

FLYING

Vol. 54 No. 3



WHEEL

July - September 2016

4 Days in Cleveland

A national community-police collaborative model at the Patrol's largest deployment ever





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4. IN MEMORIAM

We are mourning the loss of Trooper Kenneth Velez of the Cleveland Post, who was killed in the line of duty. Trooper Velez was conducting traffic enforcement outside his patrol car when he was struck by a vehicle.

6. ASSESSMENT CENTER

The Patrol Assessment Center is a ground-up investment in the future, building and defining the leadership of the division.

8. CANINES GRADUATE

After completing the Patrol's in-house training program, four K9 units graduated at a ceremony at the Training Academy in August that also memorialized K9 Euro.

9. OHIO STATE FAIR

Troopers helped out at the Ohio State Fair by providing security, staffing the Lost Kids Booth and spreading positivity to fairgoers.

10. NEW EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

This fall, the Patrol is partnering with the Ohio Department of Public Safety for an education campaign about distracted driving: *If You're Distracted, You're Not Driving*.

11. OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE

Recent Ohio Revised Code changes allowing Naloxone administration has proved beneficial in the fight against Ohio's drug overdose issues.



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14. COVER STORY

The Ohio State Highway Patrol and Ohio public safety partners overcame challenges ranging from world terrorism to strained community-police relations across the country to help realize a safe and successful Republican National Convention in Cleveland. The assembled multi-law enforcement coalition was unprecedented in Ohio, and something never before seen at any previous national convention.

OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Colonel's Letter



Law enforcement officers are the eyes and ears of our nation. We form the first line of defense, detection and prevention for our communities. Law enforcement protects every facet of our society, from life and property to our rights and personal freedoms. Partnerships must be formed to accomplish these objectives. Encouraging partnerships between all stakeholders, public and private, ensures efficient use of resources and information. The 2016 Republican National Convention is a perfect example of partnership and collaboration working effectively to deliver public safety.

In July, law enforcement from across our nation descended upon the city of Cleveland to provide support for the 2016 Republican National Convention. For the Ohio State Highway Patrol, we deployed the largest amount of resources to a single event in our history. We have been involved in numerous significant events in our history but never in the spotlight of the world's stage. In retrospect, our plan was to provide public safety services with pride, professionalism, and compassion. However, to deliver these services, partnership and collaboration would be the centerpiece.

The Republican National Convention convened as devastating violence unfolded at home and abroad, from the police officer shootings in Dallas and Baton Rouge, to the terror attacks in Nice, France. Leading up to the convention the media predicted the worst. They expected a riot and they got a block party. The world witnessed what professional policing looks like. Everyone's freedoms and rights were protected while maintaining the order of our society. None of this could have been possible without partnerships, collaboration, and trust.

In the past few months, the patrol family has experienced a number of emotional peaks and valleys. On September 15, 2016, Trooper Kenneth Velez was tragically killed in a traffic crash on Interstate-90 in Cuyahoga County. Some lost a family member, some a peer, some a trusted confidant, some a fellow classmate. What we all lost was a brother and fellow Trooper. Words fall short of expressing the sorrow we continue to feel.

We often become numb to the dangers of our profession. Unfortunately, tragic events serve as stark reminders of the risks we face every day. I have the privilege of working with the finest men and women in law enforcement, and I am constantly mindful of the sacrifices made on a daily basis. Your efforts to put service above self in order to save lives and improve the quality of life for others is indeed a noble cause. My friend, Trooper Kenny Velez, represented the Highway Patrol well. His life's work was indeed a noble cause.

Please continue to remember Kenny's family, Post 18, the Cleveland District, and members of the 118th class in your thoughts and prayers in the difficult days to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colonel Paul A. Pride".

Colonel Paul A. Pride
Superintendent



End of Watch

September 15, 2016

Thousands Honor Trooper Kenneth Velez

On September 15, 2016, Trooper Kenneth Velez was working traffic enforcement along Interstate 90 in Lakewood when he was struck and killed. A viewing and a funeral took place at Lorain County Community College September 21-22. An estimated 3,000 family, friends and law enforcement paid their final respects to Trooper Velez. Law enforcement agencies from all over Ohio, the United States and Canada were represented.

During the service, his three children, a cousin, Colonel Paul Pride and Reverend Richard Ellsworth remembered Trooper Velez. They spoke about how he was their hero and a good friend who loved working for the Ohio State Highway Patrol. At the conclusion of the service, members of the Pipes and Drums of the Cleveland Police played as hundreds of law enforcement officers stood in formation.

The funeral procession for Trooper Velez was six miles long, taking more than an hour to pass through the streets of Sheffield and Lorain. Students lined the road outside of two schools holding flags. Business signs along the route showed messages of support for the family as their patrons paused to pay their respects. Bagpipes played "Amazing Grace" at Calvary Cemetery, as helicopters conducted a missing man formation above. A mounted unit conducted the riderless horse, followed by a 21-gun salute as taps echoed through the air.

Kenny was a devoted father of three children, often volunteering to coach his sons' baseball teams. He loved watching Ohio State, Cleveland Browns, Cleveland Indians and Cleveland Cavaliers.

Trooper Velez and the 118th Academy Class began training in May 1989. He graduated and earned his commission that November. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the Canfield Post before transferring to the Elyria Post in February 1992. He also served in the Warren and Cleveland Commercial Enforcement sections prior to his most current assignment at the Cleveland Metro Post.

During his career, Trooper Velez received numerous commendation letters and earned the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Safe Driving and Physical Fitness awards. Trooper Velez is survived by his three children, Devin, Andria and Christian.



Trooper Velez Remembered as Best Friend, Family Man

“The only thing that separated us from being brothers was blood,” said retired Trooper A.J. Torres, who Trooper Kenneth Velez considered his best friend. “He was fun. He had a heart of gold. Always the center of attention. He was a blast and would make you smile. He was a family guy. He loved his kids, he loved my kids.”



Torres and Velez met when Velez was a cadet. Torres was in charge of parking at the fair and picked two cadets to help him park cars. Velez was one of the two. Torres started the day off playing a practical joke on the two cadets, telling them they should only park blue cars in the blue lot, white cars in the white lot, red cars in the red lot and all other cars were to go to the yellow lot. The two cadets were exhausted.

When the complaints started rolling in, Torres explained to his superiors that he had no idea why these two cadets parked the cars in such a manner. That was the start of a solid friendship and the first of many practical jokes between the two. Laughter and family were at the root of their friendship.

“My kids loved him,” he said. In fact, Velez is the godfather to one of the Torres’ children. They spent family functions and holidays together. Kenny was the guy who friends and family would want to bring desserts or the cooler, because he couldn’t cook.

Torres also said Velez also loved to shop, remarking that if he went to the mall to pick something up, Velez was sure to be there.

“If there was a sale, he was there!” Torres laughed. “He was a trip.”

They were golfing partners, though some might say neither Velez nor Torres were good at the sport. They watched sports together. They supported the other’s children. They talked about traveling together. This coming spring, Torres says Velez was making plans to go to the Peace Officers’ Memorial Wall in DC.

Velez was already planning for the moment when Torres’ son graduates from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy in spring 2017. Velez was as excited if not more than Torres that his godson would be a trooper.

Velez’s biggest honor was being a father to Devin, Andria and Christian.

“He loved his kids,” Torres said. He was always at their baseball games and loved to go shopping for them. “It’s a devastating loss. We had so many future plans. I’m going to be here for his kids, like he’d be there for mine.”

He loved his Patrol family. His Patrol family loved him too. He was a part of the “Lean, Mean 118.” Velez was the youngest in the class and was considered everyone’s little brother.

“He would brag about knocking out the colonel,” Torres added with a laugh in reference to a sparring match with Colonel Paul Pride, a fellow member of Velez’s academy class, when they were at the Academy.

“Words cannot explain the friendship we had,” Torres said. “We had a blast. He will be missed. We lost a good one. He was family to us. A good friend. Good co-worker. Everyone loved him.”

“The only thing that separated us from being brothers was blood,”
– Retired Trooper A.J. Torres



Core Group of Assessors Brings Objectivity to Assessment Center

Any trooper in the Ohio State Highway Patrol with goals of promotion will go through the assessment center.

Assessment centers use a forward-thinking process to identify the best leaders within an organization, and they're proven to work for employers in the private and public sector alike. The Patrol's assessment center has become a staple in building and defining the leadership of the division. It's a ground-up investment in the future.

