpr. Jerrold March, Capitol Operations, received a Certificate of Recognition for saving a crash victim from a burning vehicle. On January 19, Tpr. March was off-duty in his personal vehicle when he observed a traffic crash in the opposite lanes on State Route 104 in Franklin County.

Jerrold March

One car in the crash had flipped over, ejecting three passengers, and immediately caught fire. Tpr. March stopped his car and jumped over the retaining wall between the lanes of traffic to see if anyone was still trapped in the vehicle. Because of heavy smoke in the passenger compartment, he could not tell if anyone was still inside until a slight movement in the area of the front passenger seat caught his eye.

Realizing there was someone still inside and that the fire was growing, Tpr. March forced open the passenger door. Unable to locate the safety belt release button because of the heavy smoke, he used his pocket knife to begin cutting through the belt. While he was working, he felt the release button and successfully unbuckled the passenger. He then carried the semi-conscious woman more than 200 feet to a safe location as the vehicle became engulfed in flames.

2005 Criminal Patrol Award

Winners of the 2005 Criminal Patrol Award were listed in our last issue. These officers also earned our 2005 Criminal Patrol Award for achieving at least five felony case investigations that resulted in felony arrests:

Tpr. Troy L. Hale, Zanesville

Tpr. Steven Robison, Medina

Tpr. Harley Steppenbacker, Medina

Tpr. Nathaniel Towns, Walbridge

Captain Robert Maxey

Robert Maxey

Capt. Robert Maxey, commander of the Bucyrus District, retired April 5 after nearly 27 years of service. He is a member of the 106th Academy Class.

After earning his commission in September 1979, he was assigned to the Marion Post where he was Post Trooper of the Year in 1983 and 1984. He earned a promotion to sergeant in 1985 and served as an assistant commander at Chillicothe. In 1989 he was promoted to lieutenant and named commander of the Wooster Post. He transferred to Bucyrus District Headquarters with his promotion to staff lieutenant in 1995 and has served as district commander for the last four years.

In his career he has earned six Health and Physical Fitness Awards and was recognized for 25 years of safe driving. He and his wife, Joann, reside in Lexington.

Sergeant Terri Anspach

Terri Anspach

After more than 27 years of service, Sgt. Terri Anspach, Wapakoneta, retired February 23. She joined the Patrol in 1979 as a cadet dispatcher at St. Clairsville and trained with the 108th Academy Class. After earning her commission in September 1980, she was assigned to Cambridge where she earned a Proficiency Award in 1981.

She was promoted to sergeant in 1987 and served as an assistant commander at Granville and Lancaster before transferring to our former Bellefontaine Post, which is now located in Wapakoneta. In her career, she was recognized for 15 years of safe driving. She resides in St. Marys.

Trooper Kevin Rogers

Kevin Rogers

Tpr. Kevin Rogers retired April 3 after nearly 27 years of service. He joined the Division in 1979 as a member of the 106th Academy Class. After graduating, he was assigned to our Hiram Post on the Ohio Turnpike where he served throughout his career.

He was recognized for 20 years of safe driving. He and his wife, Jewel, reside in Kent.

Trooper Jason Schiefer

Jason Schiefer

After more than 14 years of service, Tpr. Jason Schiefer entered disability retirement on April 2. He joined the Division in 1991 as a cadet dispatcher and trained as a member of the 124th Academy Class. He served at our Marion Post throughout his career.

He earned an Ace Award in 2000 and was recognized for 10 years of safe driving. He and his wife, Misty, reside in Marion.

Accountant Examiner 3 Brandi Brown

Brandi Brown

AE3 Brandi Brown, Fiscal Services, retired April 28 after more than 29 years of service. She began her Patrol career as a clerk at the Toledo Post before earning a promotion to drivers license examiner in 1979. She transferred to GHQ in 1989 in the Office of Technology and Communication Services and transferred to Fiscal Services two years later. She resides in Columbus.

Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Corinne Cavinee

Corinne Cavinee

With more than 20 years of service, MCEI Corinne Cavinee retired March 31. She joined the Patrol in September 1985 and served in the Cambridge District throughout her career.

She was recognized for 10 years of safe driving. She and her husband, Roger, reside in Roseville.

Dispatcher Shirley Knitz

Shirley Knitz

Disp. Shirley Knitz retired April 29 after 14 years of service. She joined the Division in April 1992 and served at the Walbridge Post throughout her career.

She resides in Curtice.

Drivers License Examiner 1 Viola Price

Viola Price

After more than 31 years of service, DX1 Viola Price retired April 29. She began her Patrol career as a dispatcher, a position she held for four years before transferring to the Driver Exam Station. She served at Medina throughout her career.

In her career she earned two Certificates of Recognition. She resides in Medina.

Drivers License Examiner 1 Michael H. Lee

Michael Lee

DX 1 Michael H. Lee, Delaware, entered disability retirement April 1. He joined the Patrol in May 1984. He served as a dispatcher and a clerk at the Marion Post before being promoted to drivers license examiner in 1993. He and his wife, Carol, reside in Marion.

Drivers License Examiner 2 Dennis Sargent

Dennis Sargent

On March 31, DX2 Dennis Sargent, Hamilton, retired with more than 22 years of service. He began his Patrol career in 1983 as a motor vehicle inspector at Lebanon.

He became a drivers license examiner 1 in 1988 and was promoted the following year. In his career, he was recognized for three years of safe driving. He and his wife, Lois, live in Lebanon.

Expressing sympathy

Charles I. Kirk

Charles I. Kirk

Retired Sgt. Charles Kirk, 67, passed away the weekend of April 1. He was a member of the 59th Academy Class, which was commissioned in 1962. He served at several posts around the state and earned a Superintendent's Citation of Merit before transferring to Piqua in 1982.

He retired in January 1990 after 28 years of service. He is survived by his children: Charles, Shaun, Aaron, and Ian.

Henry D. Shick

Henry D. Shick

Retired Sgt. Henry Shick, 83, passed away March 8. He joined the Patrol in 1947 as a member of the 23rd Class.

During his career he served at Marion, Lima, St. Marys, and Lancaster. He retired in November 1974 after 28 years of service. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, he is survived by his wife, Betty, and children: Larry, Tom, and Gary.

Retirees enjoy Annual Snowbird

By Charlie Linek, OSHPRA president

The 2006 Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees' Association Annual Snowbird Reunion was held March 2 - 5 in Lehigh Acres at the Admiral Lehigh Golf Resort. Many thanks to our hosts, Denny and Barb Bueno and their committee, for their hard work that made this year's Snowbird memorable. A special thanks also to all who attended.

Friday's golf outing was held at The Admiral Lehigh golf course which was only a few steps from the resort. We had great weather for golf while the ladies enjoyed a day of sun and fun at the resort pool. We all joined together that evening for our traditional "Pizza by the Pool Party," with a new twist as wings were added to the menu.

Saturday's luncheon was attended by 99 members, spouses, and friends. The social hour was noisy and filled with laughter as acquaintances were renewed. A little excitement occurred when Don Slemmer passed out and struck his head. He was transported by ambulance to the Fort Myers Trauma Center (Don had a pacemaker installed the following week and is back to riding his bike again).

After ensuring that Don was in good hands, Denny Bueno welcomed everyone and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Jim Smith graciously agreed to fill in for Don and gave the invocation and benediction and performed admirably on short notice.

After an excellent lunch, our host gave us an update on Don's condition and then introduced the speakers.

John and Mary Rohal and Ed and Alma Centofante enjoy the Snowbird. Ed and Alma were our furthest travelers, coming all the way from the Corpus Christi, Texas, area.

