STATE TROOPER OF THE YEAR
Trooper James E. Hutchinson
4. LEADERSHIP AWARDS
At a ceremony that honored many individuals for their hard work over the past year, the 2018 Ohio State Highway Patrol Leadership Awards concluded with Trooper James E. Hutchinson’s selection as State Trooper of the Year.

11. NEW COLONEL APPOINTMENT
Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announces Richard S. Fambro as next superintendent.

12. COLONEL PRIDE RETIREMENT
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19. AROUND THE STATE
Shop with a Cop, Buying with Bears and more — see what’s happening in your area of the state.

ON THE COVER
Trooper James E. Hutchinson is the 2018 State Trooper of the Year.

Please see story on page 4 to see everyone recognized at the 2018 Leadership Awards.
Last November, the Ohio State Highway Patrol celebrated 85 years of service. Many things have changed since 1933, but the one constant has been the core mission of this great organization. The Patrol has remained an agency committed to providing professional law enforcement services focused on deterring crime and promoting traffic safety to all we serve.

This year began with excitement, a new administration was ushered in and change was in the air. Although changes have come, the leadership displayed by the men and women of the Patrol has not. Every current employee is responsible for our success. No matter your role, each of you contribute to the mission, and you do this by giving the best you have each day.

The excitement and change of the new year and new administration created new opportunities. There is no other organization I know of that provides the amount of opportunities as the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The key is preparing yourself to recognize and capitalize on opportunities when they present themselves. Colonel Fambro and lieutenant colonels Gaskill and Teaford were prepared to accept new responsibilities, and as I prepared to leave the agency I love, I knew it was in good hands.

I have been privileged to serve as our agency’s 18th superintendent. It has been a great honor to serve alongside the brave men and women of the Patrol protecting our roadways and communities. I am proud of the work that has been done and the progress that has been made over the past five and a half years on some of the key goals articulated in our Strategic Plan. The Ohio State Highway Patrol is in a good place as a result of the hard and dangerous work being performed by the noble men and women of this agency. Men and women like those recognized during our annual Leadership Awards. The Leadership Awards have become a special occasion for the Patrol. It’s a day where we pause to recognize our best, our brightest and our bravest. It is also a day to reflect and appreciate the significance of their devotion to duty. Our award winners represent outstanding examples of performance, reliability, dedication and most importantly leadership.

I want to thank every member of this agency for your leadership and for performing your “life’s work” with unmatched professionalism and passion. I have been blessed with a host of people who have supported me and took an interest to mentor and guide me over the past 30 years. Those who have come alongside me and helped move me and the organization in a positive direction. At each assignment along the way, my family and I have met some of the best, brightest, bravest and boldest people I have ever known. The good, hard working, noble men and women of character…. people we call FRIEND….and that’s all of you!

I am thankful for my Patrol Family and the friendships that we have made along this journey.

The Patrol’s future is bright and the best is still ahead. Your hard and dangerous work will continue to make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

I am confident the future holds even greater things for the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

Stay in the gas! God speed my friends!

With much respect,

Colonel Paul A. Pride
Superintendent
Trooper James E. Hutchinson, of the Hamilton Post, earned top honors as the 2018 State Trooper of the Year. He was selected from nine District Troopers of the Year across the state. Trooper Hutchinson exemplifies what it means to be a trooper and is a leader among his peers.

Trooper Hutchinson has established himself as a resource to the Patrol and the community he serves. He prides himself in professional service and treats everyone with respect. Trooper Hutchinson makes it a priority to arrest impaired drivers. For the last two years, Trooper Hutchinson has worked a dedicated road patrol assignment in the city of Middletown where he has built impeccable relations with the police department, courts and other government officials. He gives back to his community by participating in the backpack program which provides school supplies for underprivileged kids. He regularly volunteers at the Lifehouse Church where he and his family attend.

Trooper Hutchinson joined the Patrol in April 2012 as a member of the 139th Academy Class. He earned his commission in October of that year and was assigned to the Xenia Post. In 2015, he earned the Certificate of Recognition. In 2017, he earned the Criminal Patrol Award. As a trooper, he also served at the Batavia, Hamilton and Cincinnati posts; the Patrol Training Academy; and the Cincinnati Motorcycle Unit.
Dispatcher of the Year

Dispatcher Tara J. Barnhart, of the Bowling Green Dispatch Center, earned statewide honors as the 2018 Dispatcher of the Year. She was selected from nine District Dispatchers of the Year across the state. Her calm demeanor, positive attitude and commitment to service distinguished her from the other nominees.

Communications professionals are often the first point of contact for the public when need arises. Dispatcher Barnhart strives to provide the highest level of service to the public, her co-workers and the troopers on her shift. She garnered praise for her teamwork.

Dispatcher Barnhart joined the Patrol in March 2006 as a member of the 146th Academy Class. She earned her commission in October of that year and was assigned to the Defiance Post. As a trooper, she also served at the Findlay Post. In 2015, she transferred to the Findlay District Headquarters as a dispatcher. In 2017, she earned the Gold Star Award. As a dispatcher, she also served at the Bowling Green Dispatch Center.

Ohio Investigative Unit Agent of the Year

Christopher J. Moyers, of the Cincinnati District Office, was selected as State Agent of the Year out of six District Agents of the Year across the state.

Agent Moyers joined the Ohio Investigative Unit in May 2003 and has been assigned to the Cincinnati District Office throughout his career.
Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award

Trooper Willie E. Richardson, of the Bowling Green Post, was honored with the Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award, which recognizes officers dedicated to humanitarian causes on the highway and in their communities.

