

FLYING WHEEL



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JANUARY - MARCH, 2025

**TROOPER SARAH
A. KORSTEN,
ELYRIA POST,
EARNS 2024
STATE TROOPER
OF THE YEAR**



**THIRD ANNUAL STATE
OF THE PATROL
ADDRESS HIGHLIGHTS
FAMILY AS A CORE
VALUE**

**MOLDOVAN LAW
ENFORCEMENT
RECEIVES ADVANCED
TRAINING FROM OSHP**

**WORKING IN DISPATCH
OPERATIONS, TESTING AND
ASSESSMENT SERVICES**

OHIO STATE
HIGHWAY PATROL

COLONEL'S LETTER



I am reminded every day of the leadership, resilience and commitment that define the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Across the Division, our personnel exemplify excellence – not only through their operational efforts, but also in their dedication to each other and the communities we serve.

In this issue of the Flying Wheel, we celebrate the remarkable individuals who make our organization stronger. One such individual is Trooper Sarah A. Korsten of our Elyria Post, who was selected as the 2024 State Trooper of the Year at this year's Leadership Awards Ceremony. Her dedication to duty and unwavering professionalism reflects our highest standards. The Leadership Awards Ceremony also honored sworn and professional staff from across the state, reinforcing the idea that leadership is defined by the actions taken every day to serve and support those around us.

The 2025 State of the Patrol address reaffirmed our Core Values, with an emphasis on Family. The stories shared – of sacrifice and unwavering support – serve as reminders that our strength comes from the people who carry our mission forward. From a lifesaving act to the everyday ways we look out for one another, these are the moments that define who we are.

Resilience is the focus of this edition's Lighthouse article, which highlights the incredible journey of Trooper Adrian Wilson. After surviving a devastating crash caused by an impaired driver, Trooper Wilson and his wife, Jennifer, refused to let tragedy define them. Instead, they embraced a mindset of strength and purpose, using their experience to support others facing similar challenges. Their story is a testament to the power of perseverance and the unwavering support within the Patrol family.

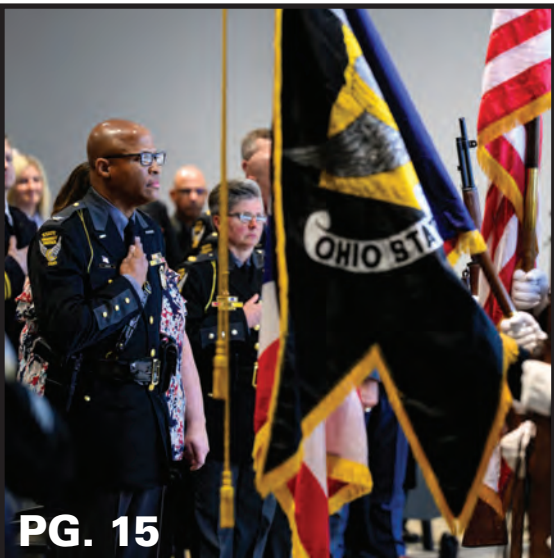
Through leadership, commitment and resilience, we continue to push forward – together.

God bless our fallen, God Bless the families and God Bless the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colonel Charles A. Jones".

Colonel Charles A. Jones
Superintendent

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Trooper of the Year

TROOPER SARAH A. KORSTEN



Trooper Sarah A. Korsten, Elyria Post, earned top honors as the 2024 State Trooper of the Year after being selected from nine District Troopers of the Year. Leadership is one of her greatest strengths. Leading by example, Trooper Korsten supports her coworkers and fosters a positive, team-oriented environment. She was nominated by her peers for her balanced and consistent dedication to providing Service with a Purpose and is known for her strong work ethic and leadership throughout the Division.

In 2024, Trooper Korsten made 1,638 total contacts with members of the public, including 180 safety belt citations and 70 distracted driving enforcements. She also investigated 105 crashes, provided 111 motorist assists and arrested 12 impaired drivers. She made three felony arrests, each in a different area – illegal firearms, auto larceny and felony drugs involving approximately 10 grams of illicit drugs.

Trooper Korsten's sound decision-making goes far beyond statistics. She has earned health and fitness honors within the Patrol and promotes wellness throughout the community. She is involved in

a football camp, where she organizes a physical fitness course to challenge and engage participants. She is committed to inspiring the next generation to believe in their ability to achieve anything.

Trooper Korsten joined the Patrol in October 2018 as a member of the 165th Academy Class. She earned her commission in April of the following year and was assigned to the Elyria Post, where she continues to serve.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice from Kent State University and has served in the United States Army National Guard since 2015.

"Each day is a new chance to make an impact and to individually grow as a public servant. . . . Our goal as troopers is to provide unbiased, professional public safety services through inclusion, collaboration and innovation.

We have the privilege of being public servants - a privilege I intend to honor and to never take for granted. We work as individuals, but we are family oriented, and I am so proud to be a member of this family - the Ohio State Highway Patrol."



- 2024 Trooper of the Year,
Sarah A. Korsten



Scan the QR code to view and listen to Trooper Korsten's speech in its entirety. This content is a Flying Wheel exclusive!

Dispatcher of the Year

DISPATCHER PATRICK P. BOWSHER

Dispatcher Patrick P. Bowsher, Van Wert Post, earned statewide honors as the 2024 Dispatcher of the Year after being selected from 10 District Dispatcher of the Year recipients. He maintains an exemplary work ethic, encourages and mentors others, and provides direction and support.

Dispatcher Bowsher is an active member of the Members Assistance Team, serves as a field training dispatcher and is devoted to strengthening and maintaining a strong relationship between retired and active members of the Patrol.

In the community, he serves in multiple roles at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Edgerton, including as a Eucharist Minister and a Fourth Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus. Dispatcher Bowsher is also active in the Edgerton Local School District, serving as coach for the middle and high school basketball teams, high school football team and as an announcer at athletic events.

Dispatcher Bowsher joined the Patrol in 1997 as a dispatcher assigned to the Van Wert Post. He has served at the Van Wert Post and Van Wert Dispatch Center throughout his career.

He was previously named as both District and Post Dispatcher of the Year. He also received an Ohio Double Gold Star Telecommunication Award for his extraordinary level of performance from the Ohio Chapters of the National Emergency Number Association and the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials International.



Trooper Recognition Award

TROOPER DOROTHY A. GLADDEN

Trooper Dorothy A. Gladden, Bucyrus District Investigations, earned the Ohio Trooper Recognition Award after being selected from 12 recipients. The award recognizes excellence among troopers assigned to specialty positions.

Trooper Gladden investigates criminal offenses occurring at the Mansfield Correctional Institution and assists posts in the Bucyrus District with investigations. She conducts background investigations, interviews, processes evidence and she recently became a member of the Patrol's Crisis Negotiation Team.

Trooper Gladden joined the Patrol in June 2014 as a dispatcher assigned to the Bucyrus District Headquarters and the Bucyrus Dispatch Center. She became a member of the 160th Academy Class in April 2016. She earned

her commission in August of the same year and was assigned to the Elyria Post. As a trooper, she also served at the Bucyrus and Mansfield posts.

In 2015, she was named District Dispatcher of the Year and Post Dispatcher of the Year. In 2024, she earned the designation of Master Trooper. In 2014, she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from The Ohio State University. In 2015, she earned a Master of Science degree in criminal behavior from Tiffin University.

Employee Recognition Award

FCS2 DANIEL P. MAHER

Forensic Computer Specialist 2 (FCS2) Daniel P. Maher, Computer Crimes Unit, received the Employee Recognition Award, which is presented annually to recognize excellence by a professional staff member.

FCS2 Maher is a highly-effective team member, with exceptional technical skills combined with an unwavering dedication to justice. In 2024, he conducted 644 digital forensic examinations, analyzing 258.44 terabytes of data across more than 150 cases. He has a deep commitment to ensuring critical data is accessible and understandable during investigations and his expertise in digital forensics has earned him the respect of both internal colleagues and external agencies.

FCS2 Maher began his Patrol career in February 2020 as a Forensic Computer Specialist 1 in the Computer Crimes Unit. He is also a member of the United States Secret Service Cyber Fraud Task Force. In 2024, the United States Secret Service presented him with the National Computer Forensics Institute Significant Case Award.

He graduated from The Ohio State University in 2013 with a Bachelor of Arts degree.



Electronic Technician of the Year

ET2 TRENTON N. TERRILL

Electronic Technician 2 (ET2) Trenton N. Terrill, General Headquarters, was selected as the Electronic Technician of the Year. He takes pride in his work in installing equipment, and often helps improve and streamline processes.

ET2 Terrill works diligently to ensure specialty vehicles stay technologically relevant and in good working order. This includes the maintenance, delivery and set up of the Skywatch towers for a variety of public safety events. Throughout the summer and fall, when the towers are in high demand, ET2 Terrill works evenings, weekends and many holidays to ensure towers are properly delivered and set up.

In 2024, ET2 Terrill received a Certificate of Recognition for his efforts to assist the Ohio School Safety Center and Ohio Homeland Security in the deployment of the watch towers.

ET2 Terrill began his career with the Patrol in December 2012 as an Electronic Technician 1 in Central Installation. He was promoted to ET2 in 2014.





Distinguished Retiree Award

RETIRED SERGEANT CHARLES R. DEMUTH

Retired Sergeant Charles R. Demuth, Cambridge District, was selected as the Distinguished Retiree of the Year. Retired Sergeant Demuth volunteers at Ohio Hospice, offering compassionate support and companionship to individuals and families in need. He also volunteers at Cleveland Clinic Union Hospital, helping in various roles to aid both staff and patients, and assists families facing food insecurities at the Dover/New Philadelphia Food Pantry.

In addition, retired Sergeant Demuth stops by posts, brings thoughtful gifts and shares stories of his time with the Patrol. He attends monthly retiree breakfasts and other statewide events.

As a member of the Ohio State Highway Patrol's 70th Academy Class, retired Sergeant Demuth served for 32 years at the Hiram and New Philadelphia posts. He retired in 1996.

Family Recognition Award

MADISON FOSTER

Madison Foster, Findlay District, was selected as the recipient of the Family Recognition Award. The daughter of Trooper Adam R. Foster, Defiance Post, Ms. Foster has been a consistent participant in Patrol-related events over the years. She has had an active role in Operation Santa's Sleigh since 2021 and dressed up as Teddy Trooper during Season of Sharing events.

