

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Media Release

General Headquarters • Columbus, Ohio



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Patrol Announces 2010 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. Christina J. M. Hayes, Hamilton Post
- Dispatcher of the Year – Disp. James R. Barlow, Findlay District, Bowling Green Dispatch Center
- Driver License Examiner of the Year – Mary M. Keefe, Toledo Driver Examination Station
- Blue Max Award (top auto larceny enforcer) – Tpr. Ryan E. Robirds, Ironton Post
- Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award – Tpr. David B. Richendollar, Portsmouth Post
- Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year – Mark R. Lambert, Massillon District

Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper of the Year – Tpr. Christina J. M. Hayes, of the Hamilton Post, was selected from the 10 District Troopers of the Year. Tpr. Hayes joined the Patrol in 2007 as a member of the 148th Academy Class. She earned her commission that year and was assigned to the Hamilton Post. Tpr. Hayes currently resides in Lebanon.

Ohio State Highway Patrol Dispatcher of the Year – Disp. James R. Barlow, of the Bowling Green Dispatch Center, was selected as Dispatcher of the Year. Disp. Barlow joined the Patrol in 1987. He currently resides in Liberty Center.

Ohio State Highway Patrol Driver License Examiner of the Year – Mary M. Keefe, of the Toledo Driver Examination Station, was selected from the 10 District Driver License Examiners of the Year. DX Keefe is a nearly 27-year veteran with the Division. She currently resides in Oregon with her husband, Andrew. They have one grown daughter, Ashley.

Blue Max Award (Patrol's top auto larceny enforcer) – Tpr. Ryan E. Robirds, of the Ironton Post, was honored with a Blue Max Award for recovering the most stolen vehicles. In 2010 he recovered 12 stolen vehicles, valued at \$48,500, resulting in the apprehension of 12 suspects. Tpr. Robirds joined the Patrol in March 2006 as a member of the 146th Academy class. He earned his commission in October of that year and was assigned to the Ironton Post. Tpr. Robirds currently resides in Wheelersburg.

Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award – Tpr. David B. Richendollar, of the Portsmouth Post, was honored with the Robert M. Chiaramonte Humanitarian Award, which honors 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, Tpr. Richendollar has made it his personal mission to enrich the lives of youth in Scioto County. Scioto County is a rural, low economic area and Tpr.

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Richendollar recognizes the basic needs of children in this community. He spearheaded the effort “Shop with Teddy Trooper”, taking children shopping during the holiday season for toys, necessities, and gifts for their family. He organizes the entire program, donating money from his own pocket and taking vacation time.

Additionally, he created the Scioto County Juvenile Court Car Teen Program, to educate juvenile traffic offenders and each year ensures that each high school has a prom program focused on traffic safety, while also executing mock school shootings and lock-down practices. Tpr. Richendollar has gone above and beyond for the Scioto County community, making it a better and safer place to live.

Tpr. Richendollar joined the Patrol in May 1993 as a member of the 125th Academy class, and earned his commission in November of that year. He has served at the Portsmouth Post throughout his career. Tpr. Richendollar currently resides in Franklin Furnace with his wife, Kimberlee, and their two children; Josiah, 9, and Jaidah, 6.

Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year – Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector Mark R. Lambert, of the Massillon District, was awarded the Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector of the Year award. Lambert, a nearly 30-year veteran of the Patrol, began as a Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspector in 1983 and has since served at the Medina Post and Massillon District Headquarters. He currently resides in North Olmstead with his wife, Elizabeth. They have five children; Danielle, Mary, Catherine, Mark and Claire.

Criminal Patrol Award – Tpr. Michael R. Wilson, of the Granville Post, was awarded for having the most investigations of felony cases that led to felony arrests. In 2010, he had 86 felony cases and 96 felony arrests. Most of his cases were drug-related, including several that resulted in the seizure of bulk amounts of marijuana, heroin and illicit prescription medications.

Tpr. Wilson joined the Patrol in May 2004 as a member of the 142nd Academy class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Granville Post. Tpr. Wilson currently resides in Granville with his wife, Sheena, and their son, Austin, 6.

Electronic Technicians Team – Presented yearly to the top electronic technician team in the state. This year’s winners are from the Cambridge District:

- Electronic Technician 3 Jeffrey A. Burris – Nearly an eleven-year veteran, he resides in Cambridge with his wife, Susan, and their three children; Katie, Doug and Kristen.
- Electronic Technician 2 Michael C. Cover – Nearly an eleven-year veteran, he resides in Zanesville with his wife, Delma, and their two daughters; Kelly and Josie.
- Ohio Trooper Recognition Award – Tpr. Theresa A. Mikesh, of the Jackson District Criminal Patrol Unit, was selected from 11 regional recipients. The Trooper Recognition Award recognizes excellence among troopers who are assigned to specialty positions. Tpr. Mikesh joined the Patrol in May 1993 as a member of the 125th Academy Class. She earned her commission in November of that year and has served at the Chillicothe Post and Jackson District Criminal Patrol throughout her career. She currently resides in Chillicothe.

