IN THE LAB

Talented OSHP criminalists are crucial to criminal patrol successes
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On the Cover
Crime Lab Director Joseph Jones is one of 26 Crime Laboratory staff members whose work supports criminal patrol efforts in the field. Please see story on page 4.
For over 80 years, Ohio State Highway Patrol employees have worked selflessly to make Ohio a safe place to live and travel. So far in 2014 we have stopped more cars, arrested more impaired drivers and removed more drugs from Ohio communities as compared to this time last year. Last year was the safest year ever and we are on track to surpass that record in 2014. These operational achievements are a direct reflection of the commitment of our sworn officers, dispatchers and professional staff. We continue to make a difference in the lives of those with whom we come in contact. Your dedication to making Ohio a safer place has saved the lives of countless motorists and made a tremendous impact on the safety and security provided to those who call Ohio home. As we finish the year, I ask that you continue in your efforts to educate and hold motorists accountable for their actions.

In keeping with my commitment to make officer safety our highest priority, all sworn personnel will be attending Below 100 training this year. Below 100 is a national campaign aimed to reduce line-of-duty deaths to below 100 annually. We have partnered with the Buckeye State Sheriffs’ Association, Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police and the Attorney General’s Office to bring Below 100 training to regional locations throughout the state. The free training focuses on officer safety issues that are within your ability to control. I encourage you to take advantage of the lessons to be learned during this training, reflect on your daily operations and make the necessary adjustments to protect yourself. I want you to go home safely to your family at the end of your shift.

Over the past few months I have been conducting meetings with uniformed officers and professional staff across the state. Employee engagement at all levels is essential during the strategic planning process in which we are mapping our course toward 2020. I recognize our people are our most valuable asset in securing our future and our growth. I have found these meetings to be informative and useful for me to gain a better understanding of what changes are needed, and what direction you want to take the organization in the future. We are already looking at improving processes and implementing new ideas as a result.

Ohio will be an even safer place tomorrow because of the work you will do today. I want to thank each of you for committing your life-purpose to the safety and service of others. Individually and collectively, our strength, courage and character will enable us to meet the challenges in making Ohio one of the safest states in the nation.

Colonel Paul A. Pride
Superintendent
Every time Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers seize a bottle of pills, a sample of blood or a bag of powder, they need an unbiased test to determine what’s really inside. Their answers come from the men and women of the OSHP Crime Laboratory. The lab’s criminalists may operate behind the scenes, but their work is integral to the success of the division.
The past four years have hallmarked the most successful time in the history of the crime lab. A larger staff, new instruments and building projects have helped criminalists work faster and with higher efficiency.

The crime laboratory houses two separate and distinct scientific units: toxicology, which identifies drugs and alcohol in blood, urine or bodily fluids, and drug chemistry, which determines if a submitted piece of evidence contains any controlled substances. Between the two sections, 26 staff members support criminal patrol work in the field. Most are criminalists who perform tests in the laboratories. Employees managing administrative functions and a management team of highly-trained scientists also keep the lab running smoothly.

“The bottom line is we want to offer a comprehensive and unbiased test,” said Joey Jones, toxicology drug director. “Whoever uses the services—whether it’s the Patrol or an outside agency—they’re getting the best test available.”

One of the biggest challenges criminalists face is the sheer number of cases submitted to the lab. In 2013, drug chemistry worked on more than 13,000 cases, and toxicology worked on more than 10,000. Criminalists enter every case into the crime lab’s system, perform preliminary and confirmatory tests, and then testify in court about their findings.

Criminalists in the toxicology section perform alcohol and drug testing in biological samples (blood and urine). Most toxicology cases are filed due to an OVI, though some are submitted after a fatality.

The process length varies depending on the unit and what they’re looking for. Alcohol samples submitted to toxicology usually take only a few days. Drug testing takes longer—about three weeks in most instances. If a sample is requested to go through both alcohol and drug testing, the process can be a bit longer.

Kara Klontz, a criminalist in drug chemistry, said it’s a difficult task to look for something that may or may not be there. With some drugs like bath salts, new strands are developed frequently, and criminalists could spend an immense amount of time sorting through their own library, the internet, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) sources or anything else they think of, only to find nothing at all. But she stresses that negative results are just as important.

“It’s our job to find it if it’s there,” Klontz said. “If they didn’t have anything, it’s our job to find they didn’t.”

Samples are primarily mailed into the lab, though larger quantities may be stored at the Hub or hand delivered. A renovation project completed in 2013 added a new chemistry laboratory, a new toxicology laboratory, an instrument room, offices and storage spaces. That space is necessary; samples need storage before they’re entered into the system, before testing begins, during testing and after the case is completed.

After drug cases have been adjudicated, the substances—Continued on next page.
verified as drugs are generally destroyed. Some narcotics are kept and packaged into sets used for drug detection dogs. These K9 training aids are used by our division and shared with more than 300 agencies across the state—serving about 400 animals. Those aids include marijuana, cocaine, crack, methamphetamine and heroin. Patrol canine handlers can also request the drugs in bulk amounts or in different types of packaging to get the canines used to different smells.

As the lab embraces new technology, the number of detectable substances increases and the amount necessary for detection decreases. A grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration allowed the purchase of toxicology instruments to expand the palette of detectable drugs in 2013, and liquid chromatography/mass spectrometer funded by a 2014 Drug Recognition Expert program grant will increase testing abilities to an almost unlimited menu.

Criminalists benefit greatly from these new additions. They travel to all 88 counties of Ohio to give expert testimony in court—an added responsibility that can remove them from lab for multiple days a week. Criminalists learn how to change their vocabulary and simplify the process, sometimes through using analogies.

“That takes a special group of people to be able to explain the technical nature of their work to the layperson,” said toxicology alcohol director Deana Nielson. “We’re very proud of our group.”

The efforts of the criminalists at the lab are directly responsible for the successful adjudication of some of the most serious offenses the Patrol is charged to enforce. They serve as a foundation for 2015 and beyond.

When troopers seize unknown substances, Patrol criminalists perform tests to detect the presence of illegal drugs. Thanks to two recent grants, the lab now has equipment to detect a nearly unlimited menu of substances.

Meet the Team

Emily Adelman
Emily came to the Crime Laboratory in 2009 and is assigned to the Toxicology Section. She attended Ohio Northern University and received a Bachelor of Science in both biology and forensic biology. Emily resides in Grove City and works part-time for The Costume Vault in Columbus. Most people don’t know she enjoys bow-hunting and timber duck hunting.