Trooper Richardson is involved in educational endeavors and serves as a presenter for the Ohio State Bar Association’s Continuing Legal Education Program on commercial transportation law. He volunteers and is an active faculty member with Nationwide’s Trail Division Trucking School.

Trooper Richardson’s heart is entrenched in service to others, which is often displayed through his selfless acts. He has purchased spare tires, tanks of gas and bus tickets for individuals who were having financial issues.

His deep faith is exhibited in his missional membership at Cedar Creek Church where he regularly serves as a leader of security during weekend services. He also serves as a Ministry Leader of Cedar Creek’s West Campus Celebrate Recovery Program.

Trooper Richardson joined the Patrol in May 1990 as a member of the 120th Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year and was assigned to the Swanton Post. In 2007, he earned the Criminal Patrol Award. In 2012, he was selected as Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year. As a trooper, he also served at the Granville, Toledo and Bowling Green posts, and Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

Colonel Thomas W. Rice Leadership Award

Sergeant Thomas Halko, of the Sandusky Post, was honored with the Colonel Thomas W. Rice Leadership Award, which is presented to one sworn supervisory officer for outstanding leadership. The award is sponsored by the Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees’ Association and is in honor of former Patrol Superintendent Thomas W. Rice.

Sergeant Halko’s leadership and enthusiasm was immediately apparent from his first day at the Sandusky Post, and has been instrumental to growth and success. His level of commitment to his people’s success is evident in everything he does. Under his leadership, the Sandusky Post’s OVI arrests went from average to having the second largest increase in the state. The morale at the Sandusky Post has been significantly improved due to Sergeant Halko’s leadership. In addition to his duties as a sergeant, he makes annual monetary donations to his local school system and donates clothes to the district’s needy children.

Sergeant Halko began his Patrol career in May 2007 as a member of the 148th Academy Class. He earned his commission in December of that year and was assigned to the Norwalk Post. In 2014, he earned the Criminal Patrol Award. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year three times. In 2016, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Sandusky Post to serve as an assistant post commander.
Criminal Patrol Award

Trooper Ryan M. May, of the Delaware Post, earned the State Criminal Patrol Award for conducting the most felony case investigations with 101, which led to 131 felony arrests in 2018. The majority of his cases were drug related. Throughout 2018, his criminal seizures included 1,339 grams of marijuana, 50 grams of cocaine, 353 grams of heroin, 47 grams of fentanyl, 38 grams of methamphetamine, 371 pills and four firearms.

Trooper May joined the Patrol in April 2012 as a member of the 152nd Academy Class. He earned his commission in August of that year and has been assigned to the Delaware Post throughout his career. In 2014, he earned the Criminal Patrol Award.

MCEI of the Year Award

Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Anthony R. Lester, of the Jackson District Commercial Enforcement Unit, was selected as Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year. MCEI Lester began his career with the Patrol in May 1997 as a Maintenance Repair Worker 2 at the Jackson Post. In April 1998, he was promoted to a Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector and transferred to the Chillicothe Post. In 2012, he was selected as State Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year. He was also selected as District Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year 13 times. As a Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector, he also served at the Jackson District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

Blue Max Award

Trooper Matthew D. Boyer, of the Akron Post, earned the Blue Max Award for recovering the most stolen vehicles of any trooper in 2018. Throughout the year, he recovered 24 stolen vehicles valued at $182,500, resulting in the apprehension of 28 suspects.

Trooper Boyer joined the Patrol in March 2015 as a member of the 158th Academy Class. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Lisbon Post. He also served at the Canfield and Canton posts. In 2017, he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. He also earned the Criminal Patrol Award three times.
Ohio Trooper Recognition Award

Trooper Justin E. Daley, of the Cleveland District Criminal Investigations Unit, earned the Ohio Trooper Recognition Award. He was selected from nine district recipients across the state. The award recognizes excellence among troopers who are assigned to specialty positions.

He joined the Patrol in October 2001 as a member of the 138th Academy Class. He earned his commission in April of the following year and was assigned to the Fremont Post. He earned the Criminal Patrol Award three times. As a trooper, he also served at the Medina Post, Cleveland District Criminal Patrol Unit, Special Response Team, and the Cleveland and Bucyrus district criminal investigations.


Employee Recognition Award

Administrative Professional 1 Beth Stewart Bullinger, of the Van Wert Post, received the Employee Recognition award presented annually to recognize excellence by a professional employee.

She began her state career in May 2014 as an Administrative Professional 1 and has been assigned to the Van Wert Post throughout her career. She earned the District Employee Recognition Award three times.

Administrative Professional 1 Stewart Bullinger earned a Bachelor of Science degree in athletic training in 2006 and Bachelor of Arts degree in communications in 2011 from Ohio Northern University.

Police Officer of the Year

Police Officer 2 Stacy S. Rainey, Logistics and Security, was selected as Police Officer of the Year. Officer Rainey joined the Patrol in December 2012 and has been assigned to Capitol Operations throughout her career.
Family Member Recognition Award

Cera Prather is this year’s recipient of the Family Member Recognition Award. She is a member of the Half Units Association and immediately started to get to know the other troopers and their wives. Cera helps plan and organize post parties and encourages everyone to attend and participate. She brings in food to the post on holidays when troopers can’t be home with their families. She runs in the Columbus Division of Police Honor Guard 5K Memorial Run and joined the Police Wives of Ohio group where she supports not only the Patrol, but all law enforcement.