Ms. Foster is also very active in her community. As a member of the Liberty Center Future Farmers of America, she helped clean the Village of Liberty Center for a community outreach project. She also serves as a volunteer coach for the Liberty Center Youth Softball program and is a member of the Shiloh Christian Union Church Teen Group.

Ms. Foster has a genuine and caring personality, while displaying great respect for her elders, teachers, coaches, friends and family. She represents her church, community and family with great pride.





Colonel Paul A. Pride Criminal Patrol Award

TROOPER BRIAN K. GARLOCH

Trooper Brian K. Garloch, Delaware Post, earned the Colonel Paul A. Pride State Criminal Patrol Award for conducting the most felony case investigations, 87, which led to 125 felony arrests in 2024.

Trooper Garloch joined the Patrol in March 2015 as a member of the 158th Academy Class. He earned his commission in September of the same year and was assigned to the Wapakoneta Post. As a trooper, he has also served at the Marion Post. He was named Post Trooper of the Year four times and District Trooper of the Year once. He has won the Criminal Patrol Award six times and is a three-time Ace Award winner for excellence in auto larceny.

Trooper Garloch earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in criminal justice from Marion Technical College in 2014.

Colonel Thomas W. Rice Leadership Award

SERGEANT BRYAN L. SPONAUGLE

Sergeant Bryan L. Sponaugle, Canton Post, was honored with the Colonel Thomas W. Rice Leadership Award, which is presented to one sworn supervisory officer for outstanding leadership.

Sergeant Sponaugle has deep operational knowledge and leads with competence and compassion. His firsthand experience allows him to guide his shift and set them up for success. He understands that leadership is about more than just directing tasks, it is also about inspiring others to realize their potential by pushing them beyond their limits.

Sergeant Sponaugle began his Patrol career in May 2007 as a member of the 148th Academy Class. He earned his commission in January of the following year and was assigned to the Steubenville Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Wooster and Canton posts. He was named Post Trooper of the Year in 2018. He earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement twice and the Criminal Patrol Award once. In 2021, he was promoted to sergeant and was assigned to the Steubenville Post to serve as assistant post commander.

Sergeant Sponaugle served in the United States Marine Corps from 2003 to 2007 and the United States Marine Corps Reserve from 2007 to 2011.



Colonel Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award

This year, two Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Awards were presented. The award recognizes officers dedicated to humanitarian causes on the highway and in their communities. The second award was extended to a member of the Patrol's professional staff.



TROOPER JARED R. PAINE

Trooper Jared R. Paine, Canfield Post, makes a conscious effort to assist the public and his coworkers on a daily basis, and he dedicates his time off-duty to improving the lives of others in his community.

Trooper Paine, along with his wife, founded a non-profit organization called the Emma Elf Project in honor of their daughter who was diagnosed with non-verbal autism. The Mahoning County-based organization brings together kids with developmental disabilities and neuro-typical kids to work on adaptive art projects. The Paines were instrumental in contributing to the creation of a new sensory room for children in the Poland Local School District.

Trooper Paine serves as a field training officer, college intern mentor and a member of the Veterans Member Assistance Team.

Trooper Paine began his Patrol career in November 2012 as a member of the 154th Academy Class. He earned his commission in April of the following year and was assigned to the St. Clairsville Post. He has also served at the Lisbon Post. In 2023, he was named Post Trooper of the Year. He earned the Master Trooper designation in 2024.

He served in the United States Marine Corps from 2005 to 2009.

AP1 TRACY J. HARVEY

Administrative Professional 1 (AP1) Tracy J. Harvey, Mt. Gilead Post, is a selfless and dedicated individual who consistently puts others first. In February 2024, when she learned that her colleague, Sergeant Andrew P. Geer, was in need of a kidney transplant, Harvey volunteered to be tested as a donor without hesitation. When found to be a match, she offered the gift of life. Their surgeries took place in October.

Her willingness to act for the benefit of others embodies the Patrol's Core Value of Family, which is expressed through how Patrol personnel support each other during difficult times.

AP1 Harvey joined the Patrol in August 2010 as a secretary assigned to the Mt. Gilead Post. In 2011, she was promoted to her current position as an administrative professional 1. She has been honored three times with the District Employee Recognition Award.

She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in marketing from Bowling Green State University in 1994.





Blue Max Award

SERGEANT MATTHEW D. BOYER

Sergeant Matthew D. Boyer, Cambridge District Criminal Patrol Unit, earned the Blue Max Award for the fourth consecutive year, and the fifth time overall, by recovering the most stolen vehicles, 25, which resulted in 32 arrests.

Sergeant Boyer joined the Patrol in March 2015 as a member of the 158th Academy Class, and earned his commission in September of that year. As a trooper, he served at the Lisbon, Canfield, Canton and Akron posts, as well as the Cleveland and Warren District Criminal Patrol units.

In 2019, he earned the Colonel Paul A. Pride Criminal Patrol Award. In 2021, he earned the Superintendent's Award of Excellence. In 2024, he earned the designation of Master Trooper, and has since been promoted to sergeant and transferred to the Cambridge District Criminal Patrol Unit.

Sergeant Boyer earned an Associate degree in criminal justice from the University of Akron in 2014.

Police Officer of the Year

PO2 JOSHUA E. WAYT

Police Officer 2 (PO2) Joshua E. Wayt, Expo Center, was selected as Police Officer of the Year for embodying the Patrol's Core Values.

PO2 Wayt has a positive attitude and strong work ethic, and is an influential leader at the post. He is willing to assist younger officers with their crash and case investigations, as well as outside units who have a detail at the Expo Center. PO2 Wayt is an asset to the citizens of Ohio and the Division.

PO2 Wayt joined the Patrol in 2012 and previously worked for Capitol Operations.



Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year

MVI LAUREN E. MERZ

Motor Vehicle Inspector (MVI) Lauren E. Merz, Warren District Commercial Enforcement Unit, was selected as Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year. She received high praise for completing 1,024 school bus inspections and 805 vehicle identity inspections throughout the Warren District.

MVI Merz has been with the Ohio State Highway Patrol since January 1993. She began her career as a member of the 124th Academy Class, serving in the Warren District throughout her career.

She retired as a trooper in May 2019 and began working as a dispatcher in the Warren Dispatch Center in November of that year. In January 2021, she became a motor vehicle inspector assigned to Warren District Commercial Enforcement.



MCEI of the Year

MCEI WILLIAM L. MASON

Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector (MCEI) William L. Mason, Cambridge District Commercial Enforcement Unit, was selected as Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year for being the top inspector in total number of commercial inspections in the Cambridge District. He was active in removing illegal narcotics from commercial vehicles, generating five felony drug cases in 2024.

MCEI Mason joined the Patrol in June 2014 as a dispatcher assigned to the Cambridge District Headquarters. He also served as a dispatcher at the Cambridge Dispatch Center. In 2022, he was promoted to motor carrier enforcement inspector and was assigned to Cambridge District Commercial Enforcement.

In 2013, he earned an Associate of Applied Justice degree in criminal justice from Zane State College.

William J. Duffy Award of Excellence

AUXILIARY OFFICER DANIEL C. MASULA

Auxiliary Officer Daniel C. Masula, West Jefferson Post, earned the William J. Duffy Award of Excellence for his dedication to the Patrol. Qualifying for the award requires a minimum of 300 volunteer hours per year over three consecutive years.

Auxiliary Officer Masula joined the Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary in October 2021. He has worked more than 1,000 hours through the last several years, riding on road patrol with troopers. He has also worked special details, including OVI checkpoints and the Ohio State Fair.



Auxiliary Officer of the Year

AUXILIARY STAFF MAJOR BRIAN W. SIMPSON

Auxiliary Staff Major Brian W. Simpson, Granville Post, was selected as the Auxiliary Officer of the Year.

He began with the Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary in April 2000 and is the longest-serving active member. The 25-year veteran worked more hours in 2024 than any other auxiliary member, with a total of 660 hours.

Auxiliary Simpson worked alongside troopers on patrol, OVI checkpoints, the Ohio State Fair and details for The Ohio State University football games.

Partners for Safety Award

The Partners for Safety initiative successfully blends statewide corporate partnerships with innovative initiatives at the local level. Partners for Safety involves a commitment of operational, public outreach and relations, and educational activities involving the Patrol and community residents. A lasting goal of the Partners for Safety effort is to promote a safer highway environment, reduce traffic crashes, achieve voluntary compliance with motor vehicle traffic laws, positively impact highway crime at the local level and support other Patrol initiatives.



ASSOCIATE CEO FONDA FREEMAN

Associate CEO Fonda Freeman, of the Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities (OACBHA), was selected for her instrumental role in addressing impaired driving in Ohio through her partnership with the Ohio State Highway Patrol's (OSHP) Operation New Beginnings program.

Operation New Beginnings is a collaborative effort between the Patrol and local health providers to address impaired driving. Freeman invited Patrol personnel to present the initiative to OACBHA's members. This led to a groundbreaking partnership, where local Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health (ADAMH) boards began working directly with the Patrol to provide support to individuals arrested for impaired driving.

Freeman's efforts have significantly expanded Operation New Beginnings, starting in 2023 with 11 counties and now serving 58* Ohio counties. Her work is providing resources and vital support to individuals arrested for impaired driving, aiming to reduce recidivism, promote recovery and create safer communities.

**As of March 28, 2025.*

CCO DAVID ROSE AND PRESS SECRETARY MATT BRUNING

Chief Communications Officer David Rose and Press Secretary Matt Bruning, of the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), were selected for their outstanding collaboration and commitment to community safety during two high-profile initiatives in 2024.

On April 8, 2024, ODOT's comprehensive communication efforts surrounding Ohio's total solar eclipse brought together ODOT, the OSHP and various state partners. Their coordinated efforts before, during and after the eclipse ensured public safety and effective traffic management, avoiding the post-eclipse gridlock other states experienced. In addition, ODOT's federally-funded media campaign for the Move Over-Slow Down program raised awareness about work zone safety, including featuring the OSHP in a series of impactful television and social media ads.

Their contributions highlight the vital partnership between ODOT and the OSHP in promoting public safety across the state.