Dick Curtis gave an update on the Retirement System and legislation affecting retirees and Larry Davis thanked everyone for re-electing him to the Retirement Board. Charlie Linek reported on the state of the Association and Ralph Rizzo gave an update on next year's Snowbird that he and Carolyn will host in The Villages, Florida, March 1 - 4, 2007.

Wendell Webb conducted our 50/50 drawing and managed to badger, I mean convince, almost everyone into participating (it's hard to say no to Wendell). The hospitality room was buzzing as everyone swapped stories and said goodbye until next year. You missed a great time if you didn't attend, so put next year's Snowbird on your calendar — it's sure to be a great one.

Patrol Retirement System adds Deferred Retirement Option

What does DROP mean?

DROP stands for Deferred Retirement Option Plan. It is a provision within the Internal Revenue Service Code that permits a member to begin to receive a retirement benefit but continue to work for the employer. Instead of actually receiving the retirement benefit, it is retained in a tax deferred account until the member stops working for the employer. The member can then choose several methods to distribute the benefits accumulated in the DROP account. Since DROP participation is IRS-regulated, there are minimum and maximum participation periods. Early withdrawal from the program results in loss of accumulated interest.

What does DROP mean for me?

By participating in a DROP, a member creates another retirement account. Since the DROP account is not a Defined Benefit retirement account, the member may elect other distribution options, e.g., lump sum, partial lump sum, etc. While participating in the DROP, the member continues to work in the same position, retains seniority, and is eligible for promotions and salary increases.

What does the DROP mean for the Highway Patrol?

Experience with DROP programs across the country indicates that employers retain employees longer, thus saving recruitment and training costs for replacement employees. The employer is also obligated to continue to provide medical and other benefits for those participating in the DROP.

What does the DROP mean for the Retirement System?

For the period of time a member participates in the DROP, the HPRS is not providing health care benefits, thus a savings is incurred. There is no savings in terms of pension benefits.

How do I calculate my benefits?

A pension benefit calculator on the HPRS Web site assists a member estimating his or her pension benefit. Using the calculator, a member can determine the amount of pension benefit flowing into a DROP account. To that amount, the member must add the annual pension contribution, currently 10 percent of salary. DROP accounts will be credited annual interest based on a guaranteed return investment vehicle. A new DROP calculator being developed for the Web site will assist with estimating the total value of a DROP account by entering the annual pension benefit and annual pension contribution.

Is DROP participation always in my best interest?

Since the financial status of every member is different and life expectancy varies with individuals, determining whether to participate in the DROP must be an individual decision. It is possible to achieve a great lifetime pension amount by not participating in the DROP, but that typically requires that the member live longer than the average life expectancy. Careful consideration of all options is always recommended, including the use of tax professionals and other consultants to explore all possible ramifications of any decision.

Athens

Troopers Keith Allen and Steve Daugherty "arrest" an impaired driver at the Prom Promise Impact 2006 event at Athens High School.

The Athens Post worked with Reed and Bauer Insurance to organize Prom Promise Impact 2006, a mock fatal crash event for more than 3,000 students from local schools as well as schools in Meigs County, Logan, and Marietta on April 19.

In addition to observing the aftermath of a mock fatal crash caused by a young, alcohol-impaired driver, the students also heard about the personal costs of impaired driving from a mother whose teenage daughter died in an alcohol-related crash and a young man who was driving impaired and caused a crash that killed his best friend and resulted in an 11-month prison sentence.

Ohio First Lady Hope Taft, a strong proponent of alcohol and drug prevention among children and young people, also attended the event and spoke to the students.

SRT

Members of the Patrol's Strategic Response Team participated in the Ohio Tactical Officers Association's Annual Training Conference in Columbus, May 7-10.

