

# TROOP A

Originally, Troop A was comprised of 21 counties in the West Central and Northwestern part of the state. Its borders extended from the Kansas state line to the Iowa state line. The first headquarters (1931-1938) was an office in the District #4 building of the Missouri Highway Department located at 5117 East 31st Street, Kansas City, MO. The first contingent of men was under the command of Captain W.J. Baxter, with one sergeant and nine troopers. The original Troop A covered the following counties: Atchison, Holt, Nodaway, Andrew, Buchanan, Platte, Worth, Gentry, DeKalb, Clinton, Clay, Cass, Jackson, Harrison, Daviess, Caldwell, Ray, Lafayette, Johnson, Saline, and Pettis.

**Troop A Original Members:** Captain William J. Baxter, Sergeant Daniel C. Snedaker, Trooper William E. Austin, Trooper Charlie F. Bosch, Trooper Eugene P. Clark, Trooper Paul E. Corl, Trooper David E. Harrison, Trooper Herbert H. Holt, Trooper Paul M. Inman, Trooper James S. Poage, Trooper Thomas E. Whitecotton

## **Troop A Commanding Officers**

Captain William J. Baxter (1931 - 1941)  
Captain Jerome F. Shaw (1941 -1942)  
Captain Otto L. Viets (1942 - 1955)  
Captain George W. Pate (1955 - 1966)  
Captain Vincil E. Maxey (1966 - 1969)  
Captain Paul V. Volkmer (1969 - 1977)  
Captain C.E. (Mel) Fisher (1977 - 1980)  
Captain Willard R. Petrus (1980 - 1986)  
Captain Joseph E. Faber (1986 - 1988)  
Captain S.E. (Shay) East (1988 - 1993)  
Captain Gary W. Phillips (1993 - 1998)  
Captain Edward H. Bliefnick (1998 - 2001)  
Captain Vincent J. Ellis (2001 - 2008)  
Captain Robert L. Powell (2008 - 2014)  
Captain Eric T. Olson (2014 - 2015)  
Captain Scott A. Shippers (2015 - present)

On April 9, 1938, Troop A, then consisting of 23 uniformed officers, moved into a new headquarters on U.S. Highway 50 at the U.S. Highway 71 bypass in Lee's Summit, MO. The building consisted of a room, which contained a combination lobby, desk, general office area, and a small radio console with continuous wave (ie: Morse Code) and voice radio transmitters. There was a captain's office, supply closet, and furnace room. Troop meetings were held in the larger meeting room. The radio tower was a landmark for the area and proved to be a fine radio location, providing communication to the cars in the far outlying areas. The building was added onto three times, which included a radio room, offices, garage, and a large basement room. The additions actually spelled the end of the old building due to settling. Huge cracks developed between various sections, and a leaking roof became an unsolvable problem.

With the upgrading of U.S. Highway 50 and U.S. Highway 71 bypass, it became apparent that the 1938 headquarters, which had become somewhat small, would have to move to make way for a traffic interchange. Plans for the relocation were made and the present new building was built

farther back on the existing site after a slight addition of land. Construction on a modern, two-story building comprising 20,115 square feet of floor space started in 1967, and was completed in the spring 1969. The main floor of the new building houses various administrative offices, the records room, the communication room, a conference room, and a kitchen. There is also a report room for incoming troopers located near the offices of the enforcement officer, the interstate zone sergeants, and the rural zone sergeants. The spacious lobby has several comfortable chairs, a display of firearms, a map showing the area covered by Troop A, and a long desk behind which three or four people can easily work. Behind the front desk are two television monitors. Cameras located in the front and rear of the building send continuous pictures to these screens. The desk officer can check the monitors for any unusual activity outside the headquarters building.

There are two ways to reach the lower level of the new building: taking the elevator or walking down two short flights of stairs. This is the first Highway Patrol troop headquarters to contain an elevator. It was installed in anticipation of a possible third floor addition at a later date. The lower level of the building contains a large meeting room, office space for various supervisors, and technical facility rooms for photography, fingerprinting, polygraph, etc. Adjacent to the lower level rooms is a three-bay garage equipped for radio maintenance, car washing, and repairs.

Some of the notable features of the new Troop A Headquarters building include a pneumatic tube system for transferring documents, natural lighting, individual room temperature control, and an automatic clock device on each floor, which shows the day, month, and time. Ample parking was available outside the new building. Visitors could park in front while employees parked their vehicles on each side of the structure. A vast parking lot for uniformed personnel is located at the rear of the building. The pistol range was enclosed and completed with nine shooting positions and automated targets in the latter part of 1969.

This new Troop A Headquarters building was a modern police facility in every way. It was designed to provide comfortable working conditions and to carry out the many duties associated with law enforcement. There were 34 people permanently assigned to the Troop A Headquarters building. Over 200 people were directly responsible to the troop. Captain V.E. Maxey noted the new Troop A Headquarters enhanced the image of the Highway Patrol in the Kansas City area. Sergeant J.L. Cassidy, head of the Patrol's Building and Maintenance Division, stated future troop headquarters buildings would be similar in design to that of this new structure.

On April 8, 1969, Troop A personnel (211 employees) moved into the new headquarters building, which was considered one of the finest in the Western United States at the time. The present number of employees has risen to a total of 222. Troop A has 12 zones with two assigned to patrol the interstate highways in downtown Kansas City. There are 20 sergeants, 15 corporals, and 80 troopers presently assigned to the troop.

On Sunday, October 12, 1969, the new Troop A Headquarters at Lee's Summit was dedicated in a most suitable fashion. The weather did not cooperate, however, as it rained continuously during the day and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., the hours of the "open house". Troopers on the outside managed to carry umbrellas and shuttle cars for the visitors. Many compliments were received for their courtesy and service. In spite of the weather, over 1,500 came and toured the new facility. The many flower arrangements received from friends were distributed throughout the building, and tended to brighten the day.

Captain V.E. Maxey spent many hours preparing for this day and was assisted by his lieutenants, other officers, and employees in making plans. Sergeants were in their offices to explain some of their duties and services. Others escorted groups showing them such operations as the polygraph, breathalyzer, photography laboratory, and communications.

Another highlight lending to the beauty of the flowers was the setting up and decorating of tables for refreshments, for which Mrs. Maxey was responsible. Silver service was used for coffee and the many cookies baked by the ladies of the Patrol.

Many of the officers were present from General Headquarters and other troops, and they were certainly welcomed and appreciated. Many other departments--city, county, and state--were represented and it was a pleasure to have them. Lieutenant A.F. Closson, Troop C; Major G.E. Phipps, GHQ; and Captain and Mrs. R.E. Davis, Troop H, were among the many visitors.

The day's climax was the actual dedication ceremonies. Originally, it had been intended to hold these outside, but due to the inclement weather, it was necessary for the proceedings to be held in the large meeting room. Mr. Jack Stapleton Sr., chairman of the State Highway Commission, presided. Colonel E.I. Hockaday, superintendent, accepted the building from John D. Paulus Jr., division director of Planning and Construction, after which Governor Warren E. Hearnes presented a very informative and timely address. Some of the remarks made by Governor Hearnes were:

"Sometime this week, the first phase of the Missouri law enforcement telecommunications system will be completed, linking the troop headquarters to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center in Washington, as well as several law enforcement points within the state. This system will enable officers to receive teletype messages and computer inquiries from troop headquarters across the state, from the Kansas City and St. Louis Police Departments, from the Patrol's data processing center in Jefferson City, as well as from similar networks in other states. The next phase of the system will be to provide instantaneous entry, modification, and removal of data on wanted persons, stolen vehicles, and stolen property."

"This building, completed in April, is part of a modernization program demanded by the American people as part of a crackdown on crime and in support of improved law enforcement. The subject of crime control was greatly maligned for a period of time because of its interrelation with other national issues and was frequently branded as a mark of racism. Thankfully, that period of misplaced emphasis seems to have come to an end, and once again the tragedy of crime is being recognized as no respecter of persons."

"This new Troop A Headquarters stands as a symbol of Missouri's commitment to modernization in the field of crime control, and as a reminder that a fight is being waged against crime."

## 1931

Senate Bill 36 creating the Missouri State Highway Patrol was approved by the 56th General Assembly on April 23, 1931, and signed by Governor Caulfield on April 24, 1931. The act became effective on September 14, 1931. Troop A Headquarters was located at 31st and Van Brunt Boulevard, Kansas City, MO. On a typical weekday in the Kansas City zone, starting at 11 a.m. and ending perhaps at 11 p.m., troopers could be found on their patrols under the direction of Sergeant Daniel Snedaker. Dave Harrison could be found between Kansas City and St. Joseph, MO, on U.S. Highways 169 and 71; Paul Inman would be on U.S. 71 south to Archie, MO, U.S. Highway 50 east to Warrensburg, and U.S. Highway 69 and Missouri Highway 10 to Excelsior Springs, MO; Tom Whitecotton patrolled U.S. Highway 40 east to Odessa, MO, (two round trips daily); Paul Corl was assigned to U.S. 40 from Odessa to Concordia, MO, Missouri Highway 13 from Lexington, MO, to Post Oak, MO; and Charlie Bosch patrolled U.S. 40 from Concordia east to the Cooper County line, U.S. 50 from Warrensburg, MO, east to the Moniteau County line, and U.S. Highway 65 from Marshall, MO, to Spring Fork, MO. The four troopers in the St. Joseph zone were: James S. Poage, Eugene P. Clark, William E. Austin, and Herbert H. Holt. They patrolled U.S. Highways 71, 275, 69, and 169 north to the Iowa state line, and U.S. Highway 36, and Missouri Highways 6 and 4 east to the Daviess and Harrison county lines. Trooper Poage was promoted to sergeant in January 1932.

## 1932

Twelve members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol were assigned for duty at the 1932 State Fair in Sedalia, MO. This was the first time the Highway Patrol had such an assignment.

A rather pretty woman appeared to be stranded along the road. A male motorist stops to offer a lift. She smiles enticingly and accepts the ride. Along the way, she becomes affectionate and sits close to the driver. They stop for refreshments and she leads him on. They climb into the backseat and she suddenly starts screaming at the top of her lungs and disarranges her clothes. A car stops and a man who says he's a relative steps out and asks what's going on. The woman states that the driver made unwanted advances and she struggled desperately with him. Now, the driver's certain the "relative" will ask for hush money. Luckily for him, a Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper drives upon the scene and stops to investigate and prevents the "blackmail" sometimes encountered on the highway.

## 1933

In May 1933, B. Marvin Casteel, an engineer for the city of St. Joseph, was appointed superintendent by Governor Guy B. Park to succeed Colonel Lewis Ellis. One of his first acts was to change the specifications drawn by his predecessor for new patrol cars. The former superintendent had asked for bids on cars with white bodies and black fenders. Col. Casteel chose black cars. He also chose to wear a uniform, unlike Col. Ellis.

Sergeant James S. Poage received a critical head wound during a shooting battle with Harold Thornbrough near Hopkins, MO. Thornbrough was wanted for murder and bank robbery. Trooper Jack Inman then fired two shots fatally wounding the outlaw.

On July 20, 1933, Captain William Baxter, Sergeant Tom Whitecotton, and Trooper Leonard Ellis were involved in a shootout with the Bonnie and Clyde gang near Platte City, MO. Capt. Baxter, using a machine gun, was able to hit Buck Barrow in the head, but he and the others escaped.

Following is an account of the Bonnie and Clyde incident at Red Crown Tavern near Platte City, on July 20, 1933, as told by retired Captain Thomas E. Whitecotton:

*"We had no two-way radios in our patrol cars then, so when the troop headquarters had a message for us, they'd phone restaurants where we made regular stops. The Red Crown Tavern near Platte City was one of these stopping places. They served good food and a lot of the boys ate there. The owner also had several tourist cabins next to the restaurant. Word came to our office that three men and two women had rented two of the cabins and were acting suspicious. They never set foot in the Red Crown, but would instead send one man to the restaurant across the highway for carryout meals. When a license check on their car revealed that it had been stolen in Oklahoma from a doctor and his girlfriend, we knew we had some hot customers.*

*"Captain Baxter, the commanding officer of Troop A, Trooper Leonard Ellis, and I drove to the scene, arriving about 11 o'clock on the night of July 19. I'd been working in the office all day and was wearing a seersucker suit and a Panama hat instead of my uniform. We met the Platte County Sheriff Holt Coffey and several deputies. Holt had asked Sheriff Tom Bash of Jackson County to bring his armored car and a few of his deputies, too. The cabins were connected by a double-car garage. Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow were in one cabin, and Blanche and Buck Barrow and W.D. Jones were in the other.*

*"We stationed two Platte County deputies on top of the Red Crown Tavern. The armored car, with two Jackson County men inside, was parked in the driveway, blocking the only escape route. A deputy and I were set up at the end of the driveway as backup, and the rest of the officers were arranged strategically around the cabins. At 1 a.m., Baxter and Coffey, carrying machine guns and protected by armored shields, walked to the door of Bonnie and Clyde's cabin and knocked.*

*'Who's there?' asked Clyde.*

*'The sheriff. Open up!' said Coffey.*

*'Just a minute,' said Clyde, reaching for his 30.06 machine rifle. He blasted several rounds right through the closed door. Baxter staggered backward, unhurt and still holding his gun and shield, but Holt Coffey ran for cover. You really couldn't blame him with those slugs flying around. In the uncertain light I mistook him for one of the gang members.*

*"I ran after him and yelled at Leonard Ellis, who was closer to the cabins, 'There's one of 'em! Get him!'*

*"He did, too. Fortunately, Holt only received a superficial buckshot wound in the neck. He believed 'til his dying day that Clyde Barrow shot him, but it was actually a state trooper.*

*"Bonnie and Clyde could reach the gang's car by an interior door, but Buck, Blanche, and Jones had to come out the front. When they did, Captain Baxter opened up with his machine gun, hitting Buck in the head. He stumbled to the car with Blanche's help, and with Clyde at the wheel, they roared out of the garage. The hail of bullets from both sides was terrific. I hit the dirt, seersucker suit and all. Bullets whizzed overhead for a few seconds, then stopped. I guess they thought they'd hit me. Jones and Clyde concentrated their fire on the armored car, which blocked the exit, and one slug actually penetrated the armor, slightly wounding one of the deputies. If the lawmen had left that armored car where it was, the gang would never have escaped, but the deputies panicked and moved it out of the way. Clyde zipped the car through the opening. At the end of the road where I had been standing, before I mistakenly chased Sheriff Coffey, the deputy fired and shattered a pane, blinding Blanche, but the way was clear now and the Barrow gang escaped. Several of the lawmen were wounded, but none seriously.*

*"Only a day or two later the Barrows engaged in another gunfight with officers in Iowa. Buck was killed and Blanche was captured. Jones left Bonnie and Clyde a few months afterward, only to be apprehended and returned to Dallas to face multiple charges. I understand he turned state's evidence on Bonnie and Clyde, claiming they'd forced him to participate in the robberies and killings, but he received a long prison sentence anyway. Bonnie and Clyde were killed a few months later in Louisiana."*

## **1934**

Trooper Chester Oliver was kidnapped near Warsaw, MO, by three men whose vehicle stalled alongside a road due to a flat tire. When questioning them, Tpr. Oliver identified one as being on his wanted list for grand larceny. One subject then flourished a pistol. While traveling north as their hostage, Tpr. Oliver scratched the fugitive's name on his hat, hopeful that if he were killed, the man would be identified and caught. A filling station operator was abducted also, after gasoline was purchased from him and he recognized Tpr. Oliver. After several hours, the men were released near Tipton, MO. Tpr. Oliver was handcuffed, but otherwise unharmed. Other officers and patrolmen apprehended the fugitives, two near Boonville, MO, on the evening of the kidnapping and the other near Higginsville, MO, the next day.

## **1936 - 41**

Governor Lloyd Stark, who served as chief executive of Missouri from 1936 to 1941, and Tom Pendergast, a political boss in Kansas City, carried on a running feud throughout most of Stark's term in office. The governor was always afraid Pendergast would have him assassinated, so Stark kept himself surrounded by highway patrolmen constantly. When Stark traveled from Jefferson City, MO, to Kansas City, he'd have a patrolman chauffeuring and two more in the back seat of his limousine. Two Highway Patrol motorcycle officers would meet him at Lone Jack, MO, on U.S. Highway 50 and escort him the remaining 30 miles to Kansas City, regardless of the

temperature or the weather. If Stark went to Union Station to catch a train, officers had to shield him with their bodies to protect him from the bullets that never came.

