Another year has passed and a new one has begun. As we plan our activities for this year, I believe it is important that we reflect upon 2019 as we rededicate ourselves to being better today than we were yesterday.

Last year brought significant change to the Ohio State Highway Patrol; sadly, it also brought significant challenges and pain. Our Patrol family was touched by tragedy as never before with severe injuries to some of our troopers and the senseless death of MCEI Kimra Skelton. I implore everyone to remember these events as you set your personal goals. Reckless driving behaviors severely impacted our family and many more. We have always taken great pride in our mission to improve the quality of life in Ohio, but now it is personal. While you work to increase safety on our roads and in our communities, I ask you to keep your safety in the forefront of your mind; it’s always on mine.

We made a substantial commitment to training in 2019. Statewide, all uniformed officers from trooper to staff lieutenant received the Precision Immobilization Technique familiarization course (page 16). In addition, every employee participated in Diversity training (page 14). We also continued our commitment to developing future leaders, two leadership courses were held for sergeants, OIU agents and dispatch supervisors. In addition, several commander meetings included leadership enrichment speakers. In 2020, we will continue to provide training that will benefit the entire organization. We are also looking for avenues to make training more convenient for everyone involved. For the first time in our history, annual In-Service training will be conducted in the field. This will ease scheduling and travel requirements while providing a cost savings and productive training environment.

Since 1933, the Patrol has continued to grow, become more efficient, and implement strategies designed to increase safety. The 2020-2024 Strategic Plan was formally implemented at the beginning of the year. It provides the framework that will guide the Division for the next five years. Our goals remain to reduce fatal crashes, discourage impaired and distracted driving, boost safety belt usage, and deter illegal activity. Your hard work and dedication to make our roadways safe and keep drugs out of our communities has made a tremendous impact upon our state. I am confident that your continued leadership will make this year, and those yet to come, a resounding success.

I would like to personally thank each and every one of you who contributed to making 2019 another successful year for the Patrol. Your dedication to service and unwavering commitment to duty is inspiring. I am humbled to serve as your Superintendent.

Colonel Richard S. Fambro
Superintendent

4. Remembering MCEI Kimra Skelton
Friends, family and law enforcement agencies gather to honor MCEI Skelton.

6. Trooper Jason Phillips
Patrol hosts recognition ceremony for those who helped Trooper Phillips.

14. Patrol hosts statewide diversity training
Patrol personnel take part in diversity training.
Patrol breaks ground for new Toledo Post

November 15 is always a significant day for the Patrol; it’s our birthday. On November 15, 2019, ground was broken on a joint public safety facility that will house the Patrol’s Toledo Post and University of Toledo Police Department. Located on the campus of the University of Toledo, this new facility will be one of a kind. The combined facility will have separate spaces for each agency, but both agencies will share common areas, such as training rooms, interview rooms and in-custody processing space.

“It is certainly fitting we are here, on the shores of Lake Erie, to break ground on this joint public safety building,” Colonel Richard S. Fambro said, drawing reference to the first 75 troopers graduating from Camp Perry. The weather was cold and windy, just like it was on this date 86 years earlier, but that didn’t stop a crowd of public officials and Patrol employees from celebrating this milestone.

Planning for this project began several years earlier when the opportunity to partner with the University of Toledo presented itself. The mutual benefits of the partnership were readily apparent. A joint location could lessen costs for both agencies and increased security around campus would benefit the community. For the Patrol, the central location would provide quicker access to interstate highways and high-traffic corridors in the Toledo area.

“When agencies combine resources, share the burden and join in a concerted effort, we can deliver exceptional value and service,” Public Safety Director Thomas Stickrath said. “Ohio needs a strong network of community, resources, and partnerships to be successful.”

University of Toledo Police Department Chief Jeff Newton echoed those comments saying, “We saw an opportunity to be more cost effective and build one state-of-the-art facility together, instead of two separate buildings.”

The first Toledo Post was located in a rented house at the corner of Secor Road and Shawnee Drive in North Toledo. Prior to this, Patrol duties were handled by the Perrysburg Post. Then, on August 15, 1961, the current post opened on Airport Highway in Swanton Township.

The new facility will accommodate about 100 employees and will cost approximately $6.5 million. It is projected to open next winter.
Remembering MCEI Kimra Skelton

On December 3, a line that stretched through the gym of the Arcanum Field House and out into the hallway started to form 30 minutes before the visitation began. During the four-hour visitation, more than 900 people waited as long as two hours to pay their respects to the family. Mourners included Governor Mike DeWine and Public Safety Director Thomas J. Stickrath.

All were there to pay their final respects to Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Kimra J. Skelton, who was struck and killed on November 27 as she was parked in a crossover on Interstate 75 in Miami County.

The mourners consisted of family, friends and coworkers, as well as strangers from around Darke County, the state and the nation.

The funeral service took place the next day and was also held at the Arcanum Field House. Kimra’s casket, draped with an American flag and surrounded by flowers, sat at the end of a long isle, spanning the length of the gymnasium floor as the Patrol’s Honor Guard stood watch.

Along with public safety partners from the Miami Valley region, representatives from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Indiana State Police, Michigan State Police, Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Wisconsin State Patrol also paid their respects.

Family and friends, along with Patrol’s senior staff and former superintendents filled the gym floor. Patrol personnel, other public safety officials, students from Arcanum High School and members of the Darke County community filled the bleachers. As the memorial service started, a family friend greeted the crowd before introducing Colonel Richard S. Fambro.