Distinguished Retiree Award

Retired Captain Brenda S. Collins is this year’s recipient of the Distinguished Retiree Award. She is the treasurer of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirees Association, past president of the State Highway Patrol Federal Credit Union and is currently on the supervisory committee of the SHPFCU where she is in charge of engaging the annual CPA audit and verifying closed accounts. Retired Captain Collins volunteers at the Andrew Baldridge memorial golf outing and regularly visits retirees. She is proud to be part of the Patrol family and attends all the local post functions.

ET of the Year Award

Electronic Technician 3 Eric T. DeVoe, of the Electronic Technician Unit, was selected as Electronic Technician of the Year. An ET3 supports the Division by testing, maintaining, aligning and programming many types of communications and electronic equipment. Such equipment consists of radios, radars, lasers, facility video security systems and all electronic related equipment within a facility or vehicle.

ET3 DeVoe joined the Patrol in November 1996 as an Electronic Technician 1 assigned to the Central Installation Unit. As an Electronic Technician 1, he also served in the Technology Communications Unit. In 1999, he was promoted to an Electronic Technician 2 and transferred to the Central Installation Unit. In 2003, he was promoted to an Electronic Technician 3 and transferred to the Technology Communications Unit. As an ET3, he also served in the Electronic Technician Unit.
Auxiliary Officer of the Year

Auxiliary Lieutenant Thomas G. Dittoe joined the Patrol Auxiliary in July 2008 and has been assigned to the Lancaster Post throughout his career.

In 2011, he earned the Williams J. Duffy Award of Excellence. In 2012, he was promoted to auxiliary sergeant and earned the Ulmer Award. In 2014, he was promoted to the rank of auxiliary lieutenant.

In 2018, Auxiliary Lieutenant Dittoe volunteered 1,611 hours of his time in assistance with Patrol duties. This time included riding on patrol, assisting at the Ohio State Fair, The Ohio State University football game details, sobriety checkpoints, shield details and working at the Academy store.

William J. Duffy Award of Excellence

The William J. Duffy Award of Excellence requires a minimum of 300 volunteer hours per year over three consecutive years.

Retired Auxiliary Major Lois J. Lust joined the Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary in April 1995 and was assigned to the Marion Post. While at the Marion Post, she was promoted to the rank of auxiliary captain in 1998 and auxiliary major in 2013.

During the last three years, she has volunteered an average of 1,156 hours per year which includes riding on patrol, assisting at the Ohio State Fair, The Ohio State University football game details, sobriety checkpoints, shield details and working at the Academy store.
Governor DeWine Announces Appointment of Colonel Fambro as 19th Superintendent

Patrol employees and members of the media met at the Patrol’s Training Academy on February 7 as Governor Mike DeWine announced his selection of Lieutenant Colonel Richard S. Fambro as the next superintendent of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Lieutenant Colonel Fambro will become the 19th superintendent after Colonel Paul A. Pride retires on March 15.

"From being the first in your family to graduate from college, to now being the superintendent of one of the most prestigious law enforcement agencies in the country, you are the right man for the job and we are thankful for your willingness to serve," Governor DeWine said.

Colonel Fambro began his career as a cadet dispatcher, eventually becoming a cadet in 1989 as part of the 119th Academy Class. His first assignment was at the Dayton Post, where he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year in 1994.

As he moved through the ranks, he took positions in various offices throughout the Patrol. He was an assistant district commander, worked in the Office of Investigative Services, Office of Special Operations, Office of Criminal Investigations, Office of Planning and Analysis and the Office of Personnel. Colonel Fambro also served as the Patrol spokesperson from 2003 to 2004.

"It has been my privilege to wear this uniform and represent this great agency for the past 29 years," Colonel Fambro said. "I couldn’t be more proud of this organization and I am humbled to be selected as the 19th superintendent."

Major Marla K. Gaskill will join Lieutenant Colonel Kevin D. Teaford as assistant superintendent after Colonel Fambro takes the title of colonel.

Lieutenant Colonel Gaskill will become the first female Lieutenant Colonel in the history of the Patrol. She will oversee the Office of Planning and Finance, Office of Personnel, and Office of Logistics and Security Services.

She is also a member of the 119th Academy Class. In 1995, Lieutenant Colonel Gaskill transferred to the Aviation Unit and served as the first female pilot for the Patrol.

Both Lieutenant Colonel Fambro and Major Gaskill will be recognized during a promotion ceremony on March 18.
Colonel Pride Retires after Nearly 30 Years

On March 15, Colonel Paul A. Pride retired as the 18th superintendent of the Ohio State Highway Patrol after three decades of public service. He was appointed as superintendent on July 31, 2013, by Director of Public Safety John Born and Governor John Kasich.

Hundreds of friends, family and law enforcement partners gathered at the Patrol’s Training Academy to celebrate Colonel Pride’s service and retirement. He spoke to the audience about his family and the relationships he built throughout his time with the Patrol. Colonel Pride’s wife Tina approached the podium and talked about the memories she had of having a husband in the Patrol - especially as the superintendent. She talked about their many moves and the experiences she shared with him. His daughters Christina and Michaela also shared stories about their experiences of what their childhood and growing up was like.

Colonel Pride joined the Patrol in 1989 as a member of the 118th Academy Class and was assigned to the Marietta Post. In 1990, he received the Patrol’s Superintendent Citation of Merit Award for administering lifesaving first aid to a seriously injured crash victim. As a trooper, he was selected as both Post and District Trooper of the Year in 1992.