DISTRICT WINNERS

FINDLAY DISTRICT

Trooper of the Year, Trooper Ann M. Geer
 Dispatcher of the Year, Dispatcher Patrick P. Bowsher
 Trooper Recognition Award, Trooper Chad A. Spallinger
 Employee Recognition Award,
 Administrative Professional 1 Rhonda K. Eck
 Rice Leadership Award, Sergeant Chad A. Recker
 Distinguished Retiree, Retired Colonel Richard H. Collins
 Distinguished Family Award,
 Madison Foster (Trooper Adam R. Foster)
 Electronic Technician of the Year,
 ET3 Kraig A. Kent
 Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year,
 MCEI Lawrence E. Hampton
 Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year,
 MVI Todd E. Tegenkamp

BUCYRUS DISTRICT

Trooper of the Year, Trooper Shane D. Spieth
 Dispatcher of the Year, Dispatcher Heather A. Kanouse
 Trooper Recognition Award, Trooper Dorothy A. Gladden
 Employee Recognition Award,
 Administrative Professional 1 Keri A. Smith
 Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award,
 Trooper Shane D. Spieth
 Rice Leadership Award, Sergeant Matthew W. Davis
 Distinguished Retiree,
 Retired Motor Vehicle Inspector Charles B. Beasley
 Distinguished Family Award,
 Aubrey Lash (Trooper Andrew B. Lash)
 Electronic Technician of the Year,
 ET2 Douglas Morrison
 Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year,
 MCEI Lorrence C. Herbert
 Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year,
 MVI Christopher J. Lawson

CLEVELAND DISTRICT

Trooper of the Year, Trooper Sarah A. Korsten
 Dispatcher of the Year, Dispatcher Susan M. Kelley
 Trooper Recognition Award, Trooper James M. Donohue
 Employee Recognition Award,
 Administrative Professional 4 Robin L. Galvin
 Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award,
 Sergeant Robert E. Gable
 Rice Leadership Award, Sergeant Bryan L. Sponaule
 Distinguished Retiree, Retired Captain Eric R. Sheppard
 Distinguished Family Award,
 Rachael Susak-Heil (Sergeant Vernon L. Pickering)
 Electronic Technician of the Year,
 ET2 Douglas A. Carnegie
 Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year,
 MCEI Richard D. Bell
 Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year, MVI David L. Guzowski

WARREN DISTRICT

Trooper of the Year, Trooper Jaime Santiago
 Dispatcher of the Year, Dispatcher Kristen M. Paolillo
 Trooper Recognition Award, Trooper Mark A. Harrington
 Employee Recognition Award,
 Administrative Professional 1 Julie L. Szeker
 Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award,
 Trooper Jared R. Paine
 Rice Leadership Award, Sergeant Charles E. Hoskin
 Distinguished Retiree, Retired Trooper Jeffery D. Ruddle
 Distinguished Family Award,
 Tara Barnard (Sergeant Benjamin M. Barnard)
 Electronic Technician of the Year,
 ET2 Terry E. Maffitt
 Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year,
 Trooper Rodney D. Ramps
 Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year,
 MVI Lauren E. Merz

PIQUA DISTRICT

Trooper of the Year, Trooper Coleton J. Piatt
 Dispatcher of the Year, Dispatcher Chelsea L. Sederstrand
 Trooper Recognition Award, Trooper Clayton A. Williams
 Employee Recognition Award,
 Administrative Professional 4 Stacy L. Mullen
 Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award,
 Trooper Jaysen P. Kelly
 Rice Leadership Award, Sergeant Ryan M. May
 Distinguished Family Award,
 Stephanie Kelly (Trooper Jaysen P. Kelly)
 Electronic Technician of the Year, ET2 Shawn M. Conley
 Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year,
 MCEI Michael S. Elkins
 Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year,
 MVI William D. Taylor

COLUMBUS DISTRICT

Trooper of the Year, Trooper Brian K. Garloch
 Dispatcher of the Year, Dispatcher Taylor J. Richards
 Trooper Recognition Award, Trooper Michael R. Wilson
 Employee Recognition Award,
 Maintenance Repair Worker 2 Gary D. Christian
 Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award,
 Lieutenant Eric D. Holbrook
 Rice Leadership Award, Sergeant Andrew P. Geer
 Distinguished Family Award,
 Bethany Landis (Lieutenant Jacob Daniel Landis)
 Electronic Technician of the Year, ET2 Chad M. Morrison
 Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year,
 MCEI Leo T. Grabovich
 Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year,
 MVI Brian W. Landis

CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT

Trooper of the Year, Sergeant Jeremy L. Border
 Dispatcher of the Year, Dispatcher Kali Wheeler
 Trooper Recognition Award, Trooper Lea R. Mikes
 Employee Recognition Award,
 Infrastructure Specialist 2 Christopher L. Baker
 Chiamonte Humanitarian Award, Sergeant Brian W. Hawkins
 Rice Leadership Award, Sergeant Clinton D. Armstrong
 Distinguished Retiree, Retired Sergeant Charles R. Demuth
 Distinguished Family Award,
 Bryson Bodo (Lieutenant Robert J. Bodo)
 Electronic Technician of the Year, ET2 James K. Howell
 Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year,
 MCEI William L. Mason
 Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year, MVI Bryan L. Powell

WILMINGTON DISTRICT

Trooper of the Year, Trooper Scott T. Prebble
 Dispatcher of the Year, Dispatcher Amy J. Kirk
 Trooper Recognition Award, Trooper Matthew R. Caldwell
 Employee Recognition Award,
 Infrastructure Specialist 2 Robert I. Eakins
 Chiamonte Humanitarian Award, Trooper Todd Stevens
 Rice Leadership Award, Sergeant Nathan J. Pabin
 Distinguished Retiree,
 Retired Sergeant Thomas M. Bloomberg Jr.
 Distinguished Family Award,
 Rebekah Prebble (Trooper Scott T. Prebble)
 Electronic Technician of the Year, ET2 Brian E. Shepherd
 Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year,
 MCEI William S. Johnson
 Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year, MVI Elvin Cordero

JACKSON DISTRICT

Trooper of the Year, Trooper Trent J. Thompson
 Dispatcher of the Year, Dispatcher Garrick B. Payne
 Trooper Recognition Award, Trooper Rebecca S. Sexton
 Employee Recognition Award,
 Administrative Professional 4 Lynne A. Robinson
 Chiamonte Humanitarian Award,
 Trooper Trent J. Thompson
 Rice Leadership Award, Sergeant Christopher K. Davis
 Distinguished Retiree,
 Retired Staff Lieutenant Richard Scott Borden
 Distinguished Family Award,
 Bridgette Malone (Sergeant Derek L. Malone)
 Electronic Technician of the Year, ET2 Brian R. Howard
 Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year,
 MCEI Drew E. Fry
 Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year, MVI Jeffrey H. Gordon

OFFICE OF FIELD OPERATIONS

Trooper Recognition Award, Sergeant Nadi C. Graham
 Employee Recognition Award,
 Administrative Professional 3 Samantha D. Grubb

OFFICE OF PLANNING, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Employee Recognition Award, Criminalist Emily R. Bocook

OFFICE OF FINANCE & LOGISTICS

Dispatcher of the Year, Dispatcher Morgan M. Robinson
 Employee Recognition,
 Inventory Control Special Supervisor Alexander C. Ell
 Electronic Technician of the Year, ET2 Trenton N. Terrill

OFFICE OF TRAINING, RECRUITMENT & DIVERSITY

Trooper Recognition Award, Trooper Diep N. Pham

OFFICE OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Employee Recognition Award,
 Forensic Computer Specialist 2 Daniel P. Maher
 Rice Leadership Award, Sergeant Timothy Breck Williamson

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL

Trooper Recognition Award, Trooper Paul E. Appleman
 Employee Recognition,
 Program Administrator 2 Lindsay M. Pinkerman
 Rice Leadership Award, Sergeant Timothy K. Bullock

HIGHWAY PATROL HISTORY

On February 7, 1967, the Patrol's 6th Superintendent, Colonel Robert M. Chiamonte, presided over the first awards ceremony at which the first Patrolman of the Year, Billie A. Bradley, was recognized.

In 1979, Colonel Jack B. Walsh established the Annual Awards ceremony to honor all recipients.

Since then, we have celebrated the achievements of countless women and men, across all ranks and positions of our agency.

2025 STATE OF THE PATROL FOCUSES ON FAMILY

In the 2025 State of the Patrol address on March 28, Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent, underscored the Division's commitment to the Family core value.

Colonel Jones has championed "family" as a guiding principle, and in his speech, he emphasized how this value has transcended words on paper to become a lived experience for all personnel. He noted this is not only reflected in the strong bonds between troopers, but also in the unwavering support of their families, who carry the weight of the profession's challenges alongside them.

One of the most poignant moments of the speech, delivered from the Leadership Auditorium at the Patrol's Training Academy, was when Colonel Jones played a video featuring Ayden Hankinson, son of Trooper Alan M. Hankinson from the Lima Post. Ayden, a four-year-old battling leukemia, was the 2024 Junior Colonel for Operation Santa's Sleigh. Ayden's strength and resilience are the hallmark of the Patrol family. Despite his ongoing treatment, Ayden is inspiring many through his courage and spirit, the same qualities that run through the Patrol.

Colonel Jones also shared the story of Sergeant Andrew P. Geer from the Mt. Gilead Post, who last year was in need of a kidney transplant. Without hesitation, his colleague, Administrative Professional 1 Tracy J. Harvey volunteered to be tested as a donor, and when found to be a match, she offered the gift of life. Their surgeries in October were a testament to the ideals that define the Patrol—trust, care and mutual support. Colonel Jones used this example to emphasize that true leadership comes not from titles or ranks, but from the everyday acts of kindness that bind the Patrol together.

The Patrol's efforts to enhance public safety across Ohio were also highlighted. In 2024, posts and districts partnered with local agencies to address violent crime, seizing over 300 illegal firearms and recovering more than 120 stolen vehicles in Cleveland alone. The Aviation Section's life-saving work was also lauded, with troopers successfully locating over 300 individuals, including missing persons and dangerous criminals.



Colonel Charles A. Jones addresses the crowd at State of the Patrol.

Another key part of the Patrol's success has been its focus on traffic safety, which led to a traffic fatality reduction in Ohio for a third consecutive year. The implementation of Ohio's hands-free law in 2023 showed remarkable results, with a 10% decrease in handheld phone use while driving, continuing to set Ohio apart as a leader in traffic safety.

Colonel Jones presented ACT 2025, an initiative aimed at improving traffic safety even further through data-driven enforcement, education and community outreach. Key goals include reducing distracted driving crashes, lowering impaired driving fatalities and increasing safety belt compliance. He emphasized that while enforcement is critical, education and community partnerships will be equally important in shaping a safer future.

He also introduced a new Marksmanship Proficiency Course to encourage firearms proficiency for all sworn personnel. The course challenges officers to demonstrate their marksmanship and is based on two categories – Expert and Sharpshooter. Officers who successfully complete the course will receive a uniform ribbon. To maintain the ribbon, officers will need to participate in an annual review course to ensure their skills are maintained.