“Today, we mourn the loss of Kimra and we also celebrate her life and her selfless service,” Colonel Fambro said. “The number of people here speaks volumes about who Kimra was, as well as the strength of our family and this community. Standing here in a room full of distinguished public servants, proud family members and valued friends, is comforting.”

Colonel Fambro went on to tell a story of the day he met Kimra and their immediate bond. He and Kimra’s father, Gerald Miller, a retired Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector, had formed a friendship while Colonel Fambro was an assistant post commander in Springfield.

“She inherited his kind heart and warm demeanor,” Colonel Fambro said adding that he has known her parents for 28 years.

His connection with the Miller and Skelton families could be felt throughout the gymnasium. It was also evident to those in attendance how much the Patrol appreciated and loved Kimra. It wasn’t necessarily the words Colonel Fambro used, but the way he said it.

“She was proud to serve and she loved her coworkers as much as her family,” Colonel Fambro said. “We will continue to honor Kimra and her sacrifice, not just today, but every day.”
As Kimra’s father Gerald spoke, he held on to both sides of the podium. Often having to lean forward and look down.

“Words cannot express my gratitude to my brothers and sisters of the Highway Patrol,” Gerald said. “Not only Ohio, but the entire continental U.S. You’ve given us a whole lot of support.”

The bond between Gerald and the Patrol was strong and as he spoke he expressed his love for his job and the Patrol family. But it was the bond with his daughter that was the strongest. As Gerald spoke, you could feel how proud he was of his daughter.

However, it was the story he told about his daughter wanting to join the Patrol which combined both of his loves. It also demonstrated to the crowd how much Kimra loved her dad.

“She came to me and said ‘Daddy, I want to do what you do,’” Gerald said before adding that he told her how to be a good Patrol employee. “Show up for work. Tell the truth. Don’t lie. Do what you’re told. I tried to instill that in every person I came into contact with.”

Before Gerald took his seat, he looked at the crowd of uniformed personnel.

“God bless you,” he said. “Be safe.”

At the beginning of the funeral procession, the Arcanum Fire Department suspended a large American flag in the air. A block further, two towing companies came together and suspended a large thin blue line flag. As the procession drove through the village of Arcanum, people came out of their homes and businesses to pay their respects. More than 100 vehicles took part in the procession.

At the Abbottsville Cemetery, the sounds of taps filled the windy cold air. To the left of the cemetery tent, first responders stood at attention as the wind whipped around them. The flag that once was draped over the casket was folded and presented to Colonel Fambro. As Colonel Fambro knelt down to present the flag to the Skelton family, he held the hands of Kimra’s husband and whispered to her family.

As the services ended, a heartbroken but gracious Gerald walked the cemetery grounds, thanking as many first responders who attended as he could find.

Kimra joined the Patrol in October 2005 as a traveling dispatcher assigned to the Piqua District Headquarters. In 2011, she transferred to the Piqua Driver License Examination Station as a driver license examiner. In 2016, she was promoted to a motor vehicle inspector and transferred to the Piqua District Commercial Enforcement Unit. In 2017, she was promoted to a motor carrier enforcement inspector.

Donations can be made to the Kimra Skelton Fund through the State Highway Patrol Credit Union, 1900 Polaris Parkway #400, Columbus, OH 43240.

A heartfelt thanks from the Skelton Family

“We would like to take this opportunity to thank this great organization for their amazing support to the Kimra Skelton family during her tragic passing. The overwhelming services this organization rendered, along with the caring and compassion that was revealed to her family, was the best we have ever witness! The family is very grateful for all this and we can never thank you enough! May God continue to bless you and keep you all safe!”
Patrol honors those who helped Trooper Phillips

A recognition ceremony was held at the Patrol’s Training Academy on November 20 to thank everyone who risked their own safety to help Trooper Jason L. Phillips after he was struck by a wrong-way driver. The measures taken on June 19 by several motorists, first responders, and medical professionals saved his life and they were honored for their actions.

On the day of the accident, Harold Heller, Jonathon Nava, Kenneth Rosser, Jorge Sanchez-Jimenez, Moses Silva, Kojo Tsiboe and Jon Yeichner were all driving on Interstate 71. None of them knew they were minutes from crossing paths with Trooper Phillips. Their courageous handling of a dangerous situation and exemplifying the Patrol’s Core Values was awarded with a certificate of recognition presented by Colonel Richard S. Fambro.

The first responders and medical professionals who were honored were Ty Stewart, Heath Beecher and Rebecca Ash from Survival Flight; Judy Ortiz and Adam Vanduzen from Morrow County Emergency Medical Services; and Kay Ashworth and staff from Ohio State University’s Wexner Medical Center.

“For troopers, and all first responders, we are accustomed to being counted on, and we are accustomed to responding to the scene of tragedies and providing aid,” Colonel Fambro said. “But when it’s our trooper receiving the lifesaving care, it makes you stop and think about things differently.”

Patrol employees who were on scene, involved in the crash investigation or performed tasks associated with the support of Trooper Phillips were also asked to stand and be recognized. Lieutenant Marla K. Gaskill told the employees their efforts did not, and have not, gone unnoticed. Each of them performed a task that was critical to the mission and Jason’s recovery.
State Representative Haraz N. Ghanbari also presented Trooper Phillips with a letter from President Donald Trump during the ceremony. In the letter, President Trump offered his well wishes to Trooper Phillips for a full and complete recovery.

Lieutenant Gurjit S. Grewal, Mt. Gilead Post commander, was given the opportunity to provide remarks about Trooper Phillips and those who supported him.