Sworn Promotions

Lieutenant Donald Grimwood, Technology & Communication Services
Sergeant Barry Call, Athens
Staff Lieutenant Thomas Dean, Field Operations
Lieutenant Edward Crispen, Portsmouth
Sergeant Rodney Bingman, Toledo
Sergeant Nathan Dickerson, Academy
Sergeant Dana Hutton, Hamilton
Captain Herbert Homan, Bucyrus DHQ
Lieutenant Douglas McKinney, Cincinnati Operations
Sergeant William N. Bowers, Walbridge
Sergeant Todd Heck, Delaware
Sergeant Nelson Holden, Cincinnati Operations

Professional Promotions

PLLI David Brown, Findlay DHQ
AA2 Gary Humphries, Photographic Services
AA3 Amy Johnson, Academy
DX1 Marilyn McDevitt-Wright, Medina
MVI Kelly Semple, Warren DHQ
MVI Kevin Swartz, Dayton
DSA1 Jeremy Hansford, Technology & Communication Services
SSRS Jonathan Heil, Strategic Services
MVI Dennis Bays, Granville
NA Supv. Jeremy Ebert, Technology & Communication Services
MAS1 Amber LaPoint, Human Resource Management
DX2 Virginia Bobbitt, Hamilton
DX2 James Kovacik, Cambridge
AA2 Sherri Allen, Strategic Services
DX1 Timothy Weaver, Chillicothe
Info. Tech. Mgr. 1 Joey Brooks, Technology & Communication Services
Disp. Supv. Hollie Harman, Technology & Communication Services
Prog. Spec. 1 John Vaughters, Technology & Communication Services

New Philadelphia

Congratulations to Sgt. William Weirtz, who was recently selected for membership in the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society for nontraditional adult students at Malone College. Membership is limited to the top 10 percent of the eligible student body.

William Weirtz

GHQ

The Academy hosted a TACNET demonstration for U.S. Representative Patrick Tiberi March 21. The Patrol currently has an earmark request pending for $1.68 million to equip vehicles in the Massillon District and additional vehicles in the Columbus District with TACNET technology.

The technology offers central command using touch and voice activation to control the electronic devices in a police vehicle. Eliminating multiple control heads and displays significantly reduces clutter and crowding in the driver cockpit, clearing airbag deployment zones and minimizing injuries from projectiles in a crash. Additionally, improving access to emergency and communication controls makes the vehicle operationally more efficient. The technology also is designed to be used as a platform for integrating existing and emerging technologies.

U.S. Representative Patrick Tiberi and Lt. Colonel Mike Finamore listen as Major Mark Atkeson, Office of Technology and Communication Services, explains the benefits of TACNET vehicle integration technology.

The Patrol received a $500,000 earmark for TACNET technology in 2005. U.S. Represenatatives Deborah Pryce and David Hobson and Senators Mike DeWine and George Voinovich helped the Patrol secure federal funding for our pilot program. We will begin equipping vehicles with TACNET at the West Jefferson and Springfield posts this fall. During the pilot program, Patrol researchers will seek to determine if the vehicle integration technology effectively improves officer safety and increases efficiency.

Drum and Bugle Corps

The Patrol's Drum and Bugle Corps participated in the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington D.C., May 13 – 15. Members voluntarily took time off to be part of the National Memorial Service.

On Saturday, the U.S. Secret Service Uniformed Division allowed the Drum & Bugle Corps to register and participate in a tour of the White House, which everyone enjoyed. Following the tour, members gave a small concert at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial site, providing music as hundreds of survivors and supporters visited the memorial before the candlelight vigil.

Members of the Patrol's Drum and Bugle Corps played on the lawn of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial as part of their participation in the national remembrance activities in Washington D.C., May 13 - 15.

On Sunday evening, the unit formed up to participate as the only Drum and Bugle Corps in the Emerald Society's parade and service at the memorial. Then on Monday morning, staff members from Senator George Voinovich and Representative Tim Ryan's offices provided a guided tour of the U.S. Capitol Building, complete with interesting facts and details about many parts of the building.

Following the tour, the group attended the National Service on the National Mall, east of the U.S. Capitol Building, where they listened to President George Bush's speech.