Tammy Bonner
Tammy joined the Crime Laboratory in July 1990 as a criminalist, was promoted in 2001 to Forensic Lab Supervisor, and was later promoted to Quality Assurance Administrator. She graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Science in forensic chemistry. She resides in Pickerington with her children. She is a proud grandmother and avid cyclist.

Lisa Crow
Lisa joined the Crime Laboratory in 2009 and is assigned to the Drug Chemistry Section. She has a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Wright State University in Dayton. Lisa and her husband live in Pleasant Township with their two children and two cats. She enjoys handcrafts such as lamp work and glass beads.

David Dicken
Captain Dicken began his Patrol career with the 120th Academy Class in 1990. He took his assignment at the Crime Laboratory in 2011. He has a Bachelor of Science from the University of Cincinnati. He lives in Hilliard with his wife and two children. One thing most people in the Patrol don’t know about Captain Dicken is he enjoys fly-fishing.
Criminalist Josh Edwards joined the Crime Laboratory in 2013. He graduated from the Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science in microbiology. Josh served in the U.S. Marine Corps infantry from 1996 to 2000, and has served in the Ohio Army National Guard since 2000. He lives with his wife and family in Gahanna and loves spending time with them.

James joined the Crime Laboratory in 2012 and is assigned to the Drug Chemistry Section. James earned a Bachelor of Science in forensic science from Eastern Kentucky University in 2009. He resides in Bexley. One thing most people in the Patrol don’t know about James is that he runs marathons.

Pamela joined the Crime Laboratory in July 2013 and works as a criminalist in the Drug Chemistry section. Pamela obtained her Bachelor of Science in forensic science from Defiance College in 2008. Pamela lives in Gahanna. One thing most people in the Patrol don’t know about Pamela is that she has a vast collection of 1980s action movies starring Sylvester Stallone.

Laurel began working in the Toxicology section of the Crime Laboratory in 2012. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in forensic science from Defiance College. She currently resides in Canal Winchester with her husband. One thing most people in the Patrol don’t know about Laurel is she plays competitive tennis.

Drug Chemistry Laboratory Supervisor Mark Hiatt joined the Crime Laboratory in June 2006. Mark holds a Master of Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Florida. One thing most people in the Patrol don’t know about Mark is that he still loves playing soccer and hopes to attend a World Cup in the near future. Mark and his wife reside in Bexley with their two children.

Administrative Officer Tom Hollingsworth graduated from the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. He served as a trooper in Toledo for 18 years. In 2012, he began serving in his current position in the Patrol’s Crime Laboratory. Most people in the Patrol don’t know Tom plays ice hockey in Columbus on a team that ranges in ages from 21 to 64.

— Continued on next page.
Director Joseph Jones joined the Crime Laboratory in 2008. He holds a Master of Science from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Philadelphia. Joseph and his wife live in Reynoldsburg with their two children. One thing most people in the Patrol don’t know about Joseph is that he enjoys the outdoors, barbeque and Alfred Hitchcock Movies.

Criminalist Kara Klontz joined the Crime Laboratory in 2011. She is assigned to the Drug Chemistry Section. Kara graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a Bachelor of Science in forensic science with a concentration in biology. One thing most people in the Patrol do not know about Kara is that she enjoys canoeing.

S/Lt. Todd Lee is a member of the 117th Academy Class. He transferred to the Crime Laboratory in 2008. S/Lt. Lee graduated from Cedarville University with a Bachelor of Arts in chemistry and from the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. He and his wife live in Jamestown, and he has three daughters and a granddaughter. Most people don’t know he restores antique tractors.

Office Assistant 3 Melinda Montenaro joined the Crime Laboratory in 2011. Her primary responsibilities include all of the administrative office duties, and she serves as the chief evidence in-take employee, processing approximately 15,000 individual evidence submissions each year. She lives in Canal Winchester with her husband and son. Most people in the Patrol don’t know Melinda is a NASCAR fan.

Criminalist James Ficker is assigned to the Crime Lab’s drug chemistry section, which determines if a submitted piece of evidence contains any controlled substances. In 2013, drug chemistry worked on more than 13,000 cases.
Deana is Director of the Toxicology Section, overseeing the alcohol testing program. She joined the Crime Laboratory in 1999. Deana has a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry from Ohio Northern University. Deana and her husband live in Pataskala. One thing most people in the Patrol don’t know about Deana is she plans to attend a game in every Major League Baseball park—so far she’s been to 15 of 30.

Tiffany joined the Crime Laboratory in July 2013. She works in the Drug Chemistry Section as a criminalist. Tiffany received a Master of Science in forensic science in 2008 from Marshall University. Tiffany resides in Pickerington. One thing most people in the Patrol don’t know about Tiffany is she enjoys the adventures that come with living a new, big city.

Criminalist Heather Sheskey joined the Crime Laboratory Drug Chemistry Section in 2001. She has a Bachelor of Science in forensic chemistry from Ohio University. Heather and her husband live in Ashville with their children. One thing most people in the Patrol don’t know about Heather is that as a child she authored short stories from the time she could read, and still enjoys creating a good story.

Shay joined the Crime Laboratory in 2013 as a criminalist in the Drug Chemistry Section. She received a Master’s degree in forensic science from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in 2011. Shay now resides in Pickerington. One thing most people in the Patrol don’t know is that she loves adventure sports—she’s been bungee jumping, skydiving, and has completed numerous obstacle races.

Jacqueline (Jacey) joined the Crime Laboratory in 2011 and is assigned to the Drug Chemistry Section. She earned a Bachelor of Science in forensic chemistry from Ohio University. She and her husband reside in Grove City with their son. One thing most people in the Patrol don’t know about Jacey is that she competes in competitive target archery.

Lynne earned a Bachelor of Science in forensic chemistry from Ohio University in 1999. She works in the Drug Chemistry Section of the laboratory and heads up the K9 Training Aid Program. Lynne and her husband reside in Clintonville with their children. One thing most people in the Patrol don’t know about Lynne is she has an identical twin sister.

Criminalist Sara Tipton joined the Crime Laboratory in 2013. She attended Defiance College and graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in forensic science and a minor in criminal justice. Sara resides in Delaware with her husband and son. One thing most people in the Patrol don’t know about Sara is that she likes to work on jigsaw puzzles.

Brandon joined the Crime Laboratory in 1999 as a criminalist. He was promoted to lead the laboratory’s Drug Chemistry Section in 2006. He graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Science in forensic chemistry. Brandon resides in Columbus with his wife and son. One thing most people don’t know about Brandon is he is a speed reader and has read more than 1,000 books.