“This has had an enormous effect on Jason, his family and everyone at the post,” Lieutenant Grewal said. “However, during this tough time, there have been so many people who stepped up to help and support Jason and his family.”

The support the Phillips family has received is appreciated and the life-saving measures can never be repaid.

“We owe each of you our deepest respect and admiration for what you did that morning,” Colonel Fambro said. “It’s likely Jason would not be here today if it weren’t for all of these people.”

The gratitude for those who helped did not stop. On December 11, the Ohio House of Representatives provided commendations to Heller, Tsiboe, Rosser, Sanchez-Jimenez and Teichner which were signed by Speaker of the House Larry Householder and Representative Ghanbari. State representatives Laura Lanese, Bill Roemer, Phil Plummer and Mark J. Romanchuk co-sponsored the commendations and acknowledged their respective constituents who heroically saved Trooper Phillips’ life.
Findlay District

Sergeant Nicholas R. Boes and Trooper Chad A. Recker, Lima Post, were presented with awards by the Lima/Allen County Safe Communities Coalition on September 19 during their annual Safe Community Awards. The awards are presented to those who contribute positively toward making roads and communities safer and for extraordinary efforts during the grant year. Trooper Recker was presented the award for saving a baby’s life while conducting an arrest. Sergeant Boes received his award for his impact on traffic safety. Major B. Gene Smith and Staff Lieutenant William N. Bowers were also in attendance.

State Treasurer Robert Sprague and House Representative Haraz Ghanbari, 3rd District, recognized personnel from the Patrol and the Toledo and Findlay police departments with individual proclamations from the Office of the State Treasurer and the Ohio House of Representatives. The recognition was in response to the actions taken by law enforcement personnel after a stolen vehicle with an infant inside were safely recovered.

Bucyrus District

Troopers from the Bucyrus District participated in the Hanging with Heroes event at the New Washington Dollar General. Other agencies who participated were the New Washington Volunteer Fire Department, Bucyrus Police Department and the Crawford County Sheriff’s Office.

On November 8, Trooper Bridget A. Matt, Cleveland Post, took part in a career day event at the Douglas MacArthur Girls Leadership Academy. The event was put on by Sea of Blue, an organization centered on building positive relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Trooper Matt was part of a panel of female officers who spoke on topics of female empowerment, what made them want to become officers and what it is like to be a woman in law enforcement.
During the holiday season, troopers, dispatchers and civilian personnel throughout District 3 conducted Can the Cruiser events in their areas. Some of the events were in partnership with local law enforcement agencies, fire departments and high schools. The events resulted in the collection of nearly 6 tons of food and $3,358 in monetary donations. All donations were then distributed to area food banks.

On October 25, Trooper David C. Costas from the Warren Post participated in the Great Pumpkin Investigation at Lakeview Elementary School. Trooper Costas read poems to students and participated in various activity stations.

On October 28, Lieutenant Jeffrey S. Greene met with retired Patrol Auxiliary Major Daryl Canfield. The significance of this date was 50 years, to the date, of when Canfield graduated from the Auxiliary training. He is currently the Auxiliary recruiter in the Warren District. He served with the Auxiliary program from 1969 to 1995. He departed due to a career re-location, and upon his return to Ohio, he immediately became involved with the program again.

The Warren District raffled off a set of custom Patrol cornhole boards to raise money for area community outreach programs. A total of $1,110 was raised and distributed evenly to the Kinsman Shop with a Cop program and the F.O.P. 106 Kids and Cops Campout. The boards were made and donated by Sergeant Ty W. Skaggs, Office of Planning, and Trooper Larry A. Skaggs, Warren District Investigations. AP1 Charlene Ulrich, D4 Commercial Enforcement, and Dispatcher Supervisor Michelle D. Higgins, Warren Dispatch Center, also helped with fundraising.
The Marysville Post hosted family and members of Cub Scout Pack Number 316 on September 25. More than 50 parents and scouts toured both the Marysville Post and K9 Training Facility. During the tour, participants learned about the variety of equipment used by troopers and K9 handlers. A K9 demonstration was also conducted.

On October 5, Trooper Bradley A. Baker and Auxiliary Unit Corey Everett from the Springfield Post participated in the New Carlisle Heritage of Flight Festival Parade. Each year the Heritage of Flight Festival brings in live entertainment, classic cruise-in, a 5k run/walk, kiddie tractor pull, and a Parade of Planes.

After a Piqua School Bus collided with a semi-truck on Interstate 75 back on December 14, 2018, Patrol troopers were on the scene within seconds and pulled a pregnant woman from the smoking bus. That woman recently reunited with the troopers that helped to save her and her unborn child’s life.

On December 13, U.S. Marshal Peter Tobin awarded Lieutenant Bryan K. Mangin of the Special Response Team with the Dayton Task Force Officer of the Year Award. Lieutenant Mangin was praised for his relentless work ethic and esprit de corps. Lieutenant Mangin is also one of Southern Ohio’s lead fugitive investigators and has closed several high profile cases with apprehensions as far away as California.
In November, the Patrol hosted their first Holiday Card contest open to students up to 12 years of age. Ms. Keri Kern’s 3rd grade class at Bloom Carroll Elementary in Lithopolis took this opportunity to show their holiday spirit and submitted more than 15 different images. Troopers at the Lancaster Post showed their appreciation for the hard work Ms. Kern’s students put into this project by displaying the art work in the center of the Lancaster Post for all to see.

Washington County 4-H presented the Marietta Post with a Friend of 4-H Award for their work with the CARTEENS Program. Lieutenant Richard C. Chesar and Trooper Dustin Payne accepted the award on the post’s behalf.