The speech concluded with a message of unity and forward momentum, reminding all Patrol members that, together, they are more than just law enforcement officers and professional staff—they are a family, and their shared mission will continue to guide them toward creating a safer, stronger Ohio.

MOLDOVAN LAW ENFORCEMENT RECEIVES ADVANCED TRAINING FROM OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL



Critical injury first aid training.



Scenario based training.



Scenario based training.

In an international collaboration, law enforcement officers from Moldova traveled to Ohio for specialized training hosted by the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) at its Training Academy in Columbus. The training, which took place from December 15-19, 2024, was made possible through a partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

Nine officers from four prominent agencies comprised the Moldovan delegation: the Material Witness Protection Group, Fulger Brigade, Carabinieri Scorpion Battalion and the General Inspectorate of the Border Police. The traveling party also included two interpreters and a representative from INL.

This training partnership stems from a long-standing relationship between the OSHP and INL. In 2012, the Patrol became the first state law enforcement agency in the United States to sign a partnership agreement with INL. This collaboration has allowed OSHP to expand the reach of its professional expertise by providing specialized training and mentorship to foreign law enforcement agencies as part of the U.S. Department of State's efforts to improve global civilian security.

Throughout the week, the officers received in-depth training on handling operations

related to dignitary and witness protection that included both classroom sessions and hands-on exercises designed to simulate real-world scenarios. It was uniquely tailored to the needs of each agency, focusing on critical areas of executive-level protection operations and challenges. The training covered a range of techniques, from safe driving methods to walking movements and escape route strategies in the event of an attack.

One of the training goals was to improve interagency cooperation among the Moldovan law enforcement units. Each of the participating agencies has different operational procedures when it comes to dignitary and witness protection, and the OSHP's training was designed to provide a consistent baseline for all participants. By learning a unified approach to security details, the Moldovan officers would be better prepared to collaborate efficiently during joint operations.

Lieutenant Jonathan S. Davis of the OSHP Training Academy emphasized the shared objective of law enforcement globally: "Within law enforcement, anywhere you go in the world there's one goal, and it's to protect people. So, it has been nice to be able to spend time with our partners from around the world and provide them this unique training opportunity."

The officers from Moldova not only benefited from the technical aspects of the training, but also had the chance to engage in a cultural exchange. During their stay in Columbus, they explored the city, experienced American cuisine and even got some Christmas shopping done.

The Patrol also benefited, with Lieutenant Davis noting the Moldovan officers shared valuable insights into how they manage border security, particularly in the context of their proximity to Ukraine and the ongoing regional tensions. These lessons will likely influence OSHP's own operations and training strategies, especially when it comes to handling complex security situations.

For many of the Moldovan officers, the training offered new opportunities to refine their skills. Captain Radu Seremet, a SWAT Deputy Commander with the Fulger Brigade, praised the driving course provided during the training, which was a new element for him and many of the officers.

"It's something we don't often practice," Captain Seremet said. "Sometimes we need some

upgrades for operations or different events. So, when we came here, our instructors showed how they operate in different emergency situations. We can take from them some of their drills and improve our skills."

The importance of witness protection was also emphasized throughout the week, with Captain Seremet remarking that preserving the integrity of the judicial process in Moldova relies heavily on the ability to protect key individuals, including witnesses. The new skills learned during the training will help bolster their ability to safeguard these important figures, which is crucial for maintaining democracy in Moldova.

The week of training underscored the value of international cooperation in law enforcement. While the officers from Moldova gained crucial skills that will benefit their missions back home, the exchange of ideas and experiences also helped strengthen the Patrol's operational knowledge. For both parties, this collaboration, and the professional connections they made, served as a reminder that protecting citizens—no matter where they live—is a shared mission.

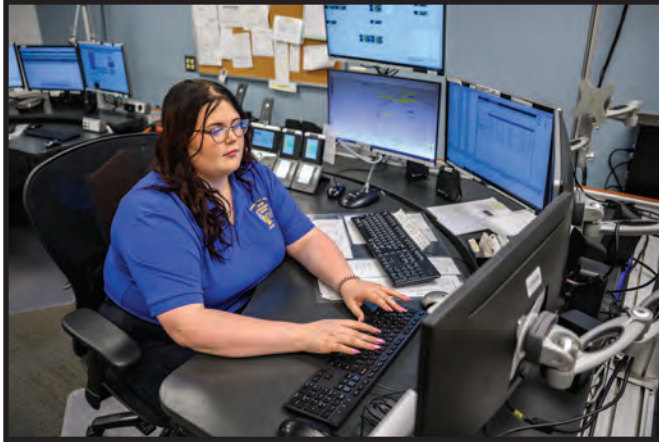
OHIO LAW ENFORCEMENT EXECUTIVE SUMMIT

On March 3 and 4, the Patrol hosted the annual Ohio Law Enforcement Executive Summit at Hocking Hills State Park Lodge. The summit allowed law enforcement agencies from across Ohio to collaborate and have an open discussion, share ideas, troubleshoot issues, promote programs and network with one another.

The meeting included representatives from the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Ohio Investigative Unit, Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy.



DISPATCH OPERATIONS AND THE VITAL ROLE OF DISPATCHERS



Dispatcher Kali Wheeler, St. Clairsville Dispatch Center, played an instrumental role in the safe recovery of an AMBER Alert victim on November 11, 2024.

Behind every Ohio state trooper on the road, there is a dedicated team of dispatchers working tirelessly to coordinate responses, provide critical information and keep both officers and the public safe.

From 31 dispatch centers across the state, the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Dispatch Operations, in the Office of Finance and Logistics, is the unseen backbone of the Division's operations, managing nearly 3.2 million incidents in 2024 alone—ranging from stranded motorists and traffic crashes to high-stakes incidents like kidnappings.

Dispatchers are often the first point of contact in an emergency. Whether a person calls 911 or #677, the voice on the other end belongs to a dispatcher trained to remain calm under pressure.

"When the public calls, we have to maintain professionalism and a calm demeanor to allow them to be calm, even if we're handling a serious incident," Amanda Hermann, Dispatcher Supervisor for the Canton and Wooster Dispatch Centers, said. "Dispatchers are skilled in de-escalation, offering reassurance to callers while efficiently gathering information that can mean the difference between life and death."

Dispatchers serve as the command center for law enforcement responses, coordinating efforts with multiple agencies. Whether it's contacting the Ohio Department of Transportation to set up detours, requesting backup for troopers or managing warrant entries through the Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS), dispatchers are the means through which critical information reaches the right people at the right time.

For instance, the Canton Dispatch Center played a crucial role in developing Ohio's eWarrant system, which ensures that warrants are entered into LEADS as soon as they are issued. This not only helps prevent wanted individuals from slipping through the cracks, but also enhances officer safety by providing real-time warrant information during traffic stops.

One of the most intense examples of the value of dispatchers occurred on November 11, 2024, when an AMBER Alert was issued for a 7-year-old girl abducted in Jefferson County. Dispatcher Kali Wheeler, working in the St. Clairsville Dispatch Center, received the initial call at 3:09 p.m., alerting her that the child's father had taken her after being denied custody. With no direct sighting of the vehicle, Wheeler quickly relayed information to troopers, worked with the Patrol's Watch Desk to ensure the necessary criteria for an AMBER Alert were being collected and coordinated with multiple law enforcement agencies.

As the situation escalated, Wheeler and her colleagues meticulously provided relevant agencies with real-time updates. Dispatcher Wheeler entered the AMBER Alert into LEADS and the National Crime Information Center at the request of Jefferson County. She also began notifying federal, state and local partners. The suspect was eventually located in a U-Haul truck near Medina, leading to a high-stakes hostage situation, where ultimately nearly six hours after the incident began, the child was safely recovered.

Despite the high-pressure nature of their job, the anonymity of how dispatchers provide service with a purpose often goes without public recognition.

"At the end of the day, we do lifesaving things every day," Wheeler said. "But as dispatchers, we don't typically put ourselves first—we're always putting the units and the public first."

As exemplified by Dispatcher Wheeler in the AMBER Alert case, every day Patrol dispatchers think critically, and act decisively, ensuring that troopers and law enforcement partners are supported, crises are managed and lives are saved.

Led by 23 dispatcher supervisors across the state, Patrol dispatchers are more than just voices on the radio—they are problem solvers, crisis managers and the lifeline that keeps the Division running efficiently. Their work may be unseen, but its impact is undeniable.

TESTING AND ASSESSMENT SERVICES



From overseeing promotional processes, job assessments and selection procedures, the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Testing and Assessment Services in the Office of Personnel remains at the forefront of professional development, ensuring the Division is comprised of well-prepared, highly capable officers and professional staff.

Organizational Assessment Research Administrator Leanne Lanciotti leads the section and said the impact of their work and recent updates have improved efficiency and accessibility.

One of the section's most recognized responsibilities is managing the promotional process for troopers aspiring to become sergeants and for sergeants to advance to lieutenant, to ensure they are prepared to take on leadership roles. The Patrol conducts its assessments entirely in-house, which is not typical for most agencies.

Testing and Assessment Services administers the assessment center process, which is a comprehensive evaluation designed to test leadership and decision-making skills for officers seeking promotion to sergeant or lieutenant.

Officers must qualify to participate in either assessment center, where upon entering they assume the role of a sergeant or lieutenant for the day. Right from the beginning, candidates are given office tasks that mirror typical responsibilities at a post, such as handling paperwork, emails and responding to interruptions.

Scenarios involving community issues or internal conflicts, like addressing personnel challenges or engaging with community groups, simulate real-world situations supervisors and commanders might face. For example, candidates may be asked to manage a crisis, conduct counseling or handle a community dispute, often requiring them to demonstrate conflict resolution and problem-solving abilities.

The assessment also includes writing tasks, where candidates must produce correspondence, reports or presentations based on provided data. The day-long process concludes with candidates receiving their scores.

"It's a day in the life of a sergeant or lieutenant," Lanciotti explained about the assessment centers. "The scenarios used are based on real incidents, ensuring that candidates are evaluated on practical, relevant challenges. This approach provides a customized and fair evaluation process tailored to our needs."

Assessors, typically two to three ranks above those being evaluated, include a mix of field commanders and those from specialty units. They are selected based on experience and recommendations from captains and majors.



Testing and Assessment Services manages the promotional process for trooper to sergeant and for sergeant to lieutenant, to ensure they are prepared to take on leadership roles.