The Drum and Bugle Corps members thank Colonel Paul McClellan for supporting their participation in the Memorial and also the Ohio Troopers Coalition for their generosity in helping out with some of the transportation costs for the unit.

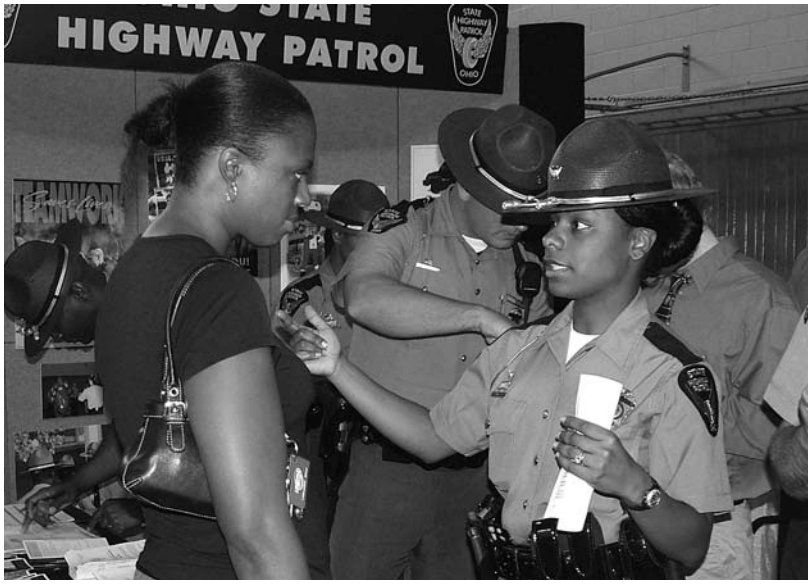
The Drum and Bugle Corps is an all volunteer group that practices twice a month at the Academy and performs at various Patrol functions. Any unit interested in getting involved should contact Sgt. Rudy Zupanc at (614) 728-2297 for information.

Academy

The Academy hosted the Sixth Annual Law Enforcement and Public Safety Career Exposition on May 20. Once again, the Patrol's Recruitment Section took the lead role in planning and coordinating the event, which featured 34 agencies, including three federal and three military divisions.

Sixteen Patrol field recruiters were on hand to greet the 621 people who attended. Nearly 100 applied to join the Patrol.

Right: Tpr. Tawanna Young, Delaware, talks to an applicant about becoming a trooper.



Sandusky

Tpr. Chris Capizzi and Teddy Trooper (Sec. Kathy DiVita) recently visited the pre-school class at Holy Angels School. Tpr. Capizzi talked to the children about safety belts and what a trooper's job involves. The children especially enjoyed the chance to get an up-close look at Tpr. Capizzi'z patrol car.

Chillicothe

Tpr. Tawonna Woods-Hutton gave the Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts of Pack 33 in Kingston a tour of the Chillicothe Post. She also explained to the scouts how troopers use technology such as radar and laser speed-determining devices as well as the GPS system in patrol cars. The scouts enjoyed getting the chance to use the laser gun and learning how it works.

They were very impressed with the "cool" emergency equipment in our patrol cars from the radio system to the AED.

Licensing & Commercial Standards

On March 2, Capt. Skip Dodd presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Charles Thompson. Thompson is the training site operations supervisor for Clark State University's Truck Driver Training School. He has been instrumental in training state and third-party commercial drivers license (CDL) examiners.

He also has taken leave from his job to provide training to the Patrol's CDL examiner covert investigation team. His commitment to the Highway Patrol and commercial motor vehicle safety has helped maintain the integrity of Ohio's CDL testing program.

Ironton

Members of the Ironton Post visited several hospitals over the winter to hand out coloring books, crayons, stuffed animals, and other goodies to children in the pediatric units.

During one visit, Sgt. J.R. Smith and Teddy Trooper (Disp. Mark Duncan) encountered a kid at heart in Dr. Robert Nelson of Portsmouth. Dr. Nelson is the father of Ironton Post secretary Patricia Scarberry and was pleased to also receive a goodie bag during his hospital stay.