Beth joined the Crime Laboratory in 2012 and is assigned to the Toxicology Section. She has a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice from Bowling Green State University and a Bachelor of Science in forensic science from Tiffin University. Beth lives in Pickerington with her husband and son. Most people in the Patrol don’t know she enjoys photography.

Ed has a Bachelor of Science from Ashland University. He began his career with the lab in 1997 and has worked in both the Drug Chemistry and Toxicology sections. Ed and his wife live in Westerville with their daughter. One thing most people in the Patrol don’t know about Ed is that he grew up on a farm in Stark County.
Construction complete on Thomas P. Charles Leadership Wing

The latest project at the Academy is complete with stunning results. The Thomas P. Charles Leadership Wing, which includes a facility and a courtyard, was completed at the end of August. A formal opening ceremony is scheduled for November 14.

The Leadership Wing will be the new home of the Public Safety Leadership Academy, the division’s joint training venture with the Ohio State University—John Glenn School of Public Affairs.

The facility houses a 296-seat auditorium with state-of-the-art sound, lighting and video, a 90-seat training room and new executive offices with a 20-person conference room. The courtyard was redesigned to incorporate a new eternal flame dedicated to Reverend Richard Ellsworth and his wife, Linda, placed in front of the Memorial to fallen officers.

The wing was first designed in January of 2013. Competitive bidding followed and a groundbreaking ceremony took place in September 2013.

Hundreds of retirees and friends turn out for lunch at Patrol Academy

Retirees gathered at the Academy on August 15 to share hamburgers and hot dogs, mingle and view the Patrol’s new Leadership Wing and renovations to Heritage Hall. About 400 people attended the event that turned out to be a huge success.

Many remarked on the Academy’s new appearance, impressed by the construction and the size of the additions.

Frank Day, a retired sergeant from the 129th Class, was impressed. He thinks the view from the windows in the Leadership Wing auditorium will be impactful on dignitaries and officers from other agencies who visit.

“You want to have that representation, when you walk into the room and think, ‘wow!’” Day said.

Retired Capt. Bob Markowski of the 110th Class called the new construction beautiful.

“I’ve been to several other academies, and I don’t think there’s any other one out there that would compare to ours right now,” he said.

It was a great opportunity to catch up. Three retirees who used to work together—Leonard Gray, retired trooper from the 105th Class, Steve Dupler, retired MVI inspector, and Luther Vansickle, retired lieutenant from the 87th Class—reminisced about the Academy now compared to the past.

The three still get together once a month, but doing so in the Academy was a little different.

“It brings back a lot of memories, just seeing people you used to work with,” Vansickle said.

“As soon as you see someone, you remember a story,” Gray added. “Something you did, something you told ‘em.”

The three laughed as they recounted old stories, clearly happy to be back.
Personnel from law enforcement agencies and volunteer runners and walkers completed the last leg of the 2014 Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run on June 27, which concluded at the Special Olympics Opening Ceremony festivities. The run and walk began at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Training Academy and ended at The Ohio State University’s Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium, where the 2014 Special Olympics—Ohio State Summer Games took place June 27–29.

On June 19, relay teams set out from Athens, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Marietta and Put-in-Bay to bring the “Flame of Hope” to Columbus. This was the 28th year of the Ohio Law Enforcement Torch Run, which is the single largest fund-raising initiative for Special Olympics Ohio.

Above right: Members of the Xenia and Wilmington posts, Recruitment section and Crash Reconstruction joined Xenia Police Department and the Greene County Sheriff’s Office for the Greene County leg of the Torch Run on June 26.

Right: Marietta leg of the Torch Run passed though Cambridge on June 26. Runners met up with the Guernsey Eagles who competed at the games.
Ohio Police & Fire Games

The Ohio Police and Fire Games were held June 8-13, 2014, in Cincinnati. The purpose of the games is to support the physical and mental fitness of Ohio’s active and retired law enforcement, firefighter and military personnel through the development, organization and coordination of sporting events.

Results from Cincinnati

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Post Assignment</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tpr. M. J. Majoy</td>
<td>Sandusky Post</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tpr. J.H. Weasner</td>
<td>Norwalk Post</td>
<td>Run – 60, 100, 200, 400, 800</td>
<td>Gold, Silver, Silver, Bronze, Silver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt. R.P. Reeder</td>
<td>Milan Post</td>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lt. S.E. Caplinger</td>
<td>Lancaster Post</td>
<td>Corn Hole Doubles, Corn Hole Singles</td>
<td>Silver, DNP</td>
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<td>Tpr. K.J. Comstock</td>
<td>Columbus Post</td>
<td>Run – 800, 1500</td>
<td>Gold, Gold</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sgt. D.B. Bradley</td>
<td>Granville Post</td>
<td>Combat Shooting</td>
<td>Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sgt. J.B. Dallas</td>
<td>Granville Post</td>
<td>Run – 60, 100</td>
<td>DNP, DNP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sgt. K.L. Mackie</td>
<td>West Jefferson</td>
<td>Corn Hole Doubles, Corn Hole Singles</td>
<td>Silver, Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tpr. B. Duerson</td>
<td>Zanesville Post</td>
<td>Trap Shooting – Individual Singles, Individual Handicaps, Team Singles, Team Handicaps, Team Doubles; Corn Hole Doubles, Corn Hole Singles; Sporting Clays</td>
<td>Bronze, Bronze, Bronze, Bronze, Bronze, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt. J.T. Landis</td>
<td>Cincinnati Ops.</td>
<td>Steel Target Challenge; Sporting Clays</td>
<td>DNP, Bronze</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tpr. S.R. Taylor</td>
<td>Batavia Post</td>
<td>Tennis Singles; Pistol (Steel Challenge)</td>
<td>Silver, DNP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tpr. A.W. Bennett</td>
<td>Cincinnati Post</td>
<td>Raquetball 40 YOA Division, Raquetball Open Singles, Raquetball Open Doubles</td>
<td>Gold, Silver, Silver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maj. J.H. Bistor</td>
<td>Field Operations</td>
<td>Run – 60, 100; High Jump; Javelin; Corn Hole Singles, Corn Hole Doubles</td>
<td>Bronze, Bronze, Gold, Silver, Bronze, Gold</td>
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A sampling of messages received or posted on the Patrol’s social media pages

www.facebook.com/ohiostatehighwaypatol  www.twitter.com/oshp

OIU Agents Diane Corey and Joshua Bowers received the email below after charging the author with furnishing at a concert at Riverbend Music Center in Cincinnati.

