

# Ohio State Highway Patrol

## Media Release

General Headquarters • Columbus, Ohio



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### **Cincinnati Bengals receive Patrol's 2009 Partners for Safety Award**

CINCINNATI – The Cincinnati Bengals received the Ohio State Highway Patrol's 2009 Partners for Safety Award today during Bengals coach Marvin Lewis' weekly press conference. Presenting the Award at Paul Brown Stadium to Bengals Team President Mike Brown were Director Cathy Collins-Taylor, Ohio Department of Public Safety, Captain Kevin Teaford, Interim Superintendent, Ohio State Highway Patrol and Lt. Randy McElfresh, Batavia Post Commander, Ohio State Highway Patrol.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol's Partners for Safety Award recognizes local level partnerships that help in the development of state and local programs to increase the overall safety on Ohio roadways. The Patrol established the Award in 2005 to recognize private sector organizations that take an active role in promoting traffic safety initiatives.

In the past three NFL seasons, the Ohio State Highway Patrol's Batavia Post and Cincinnati Bengals have partnered to promote traffic safety to Bengals players, fans and the Cincinnati community. Through the local partnership, state troopers have made safety presentations to the Bengals team during training camp in three consecutive seasons – including this season during which a portion of the presentation was featured on the HBO series *Hard Knocks*.

In addition, this season the partnership continued with a wallet-sized card containing OVI stats on one side and local taxi cab phone numbers on the other. The cards are being distributed outside Paul Brown Stadium prior to each Bengals home game.

Last season also featured a, "Fans don't let fans drive drunk," message from the Cincinnati Bengals, Patrol's Batavia Post and Cincinnati Police Department in an OVI awareness effort. Bengals players Shayne Graham and Chinedum Ndukwe appeared in a commercial about the dangers of impaired driving that aired during *Bengals Weekly*, and on internal monitors and scoreboards at Paul Brown Stadium during Bengals games. The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Ohio Traffic Safety Office purchased paid advertising last season and again this season because Bengals programming provides a great way to reach its audience and the Bengals are supportive of the messaging through other partnerships as well.

The Patrol's Partners for Safety program involves developing partnerships at the local level with businesses, community groups, health and safety organizations, law enforcement agencies, and schools. Previous Award recipients include Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc. (2005), Pizza Hut (2006), the American Motorcyclist Association (2007) and AK Steel (2008).

As part of on-field pre-game ceremonies for Sunday's Bengals game, which will include a Patrol color guard, the Award will also be publicly presented to members of the Bengals Marketing Department.

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