Still, the two assessment cycles each year – one in the spring and one in the fall – are stressful times for the troopers who participate. To create the best and most effective experience, the hardworking people of the assessment center plan each cycle with consistency and development in mind.

"The troopers of today are the sergeants of tomorrow," said Dr. Theresa Martelli, the personnel testing administrator of the assessment center. "It is critical that we develop our leadership pipeline by identifying and developing our future leaders throughout their careers."

Assessment Center Development

The assessment center has made many adjustments since the Patrol first experimented with one



A core group of assessors will assess all candidates for promotion. Back row: Lt. Randy McElfresh, Lt. Jerad Sutton, Lt. Travis Hughes, S/Lt. John Altman and Lt. Mike Gore. Front row: Chad Hodges, Dr. Theresa Martelli, S/Lt. Anne Ralston and Leanne Lanciotti.

in 1984. The assessment center originally just promoted sergeants to lieutenants, but it was so well received that the process was adopted for trooper to sergeant promotions in 1986.

Small and large changes have followed. Just several years ago, candidates were assessed early in the week and received their results on Friday. Now, candidates learn their results the same day of their assessment – obviously alleviating a lot of stress.

But the most recent and prominent change came about this year with the introduction of a uniform, consistent group of assessors.

Each cycle lasts five days, and in the past, the assessment center invited assessors to help as their schedule permitted. Most

contributed one or two days at a time. Now, a core group of assessors will assess all of the candidates over the five-day period.

It's a big commitment for them, and it's worth the time. According to senior human resources analyst Leanne Lanciotti, "From a measurement standpoint, having a trained, uniform group of assessors every cycle ensures consistency when scoring the candidates throughout the week." And from the candidate's perspective, having the same trained professionals view every candidate's performance diminishes the perception that certain candidates have an advantage or disadvantage depending on which assessors were present.

“It also shows the commitment you see of the people in this organization,” Martelli said. Six people were chosen from 21 volunteers to be assessors, which required training in addition to the week-long time commitment for each cycle. The assessors are Staff Lieutenant John Altman, Lieutenant Michael Gore, Lieutenant Travis Hughes, Lieutenant Randy McElfresh, Staff Lieutenant Anne Ralston and Lieutenant Jerad Sutton. “They rose to the occasion and exceeded all expectations,” Martelli said.

How It Works

It’s a common misconception that the assessment center tries to trick the candidates that come through. That’s not the case.

“Troopers need to look at the half-day assessment center as a very extensive job interview,” said Chad Hodges, organizational assessment research analyst for the assessment center. “As the applicant, you need to adjust and handle every situation as a leader would. And as with any test or interview, it’s on you to prepare.”

The assessment center team plans the different scenarios each candidate will face during their assessment day. Challenges faced by each candidate change between each cycle so none can know exactly what to expect.

When candidates arrive on assessment day, they’ve already taken charge of their career by taking courses in preparation. Those courses teach basic skills in leadership, which are meant to begin creating the mindset of being a leader for the Highway Patrol. Supervisors are looked up to as role models and sources of guidance, so while technical knowledge learned as a trooper is still necessary, candidates also need to know how to inspire others and work through problems without clear solutions.

“It is critical that we develop our leadership pipeline by identifying and developing our future leaders throughout their careers.”

– Dr. Theresa Martelli
Personnel Testing Administrator

Candidates are tested on those skills on assessment day by solving problems a sergeant faces on a day-to-day basis. That trooper will be judged that day as if he or she were a sergeant.

This leads to some confusion with the grading scale. Candidates receive a score of one to five on all behavioral dimensions that are observed. A score of three isn’t the equivalent of an “average” rating. In fact, it means the candidate met the requirements of being a successful sergeant when handling that task.

If the candidate receives a “3” on all observable dimensions, he or she will receive a final score of 300, which puts them on the promotion list.

“If you get a 300, you could be a sergeant tomorrow,” Hodges said.

Candidates who score close to 300 are in “follow up” range, and can earn additional points by finishing assignments that address some of their weaknesses during testing.

How to Prepare

Candidates already know they should study and take courses ahead of time. Hodges also suggests looking to the leadership that already exists in the division as examples of success.

“Find the best supervisors you can, follow them, and know the job before coming to the assessment center,” he said.

Keep in mind that the final goal of the assessors isn’t just placing names on a promotion list or

checking off boxes. The process is developmental.

“It isn’t just pass or fail,” Lanciotti said. “The assessors take time with each candidate that goes through the process and describes the strengths and weaknesses, with the goal of improving each individual. The job of a sergeant is more conceptual than that of a trooper. The assessment center is designed to capture the intricacies of the job.”

Candidates also shouldn’t psyche themselves out. Assessors make roughly 70 different observations about each candidate throughout the process based on how they apply skills to achieve different goals, meaning one error won’t make or break a candidate. Instead, larger trends emerge that indicate which candidates are ready for a promotion and which need more time to develop as leaders.

Finally, remember that there may be more than one way to solve the problem at hand. Both as a candidate and a future supervisor, success isn’t a matter of rigidly following instructions. It’s about recognizing when there are shades of gray, remembering what you’ve been taught, and deciding for yourself how to handle each problem in the best way.

“Troopers need to understand that the process is there to help them,” Martelli said. “Some may view it as an obstacle to promotion. It should be viewed as the means by which you will succeed once promoted.”



Four K9 units graduated from the Patrol's in-house training program in August. From left: K9 Asko with Trooper Michael Ziehr (Findlay District), K9 Tango with Trooper Matt Dowler (Cleveland District), K9 Tobi with Chillicothe Police Officer Chris King and K9 Csillas with Trooper Brian Hawkins (Cambridge District).

More Canines Graduate

Four K9 units graduated at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy in August, after completing the Patrol's recently-developed in-house training program.

Graduates included K9 Asko with Trooper Michael Ziehr from the Findlay District, K9 Tango with Trooper Matt Dowler from the Cleveland District, K9 Csillas with Trooper Brian Hawkins from the Cambridge District, and K9 Tobi with Chillicothe Police Officer Chris King.

The Patrol has trained one dog in-house before – Fox, who graduated late last year. K9 Kobi is the first dog troopers trained to be used by another agency.

The new K9 units will become instrumental in continuing the mission to remove drugs from Ohio's roads and neighborhoods. With these three units, the Patrol will have 35 canines throughout the state, with three trained in detecting explosives.

So far this year, the Patrol has seized 1,952 pounds of marijuana, 86 pounds of cocaine and 118 pounds of heroin. K9 units have played a major role in those discoveries.

During the ceremony, Lt. Colonel Kevin Teaford recognized Trooper Breck Williamson and his partner of three years, K9 Euro. Euro passed away on April 17, 2016, and Trooper Williamson was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his K9's service to the Patrol.

Additionally, Jim, Janet and Jordan Stanley, of Westerville, presented a \$15,000 check to the Ohio Department of Public Safety Director John Born and

Ohio State Highway Patrol Lt. Colonel Teaford toward the purchase of two canines. The family was inspired to make the donation after hearing about OSHP K9 Euro.

The Patrol began its canine program in 1990 when the Division purchased six canines who received training in Pennsylvania. The first six canines were placed in locations across the state to provide statewide response capabilities.



A Westerville couple donated \$15,000 to the Ohio Department of Public Safety in memory of Patrol K9 Euro. From left: Director John Born, Lt. Colonel Kevin Teaford, Jim and Janet Stanley and Trooper Breck Williamson.



Troopers Bring Safety to State Fair

Every year, troopers help out at the Ohio State Fair by providing security, staffing the Lost Kids Booth and spreading positivity to fairgoers.

They also reach patrons with recruitment efforts and traffic safety messages. This year, fairgoers saw a real-life example of why the Move Over law is so important in the patrol cruiser that was struck by a semi-tractor trailer in April. The public was noticeably moved by the damage sustained by that crash.

The Patrol also participated in a partnership with Freedom Drivers – a project dedicated to educating the public about the dangers of human trafficking. A mobile exhibit organized by Truckers Against Trafficking provided a glimpse into the epidemic with DVDs, artifacts from trafficking cases and real-world stories about victims. It also showed how the trucking industry is working to combat human trafficking, as well as some simple actions anyone can take to fight the problem.

IF YOU'RE DISTRACTED YOU'RE NOT DRIVING



Patrol Joins Education Campaign

Nathan Richeson of Granville, Ohio, was dedicated, hardworking and humble. He earned his pilot's license when he was 16 years old after a lifelong interest in flying. Years later, he graduated from Ohio University with a Bachelor of Arts in aviation and went on to serve in the Ohio Air National Guard. He was always at the top of his class.

