

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Media Release

General Headquarters • Columbus, Ohio



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Patrol Announces Annual Awards

COLUMBUS – The Ohio State Highway Patrol announced the winners of their Annual Awards today. Top honors include:

- State Trooper of the Year – Tpr. Caleb D. Courson, Marietta Post
- Dispatcher of the Year – Disp. Angela R. Sisco, Findlay District, Van Wert Dispatch Center
- Blue Max Award (top auto larceny enforcer) – Tpr. Jared M. Klingensmith, Ashtabula Post
- Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award – Tpr. Richard Hughes, Wilmington Post
- Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year – Harold A. Emmett, Findlay District

Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper of the Year – Tpr. Caleb D. Courson, Marietta Post, was selected from the 10 District Troopers of the Year. Tpr. Courson joined the Patrol in 2001 as a member of the 138th Academy Class. He earned his commission in 2002 and has served at the Marietta Post throughout his career. He resides in Marietta with his wife, Tracey, and their son, Chatum.

Ohio State Highway Patrol Dispatcher of the Year – Disp. Angela R. Sisco, Findlay District, Van Wert Dispatch Center, was selected as Dispatcher of the Year. Disp. Sisco joined the Patrol in 2000. She currently resides in Defiance.

Blue Max Award (Patrol's top auto larceny enforcer) – Tpr. Jared M. Klingensmith, of the Ashtabula Post, was honored with a Blue Max Award for recovering the most stolen vehicles. In 2009 he recovered 14 stolen vehicles, valued at \$84,595, resulting in the apprehension of eight suspects.

Tpr. Klingensmith joined the Patrol in September 2002 as a member of the 140th Academy class, and earned his commission in February 2003. He has served at the Bucyrus, Hiram and Ashtabula Posts throughout his career. He resides in Kinsman with his wife, Teresa, and their son, Logan.

Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award – The Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award winner for 2009 is Trooper Richard Hughes. This award was established to honor officers who are dedicated to humanitarian causes, both on the highway and in their communities. Assistance to motorists, letters of commendation, and community involvement are all factors in determining the recipient.

In addition to his excellent work for the Patrol, Trooper Hughes has made it his personal mission to help improve the circumstances of needy families in Highland and Clinton counties. With unemployment in both counties around 15 percent, Trooper Hughes decided to try to reach those in need through the ODPS Operation Feed campaign. He spearheaded collection efforts at local schools and businesses. He used \$400 of his own money to purchase prizes awarded to elementary school kids for their collection efforts. He also worked with high school students to distribute collection boxes and to advertise their efforts.

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In all, Trooper Hughes collected more than 6,000 food items which he delivered to three local food pantries on his own time. His efforts got the entire local community involved and made a difference to hundreds of local families.

Tpr. Hughes joined the Patrol in March 2005 as a member of the 144th Academy class, and earned his commission in October of that year. He has served at the Wilmington Post throughout his career. He resides in Winchester with his wife, Trisha, and their three children: Corey, Justin and Jaiden.

Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year – Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Harold A. Emmett, Findlay District, was awarded the Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year. Emmett, a nearly 20 year veteran of the Patrol, began as a maintenance repair worker in the Findlay District and through a series of promotions, became a motor carrier enforcement inspector in early 2000. He resides in Findlay with his wife, Jill.

Criminal Patrol Award – Tpr. Benjamin R. Seabolt, of the Chillicothe Post, was awarded for having the most investigations of felony cases that led to felony arrests. In 2009, he had 70 felony cases and 81 felony arrests. Most of his cases were drug-related, including several that resulted in the seizure of bulk amounts of marijuana, cocaine, heroin and illicit prescription medications.

Tpr. Seabolt joined the Patrol in May 2007 as a member of the 148th Academy class and earned his commission in December of that year. He has served at the Chillicothe Post throughout his career. He resides in Rockbridge.

Electronic Technicians Team – Presented yearly to the top electronic technician team in the state. This year's winners from the Jackson District include:

- Electronic Technician 3 Tyler J. Wolfe – Nearly a nine-year veteran, he resides in Albany with his wife, Serena, and their daughter, Maya.
- Electronic Technician 2 Robert W. Graves – Nearly a seven-year veteran, he resides in Athens with his wife, Elizabeth, and sons, Nathaniel.
- Electronic Technician 2 Roger D. Starner – Nearly a five-year veteran, he resides in Logan.