Throughout his career and time as superintendent, Colonel Pride’s vision for criminal patrol efforts was integral to the program’s success. His direction to troopers was simple: stop cars, talk to people, sell traffic safety and look beyond the original reason for the traffic stop for signs of criminal activity.

Under his leadership, the Criminal Patrol program grew into an international model for law enforcement and an essential component of the Patrol. Criminal patrol baseline training was provided to every trooper, and more than 2,600 officers from 215 law enforcement agencies. An in-house canine training program began in 2015, and in 2018, the Patrol’s Canine Training Facility opened in Marysville. The Advanced Criminal Interdiction Ride Training program was established, which further educated Division officers and law enforcement partners on the trends associated with narcotics and contraband trafficking.
In 2016, Colonel Pride led the Patrol during the Republican National Convention (RNC). He authorized the largest commitment of personnel and resources for a single event in the Patrol’s history. There were 500 troopers deployed to Cleveland to work with outside officers to make the RNC a success. The partnerships created with law enforcement agencies are what helped make the outcome of the RNC a positive one. Colonel Pride knew that it marked a significant opportunity for law enforcement to change the public narrative about police officers and show who they really are.

He established the Ohio ASSIST Program in 2016. Ohio ASSIST - Aiding Safety Services with Incident Survival Techniques - is a statewide program that works with safety service partners to provide follow-up care and resources to safety service personnel. Colonel Pride believed that Ohio ASSIST would be an invaluable asset to all first responders in Ohio.

In 2016, the Ohio Attorney General presented him with the Distinguished Law Enforcement Service Award. He was inducted into the Buckeye Boys State Hall of Fame in 2017 and was awarded the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) President’s Award in 2018 for building law enforcement relationships in Ohio.

The Patrol’s accomplishments during his superintendence are of historic proportions. Troopers made more OVI, seatbelt, drug and illegal weapons arrests than any other time in Patrol history. During the same time, fatal crashes and violent crime continued to decline. The Patrol also experienced unprecedented growth; including the graduation of the three largest Academy classes, expansion of the Crime Lab, the opening of the Akron Post, and investment in equipment and technologies.

Colonel Pride earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in law enforcement from Ohio University. He completed Northwestern University’s School of Police Staff and Command and training at the FBI’s National Academy. He and his wife Tina have two children and three grandchildren.

Prior to joining the Patrol, Colonel Pride served seven years in the United States Marine Corps.
Virtual Reality Crash Reconstruction

As a crash reconstructionist, being able to look back at a crash scene is key when trying to determine the cause. Imagine stepping into the scene weeks or months later, being able to look up or down and side to side. You turn around in your desk chair and you see Vehicle A coming straight for you. As you watch, Vehicle B begins to turn left. Vehicle A and B collide. All while sitting at your computer, you can navigate throughout the scene, from above, ground level or head on.

As Ohio State Highway Patrol Lieutenant Christopher J. Kinn gives a brief demonstration of virtual reality crash reconstruction, he puts on virtual reality goggles and hand controllers. He can turn and look from any direction, even from above. He navigates throughout the crash scene, moving in and out of the car. He rotates his chair to get another angle as his hands maneuver the screen changing the angle in order to get a better look at the crash scene.

“Our goal is to enhance the way we investigate crashes,” Lieutenant Kinn said. “The way to do that is to advance with technology.”

Lieutenant Kinn and the Crash Reconstruction Unit began working with Trimble – a provider of advanced location-based solutions – to pilot a virtual reality crash reconstruction. The Patrol purchased the equipment through a grant provided by the Traffic Records Coordinating Committee and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Most departments utilize the 3D scanner to appear on a screen. The Patrol is one of the first agencies to add the virtual reality aspect.

The virtual crash scene works using a 3D scanner which sends a laser beam to measure millions of points. The scanner takes photos and integrates and colorizes the points. The scanner picks up everything with a higher degree of precision. In certain situations, it may be best to do total station, then scan the vehicles later. In either situation, the end result is a 360-degree crash reconstruction scene. Video from nearby surveillance cameras may also be included and allows reconstructionists to track traveling speeds and other factors leading up to the crash.

This is especially important when there is a fatality and no witnesses. It gives the investigator the perception of the driver who was hit and a more comprehensive understanding of what was taking place at the time.

“As a crash scene investigator, being able to put yourself in the middle of the crash as it happens is invaluable,” Lieutenant Kinn said. “During analysis, while at your office, through virtual reality provides a wider perspective.”

Lieutenant Kinn added that virtual reality lets you go back and see things that were missed the first time, with a better understanding of what the person was thinking at the time of the crash. It offers up a unique perspective, which will also have an impact during court when troopers are on witness stands.

“You are now giving the jury a perspective, putting them at the crash scene,” Lieutenant Kinn said. “Relating to jurors how far 10 feet is can be difficult. Here, they see it. They understand better. Essentially, this is the jury field trip to the crash scene.”

The evolution of the Patrol’s Crash Reconstruction Unit began with nylon measuring tape, physics and math. In the 1990s, crash reconstruction moved toward total station, using surveyor equipment. In 2011, the unit grew from three reconstructionists, all located in Columbus, to at least one in each district. All nine districts are now assigned a 3D scanner.

Even though the technology has transitioned to virtual reality, it is still important for troopers to have a basic understanding in crash reconstruction. When cadets work through the Patrol’s Training Academy curriculum, they complete 40 hours of practical application and 30 hours of classroom instruction.
The Patrol’s Aviation section celebrated their 70th anniversary on January 11 at the hangar with the two newest aircrafts on display. Since 1948, the Aviation section has been supporting citizens of Ohio from above.