### **1938**

The new Troop A Headquarters was completed on April 9, 1938. Included in the one-story building housing the radio and patrol headquarters are the main office, radio room, holdover cell, bathroom, boiler room, and the armory closet for the troopers' arms and ammunition. Behind the building were the 831-foot tower of the broadcasting antenna and the horizontal receiving aerial. On April 10, 1938, operators started transmitting to 21 northwest Missouri counties from KHPA, Lee's Summit. The 1000-watt transmitter operated on 1,674 kilocycles. The radio station also served a unit in a national network of state police stations.

Mary Winburn was the first secretary for the new offices.

### **1939**

Officers from Troops A, B, C, and F handle traffic at the University of Missouri football games in Columbia, MO, for the first time.

Captain William J. Baxter and two patrolmen conducted a spotcheck on U.S. Highway 69 north of Kansas City. They stopped 206 cars of which 33 drivers did not have a driver's license. Seventeen drivers said they never purchased the 25-cent license and one attorney said he had never heard of such a thing. The 17 drivers who had never purchased a license were taken to justice courts in North Kansas City where they were assessed \$9.50 in fines and costs. When the attorney got to court, he went through his wallet and found a state driver's license bearing his signature.

### **1940**

On October 3, 1940, while en route to his home in Kansas City, a motorist picked up two hitchhikers west of Warrensburg on U.S. Highway 50. Shortly after they entered his car, one of them drew a gun and forced him to drive on a country road to a point six miles northwest of Warrensburg where they took his money, tied him to a tree, and escaped in his automobile. He managed to liberate himself a few minutes after they left and notified the Highway Patrol. In less than an hour, the Patrol apprehended the two youths near Kansas City. They were driving the car taken from the victim and had the money in their possession. They identified themselves as Harley E. Sanford, Sedalia, MO, and Leslie M. Kothe, Ulysses, NE. Both subjects were returned to Johnson County, where the offense was committed. They later received sentences of 10 years each in the state penitentiary.

### **1942**

Nineteen new troopers completed six weeks of training at Sedalia on January 20, 1942. Four one-week retraining sessions for members were held at the Sedalia fairgrounds during April and May. These were the first retraining sessions ever held.

Car numbers were placed on the top of patrol cars for the first time. First two-way transmitters were installed in patrol cars.

### **1943**

Twenty-one recruits completed six weeks of training at the Sedalia fairgrounds on January 28.

In May, Frank Allan Bennett, an alleged U.S. Army deserter from Camp Robinson, AR, was apprehended by Highway Patrol troopers and Pettis County and Saline County officers about 10:30 p.m. Sunday night when he was brought to a halt on a country road north of Longwood, MO, by a

shot fired by Trooper M.R. Tomlin, highway patrolman of Marshall. He fired from a distance of 150 or 200 yards from a car being driven 70 miles an hour over a country road. The bullet hit the back of the car and whizzed about three inches from Bennett's head. Bennett stopped on the side of the road and waited for the officers to take him into custody.

### **1945**

On September 12, 1945, state patrolmen raided a gambling joint near Parkville, MO, on Missouri Highway 45 and Green Hills Road. The raid was made on the orders of Governor Phil M. Donnelly. Patrolmen, under the leadership of Lieutenant H.J. Turnbull, confiscated \$3,340.72, and many pieces of gambling and horse-booking paraphernalia. There were 150 customers present and 15 alleged operators were arrested.

### **1946**

Trooper M.B. Roberts suffered two stab wounds in the left hand and one in the right hand while investigating an accident at 85th and Lydia Avenue, Kansas City. Tpr. Roberts was talking with one driver when the other driver and his brother, of Holmes Park, MO, attacked him.

Effective August 15, 1946, troop areas were re-divided with two new troops being added-- Troop G, with headquarters at Willow Springs, and Troop H, with headquarters at St. Joseph. Carroll, Bates, Henry, and Benton counties were reassigned to Troop A. Platte, Clay, Ray, Carroll, Jackson, Lafayette, Saline, Cass, Johnson, Pettis, Bates, Henry, and Benton counties now comprise the area designated as Troop A.

Lieutenant J.S. Poage was designated officer-in-charge of the Patrol detail for the entire week of the Missouri State Fair. Forty-five men were part of the detail; to date, the largest number ever assigned to the fair.

### **1947**

Patrol Superintendent Hugh Waggoner presented Trooper Shelton Abney with an award of Valor for the apprehension of five felons. Abney pursued the criminals from Odessa to Kansas City, finally stopping them by ramming their car with his after they had run numerous roadblocks. Loot from 12 robberies in five states was found in the car, as well as firearms.

Troopers John Rick and Glenn Means inspected Benton County school buses.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol started a campaign to pick up all underage drivers of motor vehicles. This meant any youth under the age of 16 years would face arrest and court action that would involve parents of offenders.

Speed zone signs in the intercity district between Kansas City and Independence, MO, were installed and motorists are being cautioned to observe them. The signs were put up at the request of residents who were conscious of the hazards of speeding in the business and home areas of the district.

The Patrol's first plane-to-car attempt to control traffic occurred on roads north of Kansas City leading into and out of the metropolitan area. One of the difficulties encountered was the observer in the plane was not familiar with the area and valuable time was lost in dispatching cars to scenes of traffic congestion.

The Patrol's second experiment at plane-to-car traffic control began on Saturday at the annual Missouri State Fair. Two planes, eight patrol cars, and four motorcycles with two-way radios constituted the ground crew. Troopers familiar with the highways around Sedalia were used. Plan will probably be used in the future on football games, holiday, and weekend traffic congestion around St. Louis, Kansas City, and other large concentrated gatherings.

## 1948

Sergeant Fred Rodecker and Trooper H.E. Priess were wounded when they attempted to take a former inmate of the state hospital at Fulton from his farm home near Otterville. After receiving treatment, Sgt. Rodecker returned to the farm to lead a search for the fugitive, Melvin B. Troyer. Neither Sgt. Rodecker nor Tpr. Priess were believed to be seriously wounded by the shotgun blasts that struck their hands.

Colonel Hugh Waggoner addressed a Lions Club at the Missouri Hotel and presented a brief history of the Highway Patrol. Col. Waggoner stressed, "Today, the Patrol has taken over police powers extending even into the cities." In 1931, he pointed out, it was charged only with a traffic problem. Col. Waggoner warned teenagers are getting into more trouble with the law than ever before, especially regarding sex offenses. However, he said gang activity has lessened because of the Patrol's policy of breaking up potential gang strength before it has a chance to develop.

A drunken sailor started making life unhappy for a taxi driver in Clinton, MO. The taxi driver saw Trooper John Rick at a service station. Tpr. Rick was off-duty and not in uniform. The taxi driver, wanting to get rid of the unruly sailor, drove up and yelled, "Rick, here's a man for you." The sailor pounced on Tpr. Rick who was ready to do battle. Tpr. Rick, an ex-sailor, knew many tricks about rough and tumble fighting, and the air was filled with fists. Tpr. Rick quickly had the sailor handcuffed. The sailor, William R. Flippin, was taken to the county jail where he started another riot, but was subdued by four other prisoners.

Bright new emblems appeared on patrol cars assigned to Troop A.

Following is a "Tribute To Patrol" as it appeared in the *Lee's Summit Journal*, "It may be like singing an old song over again, but the [Clinton] *Democrat* has never ceased to express its praise of the Missouri [State] Highway Patrol. The motorists on the highways are inclined to take those quiet, uniformed officers for granted, as they aid motorists who have had "car trouble" on the highways, or have been involved in accidents. The *Democrat* has seen troopers with loaded guns in action as they cornered a refugee killer. We have seen a state trooper wade in icy water to recover the body of the victim of a traffic accident from the blackness of Grand River. We have seen them fingerprinting men and women, held on charges or picked up for questioning, or studying over the meager clues of a crime. We have never known one of these uniformed men who was not a gentleman or one who has ever lost his temper, even with more than sufficient provocation. It is recognized that when they testify in court their evidence will be honest and without prejudice. We're for those fellows, all the way. They are an honor to the state of Missouri."

Troop A has 170 auxiliary volunteers being trained in schools in Sedalia, Lee's Summit, and North Kansas City. The auxiliary volunteers are being trained, and made ready for any emergency the war may create. The auxiliary volunteers would not have uniforms, guns, or commissions. Only an armband identified them. Duties could include directing traffic out of any given area due to sabotage, fire, bombing, etc., and to block traffic from side roads along a route used to move military convoys and war production traffic.

Sergeant Robert E. Davis, Troop A safety officer, was awarded a fellowship by the Automobile Safety Foundation. He attended the 1948 spring course in traffic police administration at the Northwestern University Traffic Institute.

## 1949

A group of recruits reported to the fairgrounds in Sedalia on October 14. Several were younger than any previous trainees; therefore, there was some anxiety about their maturity. While in training, the class was taken to a nearby accident and introduced to as gruesome a situation as they would experience later. Seven mangled and dismembered bodies were strewn several hundred feet along a railroad track. A train had collided with the side of a panel truck at a crossing.



Trooper Glen Means delivered an emergency message from a Chicago physician to a patient near Warsaw after storm-wrecked wires prevented telephone or telegraph communications.

Lieutenant David E. Harrison was appointed to head the Missouri State Highway Patrol by Governor Forrest Smith. Lt. Harrison was a sergeant stationed in Liberty, and also served as a trooper in North Kansas City.

## 1950

Trooper Ed Butler arrested a gypsy woman for a petty larceny. The gypsy imposed a "hex" on the trooper in which she foretold that his body would fall to pieces after an operation. A magistrate sentenced the woman to 60 days, fined her \$100, and ordered her to lift the curse. She was not allowed to leave the court until the curse was lifted. She mumbled some foreign-sounding words, and her attorney informed the court that she had complied with the magistrate's order.

Sergeant Bob Davis investigated a hit-and-run accident on U.S. 50 near the intersection of Third Street. The only piece of evidence left at the scene was a small part of a fender. Sgt. Davis checked numerous dealerships and salvage yards in Kansas City. His investigation revealed that Conn-Frazier Buick sold a fender similar to the description of the evidence to a repair garage in Kansas City. Sgt. Davis contacted the repair garage and compared the evidence with the remnant of the fender replaced by the repair garage. The two pieces matched exactly. The repair garage did not have the customer's name, as it was a cash deal. However, the license number had been jotted down on the repair order. Sgt. Davis traced the license number and contacted the owner. The owner advised Sgt. Davis the car had been stolen previously, and that an unidentified caller told him where the car could be found. Sgt. Davis contacted the wife of the owner who later admitted that she and her husband were involved in the accident. Sgt. Davis picked up the owner who then signed a statement admitting he was driving the car at the time of the accident.

The Highway Patrol airplane is made available to control traffic conditions around the Missouri State fairgrounds.

Pettis County Circuit Court Judge Dimmitt Hoffman ruled the Missouri State Highway Patrol has no right to conduct raids and seize gambling devices. Troopers were allowed to testify to what they saw and did while in the business establishment. Judge Hoffman cited Section 43.200 RSMo. of 1949, which says, "The members of the Patrol shall not have the right or power of search nor shall they have the right or power of seizure, except to take any person under arrest or about to be arrested for deadly or dangerous weapons in possession of such person."

Sergeant Dick Gehrig suffered a cracked rib and a severe sprain of his right ankle in an accident on westbound Highway 24 when he was attempted to stop a westbound motorist. Sgt. Gehrig started to pass another westbound car when he met a 1949 Plymouth, which pulled onto the highway from the south shoulder headed east. Sgt. Gehrig attempted to pull back into the westbound lane when the rear of his car struck the left front of car he was passing. Sgt. Gehrig's patrol car then crossed to the south side of the highway, hit an abutment, and plunged over it and into the stream below.

On a cold, early morning in December 1950, Trooper W.A. Crowder, while en route to a reported burglary at Garden City, MO, stopped a suspected car. While approaching the car, which was frosted over, the men in the car got the drop on Trooper Crowder. Tpr. Crowder threw his gun away but he promptly jumped into a ditch. The men in the car then shot the lights and radiator out of the patrol car and fled the scene. Later, after considerable investigation, four men were arrested for the crime. The group involved at that time was known as the "Hooded Gang" and had committed numerous robberies and burglaries in Kansas and Missouri.

New weight station in Parkville became operational.

## 1952

Thirty-five officers were trained at the fairgrounds in Sedalia during June to give driver license examinations. This number of officers to administer the new testing program has increased Patrol strength.

## 1953

Thirty recruits completed eight weeks of training on November 25 at the state fairgrounds in Sedalia, increasing the number of commissioned officers to 320. All prior recruit-training sessions were four to six weeks in length. Ronald and Donald Selvey, 24-year-old identical twins from this class, were the first twins to don Patrol uniforms.

Sergeant Arthur Bell was assigned as a bodyguard for ex-President Harry S. Truman. Sgt. Bell was a gunnery sergeant in Battery D, the unit commanded by Truman as a captain in World War I. Colonel Hugh Waggoner explained to the House Appropriations Committee that he could not properly take Sgt. Bell off special duty at Independence as long as the former U.S. president remained in Missouri, since Truman still received threatening letters frequently.

Sgt. Bell was driving his patrol car with Mrs. Truman in front and former President Truman in the rear when they collided with a panel truck at the intersection of 13th and Harrison. No one was hurt. Sgt. Bell and the driver of the panel truck were given tickets for careless driving and allowed to post \$25 bonds for appearance in traffic court.

Colonel Hugh Waggoner orders 26 high-speed unmarked patrol cars, five of which will be used in Troop A. The cars will bear no markings or Patrol insignia and cannot be identified as a patrol car except by the license plate on the rear. The siren will be mounted under the hood. The cars will be assigned to regular uniformed troopers especially selected for their driving abilities.

## 1955

The Highway Patrol began giving operator and chauffeur license examinations in Kansas City and St. Louis in July 1955. Thirty-six examiners were hired for this detail.

On Thursday, October 27, 1955, Trooper Wayne Allman was on patrol in Cass County when he received a call of an accident on Missouri Highway 13 south of Clinton in Henry County. With emergency equipment activated Tpr. Allman drove south on Missouri Highway 35 (now Missouri Highway 7) en route to the accident. At approximately 1:45 p.m., Tpr. Allman approached the intersection of Missouri Highway 35 and Route B near Creighton when a northbound pickup truck turned onto Route B into his path. Tpr. Allman swerved and missed the pickup then swerved back to avoid striking a second northbound vehicle behind the pickup. The rear of Tpr. Allman's car just caught the front of the northbound car. The impact caused Tpr. Allman's patrol car to careen down the highway and overturn. Tpr. Allman was ejected from his patrol car. He became the seventh member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol to be killed in the line of duty despite all efforts to save his life.

*(In the early 1990s, the intersection where Tpr. Allman was killed was replaced with a new, four-lane highway and interchange. During the 2004 Missouri legislative session, State Representative Rex Rector of the 124th District in Cass County passed a resolution dedicating the overpass at the Creighton interchange to Tpr. Allman. On October 26, 2004, 49 years after the accident that took his life, a ceremony was held in which the overpass bridge was dedicated as the Trooper Wayne W. Allman Memorial Bridge. Signs at that location now memorialize his life and the bridge stands as a monument to his sacrifice.)*

All patrol cars would be equipped with two front seat belts by January 1, 1956. Colonel Waggoner said the Patrol was to receive between 100 and 175 of the 1956 model cars equipped with seat belts. The balance of the approximately 300 cars will be equipped by the year's end.

Safety experts say the belts can sharply cut the severity of injuries, particularly for occupants next to the driver -- the "death seat."

Forty men completed training in Sedalia on November 12.

### **1960s**

The Missouri State Highway Patrol placed reminders of the basic rules of safe driving on the rear glass of patrol cars. Reminders were changed monthly and included: signal to turn, observe speed laws, fasten seat belts, keep pace with traffic, observe yellow line, sound horn before passing, keep safe distance, operate with care, and dim lights when following.

