Body-Worn Cameras added to professional operations

pg. 6
We can read in our history books, or know from being a part of this Division, often times the solutions to our greatest problems are in the hands of those who choose to be part of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Whether from the sworn ranks, or professional staff – our people always come through and deliver us from the tough times.

I want to thank and challenge the people who continue to stay the course and make the Ohio State Highway Patrol their personal choice.

I also want to take a moment to congratulate all of those who have chosen to re-engage in their collegiate professional development. This Division is comprised of some of the brightest across the nation, and is further enhanced by this investment in education.

When I go back to why I am here, it comes back to what I chose to do nearly 33 years ago, which was to dedicate my life to this Division and the mission of saving lives. This is what I love. I know the same can be said for many of you, whether sworn or professional staff, active or retired.

I came into this organization with the desire to make an impact and have a career that would take care of my family. Never would I have dreamed that I would become the colonel. Which proves this - any of you could be the colonel in this elite organization. Continue to invest in your co-workers and in yourself.

I’m mentioning this because I want to appeal to the personal side of why people stay with us, and continue to develop themselves, particularly during challenging times like these.

It will be through our perseverance, one person at a time, and one moment at a time, that together we can be the glue that holds the Division together so we get through this period.

In this issue we again mourn the loss of one of our own, a great person who loved this Division – Lieutenant Brian K. Aller of the Springfield Post.

Lt. Aller had a desire to be here and to be present. He came to us through the Champaign County Sheriff’s Office and a small police department in Champaign County before joining our ranks. Ultimately, he found a home with us.

I know many of our posts have challenges from a staffing standpoint. I want to share with everyone what we are doing to try and stem the tide of sworn officer departures, and our efforts to bring in reinforcements. We have the 168th Class getting ready to graduate and begin their field training. The 169th Class started on November 17 and we are planning to start the 170th Class in February.

Just prior to Thanksgiving, Lt. Colonels Gaskill and Jones joined me in talking with the reinforcements who are coming from the 168th and 169th Cadet Classes. They are eager to join you and ready to make an impact. They see what you are doing day in and day out, saving lives.

As we grow our numbers across the state, it will be vital that our experienced personnel mentor these young troopers to ensure we maintain our reputation of Service with Respect as our compass. We have always been about treating people with dignity and respect. The ICAT training covered in this issue showcases another opportunity for us to connect with, and make sure we are delivering, the type of services that our founders expected us to deliver.

Staying current with technology is another thing we have been, and always will be about, so that we can provide the best opportunity for our personnel to serve the public. The latest example is also featured in this issue with the recent enhancement to our transparency as an agency with the introduction of body-worn cameras. It was an honor to have Governor Mike DeWine come to the Academy on November 23 to elevate our leadership role in this important area of enhancing community-police relations.

We broke the mold two decades ago by being one of the first agencies to implement in-car video systems and incorporate technology that recorded the operations of our troopers. We did not flinch then, and we are certainly not going to now. In fact, you can make the case that now, more than ever, it is another opportunity to enhance our public value by showcasing the work that our women and men do on a daily basis.

The ICAT training and body-worn cameras are illustrative of why people choose us. It also reflects on why the public thinks so highly of us. We don’t run from the challenges that are in front of us. And I thank you for choosing the Ohio State Highway Patrol as your pathway to make an impact and help make Ohio a better, safer place.

In closing, I would ask you to continue focusing on the “why” – Why is the Ohio State Highway Patrol your home?

Be safe, take care of your families and each other.

Colonel Richard S. Fambro
Superintendent
LIEUTENANT BRIAN K. ALLER

The Ohio State Highway Patrol mourns the loss of Lieutenant Brian K. Aller of the Springfield Post, who passed away on September 29, 2021. Lieutenant Aller graduated with the 129th Academy class and had 23 years of service with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Brian was assigned to the Dayton, Piqua, and Springfield posts as well as the Office of Finance and Logistics. Lieutenant Aller was also an instructor for the Drug Recognition Expert program, often helping with classroom and field training.

On the day of his funeral, a procession of cruisers and other public safety vehicles passed by the Rose Music Center at the Heights, in Huber Heights, Ohio, to pay their final respects (pictured below). Brian is survived by his wife, Kristin, and their children; Sydney, Caleb and Hannah.

THANK YOU LETTER FROM REV’S FAMILY

Dated: October 10, 2021 from the Ellsworth Family
Dear friends of the Ohio State Highway Patrol,

We cannot thank you enough for the incredible support we have received from members of the State Highway Patrol. It was most evident at the memorial service for our father, Richard Ellsworth. We were particularly impressed by the way the Patrol worked with the police departments of Columbus and Westerville to honor our dad. The love and respect shown to him and our mother has been greatly appreciated.

Our dad, “Rev”, could not have been prouder of his association with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. During his time as your chaplain (30 years), he eagerly embraced any opportunity to spend time with you. He had the utmost respect for the Patrol, supported your mission of “Service above self”, and felt called to minister to members of the Patrol. Dad also developed close friendships through his years as your chaplain. Those friendships provided great joy as well as support during some of his most difficult times in life. We are grateful to those friends who meant so much to him.

Dad often spoke of the Patrol as being like a family, being with you in good times as well as bad. We, in the Ellsworth family, have benefitted and continue to benefit from being a part of the Patrol “family”. Thank you so much for all of the support we have received from the Ohio State Highway Patrol. We are truly blessed to be a part of your family. God bless you all.

In love and gratitude,
The Ellsworth Family
PATROL DISTRICTS BEGIN ICAT TRAINING

As a part of our ongoing efforts to maintain and improve our professional operations, we have developed training that will enhance officer safety, tactics and de-escalation. Integrating Communications, Assessment and Tactics, which is commonly referred to as ICAT, allows our officers to work a tactical problem from a point of relative safety. This enables time for officers to make sound decisions, potentially de-escalating the situation and achieving voluntary compliance.

During the summer, Lieutenant Andre T. Swinerton and Sergeant Joshua P. Eldridge (pictured above), Regional Training Unit, began working to bring ICAT to the Patrol. They attended training at The Ohio State University Police Department and met with their officers. The program was modified to meet the needs of the Patrol.

The decision was made to implement the program in the field. Three to four sergeants from each district attended a one-day “train the trainer” course. They were given materials and ways to teach their troopers the six modules.

“Give them the time,” Lieutenant Swinerton said. “We have everything but time, so let’s use it. We used to say, ‘We need to go home safe at night.’ We need to say, ‘Everyone needs to go home safe at night.’”

Another part of the training is to teach officers how to recognize the special needs population. For example, putting hands on a person who may be on the autism spectrum is often a trigger. This training allows officers to recognize the signs, such as rocking back and forth, as well as rubbing their hands.

The first three training modules were rolled out to troopers in October. Since that time, the training and the thought process behind it has been well received, Swinerton said. The remaining modules will be taught in 2022.

The Cambridge District recently completed the ICAT training. According to Cambridge District Staff Lieutenant James M. Faunda, while they have not had similar incidents, it was obvious during class that the troopers benefited from the in-depth discussion and scenario-based training. He added that one training module – recognizing people in crisis and mental illness - specifically was eye opening for many of the troopers. The fact that one in five people are dealing with some type of mental health issue was a big topic of discussion for the group.

“The take away – there are multiple options and approaches to each situation,” said Staff Lieutenant Faunda. “My hope is that our troopers take the time to listen and evaluate each situation on its own merit and our troopers slow down and attempt to understand the situation they are dealing with, instead of acting on preconceived notions.”

“When we began rolling it out, we wanted districts to choose their instructors,” said Lieutenant Swinerton. “Localizing the instructors allows familiarization, group interactions, and questions and answers with the sergeant, who they are comfortable with.”