Dear Officers Corey and Bowers,

I would like to formally apologize to both of you for my behavior and conduct on August 8, 2014. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge my blatant disrespect for the law of underage drinking. I was behaving as an irresponsible adult. The decisions that I made were unacceptable, especially in that form of a public environment. As a young adult and a law-abiding citizen, I realize that I need to set a better example for those at the concert, especially for my younger brother. My actions have let him, my parents, and my entire family down. But more importantly, I have let myself down.

I also wish to apologize for the demeanor and the manner in which I conducted myself upon arrest. That was my first actual encounter with any officers in a negative setting. I panicked, acting in a rude, unprofessional and disrespectful way by not complying and cooperating in an appropriate manner. However, these are only excuses, which do not pardon my actions. I plan to never place myself in a situation of that sort again; but if not avoidable, I will carry myself better with the knowledge attained through this experience.

I understand that underage drinking is a serious issue in Cincinnati, as well as across the country. You were doing your jobs, and I was wrong for serving my younger brother, and for that I thank you. On a personal note, I have been irresponsible in a number of ways recently. I need to mature and grow up with the decisions that I make on a regular basis. This, after serious personal reflection over these past few days, was a form of a wake-up call to change.

I feel that this was a difficult, but necessary consequence for my actions. I believe that everything happens for a reason. I would like to thank you for being considerate on mine, as well as my brother’s behalf. Once again thank you for your service, and I am sincerely and completely sorry for my actions.

From the Ohio State Fair:

I don’t often compliment the police departments, because of fears instilled in me as a child. But after I read and saw the picture (Tpr. Ed Franke, pictured left) on my Facebook page, I breathed a sigh of relief that this Ohio State Trooper was keenly observant of the fact that this little girl feared him until he took off his Stetson so he did not look so intimidating. Tell him that I said, “Thanks!”

My husband and I went to the Ohio State Fair today and ran into several professional and courteous officers. Such a great organization with tremendous integrity!

The troopers who came through the dog show at the Ohio State Fair on Monday were such nice guys. It was awesome seeing them interacting with the kids and the dogs!

We went to the state fair Sunday and my youngest daughter (6 years old) was so happy to see all the troopers :) While entering, one trooper took her bag that only had her glasses. She panicked and he gave it right back. She said he was nice. She would say hi with a big grin and wave to everyone, and there was one that I don’t think saw her and she said he must be mad at her...lol. However, I just wanted to say thank you for being there and making my daughter’s day.
Quick response to Toledo water supply emergency

Shortly after midnight on Saturday, August 2, Toledo issued a “Do Not Consume” order to hundreds of thousands of people who receive water from the city of Toledo due to a toxin detected in the water, believed to come from algae in Lake Erie. The 400,000 residents in Toledo, most of its suburbs and a few areas in southeastern Michigan could not drink, brush their teeth with or even boil the water, which would increase the toxin’s concentration.

Coordinated efforts were critical to helping the affected citizens. The Lucas County and State Emergency Operations Center was activated and an emergency declaration was made by Governor Kasich for Lucas, Wood and Fulton counties. Personnel from six of the eight Highway Patrol districts and GHQ Aviation were directly involved in helping to facilitate the movement of Ohio National Guard units, Environmental Protection Agency personnel and water samples for testing.

OSHP wins Best Looking Cruiser contest

What we’ve always known is now official—OSHP cruisers are the best looking in the nation.

The cruisers earned the title in a contest through the Ameri- can Association of State Troopers (AAST) Facebook page. Over 22,000 people “liked” the image of OSHP’s cruiser, earning the Patrol bragging rights and a spot on the cover of the AAST National Newsletter, Trooper Connection. The cruiser will also be on the AAST’s Best Looking Cruiser 2015 Calendar, available for purchase at statetroopers.org.

Best Brats contest in next Flying Wheel

Think your son or daughter is one of the best brats of the Patrol? Submit your photos to the Flying Wheel, and a panel of judges will choose 10 to include in our next issue.

Send pictures to NALanka@dps.ohio.gov. Please include the parent and brat names and a brief description of the photo. Electronic submissions only. We look forward to seeing your submissions!

Right: Sgt. Josh Bolduan and his daughters at his promotion ceremony in June.
OHIO INVESTIGATIVE UNIT NEWS
Do you know where your drink is?

In July, the Ohio Investigative Unit provided “Do you know where your drink is?” posters to the Ottawa County Sheriff’s Office and Put-in-Bay Police Department for distribution to island liquor establishments.

The posters were requested by the Lake Erie community after several reports of drugged drinks. The campaign was created in 2012 to remind bar patrons not to leave their drinks unattended and to keep them in sight at all times. Drugging drinks or participating in excessive alcohol consumption are methods some people use to subdue their would-be victims and could lead to a sexual assault, theft or kidnapping. OIU wants to make sure everyone knows:

- Both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks can be drugged;
- Not to leave your drink laying around or turn your back for even one second;
- Do not accept drinks from anyone you don’t know or trust; and
- To watch out for your friends and others – if you see something, Don’t Turn Your Back, ACT.

In addition, bystanders can make all the difference in these situations. Bystanders are asked to let a person know if his or her drink has been compromised, to help get an individual out of a bad situation and to call 9-1-1 for help immediately. Likewise, bar staff are also encouraged to get the individual out of the situation and contain the evidence.

OIU issued 267 administrative charges for drug offenses

While a majority of the illegal activities are connected to alcohol or food stamp violations, agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit also investigate drug-related violations at liquor permit premises.

In 2013, agents filed 267 administrative charges against liquor permits in Ohio for drug use, possession, sales, and paraphernalia sales and/or possession. In Ohio, liquor permit holders must comply with Ohio law, and allowing or participating in illegal drug activity is a violation of the liquor permit.

In June, Mahmoud Taher and the Kinsman Market in Cleveland were both indicted by the Cuyahoga County Grand Jury on eight counts of drug possession and 14 counts of trafficking after agents received a complaint of drug trafficking taking place at a liquor permit establishment.

During a 14-month investigation, agents were able to purchase 1,067 pills, including OxyContin, Percocet and Vicodin at the Kinsman Market. During a search in November, agents seized 426 pills, of which 225 were controlled substances such as OxyContin, Ambien, Percocet and Morphine/MSIR.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the liquor permit was administratively charged with six counts of drug sales, and one count each of drug possession, theft and receiving stolen property.