Beyond promotions, the section oversees selection processes for various Ohio State Troopers Association and Ohio Civil Service Employees Association bargaining unit positions, such as dispatchers, customer service assistants and electronic technicians. Recent updates have standardized interviews across positions, ensuring consistency and fairness in evaluations. Additionally, dispatcher testing has been moved to local posts, eliminating the need for applicants to travel long distances for assessments. This change has significantly improved participation rates and streamlined the hiring process.

The section also continues to modernize testing methods. The cadet entrance exam, for example, will have two versions, allowing candidates to retest sooner if needed. Transitioning to an online format has further simplified the process for recruiters and applicants alike.

PATROL HONORS THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTER ACE/ CRIMINAL PATROL AWARDS



On February 26, the third and fourth quarter 2024 Ace and Criminal Patrol Award of Excellence Ceremony was held at the Patrol's Training Academy. These troopers and dispatchers were first-time recipients who earned their awards through recovering stolen vehicles and removing dangerous drugs from Ohio's roadways.

54 OFFICERS GRADUATE FROM PATROL'S BASIC PEACE OFFICER CLASS

Members of the 151st Basic Peace Officer Class received training certificates during a graduation ceremony held January 17 at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Training Academy. Their 21-week training program began in August 2024. Vandalia Division of Police Chief Kurt E. Althouse was the keynote speaker, and Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Andy W. Wilson and Colonel Charles A. Jones provided remarks. Taylor M. Howman, Zanesville Police Department, was selected as class speaker by her fellow class members and addressed the assembly.

The 54 graduates reported to 29 Ohio agencies.



Class honors went to the following:

- **Overall Top Performer** – Skyler O. Hayes, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Parks & Watercraft
- **Top Academics** – Taylor M. Howman, Zanesville Police Department
- **Top Firearms** – Adam K. Evans, Bowling Green Police Division
- **Top Physical Fitness** – Oliver C. Rees, Piqua Police Department
- **Top Driving** – Joseph A. Bair, Fremont Police Department

40 TROOPERS GRADUATE FROM OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL TRAINING ACADEMY

Forty members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol's 175th Academy Class graduated from the Patrol's Training Academy on March 21 after 28 weeks of training. Trooper Madison H. Myles, Athens Post, was selected as class speaker. Four graduates received special honors for top performance in various fields of study. The honorees were:



- **Top overall performance**

- Trooper Ronald R. Morgan IV, Granville Post

- **Top performance in academics**

- Trooper Derek G. Basinger, Lisbon Post

- **Top performance in driving**

- Trooper Ronald R. Morgan IV, Granville Post

- **Top performance in firearms**

- Trooper Ethan L. Barrett, Lisbon Post

- **Top performance in physical fitness**

- Trooper Devin M. Bousquet, Chillicothe Post

Governor Mike DeWine attended, and Director Andy Wilson, Ohio Department of Public Safety, and Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent, provided remarks during the graduation ceremony. Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Deborah Ashenhurst delivered the keynote address and Judge David A. Trimmer, Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas, issued the Oath of Office.

Graduates reported to their assigned posts on March 23. The graduates' first 70 working days are a field-training period under the guidance of a veteran officer. The new graduates were assigned to 28 of the Patrol's 59 posts.

SAVED BY THE BELT



From left: Lieutenant Kristi J. Mistovich, Lane Adams, his father Steve, his mother Danielle, his sister Sophia, Muskingum University Assistant Athletic Director Tom Caudill and the Muskingum University Director of Career Services Jackie Vascara.

Lieutenant Kristi J. Mistovich, Zanesville post commander, presented a Saved by the Belt award to Lane Adams, 16, Zanesville, on January 8 during halftime of Muskingum University men's basketball game. The award was presented to the teenage driver after he was involved in a crash on August 14, 2024.

POLICE OFFICER SLONE SWORN IN



On January 8, Police Officer Keith T. Slone (pictured) was sworn in at the Patrol's Training Academy.

K-9 GRADUATION



Front row, from left: Trooper Darrell M. Dowler and K-9 Ragnar, Cleveland District Criminal Patrol; Trooper Race A. Baker and K-9 Rob, Bucyrus District Criminal Patrol; and Trooper Tyler L. Totani and K-9 Ozzy, Warren District Criminal Patrol.

Back row, from left: Officer Aaron Hunt and K-9 Odin, Northwood Police Department; Officer Ryan McDermott and K-9 Tenda, Perkins Township Police Department; Officer Caleb Sizemore and K-9 Reg, Chillicothe Police Department; and Officer Garret Lotz and K-9 Pako, Piqua Police Department.

Seven K-9s and their handlers graduated from the Patrol's K-9 Training Facility on February 26 in a ceremony held at the Patrol's Training Academy.

TROOPER MILLER SELECTED AS STARK COUNTY TRAFFIC OFFICER OF THE YEAR



and the event was hosted by the Canton Police Patrolman's Association.

Trooper Jace D. Miller, Canton Post, (pictured left, with fiancée, Marissa) was selected as Stark County Traffic Officer of the Year on February 28. Nominees were selected by members of Stark County Safe Communities

SRT MEMBERS RECEIVE COMBAT CROSS CERTIFICATE



From left: Trooper Hector J. Burgos, Trooper Michael J. Vitullo, Sergeant John Beeler and Trooper Justin J. Ross. Also awarded (not shown) were Sergeant Chris Castellanos and Trooper Austin Skipper.

On March 13, six members of SRT received the Combat Cross Certificate from the Canton Police Department. The award stems from an incident in November 2024 in which a barricaded subject fired multiple rounds at responding officers from OSHP and the Northern Ohio Violent Fugitive Task Force.

2025 SNOWBIRD REUNION



The 37th annual Snowbird Reunion took place February 27 through March 1 at the Orlando Florida Marriott Hotel in Lake Mary, Fla. There were 50 retirees in attendance, as well as Colonel Charles A. Jones, Lieutenant Colonel Charles J. Linek and Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirement System Executive Director Carl Roark. During the three-day gathering, guests participated in golf, shopping and a scenic boat tour at the lake in Winter Park. Guests also enjoyed an outdoor pizza party reception and a Saturday luncheon following the Retirees' Association business meeting.

Shown from left: Retired Colonel Richard Collins, retired Staff Lieutenant Virginia Fogt, retired Captain Brenda Collins, retired Major Robert Booker, retired Dispatch Manager Lydia Frey and retired Sergeant Dale LaRue.

AP1 BALLOW RECEIVES CERTIFICATE

On January 15, Colonel Charles A. Jones presented Wooster Post Administrative Professional 1 Susan K. Ballow with a certificate for her 35 years of service with the Ohio State Highway Patrol.



DISPATCHER RAFFERTY RECEIVES CERTIFICATE



Colonel Charles A. Jones presented Dispatcher Sandra L. Rafferty with a certificate recognizing her 35 years of state service. The presentation took place on February 21 at the Lisbon Post.

PHOTOGRAPHER O'SHEA WINS AWARD



Photographer Colleen E. O'Shea, Photo Lab, won the International Association of Chiefs of Police 2024 LETR Photo Contest - Spirit Photo during the Law Enforcement torch Run for Special Olympics International Conference. The award was presented to Photographer O'Shea on January 24 at the Patrol's Training Academy.



Photographer Colleen O'Shea explains the photo:

"I normally capture images throughout the entire route of the run and photograph the torch as it is brought into the

stadium. The atmosphere in the stadium always changes as you start to see the glow of the torch as it enters Ohio Stadium. The crowd cheers and you can see such a sense of pride in all of the athletes while they clap and yell for the torch bearers. This year's final Guardians of the Flame were Canton Police Department Officer Judi Solly and athlete Greg Brandel. As the two of them made their way around the final curve of The Shoe, athletes and Torch Run participants lined the field and outer edge to create a tunnel. I positioned myself in a gap between our motor units, hoping that when they came around the last curve, they would be centered with me to capture a front facing photo of the two torch bearers before they turned to light the cauldron. As the cheers grew louder and I could see the torch between the gaps of the spectators, they finally reached the last turn. I started hitting the shutter, capturing their smiles and excitement as they carried the torch, the typical photos you get at each of these Torch Runs. As they got closer to me, Officer Solly reached over and put her hand on Greg's. I could see she said something to him and his face just lit up with a huge smile. I snapped another photo of the moment and looked down at my camera quickly, knowing this was the photo I was aiming for, to show the energy of the Torch Run and how important these last moments of the run are to the athletes and even the law enforcement officers as well. Later, while scrolling social media, I found a post from Development Director Haley Melcher, South Central Region for Special Olympics Ohio. The post had my image with a caption explaining how Development Director Melcher had shown Officer Solly my image and she explained exactly what she had told Greg to make his face light up with that huge smile - 'This is all for you!'"

For the IACP contest, the category for Spirit had the description, Spirit: Images that uniquely represent the essence of the Torch Run. I immediately felt this was the image to enter for that category. It showed the final moments before the cauldron is lit to kick off the state games - the excitement building for the athletes in the stadium, as Officer Solly made Greg feel like he was on top of the world as an athlete and as a torch bearer. It showed the unity the Torch Run creates between athletes and law enforcement, and the difference and positivity we can create together.

TROOPER SCHNEIDER EARNS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDALLION



Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent, presented Trooper Sabrina P. Schneider, Dayton Post, with a Distinguished Service Medallion on February 10 at the Dayton Post. She earned the honor after responding to a report of reckless operation on November 1, 2024. On that date, she found a disabled vehicle on Interstate 70 in the grassy median. Upon approaching, she found the driver unresponsive. Trooper Schneider broke the passenger window, entered the vehicle and placed the gearshift into park. She administered a first dose of Narcan and immediately began performing chest compressions for approximately three to four minutes, while closely monitoring the driver's condition. Trooper Alec P. Hacker, Dayton Post, administered a second dose of Narcan and the driver began to regain consciousness. Emergency medical services transported the driver to the hospital for treatment. For demonstrating a sense of urgency and rendering aid, Trooper Schneider was awarded the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Distinguished Service Medallion.