His parents, Cathy and Doug, will tell you anything you'd like to know about their son. Nathan loved his family.

Nathan was struck and killed by a distracted driver on August 29, 2014. He was 29 years old.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol has continued to focus on distracted driving as the need for change becomes more and more obvious. At any given moment during daylight hours, more than 600,000 drivers are using hand-held cell phones while driving, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Association (NHTSA). NHTSA also reports that nationwide in 2014, more than 3,000 people were killed in crashes involving distracted drivers.

The crash that killed Nathan Richeson happened just south of

Interstate 70 east on the ramp to Interstate 77 south. He and his wife Alyssa had pulled off to the far right side of the highway to fix a flat tire while on a trip to West Virginia to celebrate their second wedding anniversary.

It was Labor Day weekend around 3:40 p.m., and traffic was bottlenecked. Cars slowed to about 45 mph while passing the couple's camper. Alyssa watched the traffic at Nathan's request while he worked on the tire.

Meanwhile, a distracted driver was also headed south on Interstate 77. She wove in and out of the bottlenecked traffic at a speed around 80 mph. She was texting two people at the time.

She tried to pass a car, but she lost control and swerved right. Witnesses at the scene remember hearing a screech of tires and the sound of her car impacting Nathan's vehicle as she broadsided him, as he tried to leap out of the way. He was killed on impact.

"In his memory, in his name, things have to change," Cathy Richeson said.

This fall, the Patrol is partnering with the Ohio Department of Public Safety on

an education campaign about distracted driving that involves Nathan's story. Troopers will continue to enforce distracted driving laws while also spreading Cathy, Doug and Public Safety's message: the decision to drive distracted cannot be tolerated.

"The loss of a child – the grief – is totally different than the grief of a loss of a parent," Doug said. "I lost both my parents due to natural causes, and that's a hard time in one's life to lose a parent. But to lose a child is something that you never get over. The grief is with you, all the time."

But Cathy and Doug say it isn't just about them. They're sharing Nathan's story to show the real consequences when motorists pay attention to anything other than the road. They felt the full force of how one person's selfish action can change a community in the worst way, and they want to protect others from that pain.

"It's a very selfish approach to go through life thinking your actions don't affect other people," Cathy said. "Because we're all in this together. And we're all responsible for each other. And that's how Nathan lived his life."

A video of Nathan's story is available on the Ohio Department of Public Safety's YouTube (youtube.com/OhioPublicSafety) and on the Patrol's Facebook (facebook.com/ohiostatehighwaypatrol).

Facebook users can change their profile header to a photo supporting the cause by visiting publicsafety.ohio.gov/distracteddriving.



Giving the Opportunity to Live

*By John Born
Director, Ohio Department of Public Safety*

What if I told you that you had the opportunity to give someone the opportunity to live?

That's a pretty powerful thing to consider. Not to just save a life, but to actually give someone the opportunity to live.

And that's precisely what you, as a first responder, can do by utilizing Naloxone (sold under the brand name *Narcan*).

Facing a patient who has overdosed on heroin, your ability to offer rapid treatment for that patient is truly a matter of life and death; and the recent Ohio Revised Code changes allowing Naloxone administration has proved beneficial in the fight against Ohio's drug overdose issues. Although temporary, the rapid and effective treatment given by police officers, firefighters, EMTs and other first responders opens the door to a much needed opportunity for long-term care and rehabilitation for the patient.

While the resurgence of heroin abuse has created a challenge for all of our EMS, law enforcement, and healthcare professionals, when you respond to a person struggling with the demon of addiction, a valuable life hangs in a delicate balance. In that moment you can become a first preventer.

A positive outcome versus a heartbreaking tragedy might be determined by the availability of rapid administered Naloxone.

Naloxone in your hands has proven to be a critical life-sparing factor that is applicable to every sector of our

society and contributes to the safety of every community.

Your training has prepared you to render assistance to those most in need during emergency situations. I know across Ohio, from the police officer in Lima, to the EMT in Jackson, to the firefighter in Akron, all first responders take their role seriously and you strive to not just help raise the quality of care that Ohioans receive, but to also raise the quality of life in the communities in which you serve and live. You are greatly appreciated.

It's an amazing thing when you change the paradigm from seeing yourself as a first responder to seeing yourself as a first preventer – that you see the opportunity to positively change the course of events for a person, a family, and a circle of friends in such a meaningful way.

You already provide critical, lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Despite the risks that you may face while responding, you remain dedicated to helping the patient.

I know every day you and your colleagues fearlessly enter emergency situations, quickly assess and decide what needs to be done to save a mother, a father, or a child. Through your actions, each of these people is given the opportunity to live. And now just think about the possibilities each of these people has to contribute to a better Ohio, and a better nation.

To the thousands of first preventers in Ohio, who provide an essential community service every day, I encourage you to expeditiously utilize Naloxone when appropriate to those who can be given an opportunity to live.



The Patrol will use this 2013 Chevrolet Camaro as a show car at fairs, displays and speech details after it was forfeited to the state of Ohio this summer. A trooper stopped the vehicle on June 2, 2015, for a speed violation on I-75 in Wood County. A strong odor of raw marijuana led to a probable cause search, which revealed more than 600 prescription pills behind the glovebox. Troopers also found a small amount of marijuana behind the driver's seat. The driver was placed under arrest for possession and trafficking pills. The Camaro was installed with a light bar, radio and the Flying Wheel logo after it was forfeited.

'Guns' Earn First Win in Blood Drive Competition

Over 4,000 lives could feel the impact

In the 21 year history of Guns-N-Hoses, the friendly competition between police and firefighters of Central Ohio always concluded with a victory for the hoses – but not this year! Police won the competition for the first time this July with 738 blood donations, compared to fire's 672.

The competition, created by the American Red Cross, counteracts a decrease in blood donation supply that occurs every summer. Guns-N-Hoses donations have the potential to impact as many as 4,230 lives in 41 Central Ohio hospitals.

It's a great way to motivate donations while also showing partnership between fire and police agencies that save lives every day.

"Guns-N-Hoses is our longest running and most popular blood donation campaign in Ohio," said

Rodney Wilson, communications manager of the Red Cross Central Ohio Blood Services Region. "We are so proud to work with our first responders, State Highway Patrol, police and firefighters to raise awareness on the need for blood during the summer. Their involvement has literally helped save countless lives right in the heart of trauma season."

Voting has ended, but donations are accepted year-round. Find a blood drive at redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

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Ohio State Highway Patrol



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CRIMINAL PATROL

Troopers discover 6 pounds of heroin in hidden compartment

August 6, 2016: Two men face felony drug charges after troopers located a hidden compartment in a vehicle during a traffic stop in Sandusky County. Troopers stopped a Mitsubishi SUV for speed and following too closely violations on Interstate 80. Criminal indicators were observed and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. During a probable cause search, after-market modifications were found in the dashboard, which contained six pounds of heroin worth \$198,186.

Troopers seize \$600,000 worth of heroin and cocaine

June 24, 2016: Two men face felony drug charges after troopers seized six kilos of heroin and a half-pound of cocaine following a traffic stop in Summit County. Troopers stopped a 2016 Lincoln Navigator for a speed violation on Interstate 76. Criminal indicators were observed and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed the contraband.

VEHICLE THEFT AND FRAUD UNIT

The Findlay Vehicle Theft and Fraud Unit (VTFU) received information of an individual attempting to trade a stolen Case skid steer for a Harley Davidson motorcycle. The suspect saw the motorcycle for sale on Craigslist, contacted the seller in Illinois and offered to trade. A check of the serial number through the National Equipment Register (NER) revealed the skid steer was stolen. Authorities in Illinois contacted Findlay VTFU due to the suspect claiming to be from Ohio.

VTFU investigators tracked the number to an address in rural Van Wert County, conducted surveillance and observed the suspected stolen vehicle parked with another newer looking Bobcat skid steer, several trailers, vehicles and other equipment.

Investigators and the Van Wert County Sheriff's Office executed search warrants for the property and recovered stolen property including the skid steers, seven trailers and two skid steer attachments. Some of the items had altered or removed vehicle identification numbers.