GHQ

Martie Moore, a Department of Public Safety maintenance repair worker at GHQ, recently donated an airplane rocker he made to the Hilltop Educare Centre, a YMCA child care facility that is located on the grounds of GHQ and in the same building as LEADS. Moore painted the rocker to look like one of the Patrol's Cessna airplanes.

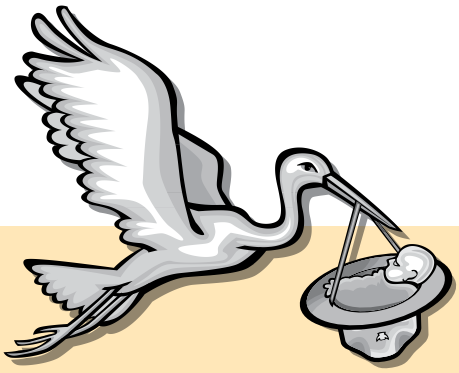
The children at the center, some of whom are children of Patrol employees and all of whom enjoy interacting with troopers at GHQ, have enjoyed playing on the rocker and pretending to be Patrol pilots.

Jackson District

Troopers and dispatchers from the Jackson District continued to use friendly games of basketball to raise money for charity and strengthen the Patrol's reputation as active and caring members of the community.

Top: Personnel from Jackson DHQ, Gallipolis, Ironton, and Portsmouth played the faculty at Jackson Middle School and raised $450 for the eighth grade graduation party. As the photo shows, the victorious Patrol team had support from students, including some family members and friends of Tpr. Rebecca Sexton of the Gallipolis Post.

Bottom: Even though Jackson District troopers bested area UPS drivers in the third annual "Secret Angels" charity basketball game, both teams still got together for this group photo. The players raised $500 for "Secret Angels," which is a local organization that was founded to provide specialized assistance to those in need due to illness or financial setbacks.



Stork Visits

Sec. Melinda Harrison, Investigative Services, a girl, 1/17/06.

Cadet Antonio Barnhardt, Academy, a girl, 1/20/06.

Tpr. Brock & Tami Matthews, Swanton, a boy, 2/7/06.

Tpr. Matthew & Amber Ruth, Bucyrus, a girl, 3/2/06.

Tpr. Jason & Melissa Eiden, Walbridge, a girl, 3/14/06.

PLA Rachel & Kyle Ray, Photographic Services, a boy, 3/15/06.

AE3 Marlon & Tonya Person, Fiscal Services, a boy, 03/17/06.

Tpr. Jason & Amy Roe, Jackson, a boy, 3/18/06.

Tpr. Steven & Shasta Walsh, Marion, a girl, 3/23/06.

Tpr. Gregory & Jennifer Harkey, Defiance, a girl, 3/25/06.

Tpr. Levente & Lequanta Berry, Chardon, a girl, 3/26/06.

Tpr. Jeremy & Sarah Grubb, New Philadelphia, a girl, 3/28/06.

MCEI Alvin & LuAnn Holscher, Piqua DHQ, a boy, 3/28/06.

DX1 Andrew & Erin Weber, Canton, a boy, 3/30/06.

Lt. Morris & Angie Hill, Bucyrus, a girl, 4/3/06.

Disp. Julie Presnell, Marietta, a boy, 4/5/06.

Tpr. George & Diane King, Aviation, a boy, 4/11/06.

Tpr. Timmothy & Michelle Hoffman, Milan, a girl, 4/17/06.

DX1 Sara Picone, Berea District, a boy, 4/17/06.

NST4 Marc & Michelle Dorsey, LEADS, twin girls, 4/21/06.

Tpr. Ryan & Julie Hershey, Wooster, a boy, 4/24/06.

Tpr. Toby & Julie Sebastian, Springfield, a girl, 4/24/06.

Tpr. Jason & Autumn Metzger, Toledo, a girl, 4/25/06.