The six modules listed in the training curriculum include: Introduction to ICAT; critical decision-making, crisis recognition and response, tactical communications, operational safety tactics, and integration and practice (scenario-based exercises).

The training gave officers ideas and tactics on de-escalation – recognizing situational issues or mental crisis. According to Lieutenant Swinerton, they want troopers to look beyond the traffic stop to help someone and find commonalities without sacrificing officer safety, instead of immediately arresting the person. ICAT is designed to teach officers how to resolve the situation before it goes bad, while not amplifying the situation.
An important new addition to the Ohio State Highway Patrol’s professional operations toolbox is the introduction of body-worn cameras, which troopers began wearing in November. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Colonel Richard S. Fambro made the announcement at a press conference held at the Patrol’s Training Academy on November 23.

For over 20 years, troopers have been on video during their daily work, with cruiser-mounted dash cameras capturing traffic stops, acts of service and the Division’s commitment to safe roadways. The use of dash camera video has been crucial to documenting evidence as well as showing the public value produced by Ohio troopers. An important aspect of the video captured by the Patrol is the transparency it provides to the public, which builds further trust in troopers’ operations and daily activity.

The high-definition body-worn cameras, which were purchased through existing funding in the Patrol’s operating budget, represent a $15 million dollar technological investment over a five-year period. In addition to body-worn cameras, cruisers will also have new dash cameras and rear-seat cameras installed, making the entire car an integrated system.

On June 17, 2020, Governor DeWine announced the Patrol was to begin outfitting all troopers with body-worn cameras as part of a 10-point plan to reform policing in Ohio. Similar to the current system, troopers only have to activate their lights or siren to start recording with the dash camera, and when they exit the vehicle their body-worn camera will automatically start recording. This allows troopers to focus on their traffic stops, and not have to be preoccupied with an additional task to start recording.

“Body-worn cameras represent a crucial step towards improving officer safety, while also showing the public the important work troopers do every day,” Colonel Fambro, Patrol superintendent, said. “The added layer of transparency the body-worn cameras offer will continue to illustrate the work our units do day in and day out, providing service with respect.”

Testing for the body-worn cameras occurred summer through fall of 2020. Four different brands were chosen for the testing, which focused on finding a system that would fit that Patrol’s needs while also providing the highest quality of transparency in our operations. In addition to the new cameras, storage options and contractual agreements were also a part of the process to purchase 1,550 body cameras and 1,221 in-car systems.
Management critically reviewed all ranks and positions to determine the need for issuance of body-worn cameras and in-car systems. It was determined all ranks from field trooper through staff lieutenant, motor carrier units and supervisors, Patrol police officers, Ohio Investigative Unit agents and assistant agents in charge will receive a body camera.

In September, Division employees throughout the state were trained as “train the trainers” on the new body-worn cameras. All employees who will be utilizing the system will receive training prior to issuance.

Switching over to the new system required collaboration between multiple Division offices. The work began with retrofitting existing vehicles from the older dash cameras to the new units, with each trooper assigned a body camera as part of their uniform. The completion of the retrofit is scheduled to be complete by May 2022 for the Patrol’s nine districts and General Headquarters.

The Ohio Investigative Unit’s Alcohol Server Knowledge (ASK) program is now available online.

Previously, agents have been holding ASK training in person at community centers and liquor permit premises. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, OIU officials began working with AB InBev Foundation to bring the training online.

Much like the in-person class, the training includes alcohol sales, false identification, identifying human trafficking, tobacco sales, food stamp fraud, trace-back investigations, labeling and refilling, among other topics. The participant must watch the videos and go through each topic before they can complete the course. The topics have scenarios and questions relating to the segments and a comprehensive exam at the end. Once the participant has successfully completed the course, they are presented with a certificate.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity for us to educate people involved in the sale and handling of alcohol on the rules and regulations that govern liquor permits,” said Senior Enforcement Commander Erik Lockhart. “In the process, we formed a partnership in the private sector that shares a common goal - responsible alcohol sales and consumption.”

OIU became aware of the opportunity to partner with AB InBev from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control.

“One of our main goals is to promote the responsible selling and consumption of alcohol in the state,” said Division of Liquor Control Superintendent Jim Canepa. “We applaud OIU for making this training available online and helping educate those permitted to sell alcohol in Ohio.”

The partnership with AB InBev began as a pilot program with six cities worldwide to participate in Global Smart Drinking Goals - which is reducing the harmful use of alcohol by 10 percent in six cities. OIU submitted a plan for Columbus, which can also be used for all of Ohio. The other five cities are located in Belgium, Brazil, China, Mexico and South Africa. To learn more about the partnership, log onto https://abinbevfoundation.org/initiatives/city-pilots/.

The ASK program is still available in person and both are free for all participants. The online class can be found by logging onto https://learning.dps.ohio.gov/ask.
Twice this fall, the Ohio State Highway Patrol partnered with OhioHealth to produce in-depth informational videos so Division employees could be well-informed and make informed decisions about the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In a recorded video on September 29 and a live program on October 20, Colonel Richard S. Fambro led a question and answer discussion with Dr. Joseph Gastaldo, System Medical Director for Infectious Disease at the OhioHealth Physician Group in Columbus. Dr. Gastaldo and OhioHealth have provided crucial health and safety guidance to the Patrol, including vital assistance which allowed Cadet and Basic classes to continue at the Training Academy throughout the pandemic.

In the first video, Dr. Gastaldo discussed the status of the pandemic, the importance of protective measures like facial coverings and vaccines, pre-existing conditions and the outlook for the medical community in the months ahead.

Colonel Fambro emphasized in both videos the importance of Patrol personnel protecting themselves, and the duty to protect others, against the virus.

Following up on the positive feedback from employees of the first awareness video, on October 20 the Patrol partnered with OhioHealth for an interactive question and answer program that was viewed live, and later distributed to all personnel as a recorded training video. The live program was produced at Riverside Hospital in Columbus by the staff at OhioHealth and hosted on the video streaming service Vimeo.

As this live program was also in a question and answer format, employees were encouraged to send in COVID-19 questions for Dr. Gastaldo’s response on topics including, but not limited to, vaccines, booster shots, immunities, co-morbidity and trusted sources for information.

The identity of persons asking the questions was not shared during the program and not known by either Colonel Fambro or Dr. Gastaldo. Staff from OhioHealth and the Patrol’s Public Affairs Unit received the questions to ensure all topics were addressed to provide the best COVID-19 information possible to personnel.

Special thanks goes out to Colin Yoder, Director of Media and Public Relations for OhioHealth, and the A/V staff at OhioHealth for their production support on both videos.
SERGEANT HASTY RECEIVES MILITARY AWARD

On November 10, 2021, Sergeant Christopher R. Hasty was awarded with the Ohio Department of Public Safety Military Service Award. It was presented to him at the Patrol’s hangar at Don Scott Airport.

Sergeant Hasty enlisted as a traditional guard member in January 1997 in the 121st Maintenance Group. He received his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. In 2004, he transferred to the 164th Airlift Squadron in Mansfield, where he served as a C-130H Flight Engineer. Sergeant Hasty returned to the 121st Air Refueling Wing in 2008 as an Inflight Refueling Journeyman in the 166th Air Refueling Squadron. He is an Inflight Refueling Craftsman for the 166th Air Refueling Squadron, 121st Air Refueling Wing, Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base.

He deployed to numerous locations throughout his career to include Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey in support of operations Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Freedom Sentinel and Inherent Resolve. During his most recent deployment to the Middle East, he served at an undisclosed location from January through August 2021.