A title check of a pickup truck located on the property led to an individual in Indiana, who revealed the truck was traded for a John Deere Gator. An NCIC check of the serial number on the Gator revealed it was stolen as well and ultimately recovered by the Indiana State Police. Theft reports indicated the items were stolen from northwest Ohio and northeast Indiana, areas determined to have been frequented by the suspect. The value of the stolen property was approximately \$200,000. Prosecution of the suspect is pending.



Ohio Investigative Unit

Ohio State Fair

The Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) focused on food stamp fraud and recruitment during the Ohio State Fair. Staff were on hand to answer questions about what OIU investigates and questions about how to become an agent.

Jamboree in the Hills

In July, agents charged 76 people at Jamboree in the Hills in Belmont County. Most charges were related to underage violations. Other charges included drug abuse, marijuana paraphernalia and fake identification. Agents from the Athens and Columbus district offices worked the four-day country music festival.

Move-in weekend at OU

Athens police requested OIU assistance with move-in weekend at Ohio University in August. During the two-day enforcement, 48 people were charged, mostly for underage violations. Other charges included fake identification, drug abuse, resisting arrest and drug paraphernalia.

Agents also conducted compliance checks in the campus area. Seven locations were administratively cited for selling and/or furnishing alcohol an underage person. Agents also charged those who illegally sold the alcohol.

Compliance Checks

Cincinnati agents worked with Cincinnati and Springdale and also Clear Creek, Green and Springfield township police departments over the summer conducting compliance checks. Of the 50 compliance checks, 12 liquor permit premises sold alcohol. Those locations were administratively cited for sale and/or furnishing beer to a person under 21. The clerks were also charged for selling beer to a minor.



Four Days in Cleveland that **CHANGED** the **WORLD**

"When we pull this off, it's going to be an amazing story."
– Major Michael Black, OSHP

On a warm summer morning on July 17, Ohio Governor John R. Kasich and Ohio Department of Public Safety (DPS) Director John Born stood together off stage in an auditorium on the campus of Cleveland State University.

Gov. Kasich was there to address nearly 500 Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) troopers – the largest commitment of resources to a single event in the Patrol's 82-year history.

Later that day, Gov. Kasich would speak with commanders from 18 other state law enforcement agencies, who represented the largest assembling of out-of-state law enforcement officers in Ohio history – more than 1,000 officers.

The officers assembled to help the city of Cleveland host the Republican National Convention (RNC) that week, which would be the first National Special Security Event (NSSE) political convention in which the host city's law enforcement agency was under a federal consent decree.¹

With large-event security having changed significantly since the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, law enforcement faced an incredible set of challenges, ranging from world terrorism, mass shootings of law enforcement officers and strained community-police relations across the country.

On July 7, just days before the RNC, a lone gunman in Dallas killed five police officers, and in a separate incident, a gunman in Baton Rouge killed three law enforcement officers on July 17. Those events, plus

an ISIS-inspired attack on July 14 at a Bastille Day celebration in Nice, France that killed 85 people, and other recent terrorism in Belgium, Turkey and Paris led to palpable nervousness for security officials heading into the RNC, scheduled for July 18-21 in Cleveland.

There were predictions of chaos and violence in Cleveland amidst an already contentious political climate. Community-police relations nationally were strained as the nation had also just watched two officer-involved shootings play out on social media in Minneapolis and Baton Rouge.

Even with all that as the backdrop, leaders shared a quiet optimism. Ohio began a journey toward bridging the divide between communities and law enforcement back in January of 2014, in that same auditorium where Gov. Kasich would soon speak. That effort – the Ohio Collaborative Community Police Advisory Board – put Ohio on the map as a national model for community-police relations. (See ocjs.ohio.gov/ohiocollaborative for more information).

The litmus test would occur over the next four days. Leaders knew that a safe RNC for delegates, media, law enforcement and the public would change the nation's view of Cleveland. It would also change the world's view on how the community and law enforcement can interact peacefully and collaboratively. The goal was to change the narrative from one where the RNC became the tipping point for anger and violence, to one showing the success that's possible when everyone in a city works together.

It would be an amazing story.

¹ When an event is designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security as a National Special Security Event (NSSE), the Secret Service assumes its mandated role as lead agency for design and implementation of the operational security plan. The Secret Service has developed a core strategy to carry out security operations, which relies heavily on established partnerships with law enforcement and public safety officials at the local, state and federal levels. The goal of the cooperating agencies is to provide a safe and secure environment for Secret Service protectees, other dignitaries, event participants and the general public. There is a tremendous amount of advance planning and coordination in preparation for these events, particularly in the areas of venue and motorcade route security, communications, credentialing and training. (<https://cdp.dhs.gov/training/nsse-nle-support/>)

BROKEN ARROW DAY

For more than two years, federal, state and local security experts engaged in comprehensive planning and event preparation for the RNC.

A group of Ohio state agencies met 14 times beginning in 2014. There was also a RNC executive steering committee on which Director Born served, and 27 subcommittees, many of which involved DPS representatives.

Major Michael Black of the OSHP was the detail commander for the OSHP and all state agencies that came to Cleveland as part of a unique federal assistance program. He worked side-by-side with Deputy Chief Edward Tomba of the Cleveland Division of Police (CDP), who was their overall detail commander.

Black had the massive responsibility of developing a plan for 2,100 law enforcement officers that included making assignments, drawing up schedules and obtaining resources. The officers were from the OSHP, 18 other state law enforcement agencies, CDP, and municipal officers from Columbus, Louisville, KY, and Austin, TX. Included within the OSHP cadre were also members of the Executive Protection Unit, investigators and the motorcycle unit which were involved with all the dignitary protection details, motorcades and escorts, all of which Black noted, “went off without a hitch.”

“Combining that many agencies together was unprecedented. I’ve never seen anything like it in 28 years,” said Black, who had previously worked on seven other large mass demonstration details including G-20 summits and presidential inaugurations.

The operations plans needed to put structure and organization in place for everything outside the main venue. The U.S. Secret Service was in charge inside that venue.

“Cleveland was awarded the Convention in July 2014 and we knew our efforts were going to involve a lot of people and a lot of agencies,” Tomba said. “The world and law enforcement changed drastically since that time. Our planning process was fluid and changed a lot because of national and world events.”

For Black, it also meant being flexible and managing constant change over nearly two years of planning.

The most important asset during planning wasn’t put in place until the final weeks leading up to the RNC: the establishment of a six-member logistics team comprised of OSHP sworn officers and professional staff that came about only through crisis.

“In mid-April, we found out that about 600 officers who had previously committed to work the RNC were not coming,” Black recalled. “We called that ‘Broken Arrow Day,’ and we needed to do something fast because the RNC was going to happen in less than three months. And one way or another, we had to be ready.”

“Broken arrow” is a military euphemism that a unit is facing imminent destruction and all available forces within range are to provide immediate support.

With huge personnel and logistics gaps to fill, the

logistics team worked out of an office in the Federal Courthouse Building in Cleveland every day for the next three months. From that office, they built the structure of the entire detail for the OSHP, the other 21 partnering state and local agencies, and ensured it all synced with the CDP operations plan. They also worked on securing contracts for housing of more than 2,000 officers, as well as contracts for their food, water, laundry services and bus transportation to get the officers around Cleveland to their various assignments.

Each CDP commander met with the logistics team to ensure their plans were worked out to every detail. The team also met every Friday with Deputy Chief Tomba.

For the OSHP, one of the most important missions was security around the perimeter of the venue. Just days before the event, Black and his logistics team faced a new challenge when it was revealed the 12-hours per day responsibility for perimeter security at the venue was going to be a 24-hour commitment, which meant a new midnight shift had to be added to the operations plan.

“I am so proud of the logistics team,” Black said. “When they first met on April 22 you would have never believed it would all come together. They deserve the credit. They put the work in and you could see it in how the mission was accomplished.”

A FIRST FOR EVERYONE

Holly Welch is the DPS attorney who managed the complex process that brought more than 1,000 state law enforcement officers from 18 states coming to Cleveland as part of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Through EMAC, Welch said the multi-law enforcement coalition assembled for the RNC was unprecedented in Ohio, and something never before seen at any previous national convention.

“The thing I am most proud of is we were able to meet the needs of Cleveland,” Welch said. “Everyone got a warm public reaction and everyone was able to stay safe.”





Coordinated through the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), EMAC serves as the relational and legal glue between federal, state and local entities for moving people and resources. EMAC offers assistance during governor-declared states of emergency that allows states to send personnel, equipment and commodities to help disaster relief efforts in other states. Once the conditions for providing assistance to a requesting state have been set, the terms constitute a legally-binding contractual agreement that makes affected states responsible for reimbursement (*See www.emacweb.org/index.php/learnaboutemac/what-is-emac to learn more*).