### **1961**

Lieutenant Colonel E.I. (Mike) Hockaday was temporarily relieved of his regular patrol duties on April 19 to become the acting chief of police of Kansas City until a permanent chief could be selected. He remained on the Patrol payroll and served as acting chief for about four months until Clarence Kelly was appointed. The Police Board, on charges that there had been a breakdown in supervision, had dismissed Chief Bernard C. Brannon. It was said that criminal records were not officially reported to department files.

On March 19, 1961, the Bank of Farley (MO) was robbed by two gunmen who, after forcing bank employees into the vault and helping themselves to \$20,000 in cash, sped south on U.S. Highway 45 in a stolen 1960 Ford sedan. A bank cashier returning from lunch noticed the vehicle leave the scene. Upon entering the bank, he discovered what had occurred and freed his fellow workers from the vault. A quick telephone call to the Missouri State Highway Patrol at Lee's Summit alerted law enforcement agencies in the Troop A area. Within 10 of the robbery, dispatchers were moving officers toward roadblock locations. Corporal Gerry W. Winters had just reached his assigned post at the junction of Missouri Highway 45 and U.S. Highway 169 in Riverside, MO, when he noticed a vehicle fitting the description of the holdup car southbound. He drove to the rear of the vehicle and signaled for its driver to stop on the highway shoulder. He was greeted by a fusillade of pistol fire. One of the bullets crashed through the patrol car windshield. Cpl. Winters was slightly injured and a high-speed chase ensued during which numerous shots were exchanged. Cpl. Winters managed to shoot out the rear window of the fleeing Ford. Following a series of near collisions, the stolen car collided with a maple tree in a residential area in North Kansas City. Cpl. Winters and the North Kansas City Police Department apprehended the robbers. All of the stolen money was recovered from beneath the front seat of the wrecked vehicle.

### **1962**

Vehicle maintenance shops were completed at the Troop A and Troop C headquarters, and gasoline pumps were installed at most troop headquarters.

### **1963**

Members of the Troop A pistol team were Trooper Roy C. Dallam, Sergeant John F. Watkins, Trooper James L. Calhoun, Sergeant Mark F. McClure, and Trooper W. Wayne Oberhelman (coach).

### **1966**

On September 26, 1966, two men held up the Halfway Liquor and Grocery on U.S. Highway 50 west of Warrensburg. The men took money from the cash register, a pint of whiskey, and two packages of cigarettes. They were seen running through the mud to the eastbound lane of the highway to a parked car by a State Highway Department man and another witness. Roadblocks were set up immediately. About 1 p.m., Trooper Connie H. Henley saw the car traveling at a high

rate of speed. He pursued the vehicle and, with the assistance of Sheriff Wilbur Schmidt, stopped the car at Clinton. One of the men had no shoes on as he had lost them in the mud near the store. After the arrest, a search of the car revealed the bottle of liquor, the cigarettes, and a small automatic tear gas gun. The victim identified the men later. The car, a 1964 Buick, had been stolen previously in Chicago, IL. The holdup men were apprehended swiftly, probably because of good information and the availability of cars for an excellent roadblock.

In 1966, Highway Department officials found it necessary to develop plans for the upgrading and enlarging of Highways 50 and 71 bypass. This required moving Troop A Headquarters to make way for a new traffic interchange. In addition, Troop A had outgrown the "1938" headquarters. Through the cooperation of the state legislature, other state officials, and the people of Lee's Summit, plans for a new building just north of the old location were formulated. The construction of this new 20,115-square-foot headquarters building that included automotive and radio repair service bays, all new furnishings, a new transmitter house, relocating the radio antenna tower, and enclosing the exterior pistol range consisting of nine shooting stations complete with automated target systems, bullet trap, etc., were all accomplished with the state appropriation of \$638,000. Construction started in 1967 and was completed in the spring 1969. The move to the new building took place on April 8, 1969. The building was designed for future expansion to carry a third floor, with the elevator installed now for a savings.

Captain G.W. Pate retired and Captain V.E. Maxey took command of Troop A on November 1, 1966.

A segment of Interstate 35 from Liberty, MO, to several miles north of Cameron, MO, was opened on December 14, 1966.

## **1967**

The Troop A "Auto Theft Seminar" was held on February 7, 1967, in the nearby Western Electric Plant's auditorium. The meeting was well attended and received by some 150 officers from Western Missouri and Eastern Kansas. The program was developed and presented by Captain V.E. Maxey, Mr. Bob Sattler and Mr. W.J. Davis of the N.A.T.B., Lieutenant Colonel K.K. Johnson, Lieutenant R.E. Swackhamer, and Sergeant R.W. Dreher.

On March 17, at approximately 8 p.m., Trooper Gerry Winters received a radio dispatch that two men driving a red pickup truck were wanted for a burglary of a television shop at Richmond, MO. At approximately 8:30 p.m., Tpr. Winters stopped a truck fitting the description and he could see some of the articles reported taken in the truck. He held the two men, but one man kept his hand in his pocket and would not remove it when ordered. Trooper George Downing came by in his personal car returning home from an off-duty trip. He stopped and assisted Tpr. Winters with the difficult situation. When the search was made, one of the subjects did have a loaded .22-caliber automatic in his pocket.

Sergeant E.W. Van Winkle recovered a 1961 Buick with blue interior that had been stolen from Mexico the day before. There were several packages of Salem cigarettes, other articles, and a watermelon in the car. The car was abandoned on U.S. Highway 50 just east of Warrensburg. That evening a woman was arrested, as it appeared she was trying to steal a car in Warrensburg. The unusual thing about the matter is that the woman had her brown hair sprayed with orange paint, white dots painted on her face, wearing green shorts, and a man's white shirt. She stated she was from the moon, her birthdate was May 23, 1967, and she had just arrived in Warrensburg in a car with blue interior. She had in her possession Salem cigarettes with the same tax number as those in the recovered car. After further investigation she was taken to the state hospital at Nevada, MO.

Troop A had a basketball team enjoyed a winning streak of one win and no defeats. They defeated the Independence (MO) Police Department team in a high scoring affair, 26-24. The five

members were: Troopers Jim Anderson, Kenny Carnes, Jerry Walters, Everett Morgan, and Roy Dallam.

On August 29, 1967, three men escaped from the Daviess County Jail at Gallatin. After taking a .38-caliber snub-nose and a .22-caliber revolver from the jail, they stole a 1966 Charger being held by the sheriff. One of the escapees surrendered to Trooper R.L. Stufflebean in Hamilton, MO, stating he had been forced to accompany the two. Sergeant C.E. Fisher and Trooper J.R. Ramsey received a radio dispatch concerning the escape, which included the information that one of the men was being held for the murder of a service station attendant, the other for burglary, and they were armed with the stolen guns. At about 7:05 p.m., the troopers were northbound on U.S. Highway 69 near Liberty, when they observed a car matching the description on the southbound lane. Taking pursuit, the car was stopped and the escapees apprehended. The car and guns were recovered without difficulty.

A letter was received at Troop A from a gentleman in Kansas City. He had been given an SHP-18 warning for having an out-of-state license. He had taken his driver's test and obtained his license, but because he did not have his original title, he needed more time to obtain his license plate for his car. So eager was he to comply and possibly receive an extension of time to comply, the letter was sent by airmail from Kansas City to Lee's Summit, a distance of about 10 miles.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol trailer featuring an exhibit of Patrol techniques in crime detection was on display at the Central Missouri State College Student Union in Warrensburg.

Construction began in December on a new 20,000-square-foot troop headquarters in Lee's Summit.

## 1968

Effective 6 a.m., January 1, 1968, Troop A officers, by mutual agreement between Chief Clarence M. Kelley of the Kansas City Police Department and Colonel Hockaday, "took over" all accident investigation, traffic control, and enforcement on the entire Interstate system within the city limits. In addition to Interstate 70, the area of responsibility will include Interstates 29, 35, 435, and the "off ramps". Records of the Kansas City Police Department indicate approximately 1,000 accidents occur on these highways each year.

Lieutenant N.L. Eader was elected president of the State Line Peace Officer Association. The association was started 20 years ago for the exchange of information between Missouri and Kansas officers in the counties bordering the West Central part of the state.

Construction of the new Troop A Headquarters building is under way. It was somewhat trying, as it was built on the same site as the old one. To complicate matters somewhat, adjoining U.S. 50 is under heavy construction and relocation. The radio tower, a landmark for the area, was nonexistent for only one day, but was placed back to the northwest of where it was originally.

Captain V.E. Maxey was elected vice-president of the Metropolitan Police Chiefs and Sheriff's Association.

In the latter part of 1967 and early January 1968, numerous fires occurred in Ray County and around Richmond. Several houses in the town and county, as well as business establishments in the area, were burned or partially burned. Damage ran as high as an estimated half million dollars. Sergeant J.W. Wright, working with Sheriff J.R. Stockton, developed a suspect--a young man, age 23, who lived in Richmond. The suspect had been seen at many of the fires. Arrangements were made for the man to take a polygraph test. Sergeant J.E. Shirley, Troop H, administered the test and obtained confessions of the arson and other crimes. The suspect admitted he had committed several burglaries in the area also, however, most of the property taken had been destroyed or discarded. Seven arson cases and four burglaries were cleared.

Over 200 officers reported to Kansas City on April 9, 1968, to help quell rioting, bombing, and looting in the eastern part of the city. They were on this special detail for 10 days. A command

and communication post was set up in the KCPD Headquarters. The men were housed in two downtown motor hotels. It was certainly unusual to see the various colored cars with Patrol emblems and visi-bars patrolling downtown Kansas City. As one businessman said, "We saw a 'spit and polish' outfit arrive, but we soon learned they were real policemen."

Trooper Galen Pyle had a car stopped on the shoulder of Interstate 70 near Grain Valley, MO, at approximately 3 a.m. when another car drove up and stopped. The driver got out somewhat unsteady on his feet and said, "I give up, how in the world did you get onto me?" Trooper Pyle, observing his condition, made the apprehension, obtained a check of 0.27 percent on the Breathalyzer and lodged the man in jail.

A group of Cub Scouts was given a tour through Troop A Headquarters. As part of the tour, they were shown some of the material in a 1939 case file. This included a photograph of a shiny 1935 Packard. One Cub Scout immediately piped up, "That's a Bonnie and Clyde Car."

The city marshal of Lawson, MO, and two citizens arrested a burglar in an implement establishment. A second burglar escaped, causing a manhunt to be set up immediately in the area. Patrol cars and a police dog were used. The identity of the wanted man was learned. Sergeant Lloyd R. Roberts suggested the public address speaker on the patrol cars be used to call the man, advise him the dogs were on his trail and he should surrender. Apparently, the man was convinced because he came in and gave up in a short time. Sgt. Roberts stated he believes the use of the speaker is an effective technique, as he has used it on two other occasions and in all cases the men have surrendered, shortening long manhunts.

Some interesting developments occurred on a manhunt in Cass County near Harrisonville, MO,. A house burglary had been reported to Corporal Connie Henley and Trooper Bob Price. They later drove to a suspected housing area. As they were cruising down the street, some youngsters who were playing started shouting, "Here come the cops." Immediately two men burst from a house and hit the brush. Later, when the manhunt developed, the technique of using the patrol car's speaker to suggest that men who were now known surrender was used. One of them did surrender; however, it was three days later when he called the sheriff of Cass County from Los Angeles, CA, indicating his willingness.

Trooper Jerry Collings received a long distance telephone call at 3:30 a.m. while on night duty at the Troop A desk. The call was from a man in Ontario, Canada, who stated he would like assistance in trying to locate a subject named Evelyn Johnson. Tpr. Collings inquired where she might be in Missouri and was mildly surprised when the caller replied, "She's here in Ontario somewhere." It appeared the caller had heard from some source that the Missouri State Highway Patrol could help him. Possibly, he had a radio on the Ontario Provincial Police. Since our "image" was so good, he also wanted us to investigate an Indian Tribe in Ontario.

On July 21, Trooper John R. Ramsey, off-duty and clad in Bermudas and T-shirt, went to the Western Union office in Kansas City to wire money to his brother, Larry, a Navy pilot. His wife, Dorothy, and three-year-old son, Larry, accompanied him. While Tpr. Ramsey was in the office, a woman came in screaming that a man was choking a woman out on the street. When Tpr. Ramsey rushed outside, the attacker was attempting to flee. When two bystanders were unable to stop the running subject, Tpr. Ramsey leaped on the subject's back and rode him to the sidewalk. The subject shrugged Tpr. Ramsey off, striking him twice in the face and began running again. Tpr. Ramsey then fired at the subject, hitting him in the lower rear hip area. The wound failed to stop the subject, who disappeared over a 12-foot drop-off onto another street. Tpr. Ramsey again gave chase, climbing down a telephone pole to the street below. Tpr. Ramsey commandeered a passing car and the chase led to the Prom Motor Inn, where Tpr. Ramsey, gun in hand, thundered into the pool area in hot pursuit. Tpr. Ramsey contacted Kansas City Police Officer Lee Edwards and arrested the subject inside a motel room.

Trooper William M. Wayman of Troop A suffered face and mouth injuries in a fatal two-car accident in late August while pursuing drag racers. The smashup occurred at the intersection of U.S. 50 and Colbern Road. Tpr. Wayman, with emergency lights and siren on the patrol car working, was southbound on Colbern Road and a compact car was westbound through the intersection on U.S. 50 when the collision occurred. The drag racers did not stop.

On November 22, 1968, three armed men held up the Garden City Bank in Cass County. Later in their getaway, they struck the rear of a Grandview (MO) Police Department car and wrecked their car. Subjects then ran into a wooded area. A manhunt ensued using the Patrol plane and the Kansas City Police Department helicopter. The three men were located about two hours after the robbery lying in a ditch. Troopers V.M. Burkhalter, W.M. Wayman, and a Federal Bureau of Investigation agent arrested them. About \$23,000 was recovered. The men were armed with a shotgun, rifle, and an automatic pistol but did not resist. It was the same man arrested by Trooper W.A. Crowder in December 1950, as part of the Hooded Gang.

## 1969

On March 23, 1969, a man fired several shots into his own home, forcing his wife and 16-year-old daughter to flee to a neighbor's house. The 52-year-old male then drove onto the square at Lawson, MO, where he fired two rounds at a passing motorist. The irritated motorist and the shooter chased each other around the square, crashing into each other and more shots being fired by Walker. Troopers J.R. Philpot, L. Williams, and J.R. Ramsey arrived and quickly located the shooter's car in a ditch near the square. While organizing the search party, the officers observed the suspect approaching on foot, carrying a carbine. When he refused repeated commands to drop the gun, Tprs. Philpot and Williams took cover behind a patrol car. The suspect approached the patrol car and he and the officers circled the car several times before he was talked into throwing down the carbine. As Tpr. Philpot moved up to handcuff the subject, the man drew a .32-caliber revolver from under his coat and pointed it at the officer. Tpr. Philpot ducked back behind the patrol car and the stalking resumed. The officers finally talked the suspect into dropping the revolver and he was taken into custody.

"Otto-The Talking Car" made his first appearance at the Missouri State Fair. A 1931 Model A Ford Roadster Patrol Car, Otto featured a fiberglass face and a large trooper hat mounted on its radiator. He not only could speak (thanks to help from the safety officers), but could blink his eyes, blow smoke from under his hat, blow his own horn, move his front wheels, open his own door, and clean his own windshield with his wiper blades. Otto entertains with his antics as well as educates the public on safety issues.

The new Troop A Headquarters was completed and dedicated on October 9, 1969. Governor Warren E. Hearnes gave the dedication address.

Sergeant W.W. Oberhelman attended the annual conference of the National Peace Officer's Association at Ponca City, OK. Sgt. Oberhelman is chairman of the board of the organization. He brought home four trophies to add to his collection. He won first places in the .22-caliber pistol on the National Match Course, the Doctor R. Polson Memorial Match, and with his partner, John Rupley of Albuquerque, NM, the team match trophy. He also received the second place trophy in the grand aggregate score in his class. Sgt. Oberhelman also won a new .38-caliber Smith and Wesson snub nose revolver as a prize.