He was integral in getting military assets out of Afghanistan.

He has been presented with numerous military awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters; Air Medal with Combat Device and one silver oak leaf cluster; Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one silver and two bronze stars; Operation Iraqi Freedom Campaign Medal with three bronze stars; Operation Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal with three bronze stars; and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

Sergeant Hasty began his Patrol career in February 2003 as a member of the 135th Academy Class. He earned his commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Swanton Post. He was selected as Trooper of the Year in 2007. As a trooper, he also served at the Bowling Green Post and in the Aviation Unit. In 2013, he was promoted to sergeant and remained at in the Aviation Unit. He received his Associate of Applied Science degree from the Community College of the Air Force.

UNITED STATES MARSHAL AWARD

On September 16, 2021, Trooper Michael J. Landers was recognized at the United States Marshals Service Northern District of Ohio Annual Awards Ceremony. He received the 2019 Wayne Leon Task Force Officer of the Year Award Nominee Certificate. Trooper Landers has been a full-time Task Force Officer since 2018. He has been with the Ohio State Highway Patrol for more than 29 years, and is a senior member of the Special Response Team (SRT). Trooper Landers provides great resources on high-threat fugitive cases, and is a liaison between his team and the Youngstown Division. He often provides training opportunities for Task Force personnel and assists with quarterly training. Trooper Landers continues to be a vital member of the Task Force, while balancing his fugitive investigation and Patrol/SRT duties. He has been involved in approximately 400 fugitive investigations in 2019 for the Northern Ohio Task Force divisions. Trooper Landers’ experience, dedication, and reliability are key to the success of the Youngstown Division.
PAVRIOT AWARDS

On September 10, at Hilliard’s First Responder Park, the Transportation Security Administration Patriot Awards were presented by Federal Security Director Donald Barker to 24 individuals, including current and past members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

The Patriot Awards were given in recognition of the 20th anniversary of September 11, 2001, to honor and appreciate unwavering courage and devotion to Ohio communities, the state and country.

Major Joshua M. Swindell, Lieutenant Rudolph L. Zupanc and Project Manager Jeffrey W. Grayson were honored for answering the call of duty and helping keep America safe since 9/11. Chief Russel Baron, Shawnee Hills Police Department, accepted the award on behalf of his father Retired Captain Richard C. Baron, who was honored posthumously. Retired Patrol Colonel Thomas W. Rice also received the Patriot Award for his work as a former Federal Security Director. Trooper Jessica A. McIntyre sang the National Anthem.

AUXILIARY GRADUATION

Congratulations to the 2021 Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary Class who graduated on October 10. The OSHP Auxiliary is an all-volunteer force which provides assistance to troopers in the course of their duties. This graduating class has already worked hundreds of hours assisting troopers on traffic stops and at crash scenes, along with volunteering at The Ohio State University’s football games and other special details.

There are currently just under 100 Auxiliary officers assigned to Patrol districts across the state.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary, an all-volunteer force that provides assistance to troopers in the course of their duties, is accepting applications. To inquire or apply for a position in the Auxiliary:

email OSHPAux@dps.ohio.gov
or apply online:
https://statepatrol.ohio.gov/recruit/auxiliary.html
**FLAG BOX PRESENTATION**

On September 14, a flag box was presented to the Ohio State Highway Patrol by the Ohio General Assembly in appreciation for the division’s safety and security efforts in 2020 during hundreds of demonstrations and civil disturbances across the state.

Colonel Richard S. Fambro accepted the flag box on behalf of the Division as a symbol of the partnership between the General Assembly, the public and the Patrol.

As demonstrations intensified in 2020 and became civil disturbances requiring law enforcement intervention around the Ohio Statehouse, the Ohio State Highway Patrol was there to ensure the safety of those who gathered to be heard in a peaceful manner and protect the property.

The Patrol was engaged in support or collaboration of 795 demonstrations in more than 178 cities in Ohio during 2020, and 250 of those demonstrations saw state troopers responding in person to work side-by-side with local law enforcement.

In both professional and genuine ways, troopers prioritized the safety of others above their own so that everyone could feel safe to exercise their first amendment rights.

The flag box will be proudly displayed at the Patrol’s Training Academy, where the Division’s history is preserved and exhibited.

**WARD FAMILY PRESENTATION**

On October 8, members of the Patrol gathered to posthumously honor Trooper Donald A. Ward with the Certificate of Recognition and provide his service credentials to his family. The presentations were made to Brenda Ward, Trooper Ward’s wife, by Colonel Richard S. Fambro.

Trooper Ward earned the Certificate of Recognition for saving the life of a driver on June 9, 2021. He was patrolling state Route 37 when he observed a vehicle approaching him head on. As the vehicle came to a stop, Trooper Ward positioned his cruiser to prevent the vehicle from traveling further off the road or into traffic. He could tell the driver might be in medical distress so he immediately called for emergency assistance and rendered aid. While helping the driver, he observed an ambulance in the stopped traffic so he quickly motioned for their assistance at the scene. With the support of two good Samaritans, he was able to provide the critical care needed to save the driver’s life. The care and treatment took coordination and teamwork by all persons involved.

“Andy was a son, a father and a husband,” Colonel Fambro said. “He was also a valued member of the Highway Patrol and will never be forgotten.”
MEMBERS OF THE PATROL WELCOME HOME HONOR FLIGHTS

November 11, Veteran’s Day, veterans were welcomed home from the Columbus Honor Flights 111 and 112 by members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Columbus Division of Police and the Columbus Regional Airport Authority Police.

Honor Flight Columbus is a non-profit organization that seeks to honor America’s senior veterans with a trip to Washington, D.C. to visit the nation’s memorials, share their stories, and to celebrate and affirm their service and homecoming.

Patrol members were honored to greet the veterans as they arrived back in Columbus at John Glenn Columbus International Airport after visiting Washington, D.C. Patrol members who welcomed the veterans home were Staff Lieutenant Tiffany L. Meeks and troopers John E. Moore, Caio S. Hermann, and Samuel S. Moon. Not pictured: Staff Lieutenant David R. Brown, who accompanied the veterans on their flight.

VETERANS MEMBERS ASSISTANCE TEAM (VMAT) IMPLEMENTED

On the eve of the 20th anniversary of 9/11, Colonel Richard S. Fambro announced a new branch of the Members Assistance Team (MAT) specifically for veterans called VMAT. Beginning September 10, key resources were immediately available on the new ‘Employee Mental Wellness’ Gateway link designed to assist veterans with handling the unique challenges they face due to serving in the military.

VMAT is comprised of Division veterans from different wars and eras who are specifically trained to meet the mental wellness needs of our veterans who have served and continue to serve our country. VMAT members are peer trained through the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF). This training allows Division employees to have privileged conversations with a VMAT member, protected by the Ohio Revised Code. Current active service members or veterans who are ICISF-certified will be able to serve in a dual role.

In addition to VMAT, the Employee Mental Wellness site provides resource information for veterans from local, state and federal levels. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and services can be accessed on the site privately and discretely from Division-issued electronic devices and from MCTs.

“The service and sacrifice of our employees in the armed forces is appreciated and commended. It is my hope these resources will help our veterans and those actively serving in the military navigate challenging circumstances by providing tools to overcome obstacles impacting mental wellness,” said Colonel Richard S. Fambro, superintendent.

169TH CADET CLASS FIRST DAY

On November 17, Cadet Class 169 started their training at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. Cadets expected they would be tested both mentally and physically as they began more than six months of instruction at the Academy.