In October, Lieutenant Randy L. McElfresh, Georgetown Post, and Trooper Jacob A. McGill, Batavia Post, delivered a safety message at Felicity-Franklin Elementary School as part of their Red Ribbon Week Kickoff. They discussed pedestrian safety, bicycle safety, proper safety belt usage, drug awareness and positive decision making. Approximately 430 students and staff were in attendance for the rally.

Staff Sergeant Nathan Timberlake (trooper from the Georgetown Post) and Major General Gordon Ellis (Sheriff of Brown County) ran into each other in the Arabian Peninsula while serving in Operation Spartan Shield. Trooper Timberlake is on a yearlong deployment overseas in support of the operation.

Lieutenant Robert M. Hayslip and the Batavia Post partnered with Clermont County Safe Communities to conduct a mocktail event at the University of Cincinnati Clermont Branch. The focus of the event was to make students aware of non-alcoholic alternative drinks. More than 100 college students attended the event and were educated on the importance of safe, sober driving during the holiday season.

In October, Lieutenant Richard C. Chesar and Trooper Dustin Payne accepted the award on the post’s behalf.
Jackson District

Chillicothe resident Melissa Callaway recently gave a presentation at the Jackson District’s annual sergeants training about her experience as a survivor of human trafficking. In appreciation of her dedication to educate individuals on human trafficking, she was presented a Certificate of Appreciation by Captain David R. Allwine, Lieutenant James D. Lott and Sergeant Christopher R. Smith.

GHQ

The Department of Public Safety Military Committee honored Sergeant Laura C. Taylor for her military service in the U.S. Army. Colonel Richard S. Fambro and Public Safety Assistant Director Karen Huey provided remarks to those in attendance.

Layla Angelo, of Etna Elementary in Licking County, was the winner of the Patrol’s first Holiday Card contest. Her artwork included a Patrol cruiser with evergreen trees in a snow globe. Angelo received a Certificate of Appreciation from Colonel Richard S. Fambro for her winning submission.

On November 18, the Patrol and OIU’s command staff participated in a leadership enrichment meeting at the Patrol’s Training Academy featuring Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Tuggle of the Mississippi Highway Patrol. Lt. Col. Tuggle addressed the command staff on the “Introduction to the 14 Leadership Traits and Identifying Transactional Transformational Behaviors.”

The Portsmouth Post partnered with Sonshine School of Evangelism to promote their Shop with a Trooper program. Shawnee State University supported the effort by hosting a concert with various artists, including the West High School choir. The event specifically recognized first responders for their service. Three individuals, including Trooper Matt K. Lloyd’s daughter, Addison Lloyd, 7, were presented with the Outstanding Community Service award for their work in the Minford area.

Members of the Patrol coached in a youth basketball league coordinated by the Lance and Aileen Porter Foundation. The goal of the league was to provide the kids an opportunity to challenge themselves in a supportive environment while fostering positive relationships between police and the community. Practices were held twice a week and games were played on Saturdays at the Adams Community Center. Trooper Ryan E. Elsey’s 76ers were league champs with a record of 5-1 and Public Safety Intel Analyst Chad M. Chessin won the coach of the year award. Lieutenant Colonel Kevin D. Teaford, Lieutenant Robert G. Sellers and sergeants Melanie L. Provenzano and Chris L. Ellison also participated as volunteer coaches.
Patrol Celebrates 86th Birthday

On November 15, the Ohio State Highway Patrol celebrated 86 years of uninterrupted professional service. All members of the Patrol, past and present, were encouraged to reflect on the success of this organization and recognize this momentous anniversary.

It was stated that the Patrol cannot properly celebrate their accomplishments without first paying tribute to those who have come before, and Patrol personnel spent time with one another doing just that. Current and past employees gathered at Patrol posts all across the state to take a moment to reflect on their hard work and accomplishments. These individuals enjoyed cake and other refreshments as they shared stories of the Patrol’s past, and discussed the future of the Division.

Representative Brian Baldridge, District 90, Colonel Richard S. Fambro and other members of the Senior Staff took a pause and spent time at a number of posts to celebrate this historic occasion.

“On this 86th birthday of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, I want us all to remember the humble beginnings we came from and re-dedicate ourselves to the mission – saving lives,” Colonel Fambro said.

Colonel Fambro reminded everyone of how proud he was of Division personnel and everything they have done to make the Patrol what it is today. The Division used this opportunity to consolidate, reorganize and prepare for another legendary year.
Patrol hosts statewide diversity training

In 2019, the Patrol completed diversity training for all Division employees. While diversity training had occurred in the past, this training marked a critical turning point for the Division. This was the first statewide training facilitated by the newly established Diversity Office and a major step toward supporting the Patrol’s commitment to celebrating the diversity and individual talents of current and future employees. This initial training is just one part of multifaceted approach developed to champion a more inclusive organizational culture.

The path toward statewide diversity training began in 2018 when the Patrol began working with Northeastern University Associate Vice President and Chief of Police Michael Davis to develop the program. The purpose of the training sessions was to help obtain initial impressions of diversity-related issues, discuss perceptions of the Patrol’s overall diversity climate, set parameters for future training and set goals for the Patrol’s diversity initiative.

The Diversity Office began preparations for statewide diversity training with the assistance of Chief Davis. Instead of bringing all employees to the Training Academy in Columbus or holding separate trainings for sworn and civilian staff, the decision was made to keep everyone together in their own district, with the trainings facilitated by local Patrol personnel. In total, 32 employees were selected as diversity instructors, including sworn officers and civilians representing a variety of different positions and assignments.