The new Troop A Headquarters building was dedicated on October 12, 1969. Officers from General Headquarters and other troops as well as many other city, county, and state departments were present. Originally it had been intended to hold the dedication ceremony outdoors, but due to the inclement weather, it was necessary for the proceedings to be held in the large meeting room. Mr. Jack Stapleton Sr., chairman of the State Highway Commission, presided. Colonel E.I. Hockaday, superintendent, accepted the building from John D. Paulus Jr., division director of

Planning and Construction, after which Governor Warren E. Hearnes presented a very informative and timely address. His last remark was, "This new Troop A Headquarters stands as a symbol of Missouri's commitment to modernization in the field of crime control and as a reminder that a fight is being waged against crime."

In addition to a new headquarters building, Troop A now had a very fine indoor firing range. The old range was remodeled and became a completely enclosed building with heating and ventilating systems, enabling it to be used year round. There were nine individual booths. The targets could be operated individually from each booth, turned or moved to various distances on the range. Steel plates deflect the bullets downward and the lead can be retrieved. The attractive lobby was separated from the range by plate glass, making observation possible without discomforting noise. A console control in the lobby made automatic operation possible, such as turning of the targets, timing of the targets, and other operations. A sound system makes communication possible between the lobby and the firing positions on the range. The range was used immediately after completion by the Troop A Pistol Team and would be used at regular intervals by all members.

Troop A won first place in the inter-troop pistol match held in October. Lieutenant Colonel K.K. Johnson presented trophies to Lieutenant N.L. Eader, Corporal J.L. Calhoun. Trooper G.R. Pyle, and Sergeant R.C. Dallam.

Trooper R.W. Nicola, Corporal J.L. Calhoun, and Trooper J.R. Ramsey had a chance to visit with actor Michael Douglas during a break in filming of "Adam at 6 a.m." in Troop A.

The Troop A Headquarters building, which had been in use for 30 years after it was originally occupied in 1938, was torn down. The last brick was hauled away and there was only the original soil. The passing of an "old friend" gives way to one of the finest police buildings in this part of the United States.

## 1970

In April, 168 officers were sent to assist the Kansas City Police Department following civil unrest. A riot was in progress, buildings had been burned, and several persons had been killed. Officers patrolled the downtown and central sections of the city for three days.

On December 9 at 7 p.m., Troopers E.J. Dayringer and G. Price were questioning a hitchhiker on U.S. 50 in Knob Noster, MO, when the 23-year-old man pulled a .22-caliber derringer. Tpr. Dayringer struck the hitchhiker on the head with his flashlight as the subject reached to remove his service revolver. The man fired one shot at Dayringer and three at Price -- one struck Price in the kneecap. One officer fired five shots and the other four shots as the man fled into a wooded area. Later, information from the FBI and a nearby resident, who was forced to drive the hitchhiker to St. Louis, revealed that four of the officers' shots hit their mark -- the man's right thigh, stomach, and chest. The suspect was wanted for escape and assault in New Jersey.

An employee of a used car lot called Troop A Headquarters about a counterfeit Missouri title for an automobile. Trooper L.M. Earnest contacted the used car lot employee and from his knowledge of the appearance of titles, he was sure it was not genuine. The car in question was one that had been reconditioned from "Hurricane Camille". It was supposedly then stolen from a dealer and a serial number switched and the counterfeit title made for it. Corporal M.D. Buesing investigated the complaint further and found that a large operating car theft ring had developed. Some 12 cars have been identified and recovered which were stolen in Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Tennessee, with the possibility that many more were stolen and may be recovered. Cpl. Buesing worked with the Federal Bureau Of Investigation and the National Auto Theft Bureau, and it appeared that this may develop into one of the largest operations in several years.

Trooper Lawrence Williams was off-duty in a Butler drug store when he observed a young woman attempting to cash a \$5 check after a small purchase. He noted the check was a counter



type and after the woman left he requested the saleslady permit him to see the check. Tpr. Williams noticed the check was supposedly issued by a local construction company which he was sure did not exist in Butler. He then located the woman and found she had given checks to seven other firms in Butler. The Butler Police Department was alerted and they soon located the woman and her husband at a drive-in. They were later charged with eight no account checks.

On January 25, 1970, Corporal G.W. Winters apprehended two juveniles who had escaped from the Training School for Boys work detail at Watkins Mill State Park. The two juveniles, armed with knives, assaulted a guard and stole his car. Cpl. Winters observed the stolen car southbound on U.S. 69 about five miles south of Excelsior Springs. He began a pursuit and at U.S. 69 and Interstate 35, the fleeing car ran off the road into a medial area. As Cpl. Winters was attempting to apprehend the escapees, they succeeded in getting their car back onto the highway and continued southbound. The driver of the stolen car again lost control on Interstate 35 just north of Missouri 152. The car ended up in a muddy ditch. The two juveniles surrendered to Cpl. Winters without incident.

On February 10, 1970, members of the Platte County Sheriff's Department, prosecuting attorney, Kansas City Police, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol raided a Platte County farmhouse. Nine persons were arrested and a quantity of narcotics and paraphernalia were seized.

AS OTHERS SEE US: From a letter written by the husband of a woman involved in an accident investigated by Trooper Gordon Sanders. *"TRUE PROFESSIONAL -- My wife was recently involved in an accident in which she was a passenger in one of the vehicles involved. Trooper G.C. Sanders (Troop A) was dispatched to the scene to make the investigation. Upon his arrival, he made his preliminary investigation and found my wife was still pinned in the vehicle with a possible broken left leg. Due to the officer's understanding and sympathy he was able to calm my wife's fears and to comfort her until the arrival of the ambulance. I have talked to several people who were at the scene of the accident and they stated how impressed they were with this officer's attitude and performance. I was also most impressed with his professional bearing and courtesy. Tpr. Sanders is a credit to the Patrol and is an outstanding example, in my opinion, of a true professional lawman."*

A nationwide search for two small girls kidnapped in Alabama ended abruptly in Liberty, MO, shortly after midnight, February 25, when the kidnapper walked into a trap set by Missouri State Highway Patrol officers, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Clay County Sheriff's Department. Patrol officers involved were Sergeant C.E. Fisher, Troopers J.R. Ramsey, R.W. Nicola, J.R. Philpot, L.G. Wilson, and E.W. Kitchen. The kidnapped girls, ages two-and-one-half and one-and-one-half, were found unharmed in the suspects car parked outside the residence where the kidnapper was taken into custody. Three pistols were found inside the car.

On April 2, 1970, at 9:25 a.m., an armed robbery of a service station at Lathrop, MO, was reported. Soon after the robbery, the victim, Mr. Ralph Hopkins, was talking by telephone with his employer, Mr. James Mathis, who operates a service station in Holt, MO. During their telephone conversation concerning the robbery, Mr. Mathis observed a vehicle fitting the description of the one driven by the robbery suspect pass by his station. Mr. Mathis immediately related this information to the Patrol. The robbery suspect was intercepted five minutes later by Trooper G.W. Downing just north of Kearney, MO. Tpr. Downing chased the robbery suspect at high speeds for approximately three miles when the suspect wrecked his vehicle. The suspect surrendered to Tpr. Downing and readily admitted that he was the wanted subject. He also admitted to the armed robbery of a liquor store in Excelsior Springs on March 25, 1970.

A suspicious man was observed in the Henrietta and Sunshine bottoms in Ray County. The man had recently been discharged from the armed services and was apparently living off the land. Just before his detection, a fisherman's lunch had been reported missing. When a trooper first spotted the subject, he was enjoying the food, but he immediately hit the brush and then the

chase started. There had been some thefts reported from homes in the area where food and clothing had been taken. Ray County Sheriff deputies and Lafayette County Sheriff Gene Darnell, who is a pilot, joined in the search to assist Troopers Steve Edson and Steve Raney, and Sergeant John Wright. The man was tracked to a small creek, but there the trail ended. Sometime later, Sgt. Wright noticed a light movement in a pool in the creek and sure enough, practicing his survival training, the man was submerged and breathing through a straw. He was hauled out of the creek and released to a mental health center, as it was determined he was suffering emotional difficulties.

While giving a driver's license test, Examiner B.R. Neill asked a young lady to dim her lights. She acted as if she did not know what he was talking about. He then got in the car and pointed to the switch button on the floor. She replied immediately, "That is not the dimmer switch, that is the brighter switch."

Trooper J.G. Snavelly apprehended three Kansas City men following the theft of approximately \$300 from a St. Joseph service station. Overhearing a Troop H dispatch, Tpr. Snavelly drove to the Beverly area where minutes later he observed the suspect's car southbound on Missouri Highway 45. The vehicle was stopped, the arrests made, and the money was recovered without incident.

While assigned to the Kansas City area Metro-Squad, which was investigating the slaying of Representative Leon Jordan, Corporal Harold Battmer and three area officers were assigned to locate and arrest a suspect in the case. Unable to locate the subject on the streets, the officers decided to check an abandoned building in the inner city. The door and the ground floor windows were found to be locked, so the determined officers decided to enter through a second story window. The police car was pulled next to the building, and the officers got on top of the car. One officer boosted the other three through the unlocked window. When the search proved fruitless, Cpl. Battmer and his two associates returned to the window only to find that they could not safely make the journey from the second floor window to the top of the police car. Undaunted, the officer remaining with the car rose to the occasion. Within minutes, screaming sirens and flashing red lights announced the arrival of fire equipment. Firemen quickly placed a ladder to the window and rescued the stranded officers. Officers at the scene later reported that the red faces of "Hook and Ladder" Battmer and his associates made the fire equipment seem pale by comparison.

Trooper R.I. "Sky" King made local news and got a record fine for a speeding arrest in Jackson County. Trooper "Sky" King fell in behind a speeder on Interstate 70 at the Kansas line and chased a 21-year-old man at speeds up to 130 miles per hour. In an attempt to elude the patrol car, the speeder exited and re-entered at three Kansas City interchanges before being stopped. In court, the young man told Judge Lou Davis he was just scared of the trooper, not the speed. The judge replied with a \$300 fine, and with the attorney's fee, it was an expensive race.

Officers from Troop A assisted the Cass County Sheriff's Department and the Metro Squad with an investigation of the strangulation death of Jo Ellen Weigel, an 18-year-old Lee's Summit resident, whose body was recovered from Lake Winnebago on July 5, 1970. A grand jury was impaneled—the first one in Cass County in 24 years—and rendered a true bill in the murder case and an indictment was drawn against 18-year-old man, a subject the girl had dated for two years.

A Police Personnel Supervisor Course was conducted at Troop A Headquarters from September 28 through October 9, 1970. Sergeants C.S. Endicott and J.M. Luker were the instructors. This training was one of 10 courses being conducted throughout the state.

Sergeant C.E. Fisher and Trooper J.R. Ramsey assisted in the capture of Arnold Stead, a federal fugitive who had walked away from the Kansas City Veterans Hospital. Stead was undergoing a mental competency examination after being indicted by a federal grand jury for possession of an unregistered bomb. The Kansas City Police Department originally arrested him when he was found near a Plaza Bank with a pipe bomb in his possession. Sgt. Fisher and Tpr.

Ramsey, both off duty, were in the University of Missouri at Kansas City Student Union talking to a UMKC security officer when Stead walked in. The security officer recognized Stead and the arrest was made without incident. Stead, a reported member of the Weatherman Faction of the S.D.S. was released to the FBI.

## 1971

During 1971, members of the Patrol on the interstate system investigated 2,560 motor vehicle accidents inside Kansas City.

Officers assigned to the Troop A Safety Division, one sergeant and one trooper, gave a total of 55 programs, which were attended by 3,831 citizens of Kansas City. In addition to the personal talks, the officers also recorded "Safety Spots" that were played on several area radio stations.

Trooper Gary Dusenberg, patrolling near Lee's Summit, received information over his C.B. radio of a vehicle southbound in the northbound lanes of divided U.S. 50 a few miles from his location. Soon after arriving in the area, his patrol car was forced from the highway by a southbound El Camino. Tpr. Dusenberg pursued the truck and soon caught up with it. The driver slowed his vehicle, but refused to stop even though Tpr. Dusenberg had the patrol car's siren and rotating red lights in use. Realizing his pursuit was proving futile and considering the danger to oncoming traffic, Tpr. Dusenberg decided on a different course of action. He drove a short distance ahead of the truck and parked the patrol car on the shoulder. As the El Camino passed he pursued it on foot, caught up with it, and then managed to open the driver's door. Tpr. Duesenberg then grabbed the driver's left arm and jerked him from the cab. The vehicle continued on down the highway. He caught up with it, leaped behind the steering wheel and brought it to a halt. The Breathalyzer reading was .20 percent.

Weight inspectors at A-3 East, Troop A, noted a tractor-trailer unit that was overweight on the tandem axles. A car stopped beside the truck on the outside lane and a car stopped behind the scale house. When the driver exited his vehicle to view the weight, the occupants exited their vehicles and were heavily armed. The weight inspector was informed the tractor-trailer was loaded with \$1.25 million in silver en route to a Federal Reserve Bank in the east from the Denver Mint. The coins were in small, but very heavy bags, piled three deep and covered the entire floor. The driver was issued a ticket and allowed to proceed after the bags were shifted to correct the load.

The Missouri State Fair welcomed back for its third consecutive year "Otto," the Missouri Highway Patrol's talking 1931 Model A Ford Roadster.

The Major Case Squad patterned after those in Kansas City and Central Missouri was formed. FBI Agent George Lueckenhoff conducted one week of training at Central Missouri State University. Members of the patrol participating in the squad training were: Troopers R.E. Anderson, D.D. LePage, E.H. Morgan, A.L. Stratman, and G.R. Schwartz, Troop A; Sergeant J.C. Rhoades, Troop H. Troop A officers Sergeant R.G. Place, Corporal M.D. Buesing and Corporal H.W. Battmer assisted with the training. Lieutenant T.V. Poindexter, Troop A, is a member of the board of directors.

Sergeant George A. Hamilton, Corporal Connie H. Henley, and Trooper Gary W. Paul set up a radar check on U.S. Highway 71 just north of Harrisonville. The location was a hot spot as 20 violations were noted in the first hour. The activity then took a nosedive. The officers stopped a local trucker for eighty miles per hour and then learned from him that approximately 300 yards behind them, an artist from a neighboring landowner, who believed in free expression for his longhaired boys, had placed a sign reading "Speed Trap" along the shoulder.

## 1972

Six Troop A officers, including two on motorcycles, assisted the Weston Police Department and other area agencies when over 25,000 persons thronged the narrow, tree-lined streets of Weston, MO, as the small, Platte County city hosted its fourth Old Homes Tour on October 8.

The new Kansas City International Airport was dedicated on October 21-23. Vice president Spiro T. Agnew officially dedicated the new airport on October 23, 1972. About 100,000 people toured the new facility located about 19 miles north of downtown Kansas City. Twelve Patrol officers assisted over 250 National Guardsmen and the Kansas City Police Department and officers from other area departments in providing traffic control and security during the three-day event. The impact of the new facility will become apparent to Zone 2 and 2A officers when the airport officially opens. The Highway Department calculates that traffic on Interstate 29 will jump from the present 27,460 vehicles a day to over 60,000 when the airport gates opens on November 11.

### **1973**

The first women driver examiners were employed by the Highway Patrol on August 13. Both were stationed in Troop A.

## 1974

Following a music festival initially billed as a country and bluegrass affair, but which actually featured hard and acid rock groups, a Senate Committee issued this report on the activities held at the Sedalia fairgrounds: "The Ozark Music Festival can only be described as a disaster. It became a haven for drug pushers who were attracted from throughout the United States. The scene made the degradation of Sodom and Gomorrah appear mild. Natural and unnatural sex acts became a spectator sport ... Frequently, nude women promoted drugs with advertisements on their bodies." The Department of Agriculture's director signed an agreement allowing the festival organizers to provide security. Thus, law enforcement was not allowed on the fairgrounds during the concert. Undercover officers from the Intelligence and Investigation Division entered the fairgrounds and documented the lawlessness. Multiple drug overdoses occurred each day of the concert. Sgt. Ed Moses went to the medical facility one day and counted over 30 overdoses in less than one hour. However, the officers were unable to take major enforcement action because of the sheer number of perpetrators and concerns for the officers' safety should their identity become known. The fairgrounds was left in bad shape—trash, spoiled food, and human waste was everywhere and fences and buildings were damaged. As a result, after the concert, the top six inches of soil had to be removed and replaced.