TROOPER ADLETA AND TROOPER WHITE RECEIVE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDALLION



Colonel Jones presented Hamilton Post Trooper Justin R. Adleta (pictured right) and Trooper Michael A. White (pictured left) with Medallion Certificates on February 14 at the Wilmington District Headquarters. The award was presented for their actions on October 26, 2024. Trooper Adleta observed a vehicle going 119 miles per hour on Interstate 75. When he attempted to stop the vehicle, a pursuit ensued. The driver exited the interstate into a rest area at a high rate of speed, losing control and striking a guardrail and a parked semi-truck. When the vehicle crashed, it caught fire, puncturing the fuel tank of the semi-truck. Trooper Adleta retrieved his fire extinguisher in an attempt to extinguish the flames, which engulfed the driver's side of the vehicle. Trooper White arrived on scene shortly after and gave his extinguisher to Trooper Adleta, who instructed him to break the back window and remove the suspect from the vehicle. Trooper Adleta noticed the driver

of the semi was also trapped in his vehicle. Due to the crash, he was unable to open the driver's side door and the passenger door was blocked by another vehicle. Trooper Adleta requested the other vehicle to move so the driver could exit through the passenger side. The semi-truck driver then exited his vehicle and moved to a safe location. The suspect driver had a laceration above his right eye, so Trooper Adleta retrieved his first aid kit and wrapped the suspect's head. For demonstrating a sense of urgency and rendering aid, the troopers were awarded with the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Distinguished Service Medallion.

TROOPER BOETCHER RECEIVES AWARD FROM OHIO DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND CORRECTION



On February 6, Trooper Tyler L. Boetcher (second from left) of the Chillicothe Post was recognized by the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and Ohio Penal Industries for his role in recovering a trailer that was stolen from the Chillicothe Correctional Institution in December. The investigation also led to the recovery of eight stolen vehicles and two arrests. Also pictured is Lieutenant Aaron M. Morgan, Chillicothe Post commander (third from left).

SERGEANT WILLIAMSON HONORED

On March 27, Sergeant Timothy (Breck) Williamson, Columbus DHQ Criminal Patrol, was presented with the National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Award for Excellence. He was honored for his exemplary work at the National HIDTA Directors Meeting in Washington, D.C. Major Chad J. Neal, Criminal Investigations, attended the presentation.



TROOPER HONORED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION



Trooper David R. Handschumacher, Training, Recruitment and Professional Operations, was presented with the American Legion Department of Ohio's "Law Officer of the Year" award on January 18. The award was presented by Department of Ohio Commander, Arnold "AJ" Whatley, during their Mid-Winter Conference at the Marriott Columbus Northwest.

2025 DAPPER DOG WINNER



K-9 Deuce, a Belgian Malinois from the Cleveland District, won this year's Dapper Dog contest with 409 votes on Facebook.

GHQ



Trooper Dylan J. Leugers, Springfield Post; Trooper Tyranda A. Franklin, Columbus Post; Arnold Schwarzenegger; Sergeant Kamal Z. Nelson, Training Unit; and Trooper Travis W. Adkins, New Philadelphia Post.

Honor Guard – On March 1, members of the Honor Guard Presented the Colors at the 2025 Arnold Sports Festival.



Training Academy – On March 11, Trooper James T. Coffland (pictured far left) led a tour of the Patrol's Training Academy for the Ashland University Criminal Justice students. Retired OSHP Captain Herb Homan (center), now an assistant professor of criminal justice at Ashland University, was also in attendance.

FINDLAY DISTRICT



SRT – Trooper Brent G. Bruns, Special Response Team, joined Freddie and Frieda Falcon at a recruiting event on February 6 at Bowling Green State University.



Bowling Green Post – On January 17, Bowling Green Post troopers spent the day with students from the Penta Career Center Criminal Justice Program. Trooper Ian D. Blackwood (back left) and Lieutenant Matthew N. Geer (front right) taught the students the basics of a traffic stop and how to detect an impaired driver.

BUCYRUS DISTRICT



Fremont Post – On January 27, students from Saint Joseph's High School visited the Fremont Post and met with Sergeant Michael J. Walter. The students were part of the student council and came to visit the new facility. Sergeant Walter gave an informative tour and discussed with the students the dangers of distracted driving, wearing their safety belts and being leaders in their local community.

CLEVELAND DISTRICT



Medina Post – On February 21, Lieutenant Bridget A. Matt read to the preschool class at Redwood Elementary School in Avon Lake. She was the mystery reader for the week and read the book, "Keeping Things Going," which talks about the different types of jobs that "family heroes" have in the community like being a police officer, fire fighter, park ranger, teacher and more.

WARREN DISTRICT



From left to right: Trooper Jared R. Paine, Canfield Post; Dispatcher Katina M. Darkadakis, Canfield Post; Trooper Ethan L. Jones, Warren Post; Lieutenant Benjamin C. Dennison, Lisbon Post commander; Teddy Trooper Cadet Austin T. Phillips, Lisbon Post; Cadet Lucas Hause, Warren Post; Sergeant Adam M. Shonk, Lisbon Post; and Trooper Jason L. Turner, Chardon Post.

Warren District units attended the Youngstown Phantoms Guns 'N Hoses hockey game on January 18 and again on February 27 for the Youngstown Phantoms School Day game. During the events, troopers used impairment goggles to help educate individuals of the dangers of impaired driving as well as answered other traffic-related questions. During the February event, SRT also had items on display and K-9 Hunter made an appearance.



Ashtabula and Chardon Posts – On January 15, Sergeant Hiram Morales (pictured), Ashtabula Post, and Trooper Ismael Rivera, Chardon Post, attended the HOLA (Hispanics Organized to Lead and Achieve) Job Fair at the HOLA Hispanic Community Center in Painesville. More than 100 potential applicants visited the Patrol's table to learn about starting a career with the Division.

PIQUA DISTRICT



Dayton Post – Sergeant Joshua E. Jones spoke to students at Miamisburg High School on February 27. He started the visit off with a DRIVE to Live presentation. He also took the time to answer the students' questions about going through the Patrol's Training Academy and being a trooper.

COLUMBUS DISTRICT



Business Administrator Keith Holstein, Warehouse Worker Amanda Lee, Lieutenant Michael D. Akers, Warden Norman Robison and Assistant Warden Jeremy Jewell.

Lancaster Post – According to Lieutenant Michael D. Akers, Lancaster Post commander, the Flying Wheel symbol on display outside the Lancaster Post was in need of an update. It was badly faded and there was a crack on the right side. Lieutenant Akers had recently attended a meeting at the Southeastern Correctional Institution and noticed some of the artwork in their building made by their inmates. Lieutenant Akers asked if there was interest in painting and repairing the Flying Wheel. Without hesitation, they said yes and the project took off. Maintenance Repair Worker 2 Gary D. Christian, Lancaster Post, and Maintenance Repair Worker 2 Chris C. Lewis, Columbus District Headquarters, removed it from the building and employees from Southeastern Correctional Institution loaded it up in a truck. On March 12, employees from the Southeastern Correctional Institution returned the Flying Wheel. Lieutenant Akers thanked Southeastern Correctional Institution Warden Norman Robison and Assistant Warden Jeremy Jewell for their willingness to take on the project and showcasing the great work and cost-saving measures performed by the inmates.



Granville Post – Trooper John A. "Trey" Bowman gave a traffic safety presentation to children at Kids Education and Recreation Preschool in Granville on February 27.

CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT



Zanesville Post – On February 1, (from left) Trooper Dylon J. King, Trooper Bryan L. Parrish, Sergeant Kyle R. Shirer and Cadet Intern Clayton Tredway assisted the Mid-East Career Center criminal justice program with its regional skills competition. Patrol personnel assessed traffic stops and judged uniform inspections, investing in those interested in a future law enforcement career.



New Philadelphia Post – February 6, Trooper Matt Clapper participated in the Dover Elementary School's Kindness Rocks event promoting kindness at school and in the community. He brought along with him activities promoting kindness. It was a great chance to interact with everyone.

WILMINGTON DISTRICT



Wilmington Post – On January 17, the Wilmington Post partnered with the American Red Cross to hold a law enforcement blood drive, which encouraged first responders to donate. Sergeant Jeremy J. Grillot organized the successful event, where 26 units of blood were obtained. Each unit of blood potentially saves three lives. Wilmington Post troopers, including Trooper Alison A. Slack (pictured), officers from the Wilmington and Blanchester police departments, city of Wilmington employees and other members of the public also donated. Based on the success, another blood drive is planned for August.



Hamilton and Lebanon Posts – Hamilton Post troopers and Lebanon Post Dispatcher Jessi Lovejoy spoke to fifth grade students at Linden Elementary as part of Adopt-A-Class on January 24. Dispatcher Lovejoy gave a presentation to students about working as a Patrol dispatcher.

DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT — WILMINGTON DISTRICT

Motor Unit participates in the Reds Opening Day Parade

Hours before the opening pitch of the Reds 2025 season, the city of Cincinnati does what it does best – celebrate Major League Baseball's first professional team. The city of Cincinnati has been celebrating Opening Day since the 1880s, and the first parade was held in 1890. On March 27, the Findlay Market Opening Day Parade wound through the Queen City, prior to the San Francisco Giants and Cincinnati Reds game.

Included in the parade was Trooper Drew M. Hertlein, Cincinnati Post. He represented the Patrol's Motor Unit in the parade, joining the Cincinnati Police Department, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, University of Cincinnati Police Division, Lawrenceburg Police Department (Indiana), Kettering Police Department and Mason Police Department. Along the 1.4-mile parade route, the motor units performed traditional parade formations, which wowed the crowds. The parade started at noon, leaving from the Findlay Market, traveling past Fountain Square and ending at the Taft Theater.

"It's always good to be able to do events that mean so much to the city like the opening day parade," Trooper Hertlein said. "It's a day that's looked forward to all year long by the people of Cincinnati. There is always a huge turnout from fans."

The motorcycle units gathered a week prior to the parade to practice the formations, during what is a normal training day for them.

"It's nice to showcase skills and be able to do events like these, where people see us waving and enjoying ourselves with the crowd. Seeing the kids' faces has to be the best part of the day when you wave at them it makes you feel really good knowing how much fun they are having watching the parade."



JACKSON DISTRICT



Chillicothe Post – On January 14, Lieutenant Aaron M. Morgan attended a breakfast with several retirees at the Bob Evans in Chillicothe. (From left) retired Sergeant Brady Turner, retired Sergeant Harold Cooper, retired Trooper Fred Summers, retired Major Bob Brooks, retired Staff Lieutenant Jeff May, retired Trooper Hal Hardesty, Lieutenant Aaron M. Morgan, retired Lieutenant Ed Waltz and retired Trooper J. Tom Scott.



Chillicothe Post – On February 26, Trooper Haley K. Shreck gave a DRIVE to Live presentation to the members of the Chillicothe High School varsity softball team. She discussed the importance of not driving distracted, wearing your safety belt and maintaining navigational awareness.