Many retired pilots who laid the foundation for the Aviation section attended the celebration, along with Division personnel and Auxiliary members.

The Aviation section was established in May 1948 by Colonel George Mingle with the purchase of the Division’s first aircraft - a model 35 Beechcraft Bonanza. The aircraft provided transportation, aerial photography, errands of mercy and aircraft law enforcement.

There are currently 16 members and 16 aircraft in the Aviation section and two pilots are remotely based in northern Ohio. The section’s fleet consists of 11 Cessna 182s, three Airbus helicopters, one Cessna Grand Caravan and one Airvan 8. In addition to aerial traffic enforcement, the duties of the Aviation section have expanded and now include surveillance, search and rescue, Special Response Team (SRT) and K9 deployment.

Nearly every aviation service performed by Patrol pilots is available to other law enforcement agencies. For traffic enforcement, search assistance, aerial photography, evidence relays, or marijuana eradication, the Patrol’s Aviation section is a tremendous asset to law enforcement throughout the state.

All aircraft are equipped with police radios that can be programmed to communicate with other police agencies. Also, all aircraft are equipped with MARCS radios, which are part of Ohio’s law enforcement and first responder radio and data communication network.

Along with the two new aircrafts being on display, there were aviation uniforms, binoculars, headsets, helmets, old photos and various other pieces of equipment for guests to view.
Patrol Opens K9 Training Facility

On December 17, 2018, the Patrol opened the first canine training facility in Marysville. The facility is in a centralized location for the Patrol’s canine operations and training programs. The facility is comprised of three buildings for different uses.

The main building consists of a classroom for students, offices for training sergeants and the lieutenant who oversees the program, dorm room areas and locker rooms for troopers. The dorms give troopers the option to stay at the facility while they are being trained, which will cut down on hotel costs for the Division and other agencies sending officers in for training. Housing officers on site will also give them the capability to spend more time bonding with their canine after training hours.

The second building is a kennel facility with ten runs where the canines are housed. It is equipped with a grooming area, a bathing station and other resources for the canines who are staying there.

The third building is the largest of the three, and is where training and imprinting takes place. This is where the canines are trained on different narcotic and explosive odors, as well as tracking and article search disciplines.

There was an open house where canines and their handlers put on demonstrations for those who attended the event. The demonstrations provided a first-hand look into what the canines and their handlers are trained to do, and what the facility will be providing for them.

“Before we had the training facility constructed, we were doing regional trainings and with that, our officers would go to an area, they were assigned to a trainer, and they would have to stay for 10 weeks away from home in a hotel room” explained Captain Kemmer.

The Patrol’s canine training program is ten weeks long. Trainers secure the canines through a number of vendors, mostly located in Europe. The canines go through a strenuous selection process by the trainers to make sure the Division is getting the right product.

The training program began in 2015. Since that time, 43 canines have been trained by the Patrol. Thirty one of those were trained for the Patrol, 12 were trained for police departments and sheriff offices across Ohio. The Patrol offers canine training to our law enforcement partners at no cost.

The first group of nine canines will graduate from the new training facility in June. The canines graduating are from the Chillicothe Police Department, Norwood Police Department, Reynoldsburg Police Department, and the Patrol’s Special Response Team and Criminal Patrol Units.
Congratulations to the winners of the Ace and Criminal Patrol Awards who were recognized on January 31. These troopers and dispatchers worked diligently to look "beyond the plate" in order to remove drugs from Ohio communities and return stolen vehicles to their rightful owners.

Three K9 officers graduated on January 31 from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Training Academy. Graduates include: K9 Cheri with Deputy Tylun Campbell from the Meigs County Sheriff’s Office, K9 Katie with Trooper Jessie J. Johnson from the Warren District and K9 Thunder with Deputy Gary Waldron from the Gallia County Sheriff’s Office.
The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission (OTIC) honored Trooper William L. Head, Trooper Stephen W. Pacheco and Trooper Tony D. Stephens on December 17, 2018, for their heroic actions in saving the life of a distressed patron. The troopers responded to a life-threatening situation that occurred on the Turnpike where a person was sitting on a concrete wall of the bridge preparing to jump. After engaging with the patron and showing care and compassion, the troopers were able to bring him off the wall and to safety. Pictured, from left, are: Ohio Turnpike Safety Services Manager Cory Skoczen, Trooper Stephens, Trooper Pacheco, Trooper Head, OTIC Executive Director Randy Cole and OTIC Chairman Jerry Hruby.

Trooper Lister earns perfect GXT score

Trooper Justin P. Lister, Elyria Post, was recognized for earning a perfect score of 500 on his Health and Physical Fitness Evaluation. The Graded Exercise Test (GXT) has been taken by thousands of troopers over the years, but only seven have received a perfect score. Trooper Lister is the first 20-29-year-old male to get a perfect score on the test.

In the next issue:
- Colonel Fambro Promotion
- Patrol Memorial
Lieutenant Matthew R. Crow and Lieutenant Darren T. Huggins completed the Certified Law Enforcement Executive (CLEE) Program. CLEE is a formal program of leadership training presented by the Ohio Law Enforcement Foundation.

Trooper Matthew D. Fidram and Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Thomas J. Drawl attended the 2019 Trumbull County School Transition Fair at the Eastwood Mall in Trumbull County. Representatives from Safe Communities, PsyCare and the Trumbull County Sheriff’s Office also attended the event. Trooper Fidram and MCEI Drawl spoke to students and parents about school bus safety, child restraints and traffic safety.