“Anytime there is illegal drug activity, it is a detriment to the area,” said Cleveland District Agent-in-Charge Greg Croft. “By sifting out the illegal activity, we are helping make the businesses safer for everyone.”

As with all cases, administrative charges are presented to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission once criminal proceedings are completed. The commission has the authority to issue penalties such as fines, suspensions or revocation of the liquor permit.

OIU agents work summer concerts

From late spring into August, agents with the Ohio Investigative Unit worked several high-profile music events in Ohio. When agents work these events, they are often working in conjunction with township, city and county law enforcement.

Most arrests during the music events were for underage alcohol violations; however, other charges include furnishing, falsification, resisting arrest, possession of marijuana, marijuana paraphernalia and obstructing official business.

During Country Jam at Licking County’s Legend Valley in June, a liquor permit was administratively charged with two counts each of sale of beer to a person under 21 and also furnishing beer to a person under 21.

Anyone convicted of providing alcohol to a person under 21 years of age may face a maximum sentence of six months in jail and/or a $1,000 fine. If a person is caught with a fake ID or found to have furnished his or her ID to someone to obtain alcohol, penalties may include six months in jail and/or a $1,000 fine. Also, the person furnishing their ID could lose his or her driver license for a year.

Violations against the liquor permit will be presented to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission for its consideration.
Recent Criminal Patrol Successes

August 17: Troopers seize heroin in Hancock County

Troopers stopped a 2014 Ford Contour for a speed violation on Interstate 75 southbound in Hancock County. Criminal indicators were observed and a Findlay Police Department drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed two pounds of heroin located under the air filter in the engine compartment, worth approximately $136,000.

July 26: Troopers seize pills in Scioto County

Troopers stopped a 2013 Hyundai Elantra for a speed violation on U.S. 23 southbound in Scioto County. The occupant advised she had an item hidden in the front of her pants and handed it to troopers. The package contained 1,673 Oxycodone pills and 179 Oxymorphone pills, worth nearly $42,000.

June 12: Troopers seize suspected counterfeit perfume

Troopers stopped a 2001 Ford Econoline van for a marked lanes violation on Interstate 80 westbound in Sandusky County. Criminal indicators were observed and consent to search was asked for and granted. During the consent search, troopers discovered suspected counterfeit perfume, worth nearly $68,000 located in the van’s cargo area.

May 22: Troopers seize marijuana and marijuana edibles

Troopers stopped a 2013 Chevrolet Cruz for a marked lanes violation on Interstate 75 southbound in Warren County. Upon approaching the vehicle, troopers detected an odor of raw marijuana. A probable cause search revealed three pounds of hydroponic marijuana, 10 pounds of marijuana butter, three marijuana chocolate bars and 18 marijuana gummies. Troopers also discovered two marijuana plants on the rear floorboard. The contraband has an approximate street value of $65,000.

June 14: Patrol seizes 2,330 pounds of marijuana, worth more than $11.6 million

Troopers stopped a 2014 Ford U-Haul for a following too closely violation on Interstate 70 in Preble County. Criminal indicators were observed and a Preble County Sheriff’s Office drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed 84 bundles of compressed marijuana, weighing 2,330 pounds and worth more than $11.6 million.

This is the second largest marijuana seizure in Patrol history. The largest seizure occurred in 2005 when troopers seized 3,181 pounds of marijuana in Preble County.
Recent Vehicle Theft Unit Successes

Cleveland District Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit

The Cleveland Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit (VTFU) developed information that indicated a well-known auto thief had re-tagged a high-performance Dodge Ram 2500 diesel using a donor vehicle’s VIN, that returned to a gasoline model when checked. VTFU units coordinated a traffic stop with Criminal Patrol units and the vehicle was subsequently seized pending identification. The truck was later identified by the confidential VIN as a stolen 2001 Dodge Ram 2500 series. The case investigation has led to the recovery of another vehicle, a 2002 GMC Sonoma and identification of a potential large-scale theft ring.

The Cleveland VTFU and assigned BMV investigator conducted an investigation into a car dealership after it reported three vehicles stolen. To date, two of the three vehicles have been recovered. Investigators also learned the dealership sold more than 15 vehicles without delivering titles to the customers, and was permitting unlicensed persons to sell vehicles. More complaints about the dealership were received and it was learned the dealership defrauded the Attorney General’s Office more than $22,000 from the Title Deficit Recision Fund. The case has been forwarded to the Prosecutor’s Office for charges of titles offenses, theft by deception and forgery.

Wilmington District Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit

The Pennsylvania State Police requested assistance in an investigation with a vehicle purchased by an Ohio resident from an unknown suspect. Investigation revealed the vehicle was sold to the victim by a resident of Fairfield County who claimed to be selling it on behalf of a dealer located in Wilmington.

Further investigation confirmed, and the suspect admitted, that over an eight-month period in 2012 he had titled numerous other vehicles to the dealer and sold them without the dealer’s knowledge. The case was referred to the Fairfield County Prosecutor’s Office for possible prosecution of numerous counts of tampering with public records.

Columbus District Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit

The Columbus Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit (VTFU) assisted posts in the Jackson District with the investigation of stolen ATVs. In several of the cases, the VIN numbers had been removed from the vehicles and through detection of alternate numbers, the ATVs were confirmed as stolen. The VTFU Investigators are coordinating with local law enforcement in efforts to recover additional vehicles as well as curb ATV theft in Southeast Ohio.

The Columbus VTFU executed search warrants in five locations as part of a joint ATF and Columbus Police investigation. Two locations were identified as chop-shops. Five suspects arrested face federal charges for narcotics and operating chop-shops.

Findlay District Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit

During the Toledo Shield Detail conducted July 31 – August 1, the Findlay Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit (VTFU) and Toledo Police Department conducted a bait vehicle operation in the Toledo area. The bait vehicle was deployed in six different locations, three times each night.

On the first night, the bait vehicle was loaded with wheels and tires due to a rash of wheel and tire thefts that have recently plagued Toledo and the surrounding area. On two of the three deployments, the bait wheels and tires were stolen from the vehicle. Five suspects were arrested in connection with the wheel and tire thefts.

During the second night of the operation, the vehicle was deployed without the bait wheels and tires. On the second deployment of the night, the vehicle was stolen within eight minutes of being deployed on a city street on Toledo’s north side. Two suspects were arrested in connection with the theft of the vehicle.