During the eight-hour statewide training, diversity instructors explored this principle as part of discussions on American history, police legitimacy and procedural justice. Instructors utilized a small-group, discussion-based format to encourage everyone to participate in the dialog. This allowed for a sharing of ideas and perspectives which would have been missed in a lecture format or if the training had been separated by employee type.

“It was such a privilege to see the diverse group of employees serving the citizens of Ohio and visitors that travel through our great state,” regional instructor for District 5 Lieutenant Molly J. Harris said. “Their knowledge, experience and passion for the work they do brings a tremendous amount of value to the agency.”
The goals of the 2019 regional diversity training were to improve understanding of core training concepts, foster greater appreciation for fellow employees and start an ongoing dialog concerning the organizational culture. Anonymous survey results obtained after the training suggest that all of these goals were met. More than 50 percent of participants reported their understanding of each of the training concepts improved; 70 percent reported that the training met or exceeded their expectations; and over 60 percent reported they would recommend the training to others. Overall, participants rated the training a seven out of 10. In addition, numerous employees commented on being pleasantly surprised about the content of the training and appreciating the time they spent learning about their fellow coworkers.

The first part of the training focused on external, police-citizen interactions from the perspective of both officers and the public. The second half of the training focused on interactions within the agency and the Patrol’s culture in general. Throughout the training, attendees shared stories from their personal lives which enriched the overall training environment.

Since training concluded, the Diversity Office has compiled ideas and suggestions shared during the training and on the post-training survey. While overall results were positive, some expressed skepticism that training would make a real difference in the Patrol’s culture or general disappointment about the Patrol’s decision to implement the training. Others felt the title of the course was misleading and didn’t truly reflect the content.

Regional instructors were brought back together to review these survey results, discuss challenges, opportunities and share ideas for future training.

District 3 regional diversity instructor Staff Lieutenant Antonio L. Matos sees the potential for personal and organizational growth through continued diversity training and initiatives.

“When we learn and understand to celebrate our diversity, we come together as a team and as a family with beauty and strength to overcome anything and spread joy,” said Staff Lieutenant Matos.

Complete survey results have been shared with Senior Staff and district captains. A summary of the results was also shared during a presentation to all commanders in December 2019.

For Division Diversity Officer Captain Hill, diversity training is all about building relationships.

“I believe the most important aspect of this training is building positive relationships with whom we serve and work,” Captain Hill said. “It has been proven that relationships matter. When you have a relationship, people get to know you and trust you. Employees are more likely to work enthusiastically and produce great results because of positive relationships.”
Precision Immobilization Technique Training

The new Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) course for all staff lieutenants and below provides a tool for law enforcement that is specifically designed as an intervention tactic. The core mission of the Patrol has remained the same since 1933 of providing professional law enforcement services focused on promoting traffic safety for all we serve. Therefore, changing with the times requires the Patrol to face and adapt to unique challenges of law enforcement with new perspectives.

PIT is a tool that can be utilized to end a pursuit, and it is based on careful consideration of all facts known to the pursuing officer and or supervisor. The technique is only initiated when conditions are favorable and is necessary to control the situation. The definition of PIT states, the intentional act of using a police vehicle to physically force a fleeing vehicle from a course of travel in order to stop it. When performed properly, the suspect vehicle will spin 180 degrees with minimal force applied. In fact, with safety at the forefront, extensive research was conducted using PIT on various types of vehicles showing that air bag deployment is unlikely when making contact. Most airbag sensors detect impact from the center of the vehicle, and because the officer is trained to make the cruiser contact laterally, the sensors are not activated.

The objective behind the maneuver is to stop a pursuit before it travels extensive distances or reaches high speeds. The ideal scenarios in which the maneuver could be utilized would include a situation of an impaired/reckless driver that is at a slower speed and failing to comply with lights and sirens, or a wrong-way driver that fails to stop. The overall goal is to immobilize the fleeing vehicle so it’s no longer a threat to the public or the officers in pursuit, while attempting to minimize damage to both vehicles involved.

The PIT maneuver entered policy in 2017, and earlier this year, Sergeant Terrance D. Vollmer of the Patrol's Training Academy implemented a course derived from the Ohio Police Officers Training Academy and Fairfax County Virginia Police curriculum's, NASCAR, and Anti-Terror Techniques. History tells us the first agency to implement PIT was the California Highway Patrol in 1992 followed by Washington State Police in 1997. The technique is known to make vehicle dynamics and the laws of motion work for the pursuing officer.

“The training, overall, has been successful,” Sergeant Vollmer said. “We've had many troopers state it's the best training they've had in their entire career.”

In order to utilize the PIT, a Division officer must be trained in its use, receive prior approval from a supervisor, have a back-up officer present to assist and at a speed of 40 mph or less.

The Patrol is constantly re-assessing pursuit alternatives. In fact, the Aviation Unit allows troopers to follow vehicles at a safe distance while the Tactical Flight Officer can follow the driver for perimeter control once the vehicle stops or is abandoned. If the Aviation Unit is unavailable, the PIT maneuver provides troopers with an option that is safer than just striking the violator vehicle to intervene before a tragedy occurs.
Mobile Field Force receives new equipment

The Division’s Mobile Field Force consists of troopers specially trained and equipped to manage any form of public gathering such as rallies, marches or demonstration events. Since its inception in 2011, the Mobile Field Force has been deployed to numerous large-scale national and regional events in and out of the state of Ohio.

During a deployment in 2018 to Kent State University, the Division realized a need for specific equipment and training to better prepare for future civil unrest due to changes in protest trends and tactics.