Tpr. Michael & Amy Akers, Jackson, a girl, 5/16/06.

Sgt. Nakia & Wendy Hedrix, Ashtabula, a girl, 5/18/06.

Sec. Jessica & Shane Tysiner, Zanesville, a boy, 5/20/06.

Tpr. Tiffany Burkey, Hiram, a boy, 5/27/06.

Tpr. Matthew & Crystal Them, Mt. Gilead, a girl, 6/7/06.

Tpr. Jamie & Jennifer Sweitzer, Ravenna, a boy, 6/8/06.

The weather was ideal; the setting in the beautiful courtyard of the Academy was perfect; and the ceremony to honor those who had given their lives in the line of duty was most meaningful. With so many survivor family members and friends in attendance the concept of the Patrol as family was made more real.

As I reflected upon all the changes which have occurred since the first class was commissioned on November 15, 1933, I was overwhelmed. I have lived through all of the changes as I was already 8 years old when the Patrol was started.

Yes, I saw the patrolmen on motorcycles and that probably gave me the idea of riding one myself – which I did about eight years later. But even in that area of life I have seen the changes and have had to adapt from hand-shift to foot-shift, and foot-clutch to hand-clutch. If only all the changes in life were that simple!

As members of the Patrol continue to learn and adapt to new methods and techniques of law enforcement there are the basics which do not change. It is still essential to stay physically fit, mentally alert, and mentally straight. How easy it is to become lazy or undisciplined in any of these areas of life.

These three aspects of life are like the three points which determine a plane (geometry), or the three legs of a stool (used in days-gone-by for milking a cow). If we fail to be disciplined in any one of these areas we will not be able to function properly and serve efficiently.

For those of us in the clergy/chaplain role there is a charge given by the older Paul to the younger Timothy: "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." (II Timothy 2:15)

Now I would not want a trooper to leave his firearm at home and replace it with a Bible – although regular reading of the Bible at an appropriate time is an excellent way to be better prepared for life. But I do believe that there is a need to stay in the best of physical condition, to study and put into practice the new techniques of law enforcement, and to set an exemplary example of what it means to be a man or woman of God in these challenging times.

The changes from November 1933 to the present time have been tremendous. But the call to the ministry of law enforcement with its challenges, changes, and moments of fulfillment remains the same. Thank God for you who serve so well today, preserving the wonderful heritage of the Ohio State Highway Patrol and setting new standards of excellence as we face increased assaults on our freedom and safety.

Richard D. Ellsworth
Chaplain

B.O.L.O.

Be on the lookout

A glimpse at what's new and upcoming

Commercial "Buckle Up" reminders

In an effort to encourage commercial vehicle drivers to buckle their safety belts, the Patrol and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration have made safety belt reminder decals (top right) available to commercial vehicle drivers and companies. The decal will be displayed on the back of commercial vehicles traveling on Ohio roadways as part of a federally-funded safety belt awareness initiative focused on commercial vehicle drivers.

"In Ohio, commercial truck drivers are the least likely to buckle up when compared to drivers of other vehicles," said Major Robert Brooks, commander of the Patrol's Office of Licensing and Commercial Standards. "Truck drivers who buckle up are making a choice that could save their life."

According to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 54 percent of truck drivers wear safety belts nationally, compared with 82 percent of passenger vehicle drivers who buckle up.

Several trucking terminals have also installed small billboards on their grounds featuring the same safety message as the decals (bottom right).

LifeStat 1.0 partnership

The Patrol has teamed with the Ohio State University's Statistical Consulting Service to develop a probability forecasting model based on historical crash data to provide more quantitative predictions of the likelihood of future crashes. A rigorous analysis of the crash data may produce more objective and precise quantitative forecasts of future crash sites.

Such forecasting models will give our commanders and troopers a new tool that can be used to enhance our enforcement strategies and further reduce the likelihood that a serious or fatal crash will occur.

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