Without EMAC, many of the states that sent in the 1,000 out-of-state officers to work in Cleveland may not have participated in the detail. Ohio Emergency Management Agency Executive Director Sima Merick oversaw the entire EMAC process.

“The actions we took with respect to EMAC were unprecedented,” Merick said. “The coordination and collaboration with NEMA, state agencies and the City of Cleveland to get those resources in here filled the gaps law enforcement needed. We were able to bring in specialized units and officers who knew the mission and were able to execute the mission safely and successfully.”

Welch attributed the success through EMAC to three things – coordination, communication and flexibility. What made this usage of EMAC unique is that it usually does not involve planning, because agencies are typically responding to a disaster or incident that has already occurred. She expects the way EMAC was used for the RNC to become a blueprint for other states in terms of resources and coordination on the front end of an event.

“This was a first for everyone that we were planning before the event, and even changing the plan during the event,” Welch said. “It was great to work with the other states. We were able to work with emergency managers behind the scenes to get law enforcement the liability protection, reimbursements and other requirements they needed. It was a team of people from NEMA, to the states, to our EMA, to people in Cleveland.”

For Merick, the realization of how important EMAC was happened as she watched live television coverage of a group of protesters gathered in the public square area on the RNC’s third day.

“They were showing this large group of people on television and it looked like there were more and more coming,” Merick recalled as she watched from a command center several miles away. “Then the camera panned over and I saw troopers with patches on their uniforms from Kansas and Missouri and Indiana. I was so proud to know that we had been able to do that for the city of Cleveland.”



MODEL FOR THE NATION

The RNC blended with the underlying success of the Ohio Collaborative and conversations already taking place in Cleveland to mend community-police relations. The RNC was Cleveland’s opportunity to shine in the national spotlight, and the community wasn’t going to be baited into violence by out-of-towners.

This sentiment was echoed in a July 22 op-ed on Time.com from Gov. Kasich as the RNC concluded: “When problems between the community and police arose in recent years, people came together to improve communication and begin rebuilding trust. The result is that people know they have a stake in making things work and have a reason for optimism. It’s a model for the nation.”



There was no way it could have worked without the partnerships with those other state agencies.

– Major Chad McGinty, OSHP



***"For law enforcement, there was an opportunity
to show who we really are."***

– Colonel Paul A. Pride, OSHP Superintendent



Gov. Kasich established the Ohio Collaborative in 2015 to oversee implementation of recommendations from the Ohio Task Force on Community-Police Relations. The state has partnered with the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police to help certify Ohio's nearly 1,000 law enforcement agencies to keep them in compliance with Ohio's new standards. As of this publication, more than 70 agencies had become certified by meeting standards for the use of force, including deadly force, and agency recruitment and hiring, and more than 180 agencies are in the process of becoming certified. Those standards are the first of their kind in Ohio and were developed by the Ohio Collaborative in August 2015.

In the week leading up to the RNC, Gov. Kasich went to Cleveland to meet with civic and clergy leaders to discuss the Collaborative and ask for their assistance in turning its accomplishments into a pathway for a peaceful RNC.

Leaders during that meeting were reminded that Cleveland was one of 20 communities in Ohio selected to receive up to \$30,000 in community-police relations funding from the DPS Office of Criminal Justice Services to assist with initiatives to improve relationships between communities and law enforcement agencies serving them. This is further proof that Ohio, and Cleveland, is becoming a national leader in its efforts to build stronger relationships between police and communities, and the willingness of law enforcement to reach out to the communities they serve.

A DOUBLE OPPORTUNITY

The main RNC venue in downtown Cleveland was the Quicken Loans Arena, where just weeks earlier the Cleveland Cavaliers had celebrated an NBA championship. The victory parade drew an estimated 1.3 million people to downtown Cleveland and served as an unexpected and beneficial test on security officials preparing for the RNC.

Supporting venues within walking distance included the Cleveland Convention Center and the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel. Events were invitation only and not open to the public. Protesters and other members of the public were forced to gather at an outside ring separated by seven miles of perimeter fencing and a one-mile chute from the venue to the convention center.

Approximately 50,000 visitors and an international media contingent were expected in the Northeast Ohio area. Planning for public safety and security was a large coordinated effort by law enforcement, emergency management, and public safety organizations at all levels of government, and the private sector.

As a NSSE event, the U.S. Secret Service was the lead federal agency for security operational planning, with the Federal Bureau of Investigation being the lead federal agency for crisis management, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency the lead federal agency

for emergency and consequence management.

There were three primary federal command centers in or near Cleveland that were limited to credentialed military, law enforcement, and emergency management personnel.

The Multi Agency Coordination Center was in the Cleveland IX Center. This was the primary command, communication and control component. A number of sub-command and coordinating centers were co-located within this controlled access venue.

OSHP Colonel Paul Pride, who had authorized the largest commitment of personnel and resources ever from his organization, knew going into the RNC that it marked a significant opportunity for law enforcement to change the public narrative about police officers.

"The morning before the RNC there was chaos in the country and around the world," Pride said. "But on the heels of that there was a double opportunity. First, there was an opportunity for the people of Cleveland to say something about their city. And for law enforcement, there was an opportunity to show who we really are."

HUGS, HIGH FIVES & HANDSHAKES

After more than 18 months of planning, and all the struggles along the way, the plans were in place. Everyone and everything was ready. The eyes of the world were going to be on Cleveland – and more than 2,000 law enforcement officers from agencies across the country were going to be in the spotlight of what members of the media were projecting to be an extremely volatile week.

Then the deadly shootings of law enforcement officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge just before the RNC caused trepidation for many officers working the RNC. News of the Baton Rouge shootings was still coming in as Gov. Kasich prepared to speak with OSHP troopers on the eve on the RNC.

Black noted the operations plans had to be readjusted after the Dallas shootings. He recounted numerous phone conversations with some of the EMAC agencies regarding the increasing safety concerns for their officers in the wake of Dallas. To the credit of every EMAC agency, nobody backed out of their commitment to be part of the RNC detail.

With the planning phase done, the responsibility shifted to OSHP Major Chad McGinty, who was the assistant detail commander and commander of the field force for crowd control and civil disturbance.

"Our strategy was to control the crowds and tempo in the city," McGinty said. "There was no way it could have worked without the partnerships with those other state agencies. We had a commander from every agency with us in the command center. Anytime we needed something, we got it."

As focus transitioned to the operations of the RNC, McGinty led the multi-state field force and Black shifted to overseeing traffic responsibilities including motorcades and dignitary escorts. OSHP investigators



and executive protection staff were responsible for dignitary protection and the venue security, which included the perimeter of the main venue. The Special Response Team served as a quick reactionary force inside the perimeter security between the fence and the venue. And on top of all that, Ohio Investigative Unit agents worked the bars and teamed up with CDP and U.S. Secret Service personnel on counter-surveillance teams.

Ohio law permits the open carry of firearms, which is not the case for a number of states who sent officers to the RNC detail. In the wake of the Dallas and Baton Rouge shootings, officers of many of these agencies felt uncertain about how to deal with the open carry element – plus added concerns about snipers. There were even calls for Gov. Kasich to temporarily suspend Ohio’s open carry law, which constitutionally he is not authorized to do.

McGinty worked to ease those concerns by sharing intelligence ahead of time when they knew open carry citizens were coming. He provided reassurance that those people were just doing it for effect, would be adequately “trailed” and did not pose a problem.

“It was a huge challenge for them,” McGinty said about discussions he had with commanders from other states without open carry laws. “Someone carrying an AK-47 in a crowd with all those people around was tough. We just continued reassuring the other states that it would be okay and to just let it play out.”

For protesters and anarchists, downtown Cleveland with its numerous glass storefronts was a target-rich environment. Thrown objects to break windows was a concern for many business owners and security officials alike. The best way to counter that threat was to saturate the city with law enforcement officers walking and moving in small groups.

McGinty used a “golf shotgun start” analogy to describe how and where officers were deployed. Every officer had a map that showed staging areas throughout the city and line assignments from each staging area. Like a charity golf outing, small groups of officers would start at a designated time from each staging location. A short time later, another group would go out, and that would continue throughout the day.

“We just constantly saturated key areas of the city. Even if you wanted to start something you couldn’t – there were just too many officers,” McGinty said.