Special thanks to the following State Representatives for coming to the Patrol’s Training Academy to observe the first day of Cadet Class 169: Willis Blackshear Jr., Rodney Creech, Jon Cross, Haraz Ghanbari, Thomas Hall and Dontavius Jarrells. Also pictured are Lieutenant Colonel Charles A. Jones and Major John C. Altman.
CADET SERVICE PROJECT

On October 26, Cadet Class 168 ran from the Patrol’s Training Academy to The Ohio State University’s Ohio Stadium, wearing pink in honor of breast cancer awareness. The Class was tasked with completing a service initiative which embraces community policing and reinforces the values of the Patrol. This run was chosen by the cadets and Academy staff as a way to continue building teamwork while engaging with the citizens of Ohio for an important cause.

In order to foster teamwork, care for the community, display appreciation of diversity, professionalism and service with respect, moving forward classes will be required to participate in a service project which is chosen, planned and executed by the cadet class themselves. The goal of the Cadet Service Project is to engage the citizens of Ohio, expose cadets to diverse populations, building teamwork and a sense of community policing, all while reinforcing the values of the Division.

92ND CLASS REUNION

On October 1, the Patrol’s 92nd Academy Class celebrated their 50th anniversary since graduating the Academy. On June 16, 1971, the class began with 72 cadets; and that October, the remaining 54 cadets were sworn in as Patrolmen by Judge Homer E. Abele and welcomed to the ranks by Colonel Robert M. Chiaramonte, Governor John Gilligan, Public Safety Director Eugene P. O’Grady and guest speaker astronaut Colonel John Glenn.

Of the 54 class graduates, 22 retired from the Division. The reunion festivities began in front of the Academy with Lieutenant Colonel Chuck A. Jones opening the event. Class members were honored by the presence of one of their class instructors, Don Slemmer. After an Academy tour and photos, a luncheon was held at the State Highway Patrol Federal Credit Union conference room, where Ohio Highway Patrol Retirement System Director Carl Roark addressed the group. Prior to the meal, a moment of silence was held for the five retirees from the 92nd class who had passed away.
The DRIVE to Live Program, which debuted on October 20 as part of Teen Driver Safety Week, is a new in-person or virtual program that continues the partnerships and successes from the former 5 Minutes for Life program. Success will be defined by impacting Ohio’s youth in a positive manner and building relationships between students and those in public safety.

DRIVE is an acronym for Decisions, Responsibility, Invest, Value and Educate.

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, traditional avenues to engage Ohio’s youth were extremely hindered or eliminated with health and safety at the forefront. The pandemic also provided a unique opportunity to re-design how the Division works to enhance teen safety, including operating in a virtual educational environment. Public Affairs staff worked diligently to find new innovative ideas to impact youth, including conducting a focus group with students from Mechanicsburg High School in Champaign County.

DRIVE to Live affords the Patrol with the ability to continue to invest in, and value, young peoples’ voices and opinions as contributors in their school and community.

The program is geared toward meeting teens where they are, and listening with a shared interest in their future by engaging with youthful drivers in conversations about good decision making.

Through structured group settings, the program’s conversational format provides students with information and tools to DRIVE through life safely. Topics of conversation include decision-making, traffic safety and drug education.

Each session is led by a local Patrol unit in collaboration with a local law enforcement officer and/or service member when available. These virtual or in-person conversations are tailored to each respective school’s needs.

A pre-class questionnaire is sent to the teacher of the class to be returned to the Patrol unit coordinating the session prior to the presentation. The questionnaire assures inclusion for everyone attending by providing students with the opportunity to ask questions and seek knowledge, without fear of speaking in front of large groups of people.

Drawing on responses from the questionnaires and formatted discussion points provided to all Patrol posts by the Public Affairs Unit, each session features an open discussion led by a state trooper (and other officers when available from local law enforcement and the military). By engaging in conversations, rather than a lecture format, every class discussion provides opportunities to talk about the consequences of good and bad decisions in a safe environment to impact youth in a positive manner.
NEW PORTABLE SCALE TRUCKS ENHANCING COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SAFETY OPERATIONS

Two new GMC 3500 dually portable scale trucks are the latest tools in the Ohio State Highway Patrol’s commercial vehicle safety operations. In November 2021, the Licensing and Commercial Standards (LCS) Unit deployed the specially-designed trucks, which are being used to help identify and combat oversize permit violations while attempting to decrease the large amount of overloaded commercial vehicles damaging Ohio’s roadways.

Each truck has a custom-built bed designed to carry 20 portable scales, capable of weighing a 10-axle commercial vehicle.

The new trucks are being used by LCS, whose primary function is to ensure the safe operation of commercial motor vehicles within Ohio. This is achieved through education and enforcement of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, PUCO Safety Rules and the Ohio Revised Code. Commercial motor vehicle troopers and motor carrier enforcement inspectors conduct inspections and are responsible for enforcement of size and weight laws relating to commercial vehicles that place other highway users at risk.

Electronic Technician 3 Jeff Williams meticulously made sure each component for the new trucks met the specifications needed to support the mission for which they were being designed. Williams stayed involved throughout the construction process, keeping all parties informed as the project moved forward. Once the trucks were received, Central Install (CI) technicians collaborated with LCS staff as they built the vehicles.

“The constructive thought process that the techs shared was impressive,” said LCS Staff Lieutenant Aaron J. Reimer. “Every time I challenged the team, their ingenuity was impressive to say the least.”

Innovation continued throughout the installation process. CI technicians even went so far as to think about a reverse camera that allows the driver to see through the entire length of the vehicle.

Additional credit goes to the Fleet staff in the Office of Finance and Logistics. As the project was nearing completion, they even creatively adapted the Patrol’s unique vehicle markings to the vehicle dynamics.

In 2012, as part of Governor Kasich’s “War on Drug Trafficking” in Ohio, the Patrol replaced the 1-877-7-PATROL phone number with #677. Since its inception, the motoring public has utilized this feature as a direct contact to Patrol posts to report drug activity and dangerous driving. Since the development of #677, the Patrol has received more than 315,000 calls to date.

This has provided the Division the ability to further establish itself as a leading law enforcement agency in terms of highway safety and criminal patrol. Throughout November and December, the Patrol participated in a media campaign to advertise #677. A graphic, as well as recorded Public Service Announcements by Colonel Richard S. Fambro, was streamed on social media, electronic device apps, and websites across the state. The purpose of this campaign was to continue to educate the public on the importance of reporting drug activity, as well as impaired and reckless drivers to law enforcement.
BOWLING GREEN BICYCLE DONATION

A 2021 goal set by the Bowling Green Post and Dispatch Center to donate 50 bicycles in their local community was far surpassed with over 100 bikes being handed out by Sergeant Matthew N. Geer and Trooper Jeffrey J. Huffman.

Tpr. Huffman led the program, donating his personal time and dedication, pushing the program past its original goal. Donations from personnel at the Bowling Green Post, Bowling Green Dispatch Center, Findlay District and members of the community saw the program prosper.

The program grew significantly in 2020 when Sgt. Geer met local business owner Barry Hock of Hock’s Bike Shop. Hock initially donated 15 used bikes to the program. That led to a partnership through which Hock takes in the bikes the post collects and he replaces the seats, handle grips and other parts to make the bikes safe for young children to ride. The first group of bikes collected in 2020 were donated to Thayer Chevrolet in Bowling Green as part of their toy drive. The bikes ultimately went to local families in need during the holiday season.

During the past five years, the Bowling Green Post and Dispatch Center have come together to help members of the community in a variety of ways. Drives to donate food, clothes, toys, school supplies and items for infants have been held to assist those in need around Wood County.

Tpr. Huffman’s dedication, alongside Sgt. Geer and Hock will continue allowing children in Wood County to have the opportunity to make memories with a new bike at Christmas time.