In spring of 2019, troopers of the Division’s Mobile Field Force attended Level 1 Public Order training. This training provided advanced knowledge and real-world application in formations, tactics and techniques, close quarter confrontation, and crowd management principles.

As part of the training, troopers were outfitted with new personal protective equipment designed and tested to provide protection from biohazardous liquids and solids, particulates, and aerosol threats encountered during hazardous crowd control incidents. In addition, troopers were issued fire retardant balaclavas, gloves, jackets and pants. The new gear also includes gas masks, helmets and communications equipment.

Additionally, as part of the effort to better prepare for future unrest, the Mobile Field Force acquired three 15-passenger, hi-roof vans for deployment transport and rescue, as well as a temporary shelter capable of housing 36 troopers. The shelter is portable and has lighting as well as heating and cooling units to maintain a safe environment that is protected from the elements.
Patrol launches OSTATS Program

OSHP NEWS & EVENTS

OSTATS (Ohio Statistics and Analytics for Traffic Safety) was developed by the Geographic Information Systems team in the Patrol’s Statistical Analysis Unit. During the program’s development, a group of post commanders helped test OSTATS in the field and provided suggestions and feedback. Their insight ensured the program was practical and useful. OSTATS was launched internally on September 27 and the public version was launched on October 9.

The intent behind creating OSTATS was to assist commanders and first-line supervisor’s to better direct resources by gaining insight from collected data. It provides a quick way for units to get statistics and allows users to view and interact with the data in their area in the form of maps, charts and graphs. OSTATS also offers the ability to look at the crash data compared to the enforcement data. By using these reports, units can analyze whether or not they are working where and when crashes are happening and adjust operations accordingly.

The public version allows users to access crash data from 2014 to current date. OSTATS provides the public, media and fellow safety service partners information about their areas and across the state. To date, the Patrol has had well over 25,000 hits on the public version. OSTATS can be accessed anywhere by clicking on the statistics tab on the Patrol’s web site.

Patrol hosts first holiday card contest

The Patrol’s first Holiday Card Contest was held in November for children who were up to 12 years old. The criteria for submitting artwork included having a “Happy Holidays” message and one of three items — a Patrol cruiser, state trooper or the Flying Wheel. Those with submissions were asked to provide the child’s name, school name, grade, age and parent contact information. The submission window was open for 10 days with artwork received from across the state.

The contest received nearly 50 unique and special art submissions from many talented children. The winner of the contest was Layla Angelo of Etna Elementary in Licking County. Her artwork was featured as the Patrol holiday social media graphic on December 25.

The Patrol was overwhelmed with the response and creativity of the submissions. Two runner-ups were also selected; 10-year-old Riley Tremblay, who is homeschooled in Franklin County, and 8-year-old Brant Bliss, who is homeschooled out of Pickaway County. The two runner-ups and several honorable mentions were also posted to the Patrol Facebook for public display.

Those who submitted artwork received a letter from Colonel Fambro thanking them for their participation in the 2019 Holiday Card Contest.
During the 2019 National Liquor Law Enforcement Association annual conference in Biloxi, Miss., Ohio Investigative Unit Agent-in-Charge Greg A. Croft (far left) was sworn in as president of the association. Croft, who has served on the board of directors since 2016, will preside over approximately 1,200 members from across the United States and Canada. The board oversees training opportunities and promotes best practices in liquor law enforcement.

“It is a great privilege to serve as the President of NLLEA,” Croft said. “I am honored to represent Ohio and the Investigative Unit on a national scale.” It’s the first time someone from Ohio has held the position since 2011-2012 by then Deputy Director Richard Cologie.

ACE/Criminal Patrol Awards

Congratulations to the winners of Ace and Criminal Patrol Awards who were recognized on October 21. These troopers worked diligently to look "beyond the plate" in order to remove drugs from Ohio communities and return stolen vehicles to their rightful owners.

AIC Croft Presides Over National Association

During the 2019 National Liquor Law Enforcement Association annual conference in Biloxi, Miss., Ohio Investigative Unit Agent-in-Charge Greg A. Croft (far left) was sworn in as president of the association. Croft, who has served on the board of directors since 2016, will preside over approximately 1,200 members from across the United States and Canada. The board oversees training opportunities and promotes best practices in liquor law enforcement.

“It is a great privilege to serve as the President of NLLEA,” Croft said. “I am honored to represent Ohio and the Investigative Unit on a national scale.” It’s the first time someone from Ohio has held the position since 2011-2012 by then Deputy Director Richard Cologie.
Perry Rogers, a former Auxiliary Lieutenant from the Granville Post, was sworn in on November 21 as a Trooper with the Alabama Highway Patrol. His wife, Catherine Rogers, pinned on his badge during the graduation ceremony at the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center in Selma. Rogers said what he learned as an Auxiliary Officer with the Patrol convinced him to become a trooper when he moved back to his home state of Alabama.
Patrol retirees kicked off the New Year with the first "2020" Walt Liddle Memorial Late Lunch at Willow Brook in Delaware with a record turnout. Thanks to our special guests, Colonel Richard S. Fambro, Major Charles A. Jones, Delaware Post Commander Lieutenant Eric A. Caudill, OSHPRS Director Carl Roark and State Highway Patrol Federal Credit Union Director Becky Landis. A special thanks to event coordinator Retired Sergeant Harry Schwind for putting together another great gathering.