## 1975

For many years all Patrol officers wore their holsters on the right-hand side, regardless of any natural proclivity toward left-handedness. Requests from southpaw shooters for left-handed holsters filtered in from time to time over the years, but fell on deaf ears, because the organization felt the uniform appearance should be preserved. Circumstances involving two men influenced Superintendent Sam Smith to change the rule in February. Recruit R.L. Armstrong was experiencing great difficulty in learning to shoot with his right hand due to a childhood illness, yet he could shoot well with his left. At about the same time, Trooper Denny W. Boss, Troop A, purchased a left-handed holster and wore it to troop headquarters while off-duty, but in full uniform, to demonstrate the difference was inconspicuous. His experiment met with success, as no one commented his holster was on the wrong side. Uniformity had finally yielded to practicality. The superintendent decided that troopers who could fire a higher range score with their left hand than their right would be allowed to wear their holsters on the left side.

On February 4, 1975, a silent bank alarm at the First National Bank in Butler, MO, triggered a running gun battle that resulted in the critical wounding of the suspect by Troopers Larry Williams and James Stivers and the recovery of \$25,000. Off-duty Tpr. Williams had just walked into the Butler Police Station when the bank alarm sounded at 10:45 a.m. Tpr. Williams and Butler Police Chief rushed to the bank, arriving just in time to see the suspect emerge with a bag of money in one hand and a pistol in the other. The suspect, who had already fired one shot at a bank teller, opened fire on the officers when they commanded him to halt. During the ensuing foot chase, the suspect fired on Trooper Williams and Chief Conway an estimated seven times. The officers fired on the running suspect nine times. The chase ended about two blocks east of the bank when the suspect, a 22-year-old man of Lansing, IL, took shelter in a small shed (outhouse). Tpr. Stivers arrived at this time and Tpr. Williams obtained a riot gun from Chief Conway. When the suspect refused repeated commands to surrender, and was believed to be reloading his pistol, the officers fired into the shed, critically wounding the suspect. The officers and Chief Conway recovered all of the stolen money.

Trooper Larry "Frog" Williams received an urgent CB call from a truck driver, "Deputy Dog" who reported seeing a horse head sticking out from the ice of a pond about 300 feet in diameter. Tpr. Williams borrowed a boat, recruited a four-man rescue team, found a rope, an axe, and

chopped a path through the ice, all within 30-minutes. Roping and dragging the horse by the neck about 50 yards through the path cut in the ice-covered pond climaxed the rescue attempt.

The first Troop A family campout occurred on April 26-27, at Knob Noster State Park. There was plenty for everyone to do -- volleyball, horseshoe pitching, hiking, and fishing, a large campfire with hotdogs and marshmallows, and lots of time to talk with friends and make new acquaintances.

## 1976

"Respect For Law" week was conducted in conjunction with a bicycle safety program sponsored by Odessa Optimists. Trooper Steve Johnson demonstrated the new radar "speed gun" used to detect speeders.

On July 15, 1976, Sergeant Don Lasswell was checking a vehicle with a burglary connection on southbound Lightburne at Interstate 35 when he was struck by a northbound pickup being driven by a drunk driver. Sgt. Lasswell was carried and thrown over 100 feet. He suffered a broken pelvis, sacroiliac, ribs, toe, and shoulder along with numerous severe cuts, abrasions, and bruises.

Corporal E.J. Dayringer and Trooper J.P. Lysaght answered a CB call for assistance in the Kansas City Royals stadium parking lot. An apparent heart attack victim was discovered sitting in his vehicle unconscious. Cpl. Dayringer and Tpr. Lysaght were the first law enforcement officers to arrive on the scene. They attempted CPR for almost an hour with no success.

In August 1976, Kansas City played host to the Republican National Convention held at the Kemper Arena. Two hundred and seventeen officers were assigned to assist the Kansas City Police Department in providing security. Except for minor demonstrations by a motley collection of the unwashed and unemployed, the convention came off without a hitch.

## 1977

On May 4, 1977, tornadoes devastated Pleasant Hill, MO, and Sedalia and touched down in several other communities, claiming four lives, injuring 83, and causing \$26.5 million in property damage. Large contingents of Troop A officers and commercial vehicle and motor vehicle inspectors assisted in rescue efforts.

Trooper T.M. Whiting and Corporal L.A. Kerns were working radar on Interstate 70 in Saline County. Tpr. Whiting stopped a red Cadillac and observed a plastic bag with a well known green leafy material protruding from the driver's shirt pocket. The subsequent arrest resulted in charges for speeding, controlled substance (181 pounds of Columbian marijuana), and carrying a concealed weapon.

Sergeant Jim Watson "Cookie Bear" addressed an independent group of Citizens Band (CB) radio operators at a special meeting on CB emergency communications at the University of Missouri Extension Center in Independence.

Trooper Janet Craighead, assigned to Troop A, is the only female Missouri state trooper out of 800 troopers in the state. [In 1975, Patricia R. Wright, of Macon, and Bridget A. Cronin, of St. Louis County, became the first female troopers in the Patrol's 43-year history. Both left the Patrol for other jobs.]

## 1978

On New Year's Eve, a tractor-trailer driver from Wichita, KS, avenged himself for many past citations by ramming his rig into the A-3 East weigh station at Odessa, demolishing the cinder block building. Luckily no one was inside. The 25-year-old trucker left the scene, but was apprehended near Columbia, MO, shortly thereafter.

Officers from Troop A and D were sent to the Montrose Plant of the Kansas City Power and Light Company in Henry County on February 17-18, to keep the public roads open and prevent violence from striking coal miners. On February 10, Trooper G.D. Friar and truckline operators were

jostled and threatened as the officer attempted to escort a convoy to the plant. The trucks were forced to return to Kansas City without unloading after about 200 striking miners surrounded the patrol car. Two tires of the patrol car were punctured during the incident.

Sergeant Jim Watson advised *The Examiner* newspaper in Independence, MO, that the Missouri State Highway Patrol was adding eight-channel scanner radios in all 800 patrol cars. Sgt. Watson said that, "Now that we are equipped with scanners, we can monitor Kansas City, Independence, Blue Springs, and Jackson County Sheriff patrol cars quickly and efficiently" and that "the dispatcher at any of these other law enforcement headquarters can relay the message directly to one of our troopers, instead of to our dispatcher who, in turn, must relay the message. An entire step is cut out in the process."

Polygraph service would again be provided at the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Troop A Headquarters. Corporal David D. LePage recently completed a six-week course at the National Training Center of Polygraph Science in New York City and has been assigned as the troop's polygraph operator.

Troop A officers conducted 202 emergency and 154 priority blood relays from the Kansas City Blood Bank to area hospitals in 1978.

## 1979

A group in Troop A, one corporal and two troopers termed the "Hot Dog Squad," began focusing its attention on assigned problems such as rock concerts, burglary surveillance, and truck speeding without restriction of zone boundaries. Membership in the Hot Dog Squad was to change monthly.

Troopers Gordon Sanders and Stephen Dorsey of Troop A, attired in breeches and high boots just like all state troopers once wore, resumed using motorcycles for speed enforcement, a ploy last popular with the Patrol in the 1940s.

## 1980

In January 1980, Troop A safety officers began scheduling programs for banking institutions within the troop on the subject of "bank robbery awareness." The program included a staged bank robbery, a 20-minute film "Know Exactly What To Do," and a small display of weapons commonly used in bank robberies. Each person received a copy of the Patrol's revised "Be Prepared" pamphlet. Troop A safety officers conducted nine Bank Robbery Awareness programs in January, eight in February, five in March, and 10 in April.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol organized a special 10-man unit on a periodic basis to serve traffic warrants due to the significant number of violators who failed to appear in court. According to Sergeant E.J. Dayringer, supervisor of the unit, there were 4,500 warrants on file at Troop A Headquarters and over 29,000 warrants in the Patrol's computer in Jefferson City. As fines go into the school fund, this represents a significant loss to the school districts. Legislation was under consideration, which would give troopers the authority to accept driver's licenses in lieu of bond throughout Missouri.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol inspected 471 school buses in the Kansas City area. Of the total, 277 or 59 percent were found to have defects, and 35 were taken out-of-service because the problems were considered to be potentially hazardous.

Colonel Al Lubker was at Troop A for an annual review of the troopers. Weather reports predicted harsh weather hitting the area. The top rotor blade of the Highway Patrol helicopter was lined up with the helicopter body, wheels on the landing skids were folded down, and the vehicle was wheeled into the garage for protection overnight.

Governor Joseph P. Teasdale directed the Missouri State Highway Patrol to assist the Kansas City Missouri Police Department on March 21, 1980, when the police department took over fire

fighting duties after firemen walked off their jobs in an illegal strike. Task Force Adam personnel from Troops A, D, F, H, and General Headquarters were activated for fire strike duty, as well as personnel from the Troop A's CVE, MVI, and Radio divisions from March 21-23.

Zones 5 and 6 in Clay County acquired a new, "modern," 8'x 20' trailer for a zone office. The trailer has adequate room for six officers to write reports at the same time. Before the new office was acquired, the zone office was located at Post A-2 North near Kearney, MO, on Interstate 35.

Fifteen officers from Troop A, including one of its motorcycles, were assigned to the President Jimmy Carter security detail during one of his visits to Kansas City. Trooper and motorcycle officer, Stephen Dorsey of Troop A, received a handshake from President Carter following his visit to Kansas City.

### **1981**

Officers from Troop A along with officers from Troops D, G, I, and General Headquarters, participated in a six-day manhunt in Southwest Missouri in September. Four convicts had escaped from the Kansas State Prison in Lansing, Kansas. All four convicts were captured.

An open house was held at Troop A Headquarters in observance of the Missouri State Highway Patrol's 50th anniversary.

Missouri State Highway Patrol troopers landed their helicopter at Fitzgibbon Memorial Hospital to transport a newborn child to the University Medical Center in Columbia. Sergeants Lloyd Kearns and A.J. Striker assisted in the transport of the child.

Troopers from Lee's Summit, discovered a mysterious sign on the morning of September 9, on the median strip of U.S. Highway 50, about 1/2 mile east of Missouri Highway 291. Sergeant Jim Watson said drivers in the westbound lane could see the sign that read, "To the girl in white. When you smile there isn't anything prettier. Love you." The sign was allowed to remain until about 1 p.m.

Sergeant Larry Williams apprehended two subjects who robbed the Lathrop Branch Bank in Holt, MO. An investigation by Sergeants W.L. Bell and E.J. Dayringer, the FBI, and the Clay County Sheriff's Department, led to the arrest of a Clay County deputy for participation in the bank robbery, the clearance of two other bank robberies, and 11 burglaries.

### **1982**

Current budgetary and fiscal restraints have led Troop A officers to pull back from patrolling the interstate highways in Kansas City and Independence in order to provide full coverage in rural zones outside the metropolitan area. Officers formerly used on Interstate 435 and Interstate 70 will now serve in Cass, Clay, Lafayette, Johnson, Platte, and Saline counties.

### **1983**

Sergeants Jim Watson, Gil Schwartz, and Steve Johnson provided four classes on gun safety to 72 wives and female employees of Troop A. Captain Willard R. Petrus, Troop A's commanding officer, said he got the idea for the seminar from a television show about a woman learning to use guns.

### **1984**

Several officers were assigned to the presidential security detail when President Ronald Reagan visited the Missouri State Fair on August 19, 1984.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol, in a special operation, planned to serve as many as 700 warrants to Jackson County residents wanted mostly for traffic violations.



A promotional effort by the Missouri Division of Tourism was conducted on Interstate 70 in conjunction with National Tourism Week. Troopers stopped out-of-state travelers that were driving the speed limit and wearing their seat belts and presented them with a bag filled with pens, maps, a key chain, plastic cups, coupons, a tiny tool kit, and a country western tape cassette, or a stuffed doll.

Sergeant Gary Walker and Johnson County Sheriff deputy Gary R. Seymour, were injured when Sgt. Walker was trying to overtake a speeding vehicle eastbound on Highway 50. Sgt. Walker crested a hill and a southbound vehicle, driven by 19-year-old man, crossed the roadway. The patrol car then struck the southbound vehicle. Sgt. Walker suffered a cracked sternum and cuts and bruises. Deputy Seymour suffered a laceration to the head. The 19-year-old suffered facial lacerations, bruises, and possible internal injuries. He was cited for driving while intoxicated, and careless and imprudent driving by failure to yield.

### **1985**

On July 4, 1985, six law enforcement officers, including Corporals Everett H. Morgan and Denny W. Boss, were taken hostage by Robert T. Allen who was wanted for escape from custody while charges were pending for three counts of armed robbery and other crimes. The incident occurred in Lafayette County near Odessa. During a search for Allen at a house trailer in a secluded wooded area, Allen captured a deputy sheriff. When Corporal Morgan and another deputy arrived at the scene, Allen, using the first deputy as a shield, demanded that they disarm themselves or he would kill the deputy with the gun pointed at the officer's head. All three were then handcuffed and their feet were tied. Shortly thereafter, Cpl. Boss, another deputy sheriff, and an Odessa police officer arrived at the trailer and they too were forced to disarm themselves. Corporal Kenny C. Boyle in 94 MP witnessed this incident and advised Troop A. Allen released the first hostage taken without negotiation. Negotiations for the other five began shortly afterward by Lieutenant Harold Battmer and later by Sergeant Larry C. Mathews. Four of the hostage officers were released, one by one. Cpl. Boss was able to escape when he was allowed to go out onto the porch to get soda and food. As Cpl. Boss dove off the porch, Allen fired at him. The Troop A SERT returned fire, wounding Allen in the head. None of the officers were injured. All of our officers involved in this incident showed patience and professionalism. Many patrol cars were damaged by a sudden hailstorm during the incident.

Sergeant Jim Watson's new companion, a 5-foot 6-inch robot that walks, talks, shows videotapes, beeps, salutes, and even dances was purchased by the Missouri Division of Highway Safety in June for \$15,000. Its primary purpose is to educate children about safety and crime prevention. The robot appeared August 10-11 at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base during Operation Handshake, an air show and open house. A television screen in its belly replays programs about seat belts and child and pedestrian safety. 21st Century Robotics, an Atlanta company that manufactures the robots, calls them ARES (Auxiliary Robotic Education System). Although the robots are intended mainly to entertain and educate, police in other states have used the machine's cameras to detect bombs. The robots have also proven useful in cases of child abuse because an abused child often won't speak to an adult, but they will talk to the robot. Plans were made to use the robot for that purpose if a child is reluctant to communicate with officers.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol was recognized as Employer of the Year by the Lee's Summit Business and Professional Women and the National Council on the Future of Women in the Work Place as part of the organizations' celebration of National Business Women's Week. The Highway Patrol was cited for its upward mobility and additional training provided to women employees. Lieutenant John Ulm accepted the plaque for the Highway Patrol. BPW-USA is the world's oldest and largest organization of working women.

## 1986

Weigh Station Post A-2 South was destroyed on December 1 when a vehicle struck the north side of the building, continued on through the structure, and came to rest in the post parking lot. No one was in the building at the time.

## 1987

Officers from Troop A participated in a relentless manhunt consisting of over 100 local, county, state, and federal officers in Southwest Missouri. Officers were searching for a man driving a red, 1964 to 1966, model Chevrolet, pickup with white stripe wanted in the shooting death of Trooper Russell W. Harper, an 18-year veteran of the Patrol. A suspect in the murder, Glennon P. Sweet, 31, was made known after an intensive investigation. The search for Sweet ended early Tuesday morning, February 10, when he was found in an attic of a house just west of Springfield. Officers found an HK .223-caliber weapon capable of automatic fire on the premises and a red pickup truck in an enclosed outbuilding on the property. Later that day, Sweet was charged with capital murder in the death of Tpr. Harper.