FINDLAY DISTRICT

On November 10, troopers from the Toledo and Bowling Green posts participated in the Battle of I-75 game day event, which coincided with the annual rivalry football game between the University of Toledo (UToledo) and Bowling Green State University (BGSU). Troopers joined Safe Communities of Lucas and Wood counties, representatives from UToledo, BGSU, Ohio Traffic Safety Office and public safety partners from across Lucas and Wood counties. The event started at UToledo with a media event to highlight the dangers of driving impaired. Troopers and public safety partners escorted the game ball to BGSU, where the event concluded with a cookout and fellowship. The game took place later that day at BGSU Doyt L. Perry Stadium.

BUCYRUS DISTRICT

On November 19 and 20, the Mansfield Post and its law enforcement partners from Richland County partnered with area grocery stores to Cram the Cruiser. Non-perishable food donations were collected with the goal of filling local food pantries. The community support was apparent through the vast amount of received donations. The donations went directly to food pantries to ensure families in need received essential support ahead of the holiday season.
CLEVELAND DISTRICT

The Ashland Post held their annual Cram The Cruiser event November 6. They had an amazing response from the community and were able to collect 3,080 pounds of non-perishable food items and over $1,000 in cash donations. Troopers were assisted by members of the Ashland University Gets Involved With Volunteer Service (G.I.V.S.) team. All items collected were donated to Associated Charities, Ashland County Food Bank. (in photo left to right: Trooper Aaron C. Doerfler, G.I.V.S. team and Trooper Richard J. Kluever)

Sergeant Cristian Perrin and the Ashland Post sponsored two Ashland Soccer Association youth teams this fall. Everyone at the post pitched in and purchased their uniforms and covered the cost of their registration fees. Sgt. Perrin volunteered to coach the girl’s team and everyone had a great time stopping out to watch the games throughout the fall. Congratulations to all on a successful season. (pictured: Trooper Aaron C. Doerfler)

The Canton Post held their annual Cram The Cruiser event on November 20 in partnership with the Jackson Township Police Department. This year’s event netted 982 pounds of non-perishable food and over $1,700 in cash donations. All proceeds were donated to the Stark County Hunger Task Force. (pictured L-R: Jackson PD officer, Trooper Nickolas B. Goodnite, Lieutenant Leo T. Shirkey, Trooper George S. Ksenich and Jackson PD Officer)

This school year, the Wooster Post is participating in a reading program at Lakeville Elementary School. The students enjoy the troopers coming in to read and answer questions. Troopers James M. Donohue and Logan E. Armstrong are active participants in the program.
WARREN DISTRICT

On October 5, Chardon Post Trooper William L. Head participated in an educational program at Lake Catholic High School in Mentor. The program was in partnership with other local agencies and aimed to engage students through traffic safety themed games such as spin the wheel trivia. There were also giveaways and demonstrations.

On November 20, the Ravenna Post held their first Cause For The Paws pet supply drive. Trooper Robyn L. Parillo helped organize the event and was joined by Trooper Sean P. Sekola, Brimfield PD Sergeant David Knarr and Brimfield K-9 Officer Recon. They were able to collect a full pallet of food and supplies along with over $500 in cash donations.

This year’s Holiday Card Contest was another huge success because of people like Warren Post Administrative Professional 1 Valerie J. Maffitt. When the contest was announced this year, AP1 Maffitt wasted no time in organizing. She immediately reached out to each school district in her post’s area which resulted in dozens of entries. It also resulted in many interactions with troopers and students at each school when the entries were picked up.

The Warren Post participated in a Cram the Cruiser event on November 20. The event was partnered with Bazetta Police Department, Niles Police Department, Howland Fire Department and Howland Police Department. Food and monetary donations were accepted at three locations in the county. Over $5,000 and 4,000 pounds of food were collected during the event. All donations were distributed amongst various food pantries in Trumbull County.
On November 23 and 24, the Hiram Post organized two community events on the Ohio Turnpike. Both events highlighted local partnerships with Safe Communities and were well received by holiday travelers. Lieutenant Philip J. Robinson and Sergeant Adam M. Doles participated in both events.

The first event took place at the Glacier Hills and Mahoning Valley Service Plazas in Mahoning County, where units from the Canfield Post also assisted. The second event was held at the Portage and Brady’s Leap Service Plazas in Portage County, where units from the Ravenna Post assisted as well.

PIQUA DISTRICT

On November 8, a group of home-schooled students took a field trip to the Marysville Post. Sergeant Ryan R. Stanley and Trooper Justin T. Picklesimon spent some time answering their questions, showed them around the post and a patrol car. Hopefully, there were some future troopers in the group.

COLUMBUS DISTRICT

Trooper Caio S. Hermann of the Delaware Post was recognized on September 25 at The Ohio State University’s game against the University of Akron for leading the state in removing impaired drivers from Ohio’s roadways.

CAMBRIDGE DISTRICT

On October 6, Trooper Daniel J. Moran of the St. Clairsville Post was honored with the Superintendent’s Citation of Merit for his rescue of a motorist involved in a fiery crash. Trooper Moran momentarily extinguished a vehicle that was on fire following a crash, and was able to free the occupant before the vehicle erupted into flames again.
WILMINGTON DISTRICT

On November 19, the Lebanon Post came together with Lebanon Christian Schools to support Samaritan’s Purse, Operation Christmas Child by donating shoeboxes of goodies for children in need.

The Cincinnati Post assisted the U.S. Forestry Service in transporting the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree from the Indiana state line in Hamilton County to Chillicothe. Their journey started in California on October 28.

Clarksville resident Katie Taylor joined Ohio’s “Saved by the Belt” Club on November 20 after her safety belt saved her from sustaining life-threatening injuries. The incident occurred on Wilmington Road in Warren County on October 19.

JACKSON DISTRICT

Troopers from the Athens Post honored Ashley N. Carter and Jackalyn and Isabella Rau as they joined Ohio’s “Saved by the Belt” Club on October 8. Jackson District units pictured from left to right: Trooper Nathan R. Konkler, Lieutenant Steven P. Daugherty, Staff Lieutenant Max B. Norris, Trooper Benjamin M. Williford, Trooper Nathan R. Smith.
RETIREES

Where are they now?

By Captain Rob Jackson, Retired

Retiree: Donald Fleck  
Career: September 12, 1968 to June 2, 1989  
Assignment: Electronic Technician 2  
Findlay District Headquarters

Retired Electronic Technician 2 Don Fleck spent 15 years post retirement from the Ohio State Highway Patrol managing countywide 9-1-1 and communications centers. As he entered semi-retirement, Don continued in service to others as a part-time groundskeeper at a nursing home and a central transport worker at a local hospital. Now fully retired for three years, he enjoys cruises up the east coast of the United States and Alaska while also spending a lot of time enjoying his great-grandchildren.

Don and his wife Pam live in Findlay and have two adult children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, all who live less than an hour away. He and Pam live within a block of several other retirees, so he has a chance to keep in touch with previous coworkers often. Don continues to meet for coffee with other retirees and friends several times a month and says the thing he misses most about the Patrol are the people.

Don Fleck and two of his great-grandchildren, Owen and Allie.

STATE HIGHWAY PATROL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Your STATE HIGHWAY PATROL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION is the perfect partner when you want help to you lower your monthly bills and get out of debt faster.

With a Debt Restructure Loan, you can pay off high-interest credit cards, eliminated miscellaneous debt such as medical bills, and catch up on monthly expenses. It can even help improve your credit score!