Ohio Trooper Recognition Award – Tpr. Melanie R. Appleman, General Headquarters, Office of Investigative Services, was selected from 11 regional recipients. The Trooper Recognition Award recognizes excellence among troopers who are assigned to specialty positions. Tpr. Appleman joined the Patrol in 1998 as a cadet dispatcher at the Cambridge and Zanesville Posts. She trained with the 135th Academy Class and earned her commission in 2000. She has worked in the Office of Investigative Services since 2006. She currently resides in Zanesville.

OSHP Employee Recognition Award (District) – A 16-year veteran, Robin L. Galvin, a secretary in the Massillon District, received the award presented annually to recognize excellence in field employees who are not troopers or dispatchers. Galvin resides in Columbia Station with her husband, James, and their two children.

OSHP Employee Recognition Award (General Headquarters) – A 13-year veteran, Roger L. Hardbarger, Maintenance Repair Worker 2, Office of Training, Selections and Standards, received the award presented annually to recognize excellence in employees who are not troopers or dispatchers. Hardbarger resides in Ashville with his wife, Mona.

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Note to Editors: Below are District honors for: District Trooper of the Year, District Dispatcher of the Year, District Trooper Recognition, and District Employee Recognition. For photographs of award winners, e-mail wwwOHP@dps.state.oh.us with requests.

Findlay District – Tpr Kurt D, Beidelschies, Findlay Post; Disp. Angela R. Sisco, Van Wert Dispatch Center; Tpr. R. Lee Pargeon, Findlay District Headquarters, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement; and Patricia A. Nelson, (Secretary), Findlay District Headquarters.

Bucyrus District – Tpr. Benjamin R. Addy, Marion Post; Disp. Melissa M. Burrier, Sandusky Dispatch Center; Tpr. David A. Norman, Bucyrus District Headquarters, Criminal Patrol; and Mervin G. Harrison (Maintenance Repair Worker 2), Fremont Post.

Massillon District – Tpr. D. Matthew Dowler, Ashland Post; Disp. Elizabeth M. Worrell, Canton Post; Tpr. Randy R. Alexander, Massillon District Headquarters, Investigations; and Robin L. Galvin, (Secretary), Medina Post.

Warren District – Tpr. Bradley M. Bucey, Canfield Post; Disp. Shawn M. Rogers, Lisbon Dispatch Center; Tpr. Alan T. Ogden, Warren District Headquarters, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement; and Julie L. Szeker (Secretary), Chardon Post.

Piqua District – Tpr. Brent D. Johnson, Piqua Post; Disp. Charles E. Williams, Marysville Post; Tpr. Gamel S. Brimah, Piqua District Headquarters, Investigations; and Tamara R. McKinniss (Driver License Examiner 1), Wapakoneta Driver Exam Station.

Columbus District – Tpr. Heidi A. Marshall, Circleville Post; Disp. Melissa D. Baldwin, West Jefferson Dispatch Center; Tpr. Rodney J. Stufflebean, Columbus District Headquarters, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement; and Cynthia S. Kollin (Executive Secretary 1), Columbus District Headquarters.

Cambridge District – Tpr. Caleb D. Courson, Marietta Post; Disp. Richard F. Skelly, St. Clairsville Post; Tpr. Michael E. Stevens, Cambridge District Headquarters, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement; and Jill B. Lee (Secretary), Cambridge District Headquarters.

Wilmington District – Tpr. Mark G. McNeely, Hamilton Post; Disp. Darla M. Johnson, Wilmington Dispatch Center; Tpr. John W. Asbrock, Wilmington District Headquarters, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement.

Jackson District – Tpr. Aaron M. Morgan, Chillicothe Post; Disp. Sandra R. Belyus, Jackson Dispatch Center; Tpr. Theresa A. Mikesh, Jr., Jackson District Headquarters, Criminal Patrol; and John Risner (Motor Vehicle Inspector), Jackson District Headquarters.

Berea District – Tpr. Charles E. Ivory, Hiram Post; Disp. Renee M. Strickland, Berea Communications Center; Tpr. Eric A. Weaver, Cleveland Investigations; and LaSondra D. Osbey, (Driver License Examiner 1), East 55th Street Driver Exam Station.

GHQ – Trooper Recognition: Melanie R. Appleman, Office of Investigative Services; Dispatcher of the Year: Disp. Betty A. Tatum, Office of Strategic Services. Employee Recognition Awards: Roger L. Hardbarger (Maintenance Repair Worker 2, Office of Training, Selections and Standards; Daniel R. Johnson, (Accountant/Examiner 3), Office of Finance and Logistics Services; Janet M. McCallister, (Office Assistant 3), Office of Field Operations; John S. Kelly, (Records Management Officer), Office of Investigative Services; Matthew L. Roaden, (Police Officer 2), Office of Field Operations.

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