Retired Trooper Cecil Carpenter graduated from the 35th Academy Class on May 9, 1952. Upon graduation, Carpenter was assigned to the Portsmouth Post. At the post, there was one motorcycle, a Harley 74, which he was very fond of and spent hours on during his time there. After nearly 28 years with the Patrol, Carpenter retired on February 22, 1980.

Although Carpenter is retired, he still keeps in touch with Lieutenant Christopher S. Kelly, Portsmouth Post Commander. Most recently, Carpenter had the opportunity to see and get a photo on one of the current Patrol motorcycles.

For the Patrol’s 86th birthday celebration on November 15, Carpenter was presented with a gift. There was a photo of him on a motorcycle back when he was a trooper, and below it was the photo he had just taken. Lieutenant Kelly, retired Lieutenant Bob Woodford, Representative Brian Baldridge and Dr. John Lorentz presented him with his photo.
Carl Roark
Captain Carl Roark, Jackson District Headquarters, retired on October 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 Dayton Post. In 1995, he earned the prestigious Superintendent’s Citation of Merit Award, the Blue Max Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement and was selected as Post and District Trooper of the Year. He also earned the Ace Award three times. In 1998, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Lebanon Post to serve as an assistant commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Xenia Post. In 2000, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Ironton Post to serve as commander. In 2005, he was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and transferred to the Fiscal Services Section. In 2010, he was promoted to the rank of captain and remained in the Fiscal Services Section as commander. As a captain, he also served in the Licensing and Commercial Standards Unit and the Jackson District Headquarters.

Captain Roark served in the United States Marines from 1985 to 1989. He earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in law enforcement from Sinclair Community College in 1995. He completed training at the FBI National Academy in 2005. He also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in public administration in 2006 and a Master of Business Administration degree in 2008 from Franklin University.

Darrell G. Harris
Lieutenant Darrell G. Harris, Professional Standards Unit, retired on October 4, 2019, after 29 years with the Patrol. He began his Patrol career in November 1989 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Wilmington Post. He began his training as a member of the 123rd Academy Class in May 1992. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Hiram Post. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year three times and District Trooper of the Year twice. In 1999, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Marietta Post to serve as an assistant post commander. In 2008, he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. As a sergeant, he also served at the Warren, Canton and Lisbon posts.

Sergeant Cox earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in criminal justice from the University of Cincinnati in 1990 and a Bachelors in Science degree in criminal justice and business management from Ashland University in 1992.

Mark B. Herren
Lieutenant Mark B. Herren, Wilmington District Criminal Investigations, retired on September 27, 2019, after 30 years with the Patrol. He started his Patrol career in July 1989 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Ironton and Batavia posts. He began his training as a member of the 121st Academy Class in May 1991. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Bucyrus Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Batavia Post and in the Wilmington District Criminal Investigations. While in the Wilmington District Criminal Investigations, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 2011 and to lieutenant in 2015.

Ronald L. Cox Jr.
Sergeant Ronald L. Cox Jr., Lisbon Post, retired on October 10, 2019, after 26 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1993 as a member of the 125th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Hiram Post. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year three times and District Trooper of the Year twice. In 1999, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Marietta Post to serve as an assistant post commander. In 2008, he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. As a sergeant, he also served at the Warren, Canton and Lisbon posts.

Sergeant Cox served in the United States Marines from 1985 to 1989. He earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in law enforcement from Sinclair Community College in 1995. He completed training at the FBI National Academy in 2005. He also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in public administration in 2006 and a Master of Business Administration degree in 2008 from Franklin University.

Retirements in this issue of the Flying Wheel include those employees who retired from September - November 2019.
Bradd A. Field
Sergeant Bradd A. Field, Columbus District License and Commercial Standards Unit, retired on October 3, 2019, after 27 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 Sandusky Post. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year five times. As a trooper, he also served at the Marion Post. In 2002, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Bucyrus Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Bucyrus and Columbus district license and commercial standards units.

Todd D. McDonald
Sergeant Todd D. McDonald, St. Clairsville Post, retired on October 18, 2019, after 21 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in October 1998 as a member of the 132nd Academy Class. He earned his commission in April of the following year and was assigned to the St. Clairsville Post. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year three times and District Trooper of the Year in 2004. He earned the Criminal Patrol Award four times. As a trooper, he also served at the Steubenville Post. In 2006, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Marietta Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Steubenville and Lisbon posts. Sergeant McDonald served in the United States Air Force from 1993 to 1997. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice from West Virginia University in 2008.

Scott D. Powers
Sergeant Scott D. Powers, Cleveland Post, retired on September 12, 2019, after 26 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1993 as a member of the 125th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Fremont Post. In 2011, he earned the Blue Max Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. As a trooper, he also served at the Elyria and Cleveland posts, Cleveland Operations, and Cleveland District Criminal Investigations. In 2012, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Milan Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Cleveland Post. Sergeant Powers earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in criminal justice from Lorain County Community College in 1991.

Darwin R. Reed
Sergeant Dawrin R. Reed, Piqua Post, retired on November 22, 2019, after 32 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 Piqua Post. He earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement and was selected as Post Trooper of the Year four times. In 2004, 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 at the Piqua Post and Piqua District Criminal Investigations Unit.

Jeremy Ault
Trooper Jeremy Ault, Batavia Post, entered disability retirement on October 27, 2019, after three years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in October 2016 as a member of the 161st Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year and has been assigned to the Batavia Post throughout his career.