Debt Restructure Loans are available with...  
• Amounts up to $20,000’  
• Low Fixed Rates  
• Payoff Terms Up to 60 Months

It’s Simple & Quick... APPLY TODAY!  
(614) 431-0784 • toll free (800) 282-3006  
www.patrofcu.com

*’Terms and agreement will be determined by your credit report, overall debt and debt ratio.
**Rate's are subject to change and prior credit qualifications. One active card at a time, minimum $5,000 to discuss at $5,000 steps. Additional steps apply for higher amounts. To-the-minute pricing is embedded into the system.
How much do you think your defined benefit pension is worth?
Retirement planning is often associated with accumulating as much wealth as possible, so that it can sustain you throughout your retirement years. Our members benefit from a defined benefit pension that helps reduce the amount of wealth needed to comfortably retire. A defined benefit pension helps provide for a good portion of that retirement income, but not all. Other retirement income is necessary to sufficiently provide for a similar lifestyle in retirement. Most of our members contribute to an Ohio Deferred Compensation account to fill this void.

Without a defined benefit, a common rule is to save $18,000 for every $100 of targeted monthly retirement income. Monthly pension amounts for new retirees are around $4,000. Using the math previously mentioned, you would need to have at least $720,000 in retirement savings to provide $4,000 in monthly retirement income. This is a rough estimate (in today’s value) and does not account for inflation. This example, coupled with the anticipated health care benefits received by a retiree, pushes that pension’s value much higher.

When considering the value of a defined benefit pension, you can measure the time it takes in pension payments to receive the contributions back that you paid in. On average, a retiree receives all their contributions back in just a little over three years. The combined employee and employer contributions get paid out in 11 years. Investment returns are necessary to provide for the remainder of the benefit.

Having a guaranteed income in retirement is an extraordinary benefit. I hope the information provided gives you a decent idea of what that is worth.

Best Regards,

Carl Roark, Ph.D.
HPRS Executive Director

Do you know anyone interested in a career with the Patrol? Are they ready to build tomorrow? Tomorrow starts here - #JoinOSHP

Reach a recruiter to explore a career with the Patrol at 1-866-Trooper or statepatrol.ohio.gov
MARVIN E. HILL  
RECRUITMENT AND DIVERSITY  
Captain Marvin E. Hill, Recruitment and Diversity Commander, retired on November 19, 2021, after 29 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 Bucyrus Post. In 1999, he was selected as Post, District and State Trooper of the Year. As a trooper, he also served at the Warren Post. In 2000, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Medina Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Hiram and Canfield posts and the Warren District Criminal Patrol unit. In 2009, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and assigned to the Warren District Commercial Enforcement Unit to serve as commander. He also served at the Ashtabula Post as post commander. In 2016, he was promoted to the rank of captain and transferred to the Patrol’s Training Academy to serve as a commander.

Captain Hill earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration from Thiel College in 1988. In 2011, he graduated from the Administrative Officer Management Program at North Carolina State University. He also earned an Executive Master of Business degree in business administration from Kent State University in 2016. Captain Hill currently serves as the Chaplain for the National Black State Troopers Coalition.

CHAD W. ENDERBY  
CLEVELAND DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS  
Staff Lieutenant Chad W. Enderby, Cleveland District Headquarters, retired on October 1, 2021, after 29 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1992 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Norwalk Post. He became a member of the 127th Academy Class in May 1995. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Lima Post. In 1996, he earned the Superintendent’s Citation of Merit Award. As a trooper, he also served at the Bucyrus District Headquarters. In 2001, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Marion Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Bucyrus and Ashland posts. In 2006, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Wooster Post to serve as post commander. As a lieutenant, he also served at the Mansfield Post and the Bucyrus District Commercial Enforcement Unit. In 2017, he was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and transferred to the Cleveland District Headquarters to serve as an assistant district commander.

Staff Lieutenant Enderby completed advance leadership training at the Northwestern University’s School of Police Staff and Command in 2007.
FLYING WHEEL

Retirements

ANTONIO L. MATOS
CLEVELAND DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

Staff Lieutenant Antonio L. Matos, Cleveland District Headquarters, retired on October 8, 2021, after 30 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1991 as a member of the 121st Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Milan Post. He was selected as Post and District Trooper of the Year twice. As a trooper, he also served at the Hiram and Akron posts. In 2004, 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 Hiram and Ravenna posts. In 2011, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Cleveland District Commercial Enforcement Unit. As a lieutenant, he also served at the Cleveland, Ravenna and Akron posts. In 2019, he was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and transferred to the Cleveland District Headquarters to serve as an assistant district commander.

Staff Lieutenant Matos earned an Associate of Science degree in criminal justice from the University of Akron in 1990. He also received a certificate in advanced leadership training from the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, Public Safety Leadership Academy in 2016.

LAWRENCE H. ROSEBORO
OFFICE OF TRAINING, RECRUITMENT AND DIVERSITY

Staff Lieutenant Lawrence H. Roseboro, Office of Training, Recruitment and Diversity, retired on September 15, 2021, after 32 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1989 as a member of the 118th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Mt. Gilead Post. In 1993, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. In 1996, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Marysville Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Circleville Post and in the Office of Personnel. In 2001, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Patrol’s Training Academy. As a lieutenant, he also served in the Office of Personnel, at the Granville Post, Columbus District Commercial Enforcement Unit and in the Office of Field Operations. In 2017, he was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and transferred to the Patrol’s Training Academy.

Staff Lieutenant Roseboro earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in police science from Kent State University in 1987. He completed the Administrative Officer’s Course at the Southern Police Institute in 2001.

MICHAEL D. VINSON
BUCYRUS DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS

Staff Lieutenant Michael D. Vinson, Bucyrus District Headquarters, retired on November 19, 2021, after 30 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1991 as a member of the 121st Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Toledo Post. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year twice. As a trooper, he also served at the Mansfield, Ashland and Mt. Gilead posts, as well as the Bucyrus District Headquarters. In 2000, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to Bucyrus District Criminal Investigations. In 2005, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Mansfield Post to serve as post commander. As a lieutenant, he also served at the Bucyrus Post. In 2016, he was promoted to the rank of staff lieutenant and transferred to the Bucyrus District Headquarters to serve as an assistant district commander.

Staff Lieutenant Vinson received a certificate in advanced leadership training from the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, Public Safety Leadership Academy in 2015. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in leadership from Mount Vernon Nazarene University in 2019.

RAYMOND C. DURANT
ASHLAND POST / DISTRICT 3

Lieutenant Raymond C. Durant, Ashland Post, retired on September 8, 2021, after 32 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1989 as a member of the 118th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Milan Post. In 1995, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. As a trooper, he also served at Cleveland Operations and the Medina Post. In 2001, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Wapakoneta Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Canton and Cleveland posts and in the Public Affairs Unit. In 2012, he was promoted to the rank
of lieutenant and transferred to the Ashland Post to serve as post commander.

Lieutenant Durant earned a Bachelor of Science degree in political science from the University of Akron in 2002, and a Master of Science degree in criminal justice from Boston University in 2004. He also received a certificate in advanced leadership training from the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, Public Safety Leadership Academy in 2016.

**JONATHON A. GRAY**  
**VAN WERT POST / DISTRICT 1**

Lieutenant Jonathon A. Gray, Van Wert Post, retired on October 15, 2021, after 27 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in March 1994 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Van Wert Post. He became a member of the 128th Academy Class in February 1997. He earned his commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Van Wert Post. In 2002, he was selected as Post and District Trooper of the Year. In 2003, 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 in the Public Affairs Unit and at the Lima and Van Wert posts. In 2017, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and remained at the Van Wert Post to serve as commander.

Lieutenant Gray earned a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from Indiana Institute of Technology in 2015.