Lieutenant Mark A. Glennon of the New Philadelphia Post and State Farm representatives visited the winning students of the billboard contest in January. The students had a challenge of creating a public service announcement billboard about the dangers of distracted driving. They presented a check for $250 to the students and their schools. Lieutenant Glennon also spoke to the students about safe driving and the dangers of distracted driving.
Retired Sergeant Michael Porter contacted the Jackson Post saying he retired in 1997 and his former unit number was 1091. He also said he had a lot of Patrol memorabilia with his former unit number that he wanted to pass along to Lieutenant Shawn Kelley, who now has unit number 1091. Retired Sergeant Porter and his wife Rose traveled to the Jackson District Headquarters on February 28 to meet Lieutenant Kelly and other members of the District staff. Lieutenant Kelly was presented with medallions, belt buckles, golf balls and various other items that had 1091 on them. Lieutenant Kelly was most fond of a 40th Anniversary S&W Pistol, still in its original case, and accompanied by its original papers. Retired Sergeant Porter and his wife made the decision to pass along the memorabilia in hopes to start a trend among Patrol membership.

Trooper Kenneth D. Williams, Dispatcher Heather E. Simms, Cadet intern Blake E. Combs all participated in the Shop with a Cop event at the Meijer in Miami Township, Clermont County on December 19, 2018.

The Fremont Post participated in Shop With a Cop on December 8, 2018, at the Fremont Walmart. Other agencies that participated were the Sandusky County Sheriff’s Office, Fremont Police Department, Green Springs Police Department and Sandusky County Park.

Rock City Church and Central Ohio law enforcement officials gave new shoes to students at West Broad Street Elementary School and Eakin Elementary School through the Christmas Shoe Give 2018. Law enforcement officials assisted in sizing each students’ feet before handing the child a box of new shoes to open.
The Batavia Dispatch Center challenged all of District 8 in a food drive for local areas. All posts and dispatch centers participated. The winner of the challenge was the Batavia Dispatch Center/Post who collected more than $1,000 worth of food items, personal care products and toiletries for the Batavia Homeless Shelter. There were 805 food items, plus bulk personal care items and toiletries. Pictured are (L-R): (back) Sergeant Andrew T. Dunn, Trooper Cody P. Ziesember, Lieutenant Robert M. Hayslip; (front) Dispatcher Heather E. Simms, Dispatch Supervisor Patty J. Downing and Dispatcher Samantha L. Wilson.

St. Clairsville and Steubenville posts participated in a Buying with Bears event on December 8, 2018. There were a total of 28 children who were helped by sworn and non-sworn employees and retirees from the Steubenville and St. Clairsville posts, along with deputies and a dispatcher from Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office and a police officer from Wintersville Police Department.

Patrol employees from the Columbus District participated in the annual Shop With a Cop at the Hilliard Meijer on December 14, 2018. Troopers, dispatchers and auxiliary members spent the morning with children who are less fortunate and helped them shop for the holidays.
Terry R. Bush

Lieutenant Terry R. Bush, Administrative Investigations Unit, retired on January 11, 2019, after 26 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1993 as a member of the 124th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Springfield Post. As a trooper, he also served in the Office of Investigative Services. In 2006, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Springfield Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served in the Office of Human Resources, and in the Office of Criminal Investigations. In 2014, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Administrative Investigations Unit.


Howard T. Criss

Lieutenant Howard T. Criss, Cambridge District Criminal Patrol Unit, retired on February 12, 2019, after 25 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1994 as a member of the 126th Academy Class. He earned his commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Cambridge Post. As a trooper, he also served at the St. Clairsville Post. In 2001, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Steubenville Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the St. Clairsville Post.

In 2013, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Cambridge District Criminal Patrol Unit. Lieutenant Criss earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from West Liberty University in 1991.

Douglas A. DeBord

Lieutenant Douglas A. DeBord, Portsmouth Post, retired on January 11, 2019, after 26 years of service with the state. He began his service with the state in July 1989 with the Ohio Department of Transportation. He served as a police officer with the Columbus Division of Police from 1993 to 2001. He joined the Patrol in March 2001 as a member of the 137th Academy Class. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Wilmington Post. In 2004, he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year three times and District Trooper of the Year twice. As a trooper, he also served at the Chillicothe and Portsmouth posts. In 2007, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and remained at the Chillicothe Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at Jackson Post and the Jackson District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

In 2014, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Licensing Commercial Standard Unit. As a lieutenant, he also served at the Portsmouth Post.

Terry T. Helton

Sergeant Terry T. Helton, Cleveland District Criminal Patrol Unit, retired on January 4, 2019, after 29 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1990 as a member of the 119th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Medina Post. In 1997, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year, and earned the Criminal Patrol Award in 2007. He also served at the Canton and Mansfield posts, Cleveland District Headquarters, and the Cleveland District Criminal Patrol Unit. In 2011, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Cleveland District Criminal Patrol Unit. As a sergeant, he also served in the Warren District Criminal Patrol Unit.

Ronald P. Schneider

Sergeant Ronald P. Schneider, Warren District Criminal Investigations Unit, retired on January 16, 2019, after 33 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in October 1985 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Lisbon Post. He became a member of the 116th Academy Class in April 1987. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Lisbon Post. He joined the Patrol in October 1985 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Lisbon Post. He became a member of the 116th Academy Class in April 1987. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Delaware Post. In 2006, he earned the State Trooper Recognition Award. As a trooper, he also served at the Ravenna and Lisbon posts and in the Warren District Criminal Investigations Unit. In 2008, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and remained at the Warren District Criminal Investigations Unit.
Curtis L. Bryant
Trooper Curtis L. Bryant, Hamilton Post, retired on December 12, 2018, after 24 years of state service. He began his state career with the Lebanon Correctional Facility as a correction officer in February 1994. He joined the Patrol in May 1995 as a member of the 127th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Lebanon Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Hamilton Post.