In April 1987, officers from Troop A participated in an intense, three-week manhunt in east Central Missouri for John David Brown. Brown escaped from a Southwest Missouri prison in 1984, and was wanted for the wounding of a Rolla police officer and for questioning in the death of a church caretaker in late March. Brown escaped the dragnet, but was captured on May 28, 1987, in Oklahoma. Brown was returned to Missouri to stand trial.

Officers from Troop A assisted the United States Secret Service in providing security for President Ronald Regan during his visit to Columbia on March 26, 1987.

The first-degree murder trial of Glennon Paul Sweet was held in Clay County on December 12, 1987. Sweet was found guilty in the shooting death of Trooper Russell Harper. The jury recommended that Sweet be sentenced to death. Sweet was executed by the state of Missouri in April 1998.

## 1988

Mr. Delbert Dunmire of Kansas City announced in April he would donate 300 HK93 semi-automatic rifles to the Highway Patrol. The first 100 weapons arrived in late July.

Three 1988 Ford Mustang GTs were on the highways of Troop A on March 21. The Mustang has the ability to go from 0 to 60 mph in six seconds and top out at more than 130 mph. The driving records of willing troopers were carefully screened, with the lucky officers sent to Oklahoma for a two-week refresher course in handling and safety.

Trooper Dan Green stopped a 1988 Jeep Grand Wagoneer on Interstate 70, five miles east of Odessa in Lafayette County, for no license plates. Consent to search the vehicle was obtained and four suitcases, each containing two, red, five gallon gas cans filled with "PCP" mixed with ether with an estimated street value of \$6.5 million were recovered. The two subjects in the Jeep were arrested and placed in the Lafayette County Jail. Bond was set at \$500,000 each. Corporal Robert L. Powell and Trooper William A. Metz assisted Tpr. Green.

Corporal Robert L. Powell stopped a 1988 Ford Aerostar Van for speeding on Interstate 70 in Lafayette County. Consent to search the vehicle was obtained and inside a footlocker, Cpl. Powell found \$635,420 in cash. The driver of the vehicle was taken to the Lafayette County Jail.

Sergeant Jim Watson premiered a 7.5 by 10-foot mobile display trailer which holds scale replicas of vehicles, a videocassette player and television set, and lighted panels with information on traffic laws at a mall in Kansas City. It drew favorable reviews from 1,500 children and adults.

A truck driver was shot in the head by Trooper Randy R. Rice after the trucker ran through a Kansas tollgate and later tried to ram several patrol cars during a 65-mile chase across Interstate 70. The truck weaved from shoulder to shoulder and on several occasions tried to strike the patrol cars. At Interstate 70 and Route BB, two Highway Patrol cars pulled in front of the truck, but failed to force the driver of the truck to stop. A roadblock was established at the 44-mile marker. Cole drove through the roadblock at about 60 mph. At the 50-mile marker, officers fired two shots at the truck's radiator and one of the shots struck the lower-left corner of the truck's windshield and the bullet ricocheted, hitting the driver in the head. The man's brother, a passenger in the truck, pulled the vehicle off the road and stopped.

Officers from Troops A and H were involved in a 102-mile pursuit involving a tractor-trailer being driven by a 26-year-old subject from Auburn, Washington. The pursuit began around 8:55 p.m. on Interstate 435 in Platte County and ended almost 90 minutes later on Interstate 29 about a mile south of the Iowa line. Several roadblocks had been set up along Interstate 29. Officers negotiated with the driver on a CB radio. The incident occurred because the truck driver had some sort of girlfriend problem.

A Kansas City man, Ronald J. Young, 42, eluded police through eight counties over a four and one half hour period during a 120-mile high-speed chase from the Ozarks to Odessa, MO. Young was a security officer, who allegedly assaulted his wife at Osage Beach. The chase began when Young, driving a 1986 Ford F-250, ran from police rather than be arrested on the assault charge. He drove into Eldon with Osage Beach (MO) Police Department officers chasing him and struck an Eldon (MO) police car. He continued on, being pursued by the Highway Patrol and Cole County officers into Jefferson City on Highway 54. He then crossed the median and drove back toward Eldon. He crossed the highway again and started back to Jefferson City. He turned around again and dove toward Eldon where he continued westbound on Highway 52.

Young's truck was forced off the road in Morgan County, but came back onto the road and continued to Versailles, MO, where he struck a city police car twice. He then drove through roadblocks in Stover, MO, and Cole Camp, MO. Officers tried to shoot out the tires in Benton County, but failed. Young then drove northbound on U.S. Highway 65 and entered Sedalia where he struck a Sedalia police car and injured an officer. Young continued northbound on U.S. 65 and then turned west onto Interstate 70. Young then crossed the median to elude a roadblock at the Davis Creek Bridge. Officers were able to shoot out the right rear tire. Young then began running westbound in the eastbound lanes. Westbound traffic was stopped when Young eluded the roadblock at the Davis Creek Bridge. He again crossed the median and then continued running westbound. Troopers set up a roadblock at the 39-mile marker. He refused to stop and at that point troopers fired patrol shotguns at the front tires. Young continued west one mile with all tires flat. Young then drove down an embankment and his wheels became stuck in the soil. Young was taken to the Lafayette County Courthouse and held pending felony charges being filed in Sedalia, Versailles, Eldon, and Osage Beach. Young told officers that he was heading back to Kansas City to kill himself.

Troop A will be the home to one of four German shepherds imported from Kassel, West Germany, purchased at a cost of \$2,000 per dog. George Mueller, a police officer from Kassel, West Germany, traveled to the United States to conduct six weeks of training with the troopers and their dogs at the Patrol Academy in Jefferson City. The four canines will be used to track criminal suspects, hunt for escaped prisoners, search for lost or missing children, and sniff out explosives or narcotics.

The Patrol announced a new statewide toll free number motorists could call to report accidents, intoxicated or drugged drivers, reckless driving, hazardous material spills, vehicle problems, or criminal activity.

## 1989

One February afternoon, two men, wearing stocking masks and dark clothing and armed with handguns, held up the Community Federal Savings and Loan Association in Lee's Summit at approximately 2:10 p.m. It was reported that they fled the robbery in a red or orange Chevrolet Camaro or Pontiac Firebird. Shortly before 3 p.m., Trooper Jim Ripley saw a red Pontiac Firebird Trans Am southbound on Missouri Highway 291 just north of Harrisonville. Tpr. Ripley turned around and was attempting to overtake the vehicle when he observed the Pontiac pull into a drive leading to a vacant parking lot. As Tpr. Ripley pulled into the area, the driver of the Trans Am turned his vehicle around toward the patrol car. Tpr. Ripley stopped, got out of his car, and requested the driver to get out of his vehicle. After some hesitation, the suspect walked over and got into the patrol car, but refused to close the door. He was very nervous, even shaking as Tpr. Ripley talked to him. He suddenly jumped out of the patrol car and moved toward his vehicle.

Tpr. Ripley attempted to stop the subject. He grabbed the subject and the subject pulled away. Tpr. Ripley then stuck his off-duty revolver in the side of the subject's face and ordered him to stop resisting. "Go ahead and kill me," the subject stated as he entered his vehicle. Tpr. Ripley continued to order him to stop. The subject started to drive off and Tpr. Ripley fired a shot into the right-rear tire with his off-duty revolver. The subject and his passenger, a woman, headed south on Missouri Highway 291 and turned west on U.S. Highway 71 for a few miles at speeds up to 80 mph with Tpr. Ripley in pursuit.

The rear tire went flat and the subject slowed down, veered to the left shoulder, went back across the right shoulder, and up a dirt embankment to the east outer road. Then, the subject's vehicle spun around and stopped, facing south. The vehicles were very close to one another. Tpr. Ripley started to back up to a safer position when he saw the subject open his door, rest his hands on the partially opened door and begin firing a semi-automatic handgun at him. Tpr. Ripley's patrol car was hit several times. Tpr. Ripley lay down in the seat and pulled forward, attempting to get out of the direct line of fire. As the vehicles passed, Tpr. Ripley fired at the subject with his shotgun. Tpr. Ripley's patrol car rolled about 40 feet and went into a small culvert. The suspect remained seated in his car and continued to shoot at Tpr. Ripley. Tpr. Ripley fired several shots at the suspect from his shotgun striking the Trans Am several times.

Trooper Jim Wingo was at the Cass County Sheriff's Office when he heard the radio traffic. Tpr. Wingo arrived at the scene, drew his service revolver, and began to step out of the car. As he did, he noticed the driver open his door and lean out with a handgun and fire two shots. Tpr. Wingo then fired three rounds at the driver who suffered a fatal wound to the head. A Smith and Wesson 9mm semi-automatic handgun was in his right hand. The woman passenger, wife of the suspect, related that he told her during the chase and gun battle he was not going back to jail. Several hours later, Lee's Summit police and FBI agents located a red Pontiac Firebird with its engine running in a parking lot about three blocks from the robbed savings association. Investigators were able to positively identify the abandoned car recovered in the parking lot as the one used in the robbery, because a witness had gotten the car's license number. The subject involved in the shooting with the two troopers, a fugitive who had a lengthy criminal record and was wanted on a state of Maryland felony warrant, was not involved with the robbery.

In March 1989, Sergeant Jim Watson took part in the first "Trooper on the Train" campaign by riding on a train looking for railroad-crossing violations between Independence and Lee's Summit. The program was part of a national effort to reduce fatal grade-crossing accidents.

Troop A's Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) responded to Vernon County in search of a 24-year-old suspect of rural Fleming, MO. The suspect, who was charged with shooting and wounding his wife at a Nevada City hospital and then slightly injuring a sheriff's deputy a short

time later, spent four days sleeping in a barn and living off candy taken from a pickup truck. Two troopers spotted the suspect in a field. The suspect aimed his rifle at them and one trooper fired three rounds, but missed. A short time later, another pair of troopers spotted the suspect and yelled at him to put down his weapon. He leveled his rifle at them. Both troopers shot at him, killing him.

Over 500,000 people attended the Richards-Gebaur Air Show on May 20-21. The Patrol had one aircraft and the robot on display for this event. Members of Troop A were also assigned to direct traffic.

Troop A officers received five awards in the Metro Chiefs and Sheriff's Association Valor Awards Program co-sponsored by KMBC-TV.

## 1990

On January 20, 1990, Sergeant Larry Williams heroically rescued numerous residents of the Skyline Apartment complex in Liberty when the building caught fire. He quickly began alerting residents of the building, and removing confused and frightened victims to safety from the intense fire and thick smoke. He provided his patrol car and personal equipment for warmth and protection to some of those rescued. Disregarding his personal safety, he continued rescue efforts, climbing an ice-covered ladder to rescue an infant and enduring choking smoke to lead other imperiled and pleading victims to safety. He later collapsed at the hospital emergency room and was treated for physical problems related to heat and smoke inhalation.

Weight inspectors at A-2 North became suspicious when the driver of a tractor-trailer was unable to provide shipping papers for their load. Troopers responded to the scene and determined the services of Asko, Troop A's recently assigned K-9, were needed. Trooper Brad Baker and Asko responded, and in a short time located approximately 1,000 pounds of cocaine valued at \$15 million hidden among a load of onions. The driver and passenger, who were from Newark, NJ, and New York City, NY, were each charged in Clay County Circuit Court with attempting to deliver cocaine.

Trooper Michael Cool stopped a maroon 1988 Ford Thunderbird on Interstate 70 in Lafayette County for a vehicle license violation. Tpr. Cool observed a sawed-off shotgun on the passenger seat and attempted to arrest the 26-year-old driver on a weapons violation. Tpr. Cool requested the driver step out of his vehicle. The man then pulled a .32-caliber derringer from his watch pocket and tried to escape. Tpr. Cool and the driver started scuffling and went over an embankment as Trooper Roger Geary arrived at the scene. Tpr. Cool gained control of the man and took him into custody. The man commented to the officers he wasn't going to shoot, however, the derringer was cocked. The 1988 Ford Thunderbird he was driving was stolen and officers confiscated \$21,000 in cash, two shotguns, a .32-caliber derringer, an Uzi automatic weapon, silencers, two police scanners, and several pieces of false identification. Computer checks of the driver revealed that he was wanted in Canada and Tennessee, and had escaped from Collins Bay Penitentiary near Kingston, Ontario, on June 13, 1988. He had been serving time for nine Toronto holdups in 1983 and 1984. Officers also found evidence the man had plastic surgery to alter his nose and eyebrows making him look like a female. Pictures, documentation, doctor bills, women's clothing, and wigs were found in 1988 Ford Thunderbird. The man also had 14 aliases with the latest being "Tina Elaine Staney." He committed suicide on September 4, 1990, by hanging himself using a bed sheet while incarcerated in the Lafayette County Jail.

Members of Troop A participated in several special assignments where large numbers of people gathered for entertainment. These events included: "Operation Handshake," the largest U.S. Air Show held at Richards Gebaur Airport in Kansas City; an air show at Whiteman Air Force Base; the American Royal; and the Missouri State Fair.

Troop A officers participated in "Operation Impact," a program designed to target traffic problem areas in the Kansas City Metro area.

Sergeant Jack McMillin administered the new CDL tests at A-2 South Scalehouse.

## 1991

Clay County Zone Sergeant Larry Williams was the first recipient of the Valor Award at the first awards banquet held May 18 at the Law Enforcement Academy in Jefferson City. Colonel C.E. Fisher, Sergeant Williams' field training officer, presented a medal, a ribbon to be worn on the uniform, a plaque, and a framed citation signed by the governor.

Sergeant Paul M. Mulholland stopped a station wagon on Interstate 70 west of Concordia. While Sgt. Mulholland was checking the driver, a second man slipped into Sgt. Mulholland's patrol car and sped off. An intensive manhunt ensued only to discover the suspect had abandoned the patrol car and stole a farm truck that was recovered in Florida.

Members from Troop A SERT participated in a manhunt for James R. Johnson in California, MO, on December 9 and 10, after he shot and killed three county law enforcement officers and the sheriff's wife and wounded another officer. Johnson was hiding in a house of an older female California resident who happened to be friends with a retired Highway Patrol officer. She told Johnson she was supposed to go out that evening and convinced Johnson to let her keep her plans. After her friend picked her up, she provided him with information that Johnson was in her house. SERT officers from Troops A and C surrounded the house and Johnson surrendered without incident.

Corporal Michael Webster and Lieutenant Vince Ellis coordinated Hurricane Andrew relief efforts by collecting dry goods, non-perishables, clothing, personal hygiene items, and cash donations during September.

Corporal Gilbert Rodenberg received information the Kansas City Police Department was in pursuit of an armed subject who had been involved in an earlier shooting incident with their officers. Cpl. Rodenberg became the lead officer of the pursuit on Interstate 35 near Pleasant Valley in Clay County. The suspect began shooting a handgun at Cpl. Rodenberg. The pursuit continued northbound at speeds in excess of 90 mph with Cpl. Rodenberg being fired upon by the suspect who drove through two roadblocks. The pursuit ended when the suspect's vehicle became disabled after crashing through a third roadblock. The suspect was taken into custody without further incident and a weapon was recovered.

Trooper Juan Villanueva stopped a van for speeding on Interstate 70 near Sweet Springs, MO, in Saline County. He subsequently recovered 28 packages of marijuana, which weighed 30 pounds and had a street value of \$400,000. A 39-year-old man from Newark, NJ, and 32-year-old woman from Queens Village, NY, each were charged with possession of marijuana with intent to sell.

In December 1991, uniformed officers from Troop A participated in a program called Operation Take Our Youth Shopping (T.O.Y.S.) sponsored by Troop A, KCMC Child Development Corporation from Kansas City and Missouri Valley Human Resources Head Start in Marshall, MO. Officers picked up a group of children around 8 a.m. and drove them to the Harrisonville, MO, Walmart. Each officer was assigned two children. The children had their picture taken with Santa and could purchase \$40 worth of merchandise from Walmart. Troop A officers participated in the same program in Belton, MO. This joint effort of Operation T.O.Y.S. included Troop A, and the West Central Missouri Community Action Agency Head Start program. T.O.Y.S. programs were also held in Harrisonville, MO, Butler, MO, Rich Hill, MO, Clinton, MO, and Warsaw, MO. One hundred seventy-eight Head Start children participated in these events.