RETIREEES – By Captain Rob Jackson, Retired

Retired Sergeant Timothy Litteral

Years Served: October, 1974 - January, 2010

Cadet in the 100th Academy Class

Assignments: Dispatcher - Delaware Post,
Trooper - Jackson Post and Sergeant - Portsmouth Post

Sergeant Tim Litteral retired from the Division in 2010 and has transitioned well into retirement. He and his wife Sherie moved to South Carolina in 2016, where they live near their daughters and grandchildren. Tim shared that he and his wife celebrated their 50-year wedding anniversary near the end of 2024. The couple stay very active and attend many sporting events that their grandchildren are involved with throughout the year.

Tim says they are active in their local Baptist church and enjoy spending time with friends and family. He feels blessed that he was drawn to the Highway Patrol as a career, and values the pension he earned to allow him a life where he can enjoy time with family and friends in a comfortable retirement. Tim also says time has gone by very quickly, and fondly remembers his working days, including special details and driving schools.

Where are they now?



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Message From HPRS Executive Director

Importance of Accumulating 40 Social Security Credits

To be best prepared for retirement, HPRS members should ensure they have accumulated 40 Social Security credits or have a plan in place to accumulate them. Social Security credits are a measure used by the Social Security Administration (SSA) to determine an individual's eligibility for benefits. In 2025, you earn one credit for every \$1,810 of earnings, up to a maximum of four credits per year. This means that to earn the full four credits for the year, you need to have at least \$7,240 in covered earnings. Understanding the process and requirements to qualify for these benefits is crucial.

Social Security benefits can provide an important portion of retirement income, which is especially helpful as our members are living longer. Having access to Social Security benefits can help cover living expenses and provide greater financial stability in your retirement years. To qualify for Social Security retirement benefits, you need at least 40 credits, which is equivalent to roughly 10 years of work. Without these 40 credits, you won't be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits, regardless of your age or other factors.

The three-legged stool, a popular metaphor in financial planning, is a part of every HPRS retirement benefits presentation, and has been for many years. It represents the three main sources of income that provide for the most stable retirement plan: HPRS pension, personal savings, and Social Security. The idea behind the three-legged stool is that each leg supports the overall stability of retirement income. If one leg is weak or missing, the stool is not as stable.

Now that the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) have been repealed, accumulating 40 Social Security credits is more beneficial than ever. The change will result in a larger Social Security pension, and less penalty to the benefits of a surviving spouse. By securing an additional leg to the stool of your retirement plan, it adds benefits that can increase your quality of life during retirement.

Best Regards,



Carl Roark, Ph.D. HPRS Executive Director

ABOVE & BEYOND

HIGHWAY PATROL AUXILIARY

On February 2, during an escort of an Intel super load, Auxiliary Sergeant Michael R. Rife demonstrated the true value of experience, teamwork and quick thinking in the field.

Auxiliary Sergeant Rife was riding along with Trooper Patrick M. White of the Lancaster Post as the team escorted a massive piece of equipment from Rickenbacker International Airport in Columbus to the Intel construction site in New Albany. The operation was a collaborative effort between the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Columbus Division of Police and the Ohio Department of Transportation.

During the move, the trailer carrying the load became disabled when one of the axles suffered a brake malfunction.

Drawing on his years of experience as a certified commercial vehicle mechanic, Auxiliary Sergeant Rife immediately got to work under the trailer, troubleshooting alongside the Edwards Moving & Rigging crew. Thanks to his expertise and hands-on approach, the issue was resolved efficiently, the brakes were released and the trailer was safely moved.

Thanks to Auxiliary Sergeant Rife's timely intervention, the super load reached its destination without further incident and the disruption to traffic remained minimal. His actions are a shining example of the critical support the Patrol's Auxiliary members provide.





**LIEUTENANT DANA M. HUTTON,
JACKSON DISTRICT
CRIMINAL PATROL**

Lieutenant Dana M. Hutton, Jackson District Criminal Patrol, retired on March 21, after 27 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in June 1999 as a member of the 134th Academy

Class. He earned his commission in December of the same year and was assigned to the Chillicothe Post. As a trooper, he was also assigned to Investigative Services and the Jackson Post. He was named District Trooper of the Year and Post Trooper of the Year in 2001. He earned the Blue Max award twice, the Criminal Patrol Award six times and the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement four times. He was promoted to sergeant in April 2006 and was assigned to the Hamilton Post to serve as assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he was also assigned to the Wilmington, Jackson, Circleville and Chillicothe posts. He earned the Criminal Patrol Award twice. He was promoted to lieutenant in October 2015 and was assigned to the Critical Communications Center. In 2025, he received the Award of Excellence.

In 1996, Lieutenant Hutton received an Associate of Applied Science degree in police science from Hocking Technical College. In 2024, he received a certificate in advanced leadership training from The Ohio State University's John Glenn College of Public Affairs, Public Safety Leadership Academy.

He served in the United States Army from 1995 to 2003.



**SERGEANT CHARLES T. MERRYMAN,
CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT
LICENSING AND
COMMERCIAL STANDARDS**

Sergeant Charles T. Merryman, Cambridge District Licensing and Commercial Standards, retired on January 17, after 33 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He

joined the Patrol in January 1992 as a member of the 122nd Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of the same year and was assigned to the Bucyrus Post. As a trooper, he was also assigned to the Mt. Gilead and Zanesville posts. He was named Post Trooper of the Year twice and District Trooper of the Year in 2000. In 2002, he was promoted to sergeant and transferred to the Steubenville Post to serve as assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Cambridge and Zanesville posts.



**TROOPER GEORGE A. BISKUP,
HIRAM POST / D4**

Trooper George A. Biskup, Hiram Post, retired on March 3, after 34 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1991 as a cadet dispatcher at the Ashtabula and also the Chardon posts. He became a member of the 123rd Academy Class in May 1992. He earned his commission in November of the same year. He was assigned to the Elyria Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Chardon and Hiram posts. He was named Post Trooper of the Year in 2020. In 2024, he was designated as a Master Trooper.

From June 1989 to February 1990, he served in the United States Marine Corps.



**TROOPER RACHEL B. EFAW,
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIVE
SERVICES**

Trooper Rachel B. Efav, Office of Investigative Services, retired on January 24, after 20 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. She joined the Patrol in May 2004 as a member of the 142nd Academy Class. She earned her commission in November of the same year and was assigned to the Chillicothe Post. She earned the Criminal Patrol Award four times.



**TROOPER JOHN C. MURPHY,
SECURITY SERVICES/CAPITOL
OPERATIONS**

Trooper John C. Murphy, Security Services/Capitol Operations, retired on January 10, after 27 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1997 as a member of the 128th Academy Class. He earned his commission in July of the same year and was assigned to the Mt. Gilead Post. As a trooper, he was also assigned to the Delaware and Columbus posts.



**TROOPER DWAYNE H. SHEPHARD,
CANTON POST / D3**

Trooper Dwayne H. Shephard, Canton Post, retired on March 13, after 22 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in September 2002 as a member of the 140th Academy Class. He earned his commission in February of the following year and was assigned to the Marysville Post. As a trooper, he was also assigned to the Canfield and Lisbon posts. He earned the Criminal Patrol Award in 2011. In 2024, he earned a Traffic Safety Award and was designated as a Master Trooper.

From 1993 to 1997, he served in the United States Marine Corps.



**TROOPER DOUGLAS R. TROTTER,
CANTON POST / D3**

Trooper Douglas R. Trotter, Canton Post, retired on February 7, after 32 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1992 as a member of the 123rd Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of the same year and was assigned to the Canton Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Canfield Post. He earned Post Trooper of the Year in 2000.



**TROOPER THIPHASONE VONGSY,
DAYTON POST / D5**

Trooper Thiphasone Vongsy, Dayton Post, retired on March 1, after 25 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 2000 as a member of the 135th Academy Class. He earned his commission in September of the same year and was assigned to the Dayton Post, where he remained throughout his career.

Trooper Vongsy received an Associate of Applied Science degree in police science from Sinclair Community College in 1999.



**TROOPER JAMES D. WILLIAMS,
WILMINGTON DISTRICT
LICENSING AND COMMERCIAL
STANDARDS**

Trooper James D. Williams, Wilmington District Licensing and Commercial Standards, retired on January 10, after 32 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1993 as a member of the 124th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of the same year and was assigned to the Lima Post. As a trooper, he was also assigned to the Wilmington, Xenia and Lebanon posts, the Wilmington District Commercial Enforcement and Wilmington District Investigations. He was named District Trooper of the Year in 2004 and Post Trooper of the Year twice. He earned the Criminal Patrol Award four times and the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement once. In 2024, he earned the Master Trooper designation.



**MAINTENANCE REPAIR WORKER
2 RICKY L. BOSTON,
RAVENNA POST / D4**

Maintenance Repair Worker 2 Ricky L. Boston, Ravenna Post, retired on January 10, after 37 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in March 1987 as a maintenance repair worker 2 at the Ravenna Post, where he served throughout his career.



**MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTOR
RICHARD E. CLARK,
JACKSON DISTRICT
COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT**

Motor Vehicle Inspector Richard E. Clark, Jackson District Commercial Enforcement, retired on February 7, after 18 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in June 2006 as a motor vehicle inspector assigned to Columbus District Commercial Enforcement.

In June 1984, MVI Clark earned an Associate of Applied Science degree from Shawnee State University.



**PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR 1
GARY W. HUMPHRIES II,
OFFICE OF PLANNING,
RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT/PHOTO LAB**

Program Administrator 1 Gary W. Humphries, Office of Planning, Research and Development/Photo Lab, retired on March 3, after 29 years with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. He joined the Patrol in March 1996 as a photo laboratory assistant. In 1999, he became a photographer and earned the State Employee Recognition Award. In 2003, he transferred to the Columbus District Driver Examination Station as a driver license examiner 1. He returned to Photographic Services in 2006 as a program administrator 1.

In 1994, Program Administrator 1 Humphries earned his Associate of Applied Science degree in biomedical photography from the Ohio Institute of Photography and Technology.

Program Administrator 1 Humphries served in the United States Marine Corps from 1986 through 1989.



**SENIOR BUDGET ANALYST
BARRY A. KEIFER,
FISCAL SERVICES**

Senior Budget Analyst Barry A. Keifer, Fiscal Services, retired on January 31, after 36 years with the state of Ohio. He began with the Patrol in April 2001 as an accountant examiner 3 in Fiscal Services. He also served as a senior financial analyst. In 2015, he was promoted to senior budget analyst.