The first groups out each day were charged with looking for protest materials that had been hidden overnight by anarchists. So when the anarchists came back out later, the bolts, bricks and other items hidden to cause damage to property and people were nowhere to be found.

McGinty also knew if law enforcement could gain public support early in the operation then the community would be a terrific asset in helping maintain order throughout the week. He wanted the officers to be seen everywhere and for the community to view them as a nice addition to the city. Even in Cleveland’s Public Square, where the largest groups of protesters assembled each day, officers went out without riot gear.

“The challenge after Dallas was to get everyone to buy in to what we were doing. Many of the other states thought they were going to be in riot suits and shooting tear gas all week,” McGinty said. “What actually happened was ping pong, dance contests, hugs, high fives and handshakes.”



Tomba noted his biggest surprise was the level of law enforcement and public anxiety before the event compared with what actually happened once it started.

“The first two days were quiet and our local community was just watching and hoping that would continue. By days three and four it picked up and became a community celebration,” Tomba said. “As a lifelong city resident and police officer in this city for 32 years, I knew the city was dedicated and committed. You know the Cavs won six weeks earlier, and the fact we had no significant incidents says a lot for our city and leadership.”

While there was a strong law enforcement presence in Cleveland, behind the scenes Richard Zwyer, Executive Director of Ohio Homeland Security (OHS), was overseeing a key component in support of those officers on the streets.

“None of our work was outwardly visible to law enforcement,” Zwyer said. “But behind the scenes we were there for commanders and leadership to give them the timely information they needed to make crucial and successful decisions.”

Collaboration was occurring on the intelligence side as well. OHS worked with partners such as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the OSHP Intelligence Unit, the Ohio Fusion Center Network, FBI and U.S. Secret Service to share pertinent intelligence that had an impact on the operations of law enforcement and security leading up to, and during, the RNC. They were also assisting in identifying critical infrastructure that could be impacted by the event.

“The development and identification of intelligence was an important part of the planning and operations of the RNC,” Zwyer said. “The sharing and collaboration helped identify potential threats and issues that were likely to arise during the event, and when we shared that with law enforcement it was used to develop tactical objectives in order to protect attendees and the public.”

OHS was directly involved in searching for terroristic threats related or directed toward the RNC or its attendees.

Zwyer said OHS staff focused on ensuring the information gathered was vetted and then provided as intelligence with value for law enforcement and first responders to act upon.

“Our goal was to prevent something from happening rather than responding to something that had already happened,” Zwyer said. “We believe strongly that our interactions with state, federal and local partners, and the value of the information we shared with each agency’s leadership was unseen but a valuable part of the RNC.”

Collaboration was also integral to the work EMA was doing, both before the RNC, and during the event itself. Merick, who also served as one of four unified group commanders during the RNC, was able to closely coordinate state resources with all involved entities, levels of government and the private sector. Additionally, through a 24-hour activation of the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Columbus that involved at varying times 15-20 different state and federal agencies, she oversaw the linking of support to county and city EOCs so accurate information was available around the clock for decision makers.

“Because we were in the pre-event planning meetings, we were able to learn and glean what our federal partners were doing and what resources they were pre-positioning,” Merick said. “Knowing





what our state resources were, it gave me a sense of comfort on what resources we might need, and from where, if something big happened.”

WE OVERWHELMED THEM

Cleveland’s Public Square became a gathering place for large groups of protesters. At its peak, about 1,000 people gathered in the downtown open area. McGinty estimated that crowd size included about 400 protesters, but also included approximately 200 law enforcement officers and hundreds of credentialed and independent media members looking for a story that never materialized.

“Getting all those states to come was huge,” McGinty said. “For instance, we had 300 troopers from California who I knew were all trained the same way. I could tell one California trooper, ‘This is what I need,’ and 300 would react all in the same way.”

The first large group of protesters was a Black Lives Matter group with known anarchists embedded within the crowd. As the group marched down Cleveland’s East 48th Street, they were trailed by officers on bicycles. Then as the crowd turned a corner, they saw Michigan State Police troopers lining both sides of the street. McGinty noted the line of troopers in their blue uniforms was an instant deterrent to anyone who may have had other plans. It set the theme for the entire week.

A focus for the week was to change the perception of law enforcement so the story was about positive interactions between the public and officers. Through gathered intelligence, it was well known the intent of many protesters and anarchists was to draw out officers

and get a reaction. McGinty stressed throughout the week that restraint and self-discipline in that environment would be critical toward changing the law enforcement-community relations perception.

A prime illustration involved the OSHP mobile field force and a person protesting the incident in which 12-year-old Tamir Rice was fatally shot by Cleveland police in 2014.

The African-American man, with his 4-year-old daughter, was screaming obscenities at each trooper and periodically fake shooting his daughter, who would fall to the ground as part of the protest. As the man went down one line of troopers and then the next, he dropped his chap-stick on the ground. A trooper, who had just been yelled at by this man, picked up the chap-stick and courteously returned it to the man.

A group of onlookers saw this gesture and began applauding. They moved in around the protester to support the troopers, which caused him to leave the area. He tried a similar protest on another day directed toward California troopers, who conducted themselves in the same manner as the Ohio troopers. The protester walked away, again frustrated by the professionalism and restraint.

It was critical for law enforcement to always stay ahead of the large crowds of protesters and anarchists. For this, the strategy was to be proactive the whole week, starting on Sunday with what McGinty called ‘be approachable.’

“We overwhelmed them with polite, professional police services. They just couldn’t ever get anything going,” McGinty said.

Tomba noted law enforcement’s use of bicycles also



"We have better training, better equipment and are an overall better police department because of this event."

– Deputy Chief Edward Tomba
Cleveland Division of Police

became a central part of the strategy for crowd control. Officers were able to quickly establish barricades with their bicycles between protesters with opposing views. It served as a safe way for law enforcement to keep things calm but still allow everyone to maintain their first amendment right to free speech.

"The bicycles had a big impact for us that week and going forward," Tomba said. "We have better training, better equipment and are an overall better police department because of this event. What we learned you don't get in school or in books."

AN AMAZING STORY

On July 16, McGinty spoke with the OSHP troopers working the detail about his expectations and how the upcoming days were a chance for the world to see what he already knew – that the OSHP is a shining example of professional law enforcement. Sitting in his office two weeks after the detail, he was still emotional about what they did.

"Everyone did exactly what I wanted them to do," he said. "No gas was used. No broken glass. They shined, and we got to share that with the rest of the world."

McGinty also speaks glowingly of the other agencies who came to Cleveland. Instead of helmets and shields, he likes to recount stories of the Louisville officer who stopped to break dance with some teens, and the Indiana State Police trooper who got in on a ping pong game, and a California state trooper who joined a peace activist who was giving away free hugs.

In reflecting on the RNC a month afterward, Pride also acknowledged a key to the overall success came from those outside of law enforcement.

"You have to tip your hat to the people in the city of Cleveland and the leadership in the community," Pride said. "The clergy, elected officials and influential people in the city helped make the week what it was. We saw great collaboration with the people and leadership in the city. We got a block party instead of a riot."

Pride also expressed appreciation to Cleveland's business community for their welcoming spirit throughout the event. As an example, PNC Bank in Cleveland opened its cafeteria and office space to officers from all over the country, allowing a much-needed place for everyone working the RNC to rest and re-energize before heading back out to respective assignments. A sentiment echoed by so many, but not surprising to those who call Cleveland home.

"As proud as I am of being in law enforcement, I'm more proud of being a Clevelander," Tomba said.

In summing up the overall RNC operation and looking ahead to future events, everyone interviewed for this article acknowledged the planning, organization, collaboration and community engagement will pay dividends for a long time.

"When we pull this off, it's going to be an amazing story," Black told Director Born as they drove back from Cleveland about two weeks before the event.

And what an amazing story it turned out to be.

For more on this story, watch the documentary "4 Days in Cleveland" at [youtube.com/OhioPublicSafety](https://www.youtube.com/OhioPublicSafety).

Ohio Speaker Expresses Thanks

By Clifford A. Rosenberger
Speaker of the Ohio House

I have always been a proud supporter of the men and women in blue. From an early age, I was taught to respect and honor these individuals who sacrifice so much in the face of danger every day.

Even in my daily life, as Speaker of the Ohio House, it is not difficult to notice the time and effort that goes into being a law enforcement official. I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to work with members of the State Highway Patrol, both active and retired, in the Statehouse on a very regular basis.