This is the Patrol’s first successful bait vehicle operation where a bait vehicle has been deployed and subsequently stolen.
Buckeye Boys/Girls State

A select group of high school students get the unique experience of learning what it’s like to be a trooper every summer by participating in the summer Buckeye Girls State and Buckeye Boys State programs. All attendees of the program learn about the operation of a democratic government, organization of political parties and relationships between the two in shaping Ohio government in an engaging hands-on experience. Some students choose to join the Buckeyes Boys and Girls State Highway Patrol, under the direction of active troopers.

The boys’ program was June 8-15 at Bowling Green State University, and the girls’ program was June 15-21 at the University of Mount Union. Both programs are sponsored by the American Legion and are available to students entering their senior year of high school.

Junior Cadet Week

Young men and women with an interest in law enforcement jobs can also gather insight into the profession by participating in the Junior Cadet program, sponsored by the Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary, the Ohio American Legion and the Ohio American Legion Auxiliary. Junior cadets live at the Patrol Academy for a week and receive some of the training they would receive as a real trooper. The opportunity is available to attendees of Buckeye Girls and Boys State, children of Patrol employees and any young men or women sponsored by a Patrol employee. Junior Cadet Week was June 22-26.
Change of Command: Wilson retires, Hite promoted to Auxiliary Colonel

On June 30, Auxiliary Colonel Arthur L. Wilson retired after 12 years with the Patrol Auxiliary. Wilson was commissioned as a member of the Auxiliary in May 2002.

Prior to his service as Auxiliary Colonel, Wilson served as an Auxiliary Officer for two years, as the Columbus District Auxiliary Captain for seven and a half years, and as an Auxiliary Staff Major.

In addition to his Auxiliary service, Wilson also worked for the state for 30 years before retiring in 2004, including work as a motor vehicle inspector and a driver examiner district supervisor in the Patrol’s Columbus District. In all, Wilson acquired more than 42 years of service to the state of Ohio.

Effective July 1, the Auxiliary’s second-in-command, Lt. Colonel Denis Hite, was promoted to Auxiliary Colonel, replacing Wilson.

Hite was commissioned as a member of the Auxiliary in March 1993 and later served as Auxiliary Major for the Warren District. He was named the State Auxiliary Officer of the Year for 2013, along with having been named District Auxiliary Officer of the Year multiple times.

Hite retired after 39 years with First Energy as a Supervisor at the Eastlake Power Plant. He currently works as a contract maintenance repair worker at the Chardon Post.

Certificate of Recognition

Tpr. Ryan L. Brillhart, Special Response Team, received a Certificate of Recognition for his efforts to aid and assist injured crash victims.

On March 17, 2014, Tpr. Brillhart witnessed a serious injury crash on State Route 68 in Hardin County and immediately stopped to assist. First, he helped the incapacitated driver of one vehicle escape his burning car. Next, Tpr. Brillhart turned his attention to the second vehicle, where he found the driver unconscious; the right front passenger uninjured, but trapped in the vehicle; and injured children in the back seat.

Tpr. Brillhart pried open the passenger door allowing the occupant to exit, and then quickly determined the driver’s injuries indicated she should not be moved. The crash impact had pinned the children in the back seat, requiring mechanical means to extricate them, so Tpr. Brillhart stayed with them, offering calm words and reassurance that help was on the way. When EMS personnel arrived on the scene, Tpr. Brillhart remained near the children and assisted in prying open the rear doors of the vehicle.
Delaware

Hundreds of local families will have a little less worry about where their next meal will come from thanks to a partnership between the Delaware Post and some local car dealerships.

Instead of collecting canned goods as part of its annual food drive, Delaware teamed with Byers Auto and Automax to raise more than $1,000 for People In Need.

“This year we decided to keep our efforts local,” said Lt. Kevin Knapp. “The local dealerships were more than willing to do something for People In Need.”

And the money will go a long way.

“This level of funding will allow us to distribute over 600 meals,” said People In Need Development Director Randy Bournique.

Monetary donations also allow People In Need to provide clients with more nutritious offerings.

“These kind of checks, when they come in, give us the ability to ensure that meals are balanced,” Bournique said.

And the timing of the donation was perfect, according to Bornique. Food pantries are typically taxed during the summer months as schools close.

With schools shuttered, there are less food drives and no free and reduced lunches for students.

“That family still has to account for feeding that child,” Bornique said.

Chardon

Tpr. Ebon Harrison, Chardon, participated in a detail with HOLA in Painesville. HOLA is a small, grassroots Latino organization that focuses on Latino outreach, advocacy and community organizing. The Chardon Post is working with HOLA to increase awareness of the dangers of impaired driving and illegal drug use.

Tpr. Harrison covered topics that ranged from traffic safety to crime prevention. He discussed the known communication barriers that exist at times between the Latino community and law enforcement and how members could better prepare themselves for a positive encounter with law enforcement. HOLA’s director, Veronica Dahlberg, said Tpr. Harrison was so well received by members, a 20-minute presentation turned into an hour-long interactive discussion.

Canton

On July 20, more than 1,200 people converged on the North Canton Little League complex at the Hoover Community Recreation area for the 2014 Ohio Challenger Baseball Tournament. Challenger Baseball is the special needs division of Little League.

Ohio Troopers Caring was the main sponsor of the event, and Challenger leaders escorted troopers to each field, attempting to get to as many games as possible for trophy presentations. Teddy Trooper and CAD Specialist Adam Quinn also walked around to many of the fields to take pictures with participants.
Ravenna

The Ravenna Post held a “Can the Cruiser” event on June 7 at the Rootstown Giant Eagle. A total of 1,500 pounds of food and $325 in cash donations was collected for the Randolph Suffield Atwater Food Shelf to help local families in need of groceries and personal care items.


Cambridge

On July 20, the Cambridge Post, in partnership with the Cambridge Fire Department, hosted a blood drive in support of the 19th annual Guns-N-Hoses Blood Drive for the American Red Cross. The goal for the blood drive was to receive 28 donations. That goal was surpassed with 37 donations in one day.


Academy

On May 13, retired Sgt. Walter J. Bradley presented to Academy Lt. Ron Raines a dedicated copy of “Lost in Oscar Hotel” (pilot jargon for “Lost in Ohio”) to the Academy Library. The dedication inside the book acknowledges the Patrol’s participation in the 2012 send-off ceremony involving two 1946 Piper Cub J-3 airplanes that traversed the entire state, landing in all 88 counties in their odyssey to a final destination at Wright Brothers Airport in Miamisburg. The journey would come to be known as “the longest, slowest and most peculiar flight to Wright Brothers Airport ever made by an antique airplane.”