Brian K. Edelbrock
Trooper Brian K. Edelbrock, Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on November 1, 2019, after 27 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 Lima Post. In 2012, he transferred to the Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit. Trooper Edelbrock earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in law from Lima Technical College in 1991.
Trooper Brett A. Mealer, Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on October 3, 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 Swanton Post. In 2012, he transferred to the Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

Trooper Tony D. Stephens, Hiram Post, retired on October 16, 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 Warren Post. In 2000, he earned the prestigious Superintendent’s Citation of Merit Award, and in 2003 he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. He was also selected as Post Trooper of the Year twice. Throughout his career, he served at the Lisbon, Canfield, Hiram and Ashtabula posts.

Wesley Wells Jr., Expo Center, retired on October 31, 2019, after 22 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in April 1997 as a Police Officer 1 assigned to the Statehouse. As a Police Officer 1 and 2 he served at the Statehouse and the Shipley Building. Officer Wells served in the United States Army from 1986 to 1991 and from 1993 to 1996.

Dispatcher Edward W. Weirick, Van Wert Dispatcher Center, retired on October 30, 2019, after 25 years of public service. He began his public service career in 1994 as a 911 Communications Officer with the Mercer County Sheriff’s Office. He joined the Patrol in October 2007 as a dispatcher and has been assigned to the Van Wert Dispatch Center throughout his career.

Infrastructure Specialist 2 David E. Butts, Computer Operations, retired on September 30, 2019, after 30 years of state service. He began his state service with the Ohio Department of Administrative Services in 1989 as a Computer Operator 2. He joined the Patrol in 1997 as Network Administrator 1 assigned to the Wilmington District Headquarters. As a Network Administrator, he also served at the Columbus District Headquarters and Technology Communications. In 2002, he was promoted to Infrastructure Specialist 2 and transferred to Computer Operations. As an Infrastructure Specialist 2, he also served in Systems Operations/LEADS. Infrastructure Specialist 2 Butts served in the United States Navy from 1983 to 1987.

Susan Y. Norton, Cleveland District Headquarters, retired on September 27, 2019, after 14 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in February 2005 as an Infrastructure Specialist 2 and has been assigned to the Cleveland District Headquarters throughout her career. Infrastructure Specialist 2 Norton earned a Bachelor of Science degree in information technology from Youngstown State University in 2004.
Arthur D. Kitzmiller
Software Development Specialist 2 Arthur D. Kitzmiller, Computer Operations, retired on October 31, 2019, after 30 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in July 1989 as a Systems Analyst 1 assigned to Telecommunications and LEADS Programming. As a Systems Analyst 1 he also served in Systems Operations. In 1990, he was promoted to a Software Development Specialist 2 and remained in Systems Operations, LEADS. In 2008, he received the State Employee Recognition Award. As a Software Development Specialist 2, he also served in Computer Operations. Kitzmiller earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in computer science from Columbus State Community College in 1988.

David L. Gale
Storekeeper Supervisor David L. Gale, Tailor Shop, retired on October 31, 2019, after 5 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in August 2014 as a Storekeeper Supervisor and has been assigned to the Tailor Shop throughout his career. Supervisor Gale served in the United States Army from 1972 through 1978.

2020 Retiree Events

- March 6
  Snowbird Reunion - Orlando Marriott Lake Mary, FL
- June 12
  Retiree’s Cookout - Academy
- August 8
  North Coast Sunbird Reunion - Sandusky, OH
- November 7
  Annual Dinner & Meeting - Ohio Shrine Center, Grove City, OH
The other day an article caught my eye and caused me to wonder about what makes for happiness in life. The article cited a study which revealed that 47 was the age when people were most miserable. That surprised me. I would have thought that those of us in the late eighties and early nineties would be the most miserable as we begin to lose our mobility and ability to engage in activities. But personal reflection caused me to reevaluate the cause and meaning of happiness. Is happiness an entitlement or is it an acceptance of our situation in life?

Many years ago an individual came to me for counseling. He claimed that he was miserable and restless. Even though he appeared to have a good marriage and his financial situation was such as to make the average person jealous, he was very unhappy. He needed a change. Whether or not my response was inspired, it seemed to challenge him. I asked him what right he had to claim happiness at the expense of others. I suggested that perhaps true happiness is not so much the circumstances in which we find ourselves as it is the attitude we have concerning our circumstances. He later thanked me for saving his marriage and losing so much of what he had acquired. Happiness is not a right to be claimed. It is an attitude to be developed.

The book of Lamentations in the Old Testament is anything but a cheery and happy portion of Scripture. It describes a time of famine and suffering. It wasn’t a time of joy or happiness. Just a portion tells of the horrible conditions. "Look, O Lord, and consider: Whom have you ever treated this way? Should priest and prophet be killed in the sanctuary of the Lord." (Lamentations 2:20). It would seem as if there was no hope, no future, no happiness. Then into the darkness of despair there comes the light of perhaps a single tiny, twinkling star.

Tucked into the message of doom and gloom there are these words of hope and life. "Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:21-23).

Perhaps – just perhaps – the key to happiness is in our hands. Perhaps it is the attitude we have at the beginning of the day or shift. It is a decision to either see the negative or the positive. It is a decision to choose a companion for the day. One can either choose to go with a complaining negative spirit or with the Lord of Life who can open our eyes to see the wonderful mercies and blessings to be experienced and then shared. It is a choice. It is a choice which makes a difference not only in our personal lives, but in the lives of those around us.

These are challenging days, but the Lord comes to us today as he did to the people of ancient Israel inviting us to discover the mercies and blessings which lead to true happiness. The invitation is always there for us each day. Choose life and experience true happiness.

Remember, also, that all your Chaplains are available with whom you can share in a personal way at any time. You are in our prayers.

Respectfully yours,

Richard D. Ellsworth
State Chaplain