Corporal L.D. Jefferson teamed with the Sedalia Police Department "Safety Pup" at a Head Start class in Sedalia. Cpl. Jefferson and "Safety Pup" spoke about the importance of safety.

Troop A created a full-time criminal interdiction team known as the CI-A squad within the troop. Its purpose is to combat all forms of criminal activity within the troop, with special emphasis on drug interdiction. The troop K-9 officer is utilized on a full-time basis and is assisted by other officers on a rotational basis.

Troop A restructured its in-troop training program. The troop curriculum was broadened and enhanced through the utilization of training districts within the troop. Overtime hours were cut significantly with this new training district concept while enabling the troop to provide more training.

A sobriety checkpoint on Interstate 435 was held in cooperation with the Kansas City Police Department that netted 21 DWI arrests. There were 44 total arrests that included several weapons and drug-related charges.

## **1992**

Troop A's eradication team destroyed nearly two million marijuana plants, seized several thousand dollars in cash and property, and made 34 arrests.

Troop A's SEIZ (Special Enforcement Interstate Zone) made nine drug seizures which resulted in 21 drug arrests and the seizure of 293 pounds of marijuana and three kilos of cocaine.

Troop A was the first troop in the state to take the initiative in civilianization. Officers who previously worked the front desk were assigned other duties. Civilians were hired as telecommunicators. Also, the uniformed civilians supervising their respective units were placed under the direct supervision of the Zone 17 commander.

Members of Troop A were involved in several special assignments held annually in the area. These included "Operation Handshake" at Richards Gebaur Airport, an air show at Whiteman Air Force Base, the American Royal, and the Missouri State Fair.

In May 1992, several Troop A officers, including the Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) reported to Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg to quell civil unrest involving approximately 4,000 students.

Troop A officers participated in special assignments which included working a prostitution decoy operation with the Kansas City Missouri Police Department and several strike force operations which targeted burglary and theft suspects.

Troop A held five sobriety checkpoints.

Troop A recorded the second highest number of felony arrests, 248, and the highest number of DWI arrests, 1,894, in the state for 1992. Troop A officers also conducted several special DWI detection operations with the Kansas City Missouri Police Department.

## **1993**

Troop A's Community Relations Committee organized a blood drive to coincide with the Memorial Day holiday weekend to increase blood supplies prior to the holiday and to raise public awareness for the need to drive safely during all holidays throughout the year.

A Violent Crime/Gang Joint Task Force under the direction of the FBI was formed to target the Kansas City area's most violent criminals, including gangs. The task force is comprised of 13 officers and agents from the FBI, ATF, Kansas City (Missouri) and Kansas Police, INS, DEA, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol. The task force will be pro-active by conducting investigations that focus on hard-core, adult gang members involved in the most serious gang problems in the metro area. Trooper Dan Green from Troop A was assigned to the task force.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Missouri Army National Guard worked jointly to conduct aerial-ground searches for marijuana being grown and harvested in the Troop A area.

On August 18, 1993, CDL Examiner Lorrie L. Johnson was administering the basic control skills test at Post A-2 South in Kearney when the driver of the tractor-trailer suffered a heart attack. Examiners Johnson and Debbie Blackshear, and Supervisor Ken Justus managed to stop the truck with the driver slumped over the doghouse/gearshift and the trailer resting on the outside shoulder edge of Interstate 35. No pulse or breathing was detected and the trio administered CPR until Kearney paramedics arrived.

Captain Shay East conducted town meetings throughout Troop A to inform the public of what the Highway Patrol is all about and to provide local citizens an opportunity to voice their concerns or questions about the Patrol and law enforcement in general. Capt. East emphasized the Patrol's motto, "Service and Protection."

On October 2, 1993, Corporal Michael E. Webster was standing on the shoulder of eastbound U.S. Highway 40 near Woods Chapel Road in Blue Springs talking to a driver he had stopped for a license violation when he was struck and killed by a drunk driver. Cpl. Webster was only 33 years old. He was the 17th member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol to be killed in the line of duty. He was survived by his wife, their two children, and a daughter. (*In 1995, U.S. Highway 40 from Interstate 470 between Independence, MO, and Grain Valley, MO, was renamed the "Corporal Michael Webster Memorial Highway."*)

Trooper Dave Schwalm stopped two subjects from New Mexico and recovered 90 pounds of marijuana. The two subjects cooperated with the officers, which led to the arrest of two subjects in the Sedalia area. The seizure was the largest made by the Highway Patrol in Johnson County.

During the Christmas season, Troop A served as a collection point for the "Harvesters Community Food Network" resulting in a donation of \$29 and 463 pounds of food.

Troop A cooperated with the Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department in a "Multi-Offender Program" funded through the Missouri Division of Highway Safety. Eight video cameras were installed in patrol vehicles of officers who annually make large numbers of DWI arrests in the project area. Twenty-three driving while intoxicated arrests resulted from a combined sobriety checkpoint conducted with the Kansas City, MO, Police Department.

Over 200 summonses for DWI and driving while revoked were reviewed for violation of probation and the appropriate jurisdictions were contacted if violations were apparent. Seventy-eight warrants for DWI were issued in Clay County and 23 officers were assigned to serve the warrants.

Marijuana eradication efforts netted five indoor growing operations, and 1,624 cultivated and 27,244,605 wild marijuana plants were located and destroyed. Officers arrested 15 individuals and seized 2.5 pounds of processed marijuana.

Troopers continue to actively participate in the Share-A-Bear, Trooper on the Train, D.A.R.E., and National Night Out Against Crime campaigns. During the "Great Flood of 1993" officers worked 141.5 man-hours in response to community needs as a result of the flood.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving recognized Sergeant Raymond (Sam) Kaiser for his 1992 DWI enforcement efforts, leading all sergeants and above with 36 DWI arrests. Troopers Mike Cross and Christopher Drenon from Sgt. Kaiser's zone were recognized in the top 25 enforcers in the Highway Patrol in 1992.

On December 16, 1993, Colonel Fred M. Mills presented a memorial, the American Police Hall of Fame Medal of Honor, to Kathey Webster, wife of deceased Cpl. Michael E. Webster.

On December 21, 1993, the Northland Citizen's Crusade against crime held its yearly police officer recognition program at the North Patrol Division of Kansas City, MO. Trooper Richard Fletcher was honored with an Outstanding Service Award for his work in DWI arrests which numbered 125. Tpr. Fletcher has made 475 DWI arrests in the Northland since starting his career with the Patrol in 1989. The Honorable Rob E. Larsen, U.S. Magistrate Judge, presented the award and had his own personal story to relate about being stopped by Tpr. Fletcher. (The stop was not



for DWI.) Judge Larsen wrote, "It was hard to write the article about Tpr. Fletcher (alias Batman) without writing about his cohort in crime busting, Trooper Scott E. Meyer (alias Robin). This crime fighting duo--through October 1993--made 168 DWI arrests, 516 speeding arrests, 184 hazardous moving arrests, and managed to investigate 153 accidents in their spare time. In the immortal words of a brand new trooper to his field training officer back in 1989, "It don't get any better than this, does it!?"

## 1994

Highway Patrol officers were assigned to a 60-day operation in Kansas City over the summer. This first ever, joint operation to fight violent crime in Missouri, "Reaching Out to Form a Partnership," involved interagency collaboration to address the vital public need of Missouri citizens to feel safer in their neighborhoods and homes. Troopers worked with homicide detectives in violent crime units as a part of Violence Reduction Teams and City Wide Strike Forces. This included patrols on foot beats in high crime areas regarding drugs, assaults, and prostitution-related homicides, and in Community Policing efforts working with kids from violent crime communities.

Troop A's chapter of the Missouri State Troopers Association worked the telephone lines to help Kansas City Public Television (KCPT) station Channel 19 in a fundraising effort in April 1994. The publicly funded television station features shows for all ages ranging from documentaries to Sesame Street and Barney. The station is supported by grants, donations, and an auction held twice a year.

The Western Missouri Auto Crimes Task Force began its operations on May 15, 1994. Most of the operation is in Missouri, but it does filter into Kansas. Highway Patrol Sergeant Larry Wilson headed the unit. Additional members are from the National Insurance Crime Bureau, Department of Revenue Criminal Investigation Bureau, Kansas City, MO, Police Department, Missouri Dealers Commission, and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. Officers recovered 145 vehicles and parts from an additional 31 stolen vehicles with an estimated value of \$1.2 million.

Sergeant Gary Baker used the "Rollover Simulator" during a seatbelt demonstration at Dagley's Chevrolet in Kearney, MO.

Corporal Gilbert Rodenberg accepted the Silver Medal of Valor Award at the KMBC-TV Metro Chiefs and Sheriff's Association annual awards banquet. The award was given for "performing a dangerous and distinguished act that conspicuously exceeds the performance that is normally expected."

Troop A sponsored a Memorial Day holiday blood drive to honor Cpl. Michael Webster who died after being struck by a drunk driver in October 1993.

On October 20, 1994, Marcus Allen of the Kansas City Chiefs came in to surrender his California driver's license and take the Missouri test. Supervisor Ethel Caldwell instructed the testing procedures to Allen and asked if he was ready to take the test. He decided to study and proceeded to the waiting room. He had difficulty finding tranquility in which to study due to the flow of people coming into the waiting room. Allen was allowed to use the break room for some peace and quiet. Clerk Angela Johnson handed out approximately 200 driver manuals that day to people trying to sneak a peak at the professional athlete. He passed the test and Clerk Johnson held on to the pen he used to give autographs.

In July 1994, Troop A officers participated in "Operation Crossroads," a nationwide enforcement effort to promote and gain compliance with traffic laws and reduce the number and severity of traffic crashes on Interstates 70 and 35.

Troopers and commercial vehicle inspectors at the Odessa Weigh Scales conducted a routine inspection that led to the seizure of 213 kilos of cocaine concealed in a truck loaded with 900 cases

of oranges. The value of the cocaine was approximately \$4.3 million. The load originated in Los Angeles, CA, and was to be delivered to New York City, NY. A controlled delivery was made with the assistance of DEA task forces that led to the arrest of three suspects in New York City.

Marijuana eradication efforts were very successful. Troop officers destroyed 43,559,218 wild plants, along with 14,130 cultivated plants. More than 13 pounds of processed marijuana were seized. Officers made 32 arrests and confiscated five weapons. More than \$45,000 in currency, real estate, and one vehicle also was seized.

The Troop A Special Emergency Response Team responded to six operations in 1994. In addition, SERT participated in the third annual "John Decoy" operation with the Kansas City, MO, Police Department, resulting in more than 300 arrests in two nights for solicitation and prostitution.

## 1995

Corporal Juan Villanueva stopped a 1995 Buick Regal for following too close on Interstate 70. Cpl. Villanueva recovered 118 pounds of marijuana from six boxes wrapped in Christmas paper with the assistance of "Asko," Troop A's drug dog.

The Western Missouri Auto Crimes Task Force, headed by Troop A Sergeant Larry Wilson, uncovered and broke up an international car theft ring. Task Force officers observed a transport truck loaded with Chevrolet Caprices and other larger cars. A close inspection of a 1989 Chevrolet revealed the vehicle identification number had been switched and that it had been stolen from the Roeland Park, KS, chief of police. The investigation revealed the stolen cars were being transported to Wilmington, Delaware, and then shipped to Saudi Arabia where they were used as taxicabs. The cars were sold (in Saudi Arabia) for three to four times their value in the U.S.

Corporal Juan Villanueva and Trooper Dale Knox were returning from training in Lee's Summit and stopped to assist a stranded motorist on Interstate 70 in Saline County. The motorist assist resulted in the seizure of \$850,000 worth of marijuana and the arrest of a subject from Chino, CA, for second degree drug trafficking.

Missouri State Highway Patrol officers were sent to Kansas City for a special detail called "Reaching Out to Form a Partnership -- The Commitment Continues," from May 22 to August 11. Patrol officers worked in the traffic, bicycle, and homicide divisions. Highway Patrol officers trained members of the KCPD in drug interdiction techniques.

U.S. Highway 40 from Interstate 470 east between Independence and Grain Valley was renamed the "Corporal Michael Webster Memorial Highway."

In July, Platte County deputies, Kansas City, MO, police officers, Missouri State Highway Patrol officers, and Missouri Highway Department workers conducted one of the largest DWI checkpoints in the state. Sixty-nine officers were involved in the four-hour project; 570 cars were checked; 15 DWI, two narcotic, three outstanding warrants, two no operator's license, and eight improper vehicle license arrests were made. Officers also issued 47 seat belt warnings.

On July 13, 1995, Corporal D.E. Holt, was en route to Troop A from Jefferson City when he overheard Boonville, MO, Police report a taxicab was taken from the driver at gunpoint after picking up a female fare at the Comfort Inn on Missouri Highway 5 at Interstate 70 in Cooper County. Cpl. Holt located the cab driver along Interstate 70 at the 111-mile marker. Corporal C.J. Harris, Troop F, located the taxicab on the Missouri Highway 179 overpass at Interstate 70. Cpl. Harris pursued the taxicab westbound on Interstate 70 along with the Cooper County Sheriff's Department and the Boonville Police Department. Trooper G.E. Gundy, Troop F, joined the pursuit at the Cooper County and Saline County line. Cpl. Harris and Tpr. Gundy observed the suspect waving a gun in their direction. Corporal J.O. Villanueva, Troop A, joined the pursuit. Trooper B.G. Matthews, accompanied by Trooper G.Q. Billings, Troop A, set a tire deflator near the 64-mile marker. The cab drove over the spikes and all four tires were flattened, thus the taxi came to a stop in a water-filled median.

The driver exited the vehicle and started running toward an eastbound vehicle that had stopped at the scene. Cpl. Harris accelerated past the gunman to block him from getting into the eastbound vehicle. Tpr. Gundy crossed the median, and as he was exiting his patrol car, the gunman crossed in front of Tpr. Gundy's vehicle and ran to the eastbound shoulder. The gunman ran toward Cpl. Harris' patrol car as he was about to stop. Cpl. Villanueva, fearing for the safety of Cpl. Harris, drove parallel to the gunman, who was running on the eastbound shoulder. The suspect turned and pointed the gun at Cpl. Villanueva, but did not shoot. He then turned and shot at Tpr. Gundy, striking the windshield of his patrol car above the steering wheel. Cpl. Villanueva, while still seated in the patrol car, pointed his shotgun out the driver's side window and shot at the gunman. The gunman went down, but was still shooting. Cpl. Villanueva shot at the gunman again. Cpl. Harris and Tprs. Gundy and Billings also fired two shotgun rounds each toward the gunman. Cpl. Villanueva attempted to fire a third round, but his shotgun misfired. He cleared his weapon, chambered a fourth round, and fired. The gunman fell over in a ditch and ceased any further aggression toward the troopers.

A new "bicycle patrol" detail was introduced at the Missouri State Fair. Ten officers were assigned to the special detail that used five specially equipped police bicycles to patrol the fairgrounds in Sedalia.

On November 25, 1995, Trooper Dave L. Schwalm was notified of a car chase approaching his zone. Tpr. Schwalm and a Johnson County deputy sheriff established a roadblock at U.S. Highway 50 and Route AA. The driver eluded the officers by driving around the roadblock. Tpr. Schwalm became the primary pursuit officer as the chase continued east on U.S. 50. The suspect vehicle turned onto a county road, which came to a dead end. The vehicle pulled up to a gate and stopped. Tpr. Schwalm approached the driver's side with his pistol drawn and observed the driver holding a pistol in his hand. Tpr. Schwalm ordered the driver to drop the gun, but instead the driver began to raise the weapon from his lap. Tpr. Schwalm stepped backward and fired one shot at the driver, striking him in the shoulder area. The driver simultaneously fired one round into his own chest with the gun he had in his hand. This round penetrated his body and exited through his back.

The driver was flown by air ambulance to a Kansas City hospital and was expected to recover from his wounds. Earlier that day--November 25--the man, who was separated from his wife, took her against her will and drove around Northern Cass and Eastern Jackson counties. He spoke of suicide and his impending death to his wife. A subsequent investigation revealed that the man had been involved in a standoff with police on August 29, 1995, and was hospitalized for mental evaluation. On September 30, 1995, police had responded to a domestic disturbance involving him and his wife.