Author/Pilot Gordon “Joe” Murray is a longtime Patrol family member. He is the brother of Sgt. Bradley’s wife Sandie. Additionally, a special acknowledgement and thank you by Sgt. Bradley was directed to Major John Bistor, Capt. Randy Boggs, send-off pilot Tpr. Bryan Dail and the entire Patrol Aviation Section.
Zanesville

On July 25, the Zanesville Post participated in a multi-agency “active shooter” drill hosted and organized by the Ohio University/Zane State Campus in Muskingum County. Numerous agencies from the area participated in the exercise including the Zanesville Police Department, Muskingum County Sheriff’s Office, Zanesville Fire Department and Muskingum County EMA. Other community organizations and law enforcement agencies from the region attended to observe. Those involved learned the complexity of controlling a large building and the chaos that surrounds such a situation. The training experience was beneficial to all involved.

From left: Lt. Matt Boyd; Capt. Doug Merry, Zanesville PD; Lt. Bill Shaw, Zanesville PD; S/Lt. Anne Ralston, Cambridge DHQ; Disp. Shelly Garey, Muskingum County Sheriff’s Office; and Bo Keck, Muskingum County EMA director.

Van Wert / Findlay District

Retirees Jean Myers (retired dispatcher), Deb Hardeman retired AP1), and Dan Hardeman (retired trooper and MRW) placed flags at the gravesites of fallen Division members on Memorial Day. This is a tradition that started years ago with Van Wert Post personnel getting together and placing flags on the gravesites.

Active and retired members met at the post and/or cemetery and placed flags on the graves. There have been a lot of positive reviews from the retirees and family members. They plan on building on this event next year.

From left: Cadence Cook, Julie Cook (holding Carter Cook), Sgt. Shawn Cook, Caia Cook, retired Tpr. Dan Hardeman, retired dispatcher Jean Myers.

Cincinnati

The Cincinnati Post participated in the Tri-County Mall Law Enforcement Expo on May 17 and 18. Hosted by Springdale Police Department, the purpose of the event is to bring police officers together in an environment that allows the public to meet and learn about the job we do as well as educate them about safety and security and to see the “tools of our trade.”

Wilmington District

The Wilmington District had a retiree cook-out on May 30, and a good time was had by all.
On June 3, the annual East vs. West golf challenge took place in Columbus. The West Team (top photo) emerged victorious over the East.
Jeffrey R. Dickey

Captain Jeffrey R. Dickey, Ohio Homeland Security, retired June 19 after more than 31 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in November 1982 as a member of the 112th Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year and was assigned to the Marion Post, where in 1988 he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. In 1989, he transferred to the Patrol’s Academy and served as a training instructor. In 1991, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Zanesville Post to serve as an assistant post commander. While at the Zanesville Post, he earned a Certificate of Recognition in 1993. In 1994, he transferred to the Cambridge Post, where in 1995 he earned another Certificate of Recognition. In 1997, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the New Philadelphia Post to serve as post commander. In 2001, he was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and transferred to the Office Field Operations to serve as division inspector. In 2003, he served in the Office of Special Operations, Strategic Analysis Information Center.

Capt. Dickey is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and also attended the Institute of Police Traffic Management, Traffic Supervisor’s Management Course. In 2009, he was awarded the Ohio Commendation Medal by the Ohio National Guard.

Prior to his retirement, Capt. Dickey served as interim Executive Director of Ohio Homeland Security.

Joseph E. Mannion

Lieutenant Joseph E. Mannion, Hiram Post, retired July 21 after 27 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1987 as a member of the 116th Academy Class. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Chardon Post. As a trooper, he has served in the Office of Special Operations, Executive Protection Unit and the former Berea District Headquarters. In 1999, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to Cleveland District Criminal Investigations to serve as a plainclothes officer. In 2007, he returned to the Executive Protection Unit. In 2008, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and served as commander of the Executive Protection Unit. In 2010, he returned to the Cleveland

John A. Campbell

Enforcement Commander Campbell retired August 22. He began his career with the Ohio Investigative Unit in June 1992 and was assigned to the Akron District Office. In October 2000, Campbell was promoted to Assistant Agent-in-Charge of the Cleveland District Office. He was promoted to Agent-in-Charge in February 2003 and began overseeing operations at the Cleveland District Office. In April 2011, he transferred to the former Akron District Office, now known as the Canton District Office. He was promoted to Enforcement Commander on December 2, 2013.

Prior to becoming an agent, Campbell worked as a Deputy Sheriff with the Carroll County Sheriff’s Office from 1987 to 1991. He also worked as a Deputy Sheriff for the Wayne County Sheriff’s Office from 1991 to 1992.

In 1991, he received the Life Saving Award from the Buckeye State Sheriffs’ Association and in 1999 he received a certificate of Exceptional Duty from the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Campbell graduated from Traynor’s Basic Police Academy in Massillon in 1987. He also completed the Administrative Officers Course at the Southern Police Institute at the University of Louisville in 2002.

Donald R. Dunbar

Sergeant Donald R. Dunbar, Ravenna Post, retired August 20 after more than 36 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in March 1978 as a member of the 103rd Academy Class. He earned his commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Hiram Post, where in 1980 he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement.

He was selected as Hiram Post Trooper of the Year in 1981 and 1985. Later that year, he transferred to the former Akron Post, where in 1986 he was selected as Post and District Trooper of Year. In 1990, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Canton Post to serve as an assistant post commander. In 1992, he transferred to his most recent assignment at the Ravenna Post, where in 2005 and 2011 he earned a Certificate of Recognition.
Alice L. (Rusti) Parks

Sergeant Alice L. Parks, Columbus District Headquarters, retired June 27 after nearly 36 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in August 1978 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Granville and West Jefferson posts. She became a member of the 106th Academy Class in May 1979. She earned her commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Lancaster Post, where in 1990 she earned a Certificate of Recognition. In 1991, she transferred to the Circleville Post. In 1993, she transferred to the Patrol’s Training Academy, where she served as a training instructor. In 1998, she was promoted to the rank of sergeant and remained at Training Academy. As a sergeant she has served in the Office of Administrations, Procurement and at the Columbus Metro Post.

Sgt. Parks earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Ohio University in 2002.

Kenneth Stuckey

Sergeant Kenneth Stuckey, Georgetown Post, retired August 8 after more than 29 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1985 as a member of the 114th Academy Class. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Mt. Gilead Post. While at the Mt. Gilead Post, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 1989 and Post and District Trooper of the Year in 1990. He was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Xenia Post to serve as post commander in 1992 and received the Certificate of Recognition in 2001. In 1999, he transferred to the Wilmington Post, before transferring to his most recent assignment at the Georgetown Post in 2002.