Whether serving on the State Highway Patrol, on the local patrol, or in the Ohio Statehouse protecting citizens, those called to serve as peace officers play a critical role in keeping our communities safe. I've been a witness to this service all across the state and it was no different at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland this past July.

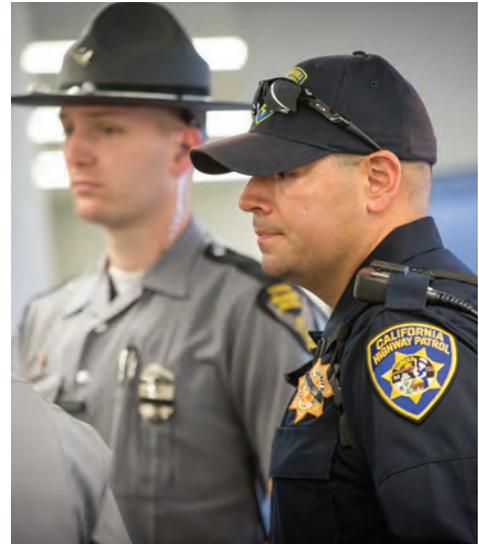
With the convention being such a high profile event, I don't believe anyone knew exactly what to expect. However, I was astounded at every corner to see Ohio's law enforcement patrolling the city and talking with visitors. I had the opportunity to shake hands with everyone ranging from Cleveland's local city police officers, to the United States Secret Service, to the State Highway Patrol. It was impossible to miss their presence at all the events and it provided a great sense of pride for my fellow Ohioans to see them all out in full force.

Making my way around the various meetings and activities during the week, it was clear that every precaution was taken to keep the public safe. I never felt that I, or anyone around me, had cause for concern. These law enforcement officials made security a priority. Even though they had to leave behind their families to work countless hours on our behalf, and in very warm weather conditions, these patrolmen "kept their cool." The State Highway Patrol made every effort possible to plan and prepare for this very special week in Cleveland, and I want them to know that it did not go unnoticed.

And their kindness and professionalism did not go unnoticed either. In this day and age, it seems that our law enforcement officials are underappreciated. Controversy and tension have taken hold of the news airways in regards to police. All I can say is that the time I spent at the RNC was safe and enjoyable and I credit that mostly to our law enforcement officials, especially the State Highway Patrol.

Earlier this year, I was selected to give the keynote address at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Graduation. I was reminded of their mission, which is to "protect life and property, promote traffic safety and provide professional safety services with respect, compassion and unbiased professionalism." As I reflect on this statement, the words "respect and compassion" stick out to me because in every interaction I have had with a state highway patrolman, these characteristics have been displayed. This rang even truer at the RNC, where a massive group of people, all with diverse views and ideas, were concentrated in one area—and it was the brave, intelligent and considerate state highway patrolmen who I credit with making it such a successful week.

In a time when the sacrifices and hard work that go into being a police officer are sometimes forgotten, I wanted to express my sincere gratitude to those individuals who served at the RNC in July. Because of you all, citizens were kept safe, chaos was avoided and the country, as well as the world, could look to Cleveland as a beacon of democracy, freedom and peace. Thank you.



"It is not difficult to notice the time and effort that goes into being a law enforcement official."

– Clifford A. Rosenberger, Speaker of the Ohio House



REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION RECOGNITION

Four officers received special recognition for their work leading up to the 2016 Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. The planning efforts of Major Michael D. Black, Major Chad M. McGinty, Staff Lieutenant Herbert B. Homan and Sergeant Jeffery L. Reynolds helped create a strong bond of cooperation and mutual assistance among law enforcement agencies throughout the country.

From left: Colonel Paul A. Pride, Major Michael D. Black, Staff Lieutenant Herbert B. Homan, Sergeant Jeffery L. Reynolds, Major Chad M. McGinty and Director of Public Safety John Born.



CERTIFICATES OF RECOGNITION



Justin J. Ross

On July 13, 2016, Trooper Justin J. Ross was dispatched to the scene of a one-vehicle crash in Wayne County. Upon arrival, Trooper Ross discovered the driver was unconscious behind the wheel of his truck.

When Trooper Ross removed the driver from the vehicle, he assessed the driver's vitals and requested EMS. Trooper Ross, suspecting a drug overdose, administered NARCAN and began chest compressions until emergency personnel arrived. The driver eventually opened his eyes, took a deep breath, and began breathing normally.



Joel D. Hughes

On April 24, 2016, Trooper Joel D. Hughes and his family were hiking the Mill Creek Park trail in Mahoning County when they observed a bicyclist who had fallen from his bike, striking his head on the pavement.

Trooper Hughes quickly assessed the bicyclist, noticed he was not breathing and had no pulse. Dr. Yazan Jadallah arrived shortly thereafter and began chest compressions while Trooper Hughes administered the AED and monitored the victim's vital signs. EMS arrived and transported the bicyclist to the hospital.



Sean L. Eitel

On May 17, 2016, Trooper Sean L. Eitel observed a vehicle driving erratically in Licking County. Trooper Eitel activated his overhead lights as the vehicle hit a utility pole. The vehicle then bounced off a second pole, overturned and caught fire.

Trooper Eitel grabbed his fire extinguisher, approached the driver and heard her asking about her baby. He immediately opened the rear door and discovered an infant hanging upside down from a child safety seat. Concerned that the flames might rekindle, he immediately removed the car seat, freeing the four-month-old child.

Swanton



Lieutenant Vern Fisher teamed up with the Fulton and Henry county sheriff's offices, the Archbold Police Department and Fulton County Safe Communities for a detail at a car show in Archbold on August 13 with safety messages about seat belts, drinking and driving, drug abuse and distracted driving.

Georgetown



Georgetown troopers attended the Ohio Valley Antique Machinery Show in August to provide information on mature driver safety programs, impaired driving, safety belts, school bus safety and motorcycle safety to the show's 45,000 patrons. Several live radio broadcasts also aired from the show grounds to convey our message to area listeners.

"Creating opportunities that get us out into the community, which builds relationships with those within our community, is invaluable," said Lieutenant Randy McElfresh, Georgetown Post Commander, who helped staff the booth. "It's the most effective method to express our messages and save lives."

While there, Sergeant Shannon Utter reunited a lost child with his mother. Many in attendance thanked troopers for their service.

Cleveland



Troopers Justin Flemming and John McGlashan participated in a plane pull to benefit Special Olympics Ohio. The event raised more than \$48,000.

Retirees



Retired MVI Bela Kastely was inducted into the Athens High School Athletics Hall of Fame in August. Before graduating in 1961 from Chauncey-Dover High School, he won nine varsity letters in baseball, football and basketball. During his senior year he was voted Most Valuable Player in baseball and co-captain of the football and baseball teams.

Wilmington

On June 6, 2016, Trooper J.B. Priest of the Wilmington Post visited the Southern State Community College Preschool, which is called the Patri-Tots, to educate children about public safety personnel.

He spoke to about 15 kids about bicycle safety, car seat safety, being cautious of strangers and that police officers are their friends. He answered several questions about what equipment he carries on his person. The kids were shown the patrol car and equipment inside it.



Athens



Current and former members of the Athens Patrol Post met for lunch at the Albany Café in July. Current members in attendance included Jeff Holbert, Sergeant Aaron Hayes, Jason Allison, Trooper Steve Brooks, Trooper Burt Wilson and MWR2 Brett Irwin. Former members in attendance included Ret. Lieutenant Luther Vansickle, Ret. Trooper Leonard Gray, Ret. Dispatcher Larry Goss, Ret. MVI Steve Dupler and Ret. MVI Bela Kastely.

Portsmouth



Members of the youth group from Calvary Chapel of Portsmouth stopped by the Portsmouth Post Sunday evening with a gift basket to thank them for everything that they do, and to offer continued prayers for everyone during the course of their duties. The youth group was greeted by Sergeant Joe Baisden and Trooper Nick Lewis.

Lancaster



The Lancaster Post participated in a Walk Like MADD event, bringing attention to the campaign against drunk driving.

James T. Sivak

Staff Lieutenant James T. Sivak, Warren District, retired on June 15, 2016, after 30 years of service. He joined the Patrol in 1985 as a member of the 115th Academy Class. He earned his commission in March 1986 and was assigned to Georgetown.

In 1987, he transferred to the Chardon Post, where he earned a Certificate of Recognition in 1990. In 1992, he was promoted to sergeant and transferred to the St. Clairsville Post as an assistant post commander. As a sergeant, he also served at Chardon. In 2000, he was promoted to lieutenant and transferred to Ashtabula as post commander. In 2006, he returned to the Chardon Post as commander.