**JAMES D. LOTT**  
**JACKSON DISTRICT COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT**

Lieutenant James D. Lott, Jackson District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on September 1, 2021, after 24 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in May 1997 as a member of the 129th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Lancaster Post. In 2001, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. As a trooper, he also served at the Circleville Post. In 2012, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Chillicothe Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Jackson District Commercial Enforcement Unit. In 2016, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and remained at the Jackson District Commercial Enforcement Unit.

Lieutenant Lott served in the United States Navy from 1992 to 1996. He earned a Master of Science degree in forensic science from National University in 1995. He also received a certificate in advanced leadership training from the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, Public Safety Leadership Academy in 2018.

**BRIAN A. BOST**  
**HAMILTON POST / DISTRICT 8**

Sergeant Brian A. Bost, Hamilton Post, retired on September 8, 2021, after 22 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 Dayton Post. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year twice. As a trooper, he also served at the Hamilton Post. In 2012, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Batavia Post to serve as an assistant post commander. In 2018, he earned the Colonel Thomas W. Rice Leadership Award.

Sergeant Bost served in the United States Marines from 1993 to 1997.

**JASON L. CADLE**  
**XENIA POST / DISTRICT 5**

Sergeant Jason L. Cadle, Xenia Post, retired on November 8, 2021, after 27 years with the Patrol. Sergeant Cadle began his Patrol career in March 1994 as a cadet dispatcher assigned to the Springfield Post. He began his training as a member of the 127th Academy Class in May 1995. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Jackson Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Gallipolis, Wilmington, Xenia and Springfield posts. In 2014, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and remained at the Springfield Post to serve as an assistant post commander.
Sergeant Thomas J. Gerber, Marysville Post, retired on October 8, 2021, after 16 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in December 2004 as a member of the 143rd Academy Class. He earned his commission in June of the following year and was assigned to the Canfield Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Delaware Post. In 2011, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Toledo Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Springfield and Marion posts, Strategic Analysis and Intelligence Center (SAIC), Intelligence Unit, and the Expo Center.

Sergeant Gerber served in the United States Navy from 1991 to 1994. He earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in business administration from Mount Vernon Nazarene College in 2001. He also earned a Bachelor of Science degree in information technology from DeVry University in 2004.

NICHOLAS S. JOHNSON II
CRIMINAL PATROL UNIT
Sergeant Nicholas S. Johnson II, Criminal Patrol Unit, retired on September 10, 2021, after 27 years of state service. He began his state career with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources as a creel clerk. He joined the Patrol in February 1997 as a member of the 128th Academy Class. He earned his commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Gallipolis Post. In 2000, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. He earned the Trooper Recognition Award three times. He also earned the Criminal Patrol Award 10 times. As a trooper, he also served in the Jackson District Criminal Patrol Unit. In 2013, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Gallipolis Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served as a canine training supervisor.

Sergeant Johnson earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in recreation and wildlife from Hocking College in 1991.

Sergeant Donald P. Kelley, Chillicothe Post, retired on November 5, 2021, after 21 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in September 2000 as a member of the 136th Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year and was assigned to the Lancaster Post. He earned the Criminal Patrol Award three times. As a trooper, he also served at the Chillicothe Post. In 2011, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Ironton Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Jackson Post and on the Member Assistance Team and Crisis Intervention Team.


Sergeant Ty L. Richmond, Wooster Post, retired on October 1, 2021, after 29 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 Mansfield Post. In 2000, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. As a trooper, he also served at the Canton and New Philadelphia posts. In 2001, 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 as a canine training supervisor.

Sergeant Richmond served in the Ohio Army National Guard from 1988 to 1996.

Sergeant Lawrence Roberts, Canton Post, retired on September 30, 2021, after 22 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 1999 as a member of the 133rd Academy Class. He earned his commission in July of that year and was assigned to the Sandusky Post. In 2000, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year four times and District Trooper of the Year in 2003. As a trooper, he also served at the Chardon, Canton and Cleveland posts, and the Central
Ohio Motorcycle Unit. In 2013, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Wooster Post to serve as an assistant post commander. He earned the Blue Max Award for recovering the most stolen vehicles in a year in 2017, as well as the Criminal Patrol Award. He also earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement seven times. During his career, he also served at the Cleveland and Chardon posts.

Sergeant Roberts served in the United States Marines from 1989 to 1993. He earned an Associate of Arts degree in general studies from Mt. Vernon Nazarene College in 2012. He also received a certificate in advanced leadership training from the John Glenn College of Public Affairs, Public Safety Leadership Academy in 2019.

TROY D. SEXTON MARION POST / DISTRICT 2
Sergeant Troy D. Sexton, Marion Post, retired on September 10, 2021, after 21 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in September 2000 as a member of the 136th Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year and was assigned to the Chillicothe Post. In 2005, he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. In 2006, he became a member of the Members Assistance Team. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year twice. As a trooper, he also served at the Portsmouth and Chardon posts. In 2011, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Ashtabula Post to serve as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at the Chardon, Warren and Mt. Gilead posts.

DORA E. ABSHIRE CLEVELAND DISTRICT CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT
Trooper Dora E. Abshire, Cleveland District Criminal Investigations Unit, retired on September 2, 2021, after 20 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in March 2001 as a member of the 137th Academy Class. She earned her commission in September of that year and was assigned to the Springfield Post. As a trooper, she also served at the Wooster Post, Cleveland District Headquarters and the Warren District Criminal Investigations Unit.


DOUGLAS J. BITLER OFFICE OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS
Trooper Douglas J. Bitler, Office of Criminal Investigations, retired on November 5, 2021, after 28 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 Marysville Post. In 1995, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year. As a trooper, he also served at the Springfield Post.

Trooper Bitler earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Bowling Green State University in 1990.

CHRISTOPHER CAPIZZI SANDUSKY POST / DISTRICT 2
Trooper Christopher Capizzi, Sandusky Post, retired on October 1, 2021, after 21 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in September 2000 as a member of the 136th Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year and was assigned to the Sandusky Post. In 2019, he earned the Criminal Patrol Award. In 2020, he was selected as Post Trooper of the Year and earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. As a trooper he also served in the Bucyrus District Criminal Investigations and Criminal Patrol units.

DAVID B. HUNT WARREN DISTRICT COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT
Trooper David B. Hunt, Warren District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on November 11, 2021, after 28 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 Chardon Post. In 2018, he was selected as Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year. As a trooper, he also served at the Canfield and Hiram posts.

Trooper Hunt served in the United States Marines from 1985 to 1993. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from Youngstown State University in 1997.
JASON R. HUTCHISON  
PIQUA DISTRICT COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT
Trooper Jason R. Hutchison, Piqua District Commercial Enforcement Unit, entered disability retirement on October 23, 2021, after 17 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 2003 as a dispatcher assigned to the Springfield Post. He became a member of the 144th Academy Class in March 2005. He earned his commission in October of that year and was assigned to the Springfield Post. In 2018, he earned the Criminal Patrol Award. As a trooper, he also served at the Dayton Post and the Patrol’s Training Academy.


MARK S. JOHNSON  
BATAVIA POST / DISTRICT 8
Trooper Mark S. Johnson, Batavia Post, retired on October 8, 2021, after 28 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 Wilmington Post. Trooper Johnson served in the United States Army Reserve from 1987 to 1995.

MICHAEL R. MCCARTHY  
LISBON POST / DISTRICT 4
Trooper Michael R. McCarthy, Lisbon Post, retired on November 11, 2021, after 22 years with the Patrol. 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 Canton Post. He earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement four times. He also earned the Criminal Patrol Award three times. As a trooper he also served at Cleveland Operations, Cleveland and Warren District Criminal Investigations units, and the Cleveland and Akron posts.