James R. Bennett II

Trooper James R. Bennett II, Piqua District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired July 25 after 22 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1992 as a member of the 123rd Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Springfield Post. As a trooper, he has served at the Dayton Post; Office of Personnel as an instructor at the academy; Piqua Post and at Piqua District Commercial Enforcement Unit. He received the Trooper Recognition Award in 2006, 2012 and 2013.

Kenneth D. Collins

Trooper Kenneth D. Collins, Cleveland District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired July 11 after more than 21 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1992 as a member of the 124th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of the following year and was assigned to the Swanton Post. As a trooper, he has served at the Hiram, Chardon and Medina Posts and Cleveland District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

Jeffrey A. Fide

Trooper Jeffrey A. Fide, Cleveland District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired June 10 after 29 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1985 as a member of the 114th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of the following year and was assigned to the Fremont Post. In 1989, he transferred to the Elyria Post. In 2011, he transferred to his most recent assignment at the Cleveland District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

Tpr. Fide earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in electrical engineering from Lorain County Community College in 1977.

Larry K. Phillips

Trooper Larry K. Phillips, Portsmouth Post, retired June 13 after 33 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1981 as a member of the 110th Academy Class. He earned his commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Portsmouth Post. While at the Portsmouth Post, he earned the Certificate of Recognition in 1991 and was selected as Post Trooper of the Year.
in 1993. In 1995, he transferred to Jackson District Headquar-
ters. In 1997, he transferred to Jackson District Licensing and
Commercial Standards Unit and served as a motor vehicle
inspector. In 2006, he returned to his most recent assignment
at the Portsmouth Post.

Sgt. Phillips earned a Bachelor of Science degree in busi-
ness administration from Shawnee State University in 2007.

Robert A. Priestas
Trooper Robert A. Pries-
tas, Bucyrus District Com-
mercial Enforcement Unit,
retired June 27 after more
than 28 years with the Patrol.
He joined the Patrol in
October 1985 as a member
of the 115th Academy Class.
He earned his commission
in March of the following
year and was assigned to
the Milan Post. In 1993, he
transferred to the Swanton Post where in 1987 he earned the
Merrell Meritorious Service Award and the prestigious Super-
intendent’s Citation of Merit Award. He was selected as Post
Trooper of Year in 1991. In 1994, he transferred to his most
recent assignment at Bucyrus District Commercial Enforce-
ment Unit.

Doyle E. Brooks
Motor Vehicle Inspector
Doyle E. Brooks, Piqua Dis-
trict Commercial Enforce-
ment Unit, retired July 11
after 30 years with the Patrol.
He joined the Patrol in July
1984 as a motor vehicle
inspector and has been as-
signed to the Piqua District
Commercial Enforcement
Unit throughout his career.

Ronald L. Fristick
Motor Vehicle Inspector
Ronald L. Fristick, Cam-
bridge District Commercial
Enforcement Unit, retired
on August 28 after nearly
34 years with the Patrol. He
began his Patrol career as
a motor vehicle inspector
assigned to the Cambridge
District Commercial Enforce-
ment Unit where he has been
throughout his career.

Joann Osborn
Administrative Profes-
sional 1 Joann Osborn
retired June 27 after 22 years
of service. She was hired on
December 31, 1991 when
the Ohio Investigative Unit
was part of the then Ohio
Department of Liquor Con-
trol. Osborn has worked out
of the Cincinnati District
Office, as well as the former
Middletown District Office
throughout her employment.

Osborn received an Associate’s Degree in Business Ad-
ministration from the University of Cincinnati.
All of us within the Patrol family are encouraged to be individuals of character. Yes, there are the Core Values which serve as guiding principles for the living of one’s life. These are vital for those who are involved each day with interaction with the public. But the development of good character goes beyond the Core Values—it is a way of life which determines behavior at all times, even when one is alone and not being observed by others.

The development of character takes training and nurturing; it just does not happen by accident. A person of good character knows ahead of time how she or he is going to react in any given situation. In a sense, it is predetermined behavior.

In the basic training provided to all troopers, there is an emphasis upon learning how to respond and act, or not act, in a given situation. The response, or lack of a response, must be made very quickly in many situations. There is not the opportunity to sit down and ponder the options. Before one is put into any situation, there should be the conditioning which results in a positive decision as to what he or she should do.

Although I have not had the benefit of basic training at the Patrol Academy, I still have strong memories of my military training. The grumbling on the part of all of us as we had to jump into cold rain-filled ditches is still a remembrance after all these years. Why did not the cadre just tell us what we should do in the event of enemy fire? We had enough sense to take cover. But training did not rely upon what we thought we would do; we had to do it over and over again until it became a rapid response. How glad I was to have had that conditioning when enemy fire was encountered. It was a rapid response based upon the training we had received. We did not stand at the edge of the road and ponder the option of getting wet, cold and muddy or stay dry and maybe get wounded or killed. Instinctively, we jumped into the ditch just as we had done in training.

In order to be individuals of good character, we need to condition ourselves to respond in a positive manner in any given situation. In the Gospel According to Matthew, there is recorded the encounter of the Lord with the devil at a time of temptation. (Matthew 4:1-11) The devil tempted the Lord to satisfy his own personal needs by turning the stones into bread. The Lord had a quick response based upon His awareness of what was right and what was wrong. The temptations continued first to display His power and then to lose sight of His priorities.

In response to these temptations, the Lord had a quick, predetermined response. That same conditioning and nurturing for the building of character is available to each one of us. We have the opportunity to think through the consequences of responses we might make before we have to make them.

It has been stated often that character is how a person lives her or his life when no one is watching. That is very true. But how one lives and acts each day, whether at work, with the family or in recreational activities, is a response to the values which have been accepted and ingrained to the extent of developing good character in any given situation. I may not know what the next moment may present to me, but I can decide how I am going to act in any given situation. What I am going to do, or not do, depends upon my decision regarding the importance of being a person of good character.

No wave on the ocean of time, once it is past, can be recalled. How much better it is to be ready for the wave before it hits us. As individuals of good character we will be ready for any and all that life presents—and we will have a positive influence upon others.

Be sure to know that you have the support and prayers of all three of your chaplains as you fulfill your responsibilities and enjoy your lives as individuals of good character who are making Ohio a safer place to live each day.

Respectfully,

Richard D. Ellsworth
State Chaplain
The Thomas P. Charles Leadership Wing at the OSHP Training Academy