Employee Recognition Award – A 15-year veteran, Sandra M. Rhodes, a secretary in the Wilmington District, received the award presented annually to recognize excellence in field employees who are not troopers or dispatchers. Rhodes resides in Mount Orab with her husband, Brian, and their three children; Samantha, Bradley, and Rachel.

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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, District Employee Recognition, and District Driver License Examiner of the Year. For photographs of award winners, e-mail wwwOHP@dps.state.oh.us with requests.

Findlay District – Tpr Matthew N. Geer, Findlay Post; Disp. James R. Barlow, Bowling Green Dispatch Center; Tpr. Stacy L. Stidham, Findlay District Investigations; Cheryl A. Lee (Secretary), Findlay District Headquarters; and Mary M. Keefe (Driver License Examiner 1), Toledo Driver Examination Station.

Bucyrus District – Tpr. Nathan L. Henn, Fremont Post; Disp. Christopher D. Baker, Mansfield Dispatch Center; Tpr. Ronald E. Anderson, Bucyrus District Commercial Enforcement; Keri A. Smith (Secretary), Mansfield Post; and Jeffrey W. Boyd (Driver License Examiner 1), Marion Driver Examination Station.

Massillon District – Tpr. Clifton D. Dowell, Elyria Post; Disp. Kenneth L. Bever, Canton Post; Tpr. Richard O. Menges, Massillon District Criminal Patrol; Patricia A. McLean, (Secretary), Canton Post; and Brenda L. Ruhlin (Driver License Examiner 1), Cuyahoga Falls Driver Examination Station.

Warren District – Tpr. Daniel J. Dubelko, Warren Post; Disp. Josa T. Guarnieri, Ravenna Dispatch Center; Tpr. Frank C. Gharky, Warren District Commercial Enforcement; Charles E. Kantola (Standard Load Limits Inspector), Ashtabula Post; and Deborah A. Shreves (Driver License Examiner 1), Ravenna Driver Examination Station.

Piqua District – Tpr. Jerod L. Keyes, Dayton Post; Disp. Justin M. Booher, Springfield Post; Tpr. Larry R. Barrett, Piqua District Criminal Patrol; and Debra S. Clark (Secretary), Dayton Post. (No Driver License Examiner award.)

Columbus District – Tpr. Matthew D. Himes, West Jefferson Post; Disp. Melissa S. Shipman, Delaware Dispatch Center; No Trooper Recognition award; Michelle L. Himes (Secretary), Columbus District Headquarters; and James C. Hartsell (Driver License Examiner 2), Newark Driver Examination Station.

Cambridge District – Tpr. Gary A. Wright, St. Clairsville Post; Disp. Richard F. Skelly, St. Clairsville Post; Tpr. Mark W. Stelzer, Cambridge District Investigations; Lowell C. Bonnette (Maintenance Repair Worker 2), Marietta Post; and Jeffery L. Harper (Driver License Examiner 1), Cambridge Driver Examination Station.

Wilmington District – Tpr. Christina J. M. Hayes, Hamilton Post; Disp. Ronald W. Newman, Batavia Dispatch Center; Tpr. Matthew R. Beccaccio, Southwestern Ohio Motorcycle Unit; Sandra M. Rhodes (Secretary), Batavia Post; and Richard E. Wilson (Driver License Examiner 2), Hamilton Driver Examination Station.

Jackson District – Tpr. W. Shannon Web, Gallipolis Post; Disp. Aaron M. Music, Jackson Dispatch Center; Tpr. Theresa A. Mikesh, Jackson District Criminal Patrol; Christi M. Hawk (Secretary), Jackson District Headquarters; and Keith E. Ward (Driver License Examiner 1), Jackson Driver Examination Station.

Berea District – Tpr. Troy J. Homrighausen, Hiram Post; Disp. Tracey A. Doles, Berea Communications Center; Tpr. Levente D. Berry, Cleveland Investigations; No Employee Recognition

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award; and Jerome J. Svitak (Driver License Examiner 1), Garfield Heights Driver Examination Station.

GHQ – Dispatcher of the Year: Disp. Shirley L. Szumlic, Hilltop Facility. Trooper Recognition: Tpr. Rebekka C. Robinson, Investigations; Employee Recognition Awards: Virginia L. Bryant (Tailor), Office of Strategic Services; Marlene L. Brightwell (Administrative Assistant 1), Crime Lab, Office of Special Operations; and Mathew L. Roaden (Police Officer 2), Expositions Center.

Auxiliary Awards

The following awards are for the Patrol's Auxiliary members who are an all volunteer force that provides assistance to troopers.

Aux. Staff Major Ray Allison, who assists at the Lancaster Post, was awarded the William J. Duffy Award of Excellence, which requires a minimum of 300 volunteer hours per year over three consecutive years. Allison joined the Auxiliary in 1995 after a 25-year career as a trooper.

Aux. Capt. Thomas R. St. Clair, who assists at the Warren Post, was named the Auxiliary Officer of the Year, which is given yearly to the Auxiliary member who volunteers the most hours while demonstrating the core values of the Ohio State Highway Patrol Auxiliary. St. Clair joined the Auxiliary in 2002.

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