POST-PATROL PROFESSIONS

Mark B. Herren, Director of Security, Cincinnati Bengals

For retired Lieutenant Mark B. Herren, the leadership, crisis management and operational expertise honed over 30 years of service in the Ohio State Highway Patrol prepared him for success in his current role as the Security Director for the Cincinnati Bengals.

During his Patrol career, Herren worked in various capacities, including investigations and counterterrorism operations with the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). Upon his retirement in 2019, those assignments laid the foundation for his work with the Bengals, where he oversees security for players, coaches, staff and facilities. His responsibilities extend beyond game days, involving travel logistics, venue security and crisis response planning with his colleagues across the National Football League.

Reflecting on his time with the Patrol, Herren credits his experience in handling critical incidents and leading teams through high-pressure situations as instrumental in his post-retirement career.

"Routinely managing crises and coordinating personnel prepared me for the demands of my current role," Herren said. "Whether it was planning large-scale events or executive protection for high-profile individuals, these experiences were invaluable."

Herren emphasizes the importance of planning for retirement well in advance.

"If you're considering a career after the Patrol, don't wait until the end of your service to start preparing. Take advantage of every opportunity to learn and develop new skills," he said.

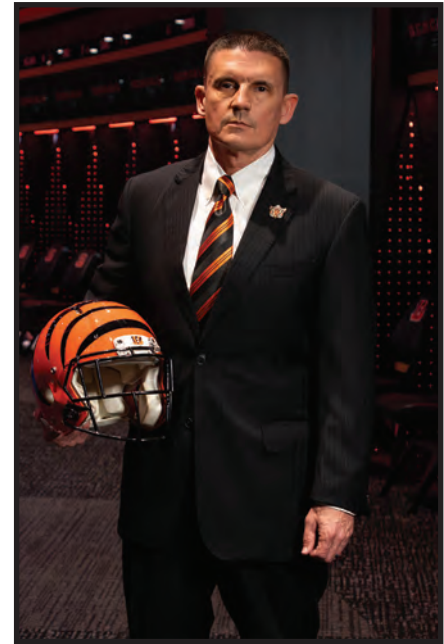
For him, maintaining relationships with various law enforcement agencies and staying engaged with security operations during his tenure with the Patrol eased his transition into his role with the Bengals.

He also highlights the significance of networking. His long-standing relationship with Bengals security personnel while he was with the Patrol, cultivated over years of collaboration, played a crucial role in his career shift. He noted that building trust and credibility over time is what ultimately opened the door with the Bengals that he never anticipated.

Transitioning from public service to the private sector can feel daunting, but Herren encourages officers to have confidence in their abilities. When the opportunity with the Bengals presented itself, he took the leap, knowing his experience had prepared him for the challenge.

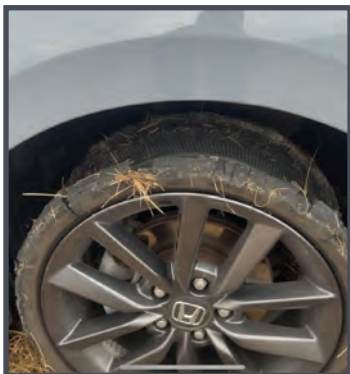
While risk is inherent in any career change, Herren stressed that Patrol officers are uniquely equipped for leadership roles in security, corporate risk management and emergency planning. He asserted the skills developed in the Patrol—problem-solving, decision-making under pressure and adaptability—are highly valued in the private sector.

For officers nearing retirement, Herren's advice is clear: "Stay engaged, learn as much as you can and when the right opportunity comes, don't hesitate."



HIGHWAY HIGHLIGHTS

Comments received via social media.



"A big thank you to Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Fulton for his help today. He stopped traffic briefly on US33 to allow me to move my car to the opposite side of the road. This is my driver tire, and when it exploded, I was in the left lane and immediately pulled over to the median. Unable to get my jack to work without sinking in the wet muddy ground – thanks to the OSHP trooper I was able to get to the right curb of 33, and get asphalt under the jack to get my spare on." – Colton on Facebook

"I would like to extend our appreciation to Officer Charlie Reed for his outstanding assistance with the Worthington Hills Cub Scout Pack 615 trip to the Ohio State Highway Patrol Aviation Unit on Tuesday, March 4th. Officer Reed, alongside troopers and Lt. David Sizemore from the Ohio State Highway Patrol, played a crucial role in educating the scouts about their daily duties and the importance of aviation in law enforcement." – Mike on LinkedIn



The Patrol's Mobile Field Force received a mutual aid request from the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department to assist with the inauguration of President Donald J. Trump. The unit was deployed January 18 through January 21.



Attendees applaud Administrative Professional 1 Tracy J. Harvey at the State of the Patrol.



Troopers from the Delaware Post, alongside other first responders and military veterans, took the Polar Plunge for Special Olympics on March 28.



Colonel Charles A. Jones discusses ACT 2025 at the State of the Patrol.

The Significance of the Seemingly Small and Insignificant

I recently heard a story that reminded me of the good work the women and men of the Ohio State Highway Patrol do on a daily basis.

Anna and Susan Warner were the daughters of Henry Warner, a successful New York lawyer who lost his fortunes in the economic crisis of 1837. The family was forced to sell their mansion and move into an old Revolutionary War-era farmhouse on Constitution Island, near West Point, NY.

Anna and Susan held weekly Bible studies for West Point cadets. It is believed that Dwight D. Eisenhower was one of the last cadets to attend their classes. He graduated the year of Anna's death. The sisters wrote successful novels and religious hymns. They gave their time. They invested in others. They lived a life of service with a purpose.

That may not have seemed like a spectacular feat to them, but there was something so significant about their contribution to the lives of the cadets that both sisters were buried with full military honors. They are the only civilians buried in the West Point Cemetery.

I'm sure there are days when it is hard to see the impact you are having, but I assure you, you are leaving a lasting legacy with the citizens of our great state and those who traverse our roadways. Your impact will live on for generations.

Blessings,
Reverend Phil Hurlbert



State Chaplain

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



OSHP Chaplains by District:



Findlay District

Chaplain Terry D. Hunt



Bucyrus District

Chaplain Daniel K. Vickey



Cleveland District/ State Chaplain

Chaplain Philip A. Hurlbert



Piqua District

**Chaplain John W. Young
Chaplain Jami L. Hackworth**



Columbus District

**Chaplain William A. Pellum
Auxiliary Chaplain Seth M. Borland**



Cambridge District

Chaplain Jerry D. Wenger



Wilmington District

**Chaplain Dr. George A. Hill
Chaplain Thomas M. Ellis
Chaplain Kristen M. Ellis**



Jackson District

Chaplain Edward G. Zell



The Lighthouse

Mental Health Resources for Your Voyage Through Life's Challenges

Resilience in the Face of Adversity

On February 13, 2023, Trooper Adrian Wilson was driving along Interstate 71 toward Grove City when he noticed debris obstructing the road. He pulled over to clear it, but within moments of stepping out of his cruiser, a drug-impaired driver, traveling at approximately 85 miles per hour, crashed into the rear of his Patrol car. The impact

violently pushed his cruiser into Adrian, launching him into the air. His next clear memory was waking up in the hospital, immobilized and broken—his right leg shattered, significant head trauma and his future uncertain.

What followed was a journey of resilience, not just for Adrian, but for his wife, Jennifer, and their family. His months-long road to recovery began with orthopedic surgery, followed by intensive rehabilitation at Dodd Hall at The Ohio State University. Learning to walk again was just one part of the battle. The mental and emotional toll of such a catastrophic event was just as grueling as the physical pain.

Through every stage, Adrian and Jennifer leaned on the support of their family, their faith and the network of care extended by the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Members of the Patrol visited frequently, reinforcing the deep-rooted sense of family that defines the Division. When Adrian was finally discharged, the road ahead was still long, but he refused to let the crash define him.

Throughout his recovery, Adrian embraced a mindset of resilience.

"Resilience is a choice," he said. "Every day, we wake up and fight our battles—whatever they may be. It has to come from inside. It's a mindset of winning, of not being defeated."

Jennifer stood by him, embodying that same resilience.

"While Adrian on paper may have been the victim, he chose not to be the victim," she said. "He was resilient and that was the mindset our family had. We never took that victim mentality on. And for us, we saw that we were given a stronger purpose to fulfill."

That purpose became clear when they attended Ohio ASSIST's Post Critical Incident Seminar (PCIS), a program designed to help safety services personnel process trauma. The experience was transformative, providing the tools they needed to heal and reinforcing the power of peer support. The program made such an impact they felt compelled to return—not as participants, but as peer support advocates, helping others navigate their own crises.

Adrian knew his journey wasn't over. Though he could have walked away, he wasn't done serving. He found his way back to the Patrol, first as a temporary instructor at the Training Academy and now as a full-time instructor, using his experiences to prepare and inspire the next generation of troopers.

Their message is simple yet profound: resilience is built through struggle, but it flourishes through support. They encourage others to accept help when it's offered.

"The Patrol has been phenomenal through this entire process," Adrian emphasized. "But you have to be open to it. When someone reaches out, take that cup of coffee. Accept that conversation. Use the resources available to you."

Jennifer echoes the sentiment, particularly for the families of first responders.

"Family members who are supporting a loved one are survivors, too. They go through their own trauma, and it's okay to take the time you need. You don't have to carry everything alone. Accepting help doesn't mean weakness—it's part of being strong," she said.

Together, Adrian and Jennifer now share their story with others, helping them navigate their own challenges. They refuse to dwell on what happened to them—instead, they focus on what they can do with the experience they've gained.

"People ask if we ever wish the crash hadn't happened," Jennifer reflected. "And the truth is, we don't. Because through it, we've learned more about ourselves, our strength as a couple and the resilience of our children. We've seen how much support truly exists within the Patrol. And now, we get to take what we've been given and pay it forward."

For those facing their own hardships, Adrian offers this advice: "Sometimes, resilience means just getting through the day. Sometimes, you have to scratch and claw your way forward. But don't give up. The day will end, and tomorrow will come. Keep fighting. Keep moving forward."



Trooper Adrian Wilson and his wife, Jennifer.



Access resilience-based resources by scanning the QR Code.



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Special thanks goes to the field and section units across the state
who submitted photos and/or content.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol's *10th Annual Retiree Cookout*

June 6, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

Ohio State Highway Patrol Training Academy
740 E. 17th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43211

SAVE THE DATE