Trooper Bryant also served in the United States Army from 1984 to 1993.

Christopher G. Dunn
Trooper Christopher G. Dunn, Ashtabula Post, retired on January 24, 2019, after 26 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in January 1993 as a member of the 124th Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of that year and was assigned to the Defiance Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Ashtabula Post and the Warren District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

John A. Johnson
Trooper John A. Johnson, Columbus District Criminal Investigations Unit, retired on December 23, 2018, after 20 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1998 as a member of the 131st Academy Class. He earned his commission in October of that year and was assigned to the Mansfield Post. In 2002, he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. As a trooper, he also served at the Marysville, Delaware and Lima posts, Office of Criminal Investigations, and Columbus District Criminal Investigations Unit.

Phillip J. Melicant
Trooper Phillip J. Melicant, Cleveland District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on February 28, 2019, after 25 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1994 as a member of the 126th Academy Class. He earned his commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Wooster Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Toledo and Ashland posts, as well as the Cleveland and Warren district commercial enforcement units.

He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1990 to 1998.

Gary A. Wolfe
Trooper Gary A. Wolfe, Bucyrus Post, retired on February 22, 2019, after 25 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1994 as a member of the 126th Academy Class. He earned his commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Bucyrus Post. In 2000, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. In 2010, he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. As a trooper, he also served at the Findley District Headquarters, Bucyrus District Criminal Patrol Unit and the Bucyrus District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

Shane R. Zehnder
Trooper Shane R. Zehnder, Sandusky Post, retired on January 2, 2019, after 29 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in December 1989 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Ironton Post. He became a member of the 121st Academy Class in May 1991. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Milan Post. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year nine times. As a trooper, he also served at the Sandusky Post.

Retirements in this issue of the Flying Wheel include those employees who retired from December 2018 - February 2019.
Brian J. Gettinger  
Dispatcher Brian J. Gettinger, Piqua Dispatch Center, retired on February 20, 2019, after 23 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in November 1996 as a Dispatcher assigned to the Defiance Post. In 2012, he was selected as Post Dispatcher of the Year. As a dispatcher, he also served at the Swanton Post, Bowling Green and Piqua dispatcher centers.


Lewis J. Dirosario  
Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Lewis J. Dirosario, Columbus District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on February 28, 2019, after 32 years of state service. He began his state career with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio as administrative staff in August 1986. He joined the Patrol in October 1995 as a motor carrier enforcement inspector assigned to the Columbus District Headquarters. As a motor carrier enforcement inspector, he also served at the Columbus District Enforcement Unit.

Thomas E. Chodzin  
Exercise Physiologist Supervisor Thomas E. Chodzin, Training Academy, retired on December 19, 2018, after 35 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in September 1983 as an Exercise Physiologist Supervisor assigned to the Office of Personnel. As an Exercise Physiologist Supervisor, he also served at the Patrol’s Training Academy. Supervisor Chodzin earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in zoology from Miami University in 1981 and a Master of Arts degree is physiology of exercise from The Ohio State University in 1983.

Timothy E. Cordes  
Communication Technician Timothy E. Cordes, Canton Post, retired on February 2, 2019, after 37 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in July 1981 as a Communication Technician assigned to the Canton Post. He was selected as Post Dispatcher of the Year five times and District Dispatcher of the Year twice. As a Communication Technician, he also served at the Cleveland District Headquarters and the Canton Post.


Kay M. Anderson  
Administrative Professional 1 Kay M. Anderson, Piqua Post, retired on January 4, 2019, after 31 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in December 1987 as a Clerk 3 assigned to the Piqua Post. While at the Piqua Post, she was promoted to Secretary in 1994. She earned the Employee Recognition Award in 2006. She was promoted to an Administrative Professional 1 in 2011.

Cynthia S. Kollin  
Administrative Professional 4 Cynthia S. Kollin, Columbus District Headquarters, retired on January 31, 2019, after 30 years of state service. She joined the Patrol in September 1990 as a Clerk 2 assigned to the Columbus District Headquarters. In 1991, she was promoted to an Executive Secretary 1 and remained at the Columbus District Headquarters.

Administrative Professional 4 Kollin earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Ohio Dominican University in 1978.
Leadership Award Nominees

**DISTRICT TROOPER OF THE YEAR**
- Trooper Brandon P. Schreiber .................................. Findlay District
- Trooper Richard L. Anderson .................................. Bucyrus District
- Trooper Tara L. Worner ........................................... Cleveland District
- Trooper Charles E. Hoskin ........................................ Warren District
- Trooper David G. Slanker .......................................... Piqua District
- Trooper Spencer A. Large ........................................... Columbus District
- Trooper Jonah C. Carson .......................................... Cambridge District
- Trooper Nathan E. Lawson ......................................... Jackson District

**DISTRICT DISPATCHER OF THE YEAR**
- Dispatcher Joshua J. Wright ..................................... Bucyrus District
- Dispatcher Genell L. Campbell .................................. Cleveland District
- Dispatcher Michelle D. Higgins .................................. Warren District
- Dispatcher Renee M. Kohl .......................................... Piqua District
- Dispatcher Dustin R. Magill ....................................... Columbus District
- Dispatcher John C. Ceculski ....................................... Cambridge District
- Dispatcher Rebel L. Martin ......................................... Wilmington District
- Dispatcher Garrick B. Payne ...................................... Jackson District
- Dispatcher Megan R. Howard ..................................... GHQ OIU DISTRICT AWARD WINNERS