In 2012, he transferred to Cleveland District Headquarters to serve as the Patrol's liaison officer for the Ohio Turnpike. In 2013, he was promoted to staff lieutenant and transferred to Warren District Headquarters to serve as assistant district commander.



Robert Anderson

Central Office Assistant Agent-in-Charge Robert Anderson retired on June 30, 2016, after 22 years with the Ohio Investigative Unit. He began his career as an agent in February 1994. He was promoted to assistant agent-in-charge in March 2012.

In his career, he worked in the Athens, Central, Cincinnati and Columbus offices. He has served as a Sober Truth agent and as a member of the training and special squad sections of OIU.

AAIC Anderson is a graduate of the Public Safety Leadership Academy. He served as a military police officer in the U.S. Army from 1985-1991 and is a graduate of the Muskingum Area Technical College Police Academy.



Karen Garewal

Lieutenant Karen Garewal, Office of Criminal Investigations, retired on July 8, 2016, after 21 years of service. She joined the Patrol in May 1995 as a member of the 127th Academy Class. She earned her commission that November and was assigned to the Hiram Post.



In 1999, she transferred to Cleveland Operations where she served as a plainclothes investigator and earned the Trooper Recognition Award in 2001. In 2004, she was promoted to sergeant. In 2014, she was promoted to lieutenant and named commander in Investigation at Brook Park.

Lieutenant Garewal earned a Bachelor of Science in criminal justice from the University of Dayton and a Master of Arts in criminal justice from Kent State University.

George W. Harlow III

Lieutenant George W. Harlow III, Athens Post, retired on July 8, 2016, after 25 years of service. He joined the Patrol in May 1991 as a member of the 121st Academy Class. He earned his commission that November and was assigned to Jackson where he was Post Trooper of the Year in 1994 and Post and District Trooper of the Year in 1997.

In 1998, he was promoted to sergeant and transferred to Defiance as an assistant post commander. Later that year, he transferred to Gallipolis. In 2008, he returned to the Jackson Post. In 2011, he transferred to the Training Academy as an instructor, and then to the Administrative Investigative Unit. In 2012, he was promoted to lieutenant and transferred to his most recent assignment as Athens Post commander.

Lieutenant Harlow completed advanced leadership training at Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command and also graduated from the Public Safety Leadership Academy. He has an Associate of Applied Science in welding fabrication from Washington Technical College and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Liberty University.



Judith A. Wynn-Neel

Lieutenant Judith A. Wynn-Neel, Cleveland District Criminal Investigations, retired on June 10, 2016, after 31 years of service. She joined the Patrol in 1984 as a cadet dispatcher at Medina. She became a member of the 116th Academy Class in April 1987. She earned her commission that September and was assigned to the Wilmington Post.

As a trooper, she served at the former Akron Post and Cleveland Operations. In 1994, she was promoted to sergeant and transferred to Chardon as an assistant post commander. In 1998, she was promoted to lieutenant and transferred to Akron to serve as post commander.

She also served at the Canton Post, Cleveland Operations



and Warren District Criminal Investigations. For the past three years, she served as a liaison to the Cleveland FBI.

Lt. Wynn-Neel completed advanced leadership training at Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command and holds a Bachelor of Science in emergency management from the University of Akron.

Paul D. Isgett

Sergeant Paul D. Isgett, Ironton Post, retired on June 24, 2016, after 17 years of service. He joined the Patrol in February 1999 as a member of the 133rd Academy Class. He earned his commission that July and was assigned to the Chillicothe Post.

He also served at Portsmouth, Ironton and Jackson before he transferred to the Office of Criminal Investigations in 2010 to serve as a plainclothes investigator. In 2013, he returned to Ironton, where in 2014, he was promoted to sergeant to serve as an assistant post commander.

Sergeant Isgett earned an Associate of Applied Science in electrical engineering from Shawnee State University. He served 18 years in the U.S. Navy. He was deployed to Iraq in 2005 and Afghanistan in 2011. Sergeant Isgett was awarded the military ribbon in 2015.



Aleck J. Halvorsen

Trooper Aleck J. Halvorsen, Wooster Post, retired on July 8, 2016, after 22 years of service. He joined the Patrol in February 1994 as a member of the 126th Academy Class. He earned his commission that July and has served at Wooster throughout his career. He holds an Associate of Arts in criminal justice from St. Petersburg College and a Bachelor of Arts in criminology from Saint Leo University.



Amy C. James

Trooper Amy C. James, Capitol Operations, retired on July 5, 2016, after 26 years of service. She joined the Patrol in 1990 as a cadet dispatcher at the Bucyrus Post. She became a member of the 121st Academy Class in May 1991. She earned her commission in that



November and was assigned to the Sandusky Post. In 2008, she transferred to Capitol Operation at the Statehouse.

Robert D. Divjak

Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Robert D. Divjak, Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on August 4, 2016, after 30 years of service. He joined the Patrol in August 1986 as a Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector assigned to the Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit. In 1995, he transferred to the Defiance Post to serve as part of the administrative staff. In 2000, he returned to Findlay District Commercial Enforcement Unit as a motor carrier enforcement inspector.



Thomas S. Tonnous

Portable Load Limit Inspector Thomas S. Tonnous, Cambridge District Commercial Enforcement Unit, retired on June 30, 2016, after five years of service. He joined the Patrol in October 2010 as a maintenance repair worker at Cambridge District Headquarters. In 2015, he was promoted to portable load limit inspector and transferred to his most recent assignment.



David C. Baker

Business Process Analyst 1 David C. Baker, Statistical Analysis Unit, retired on July 29, 2016, after 30 years of service. He joined the Patrol in June 1986 as a programmer analyst in the Office of Planning and Analysis. In 1990, he was promoted to Programmer Specialist 1 and transferred to the Crash Reconstruction Unit. In 2010, he was promoted to his most recent position and transferred to the Statistical Analysis Unit.



OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

Chaplain's Comments



The common subject of conversation with anyone who knows where I live is usually the question about the water level and progress on the work on the dam at Buckeye Lake. (One needs to be careful how reference to the project is made, especially in a message given from the pulpit on Sunday morning.) The reality is that the water level is too low for normal boating this year. But hope springs eternal for next season. When one arrives at my age, however, a year takes on a new meaning. But the inability to participate in boating does not take away fond memories of the fun and relaxation we have had in previous years.

When our children were younger, we had a small cabin where we would spend time during the summer. Before we knew about the algae problem, we spent many hours swimming at the well-known sand bar as well as skiing. It was family fun which has left me with great memories. But I also have the memory of my evening boat rides with our dog Skipper.

After a story and prayers with the kids, I would receive permission from Linda to take Skipper for a ride on the darkened waters. When the moon was visible, it gave navigation light. When there was no moonlight it became somewhat adventuresome. No, there was no great danger of becoming lost at sea. But even on the small body of water I affectionately call Buckeye Ocean, there can be the question of location and orientation after dark. But both God and man provides guidance for us. It is guidance to be used and not ignored.

When the night seemed so dark and I wondered as to my exact location, I could usually find the North Star and become properly oriented. That was God's gift. Up until a few years ago, there was a tavern and dock directly across the water from our home. It was known as the Blue Goose because of a large, blinking neon sign in the form of a goose. That was man's contribution for the guidance I needed. Both were helpful; neither was to be ignored.

What was true for my nighttime boating is true for the living of our individual lives as well as the manner by which we serve as members of the Ohio State Highway Patrol family. There are the rules and regulations given by the human organization for the proper fulfillment of the mission to make Ohio safer every day. When an individual ignores these guidelines, she or he may not only become lost but may bring a blemish to the organization. There are the guidelines given by God in His Word that keep us on course as individuals. When ignored, there can be damage not only to the individual, but also to the society of which she or he may be a part.

The main point is given very clearly in the instructions given by God to Joshua when he took over the leadership of the Israelites from Moses: "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go...Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go". (Joshua 1:7,9). As individuals as well as a nation, or a unit as part of the nation, we need to hear and heed these words given to Joshua long ago. They, along with the Ten Commandments and related laws, rules and regulations are as valid today as when given and adopted in the past.

There should be no room for relative morality.

Phil, Kelly and I have you in our prayers and are truly blessed to be part of the Patrol Family.

Respectfully,

Richard D. Ellsworth
State Chaplain

FLYING WHEEL

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

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