PHILIP R. MOHRE  
FINDLAY POST / DISTRICT 1
Trooper Philip R. Mohre, Findlay Post, retired on November 1, 2021, after 20 years with the Patrol. 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 Swanton Post. In 2006, he earned the Ace Award for excellence in auto larceny enforcement. He was selected as Post Trooper of the Year twice. As a trooper, he also served at the Bowling Green Post.

ROBERT L. PARGEON  
FINDLAY DISTRICT COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT
Trooper Robert L. Pargeon, Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on November 5, 2021, after 21 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in September 2000 as a member of the 136th Academy Class. He earned his commission in March of the following year and was assigned to the Findlay Post. In 2004, he transferred to the Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit. In 2009, he received the Findlay District Trooper Recognition Award. He was also selected as Findlay Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year twice.

REGINA A. BROWN  
JACKSON DISPATCH CENTER
Dispatcher Regina A. Brown, Jackson Dispatch Center, retired on September 30, 2021, after 31 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in October 1990 as a dispatcher assigned to the Gallipolis Post. She was selected as Post Dispatcher of the Year five times.
FLYING WHEEL

DAVID J. KATAFIAS
FINDLAY DISTRICT COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT
Stationary Load Limit Inspector David J. Katafias, Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on October 8, 2021, after 6 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in February 2015 as a Stationary Load Limit Inspector and was assigned to the Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit throughout his career.

RONALD L. BEAN
FINDLAY DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS
Infrastructure Specialist 2 Ronald L. Bean, Findlay District Headquarters, retired on October 29, 2021, after 21 years with the Patrol. He joined the Patrol in August 2000 as an infrastructure specialist 2 and was assigned to the Findlay District Headquarters throughout his career. Infrastructure Specialist 2 Bean served in the Ohio National Guard from 1978 to 1994. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Bowling Green State University in 1984.

DR. THERESA A. MARTELLI
STAFFING SERVICES
Personnel Testing Administrator Theresa A. Martelli, Staffing Services, retired on September 30, 2021, after 33 years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in September 1988 as a research administrator 2. In 2004, she assumed the position of personnel testing administrator. Dr. Martelli earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Youngstown State University in 1983. She also earned a Master of Science degree in 1986 and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1988 from Ohio University. She also earned a Master of Social Work degree in social work from The Ohio State University in 1999.

SHARON L. MICHAEL
COLUMBUS POST / DISTRICT 6
Administrative Professional 1 Sharon L. Michael, Columbus Post, retired on October 29, 2021, after three years with the Patrol. She joined the Patrol in April 2018 as an administrative professional 1 and was assigned to the Columbus Post throughout her career.

HIGHWAY HIGHLIGHTS

Comments received via social media.

Tina Rowland

Just wanted to thank the officers who assisted me when I hit a deer on 224 in Ilohi at 4am. They were so kind and stayed with me and followed us home because it tore up my truck. I was so thankful to have them. Thank you all. Show Less

Shelley Howery

I want to thank you for following through with troopers monitoring rt 33 and rt 7 from Athens Ohio past Racine Ohio. Speeding and illegal passing continue to be an issue but now I see multiple troopers addressing it. So thank you so much! Shelley. Show Less
CADET CLASS 169 FIRST DAY

The Flying Wheel is published by the Ohio State Highway Patrol in the interest of the entire Patrol family.

Contributors
Findlay District – Sgt. Ryan E. Purpura
Bucyrus District – Sgt. Ryan E. Purpura
Cleveland District – Sgt. Juan R. Santiago
Warren District – Sgt. Juan R. Santiago
Piqua District – Sgt. Christina J. Hayes
Columbus District – Lt. Nathan E. Dennis
Cambridge District – Sgt. Brice A. Nihiser
Wilmington District – Sgt. Christina J. Hayes
Jackson District – Sgt. Brice A. Nihiser

Criminal Investigations – AP4 Tiffany C. DeArmond
Field Operations – Sgt. Corey Pennington
Personnel – PA2 Jessica L. Scalley
Finance and Logistics – AP4 Pamela H. Walker
Security & Communications – Lt. Chad Maines
Planning, Research & Development – Sgt. Jerod L. Keyes
Training, Recruitment & Diversity – S/Lt. Darren K. Thomas
Auxiliary – Lt. Col. William J. Sanford

Mike DeWine – Governor, State of Ohio
Thomas Stickrath – Director,
Ohio Department of Public Safety
Colonel Richard S. Fambro – Superintendent,
Ohio State Highway Patrol
Editor: S/Lt Tiffiany L. Meeks
tlmeeks@dps.ohio.gov
Reporters: Lt. Nathan E. Dennis, Sgt. Brice A. Nihiser,
Julie L. Hinds, Alexis E. Bartolomucci, Jeffrey W. Grayson,
Michele L. DeGraffinreed
Graphic Design: DPS Megan Olger
We have all heard the expression, “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.” Many people attribute it to Joseph P. Kennedy, the father of President John F. Kennedy. I think we can all agree that the last few years have been tough. It does not concern me that things have been tough lately. You may have seen the graphic that says, “Times might be tough, but you are even tougher.” We are resilient. The Ohio State Highway Patrol is resilient due in large part to the resilience you possess as individuals. You don’t allow difficulties to deter you from doing the right thing. What does concern me is that things have been tough, not for everyone, but for most, for a long time. The length of time, in and of itself, can be a form of trauma. Why does this concern me? It concerns me for a few reasons:

It is amazing what we can talk ourselves into, and what we can talk ourselves out of, when times are tough for a long period of time. Scripture warns us against the dangers of becoming weary in well doing.

Another reason it concerns me is because of what it can do to our connections. Every relationship will experience times of distance. This is a normal and natural part of relating to others. It concerns me when relationships move beyond distance to disconnect. Disconnect is defined as having a connection broken. Let’s face it - it remains difficult to maintain connections during the pandemic. In some cases, it is impossible. It is a constant challenge to know what is going on in each other’s lives. If we would have known, would we have done something? And in some instance when we didn’t know, it was mistakenly interpreted as though we didn’t care. But we do care.

Disconnected often results in a deepening sense of isolation. It is not good for man to be alone. (Genesis 2:18) The same voice that spoke everything into existence just declared that it is not good for us to be alone. By the way, you are not the exception. When you realize you are moving toward isolation, you must quickly acknowledge it is not good for you to be alone. Obviously, I’m not talking about moments of being alone. In fact, that is healthy, but when it becomes the normal pattern, it is not good. We really do need each other. We are better together, but in order for us to receive the benefits we must push back against the tendency to isolate.

The nature of the work to which God has called you often results in spending a significant amount of time alone. COVID restrictions and protocols further throttle down the time we have on a consistent basis to connect with other people. Many went direct to their residence or their assignment, taking away those few moments with others who were experiencing similar things over shift change on post. Couple that with the fact of the tremendous amount of work that needs to get done and we are left feeling like there is more work than day.

I know we will be forced to find new ways of doing it, but it is too important to neglect. We need to find ways to connect. I believe we need to connect in three ways:

Connect to others:
I would like to encourage you to make it a daily goal to connect with at least one other person. Hear how they are doing and share with them how you are doing.

Connect to hope:
My favorite definition of hope is the joyful anticipation of something good. What are you anticipating that is good? If you can’t think of something, put something good on both your radar and your calendar and circle it in red.

Connect with God:
I absolutely love the way Saint Augustine put it: “Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.” - Augustine of Hippo, Confessions

I, along with all the district chaplains serving across the Division, pray for you daily. We thank God for you and for your hard work.

May God richly bless you!
Reverend Phil Hurlbert

State Chaplain