**CHIARAMONTE AWARD NOMINEES**
- Trooper Craig B. Overly ........................................... Bucyrus District
- Lieutenant Stephanie A. Norman ................................. Cleveland District
- Trooper Lydia J. Jordan ........................................... Warren District
- Sergeant John D. Westerfield ..................................... Piqua District
- Sergeant Jeffrey P. Jirles .......................................... Cambridge District
- Trooper Derek L. Malone ........................................... Jackson District

**RICE AWARD NOMINEES**
- Sergeant Shawn D. Cook ......................................... Findlay District
- Sergeant Alan D. Dunbar .......................................... Cleveland District
- Sergeant Ronald P. Schneider .................................... Warren District
- Sergeant Bo M. Schmutz ........................................... Piqua District
- Sergeant Travis H. Woodyard .................................. Columbus District
- Sergeant Brian R. McFarland .................................... Cambridge District
- Sergeant Brian A. Bost ............................................. Wilmington District
- Sergeant Michael J. Roe ........................................... Jackson District
- Sergeant Christopher L. Ellison ................................ GHQ

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS**
- MRW2 Darl D. Snader ............................................... Bucyrus District
- AP1 Linda M. Barnes ............................................... Cleveland District
- AP1 Julie L. Szeker .................................................. Warren District
- AP4 Stacy L. Mullen ................................................. Piqua District
- AP1 Lindi M. Miller .................................................. Columbus District
- MRW2 Joseph C. Simonson ....................................... Cambridge District
- AP1 Monica L. Ray .................................................. Wilmington District
- IS2 Joshua M. Henry ................................................ Jackson District
- CSA3 Tammie A. Wallace ......................................... GHQ

**PATROL FAMILY RECOGNITION AWARD**
- Krista Jeffries ....................................................... Bucyrus District
- Analyse L. Sutton .................................................. Warren District
- Mindy Payne .......................................................... Cambridge District
- Jennifer Patrick ..................................................... Wilmington District
- Amy Johnson .......................................................... Jackson District

**DISTRICT DISTINGUISHED RETIREE**
- Dennis Goodhart .................................................... Warren District
- Chuck Wright .......................................................... Piqua District
- Sid Jones ............................................................... Columbus District
- Kay Perkins ............................................................ Cambridge District
- John Smith ............................................................. Jackson District

**STATE AUXILIARY OFFICER OF THE YEAR**
- Joshua Sharp ......................................................... Findlay District
- Joseph Stallard ....................................................... Bucyrus District
- Paul Cantrell .......................................................... Cleveland District
- Alex Zavara ........................................................... Warren District
- Jami Hackworth ...................................................... Piqua District
- Michael Wood .......................................................... Cambridge District
- Jeremy Gale ............................................................ Wilmington District
- Paul Gillum ............................................................ Jackson District

**DUFFY AWARD OF EXCELLENCE**
- Eric Dill ................................................................. Columbus District
- Tim Massie ............................................................. Jackson District
There is a lot of history posted on the walls of the Academy. When I have the time, I look at the pictures of the graduating classes and admire how well the Patrol has handled the change in leadership over the years. It has been said that the Patrol is made up of leaders among leaders and so it is. But over the years, the baton of leadership has been transferred effectively in all ranks from Sergeant to Colonel without interruption to the daily operation, and that is true for the support staff as well as sworn officers. As I have had the opportunity of experiencing this over the past 28 years, and hearing the stories of "the good old days at the Hartman farm," I have come to two observations.

In the first place the Patrol has what I would call a "Lego" structure rather than a "Domino" one. In so many other organizations there is the domino effect of moving one piece and causing the entire row to tumble. With Legos, all the pieces are prepared to fit into a structure when one is removed or relocated. The Patrol is very effective in nurturing individuals, preparing them for advancement and/or relocation. When an individual is ready for different or added responsibilities, he or she is like the Lego piece which can fit smoothly into the structure.

But there is another observation I would make and it is a formula based on the transfer of leadership from Moses to Joshua. Moses had led the Israelites from the exodus of slavery in Egypt, through 40 years in the wilderness, to the adventure of being a new nation in the promised land. Now there was to be a new leader. How was this transfer of leadership to take place? It seems to me that the successful transfer took place first of all by knowing and adhering to the mission and then by being personally and totally committed to the fulfillment of that mission.

The mission given by God was stated clearly. Joshua declares: "Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayst observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest." (Joshua 1:7 - KJV). The mission of the Patrol is a constant to be known and declared by action as well as word.

But the commitment to the daily fulfillment of the mission is a personal matter for everyone involved - including volunteers. Again the command given to Joshua applies to everyone of us associated with the Patrol in the present day. From Joshua 1:9 we read: "Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with the whithersoever thou goest."

The class pictures on the Academy walls tell us the story of faith and commitment on the part of those who have gone before us or are still serving. The enthusiasm of the cadets assures us of a continuation of the dangerous and difficult work in the noble ministry of law enforcement. The daily leadership which puts service above self results in the successful fulfillment of the mission of the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

Onward and upward is the call. Let each one of us respond to that call and be focused on the ongoing success of the Patrol each day in making Ohio a safer place to both live in and travel through.

Respectfully,

Richard D. Ellsworth
State Chaplain