

# Ohio State Highway Patrol

## Monthly Commander's Column



### Patrol's Driver License Examiners provide valuable public services

For many, the driver's license testing process is the first, and only, contact the public has with the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Did you know that when you, or your teenage son or daughter, go to take a written or driving test for an Ohio driver's license you go to an Ohio State Highway Patrol facility and are tested by a Patrol employee?

A lot of people do not realize that Patrol driver license examiners staff 87 permanent Driver Exam (DX) Stations across the state, several part-time locations and three Mobile DXs – all of which are operated by the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Our examiners are proud to annually administer more than 250,000 driving tests, more than 275,000 maneuverability tests, and in excess of 575,000 written tests for non-commercial drivers. Exam station personnel also administer written Commercial Driver License (CDL) tests.

We know scheduling a driving test can sometimes be a timely ordeal. One service more Ohioans should take advantage of is using a computer to make this process faster and easier. Since July 15, 2005, all Ohio State Highway Patrol DXs have offered Web-based Scheduling through [www.ohiodrivingtest.com](http://www.ohiodrivingtest.com).

Despite its ease of use allowing customers to schedule road test appointments via the Internet anywhere in Ohio, only approximately one-quarter of all driving tests are scheduled through the Internet. If I can offer one tip for those going through the driver licensing process it is to use the Internet to schedule your driving test. It's fast, easy and will remove one of the stresses often associated with getting an Ohio driver's license.

Internet users who have any questions or concerns about the Web-based Scheduling System, or need assistance in scheduling an appointment should contact their local DX. A complete listing of DX locations is available on the Patrol's Web site at [www.statepatrol.ohio.gov/counties.html](http://www.statepatrol.ohio.gov/counties.html).

Patrol examiners working from the three Mobile DXs conduct knowledge and skills driver licensing tests in areas of the state where services have not historically been available. Each Mobile DX is operated by a driver license examiner and has four testing kiosks available for customers to take knowledge tests in the morning and skills tests in the afternoon. Mobile DXs are also equipped with a wheelchair lift for ADA compliance.

An area of increasing importance and public value our examiners are involved with pertains to ID theft and ID fraud. This is a pervasive and growing issue to law enforcement and the general public in the United States. A primary way criminals engage in ID theft is through using fraudulently obtained driver's licenses.

The Federal Trade Commission has reported that about 10.1 million people experienced identity theft in 2003, the most recent year of data. Also, according to a November 2007 report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in 2005, 6.4 million households, representing 5.5 percent of all households in the United States, discovered that at least one member experienced one or more types of identity theft. The report further stated 1.1 million households discovered misuse of personal information (such as a social security number) in 2005.

Our examiners are extremely well-trained and proactive in addressing this problem at the point where driver's license testing occurs at our DXs. Let me be perfectly clear on this issue – using false information to obtain an Ohio driver's license is a form of ID fraud and ID theft, and is a crime we take very seriously.

Ohio State Highway Patrol driver license examiners are proud to serve you, and provide invaluable contributions toward making our local roads and communities safer. From professionally administering tests that ensure a person is qualified to receive an Ohio driver's license, to being a front-line deterrent to ID theft, the Patrol's driver license examiners provide invaluable public safety services everyday in communities across Ohio.