Troop A Commercial Vehicle Inspectors Harold D. Crowley, James L. Dalton, and Forrest W. McKeage were members of the first commercial vehicle officers class to graduate from the Missouri State Highway Patrol Academy in Jefferson City, Missouri. Each officer completed the six-week, 240 hour training which included courses in motor vehicle law, crime scene procedures, criminal code, drug identification, accident scene procedures, stress management, first responder, and firearms, to name a few. CVOs will be armed and have limited arrest powers involving commercial motor vehicle violations however; they will not be certified police officers.

In mid-December, Kathey Webster, widow of Corporal Michael Webster, planted a tree as a memorial to her fallen husband along U.S. Highway 40 near Woods Chapel Road, the site where he died on October 2, 1993.

Troop A's Special Emergency Response Team acquired a military surplus "V-100" armored personnel carrier from the Department of Energy. The V-100 was originally built during the 1960s and was used extensively in the "police action" of Southeast Asia. Troop A SERT will use it as a hostage rescue vehicle.

Southwestern Bell Telephone included Troop A in the Kansas City Area Digiline (ISDN) Law Enforcement Program, which also includes the Kansas City (Missouri) Police Department, Independence Police Department, Jackson County Jail, Jackson County Circuit Court, State Board of Probation and Parole, Jackson County Prosecutor's Office, Lee's Summit Police Department, and the Public Defender's Office. Digiline converts the telephone line that already connects all the participants into higher speed digital links. This means they can carry data, records, images, diagrams, and live video transmissions at the same time they are carrying voice conversations. The Digiline and the associated hardware and software will facilitate video conferencing between agencies, remote arraignment, sharing of information between agencies (local and nationwide), and links to the Missouri State Highway Patrol and any number of information sources.

Troop A procured two new zone offices. Members of the Missouri Highway and Transportation Department built the first zone office at their maintenance facility in Platte City, MO. The Ray County Sheriff's Department built the second zone office at their office in Richmond, MO.

## 1996

Troopers D.J. Hedrick and B.D. Mullenix assisted the Bates County Sheriff's Department in searching for a man shooting a rifle in Rockville. Tprs. Hedrick and Mullenix heard shots being fired from First Street and observed a red pickup truck stop in front of a residence. Tpr. Hedrick observed the suspect, Eric H. Williamson, come out of a house carrying a rifle and walk toward the pickup. He pointed the rifle toward the ground and fired several rounds. The driver of the pickup drove away and Williamson fired several rounds at the truck and then retreated into his house. Tprs. Hedrick and Mullenix exited their patrol cars and Williamson fired several more shots. Tpr. Mullenix took a position behind a metal garage. Williamson fired at least eight rounds toward him. Tpr. Mullenix returned fire and Williamson retreated back into the house. Both troopers ordered Williamson to drop his weapon and come out with his hands up. Williamson ran out of the house and took cover behind a pickup truck parked in front of a shed south of the house. Williamson took a prone position between the truck and the shed. Tpr. Mullenix observed Williamson raise his rifle and point it in the direction of Tpr. Hedrick. Tpr. Mullenix fired several rounds under the truck at Williamson, striking him twice. Williamson rolled onto his back, suffering from nonfatal wounds.

Corporal Rick C. Fletcher and Troopers Gary R. Sanson, Tim D. Shoop, and Pete H. Blackburn assisted the Kansas City Police Department who were pursuing a bank robbery suspect northbound on Interstate 435. The pursuit continued northbound to Interstate 35. Tpr. Sanson led the pursuit northbound on Interstate 35 past U.S. Highway 69 when the suspect began firing his handgun at Tprs. Sanson, Fletcher, and Blackburn. The suspect turned and leaned out the driver's window and continued to shoot at Tpr. Sanson. Tpr. Sanson leaned over into the passenger seat just as the suspect fired a bullet that struck and shattered glass and struck him in the face and left eye. Tpr. Sanson continued to pursue the suspect and while cradling his shotgun between the spotlight and doorpost, fired one shot at the driver. The pursuit continued with the suspect shooting at the troopers. Tpr. Sanson fired three more times, shooting out the back glass of the suspect vehicle. The suspect turned around in the median to avoid spikes deployed by Tpr. Shoop. The suspect continued shooting at the troopers as he proceeded south on Interstate 35. Cpl. Fletcher and Tpr. Blackburn stopped on the northbound inside shoulder and fired their shotguns from the drivers' seats as the suspect drove by. The suspect was observed making a jerking motion and laying down in the seat as his vehicle came to a stop in the median. The suspect was discovered laying face down on the floorboard and a semi-automatic handgun on the front seat. The suspect suffered nonlife-threatening bullet wounds to his left shoulder and right ear.

Troop A Driver Examiner Supervisor Ethel Caldwell became the first recipient of the Department of Public Safety Employee of the Month Award. DPS Director Gary Kempker, Colonel Fred Mills, Captain Billy Nelson, Captain Gene Vaughn, and Troop A staff and employees were

present to "kick off" the program. Two plaques were presented, one directly for Supervisor Caldwell and one traveling trophy containing the name of each recipient. The traveling trophy was housed at Troop A two weeks before moving on to the next recipient.

Troopers Alan Sullivan and Travis Bigler had a tractor-trailer stopped for a traffic violation on U.S. Highway 71 south of Butler. While the officers were standing at the front of the truck talking to the driver, a southbound pick-up truck struck Tpr. Bigler, throwing him into Tpr. Sullivan and the tractor-trailer driver. The tractor-trailer driver sustained minor injuries and was treated at the scene. Both officers were transported to hospitals in Kansas City in critical condition. Tpr. Bigler suffered a spinal injury as a result of the accident. Comments from witnesses and evidence left at the scene led patrol officers to search for a brown Ford pick-up with damage to the right front. On the afternoon of September 10, 1996, members of the Patrol arrested a 62-year-old, white male from the Rich Hill area who owned a vehicle matching the description of the one believed to be involved in the crash. The arrest was made after a tip was received at the Troop A Headquarters, Lee's Summit. A search warrant was issued to secure additional evidence in the case, and personnel from the patrol's Crime Laboratory Division conducted further analysis.

1996 marked the second full year of Troop A's involvement in the "Mo-Kan Auto Crimes Task Force". The task force is assigned to investigate crimes involving stolen vehicles, parts and vehicles with missing VINs. During this year, the cumulative value in recovered stolen vehicles and parts exceeded \$3 million.

Troop A established the Troop A Honor Guard. Fourteen members make up the honor guard. They made appearances at Kauffman Stadium, home of the Kansas City Royals, and several local parades and events. The Honor Guard was scheduled to appear at the International C.A.R.E. Conference to be held in Branson during April 1997.

Troop A's Driver Examination Division procured two new examination stations. The Lexington testing station moved to the Lexington Fire Department. The Raytown testing station was moved to a new office in Raytown. Both moves are providing better accessibility to the public, and more room and better conditions for the examiners. The remodeling of the station in Raytown was with the assistance of the employees of that station.

Preliminary plans were started on the CDL/MVI Supersite in Lee's Summit. This facility will feature longer hours to benefit the public, both for driver's tests and CDL testing. Additionally, MVI personnel will use it for inspections of vehicles. Basically, it will be a "one stop" for all DE, CDL, and MVI transactions.

Troop A finalized the civilianization of the desk operation, which freed five additional personnel for road assignment. The desk has combined with communications and is functioning smoothly.

Due to the COPS MORE grant, the strength of Troop A has been increased from 123 uniformed personnel to 126. The ultimate goal is to staff every county with 24-hour coverage for better service to the public.

On June 10-12, 1996, the fourth annual Missouri Commercial Vehicle Inspector of the Year competition was held in Jefferson City. Inspectors from the Kansas City (Missouri) Police Department, the Missouri Division of Transportation, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol participated. Highway Patrol Commercial Motor Vehicle Inspector Jerry Baker, Troop A, won the overall competition and was named "Inspector of the Year". Baker also won the individual hazardous materials and driver inspection portions of the competition. Inspector Don Hardway, also from Troop A, was named "Runner-Up Inspector of the Year".

Sergeant Sid Shippy accepted the Friend of the School Award from Marty Lord, president of the Community Teacher's Association in Butler, Missouri. Sgt. Shippy was honored for his support of the school and his input in the driver's education program. The award was sponsored by the R-5

Community Teacher's Association and was presented during the Secondary Scholars banquet/program.

Troop A was charged with assisting the Sedalia Police Department and State Fair personnel with providing safety, security, and law enforcement for CAR CRAFT during its final year of the event in Sedalia on June 7-9, 1996. Previous years had experienced total disregard for safety by the participants. The Patrol was brought in to ensure the safety of all involved and to make sure the participants did not violate the law. The participants were restricted to a small area of the community to display their vehicles. Sixty-one Patrol personnel were assigned to accomplish our mission.

Personnel from Troops A, C, F, G, H, and I were assigned to the Southern Governors' Association Conference in Kansas City on September 8-10, 1996. Eleven governors from this association attended. Patrol personnel were used as drivers and as security.

Troopers Tim Shoop and Rod Land participated in the 13th annual Association of Professional Trainers Spring Classic Firearms competition in Galena. The competition included pistol, shotgun, and self-loading rifle evolutions. The competitors were civilian, military, and law enforcement personnel. Tpr. Shoop received second place in the self-loading rifle competition. Tpr. Land received first place in pump shotgun, second place in "A" class pistol, and third place in self-loading rifle. He also received the "Top Cop" award and the overall "Top Gun" honors.

## 1997

The Alis Ben Johns manhunt in Benton County proved to be the longest manhunt in Missouri history. Between October 1, 1996, and late February 1997, Johns was suspected of having committed several home burglaries, arson, and car thefts in the Miller County area while on the run from law enforcement officers for the Stewart shooting on September 3, 1996. The manhunt involved the Patrol and several other law enforcement agencies in the state. Over 300 officers took part in the manhunt. Troops A, C, D, and F activated their SERT during the hunt. Johns was linked to three murders, an arson, car thefts, and several burglaries. The hunt ended on April 7, 1997, when Water Patrol officers, Captain Bill Swineburg and Officer Erik Gottman, cornered Johns in an abandoned cabin. Johns was wounded and taken to Bothwell Hospital in Sedalia. His girlfriend, Beverly Guehrer-McComb, was taken into custody.

The Kansas City Region 1997 MAPT Safety Bus Rodeo was held May 17, 1997, at Lee's Summit North High School. A total of 35 judges, including Troop A Chief Driver Examiner Fount Foushee and Driver Examiners Lorrie L. Johnson, Diane R. Toms, and Debbie S. Winningham, critiqued the event.

Sergeant Greg Hug and Corporal Frank Chambers, both in the Drug and Crime Control Division, infiltrated and attended numerous meetings of a radical militia group in Jackson County. Plans for terrorist acts against United States government facilities were discussed and illegal weapons and explosives were accumulated. Sgt. Hug and Cpl. Chambers notified the FBI of the group's intentions to begin their attacks on July 4, 1997. Agents were able to arrest seven members of the group before any injuries or damage occurred.

Trooper Travis Bigler, who was left partially paralyzed after being struck by a pickup in 1996, joined other troopers from Troop A, Zone 15, in a charity wheelchair basketball tournament that was held to assist the Future Business Leaders of America and benefiting the March of Dimes.

Troop A's Honor Guard appeared at Kauffman Stadium, the C.A.R.E. Conference in Branson, and the Law Enforcement Memorial in Jefferson City during 1997.

The Major Crash Investigation Unit for Troop A was fully operational on October 15, 1997. The purpose of the Major Crash Investigation Unit is to conduct detailed investigations and reconstructions of high profile or serious vehicle crashes. The formation of the Major Crash Team was the result of five years of planning and research of similar teams in other states. Each of the

MCIU members received in-depth training in accident reconstruction, special reconstruction software, and the SOKKIA mobile station. In addition, each team has approximately \$30,000 of equipment at their disposal.

Construction on the Troop A Supersite began in late fall. The site is located in Lee's Summit just northwest of Interstate 470 and Missouri Highway 291. The Patrol's part of the Supersite includes a full-service driver examination office to offer all written, vision, and sign tests, along with the motorcycle skills, commercial driver's license skills and road tests.

Fred Mills, retired superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, was named police chief of Oak Grove.

Troop A was introduced to the LI-DAR (Light Detection And Ranging) unit in 1997. This unit uses light rather than sound waves to check a vehicle's speed. This foils radar detectors and is target specific. During the first month of operation, officer's made over 450 arrests using the LIDAR unit. Officers are using this tool to pursue arrests of aggressive drivers.

Troop A had the top DWI arrest officer in the troops for the fifth year in a row. Trooper Michael D. Moats was the top DWI arrest officer for Troop A this year. Troop A officers also led the state in criminal warrant arrests.

The Supersite facility has become reality. Ground was broken and the metal frame of the structure has been completed.

An impound lot was built at Troop A Headquarters to store seized vehicles and large property items. When the lot was built, a section was created for the many vehicles and LEEP equipment which is assigned to Troop A.

Full-time assignment of zone officers to patrol interstate highways going through their zones was implemented. This was done to combat the drastic increase in fatalities and injuries on the interstate system in Troop A.

Troop A Platte County Zone Sergeant Robert Powell was presented a recognition plaque at the Northland Citizens' Crusade Council meeting in Gladstone, Missouri, on December 15, 1997. Sgt. Powell was honored for his role in the arrest of two carjacking suspects in June 1997. The two allegedly hijacked a taxicab on Interstate 29 near Barry Road, robbed the driver of \$10,000, and then tried to shoot him. Sgt. Powell became involved when the driver flagged him down on Interstate 29. The two suspects later allegedly stole a car and hijacked another vehicle in the Kearney area. Sgt. Powell, Trooper Mike Selby, and Clay County Deputy Sheriff Matt Hunter were called to the Super 8 Motel in Kearney after the suspects were located there. They immediately subdued the suspect when he answered the door. The other suspect, a female companion, was seated on the motel room bed with a shotgun beside her when she was apprehended.

## **1998**

Corporal Michael Cross suffered minor injuries when his patrol car was struck on the shoulder of eastbound Interstate 470 at a previous accident scene. The driver of a 1988 Isuzu lost control on an ice-covered overpass. The driver of a 1997 Ford pickup swerved to avoid the Isuzu, left the roadway, and struck the patrol car in the rear and pushed it into a tow truck. The Isuzu, still out of control, then struck the side of the patrol car.

Trooper Scott Patterson stopped a vehicle for speeding. The driver entered his patrol car by opening the door herself. She hit her lower lip on the side of the door, causing the lower lip to split. As she exited the patrol car, she hit the right side of her face on the edge of the patrol car door. The driver sought her own medical treatment. It was truly not her day--her encounter with the patrol car left her with three stitches in her lower lip and a bruise on her right eye.

Sergeant Hugh Fowler, and Troopers Steve Lutjen, Alex Grover, and Russ Reusch began a two-part program to help the Boy Scouts of Troop 430 in Clinton earn their law enforcement badge. On January 19, officers conducted a mock car stop of a driver suspected of driving drunk.

The meeting concluded with everyone having a better idea of what occurs all too often in today's society when people drink and drive. On January 26, officers staged the trial of the intoxicated driver, and all the procedures involved with that trial. Henry County Associate Circuit Judge Wayne Strothmann heard the case, the defense was represented by local attorney James Journey, and the prosecutor was City Attorney Gary Cover. Once the court proceedings concluded, all the parties answered questions from the scouts and their leaders.

The Motor Vehicle Inspection Division of Troop A conducted their annual inspection of school buses. In 1997, 2,683 school buses were inspected in Troop A with 85.8 percent of the carriers getting approved on the original inspection and 14.2 having some type of defect.

On March 20, 1998, Trooper Ethan P. Ahern, effected a traffic stop on Interstate 35. When the stop was initiated, the driver, Robert D. Hendrick, charged back toward Tpr. Ahern's patrol car. Hendricks then ran between the two cars and up a grass embankment. Hendricks scaled a six-foot chain-link fence and began running up the outer road. When Tpr. Ahern was on the fence, Hendricks turned and pointed a 9mm pistol at him. Tpr. Ahern, fearing for his life, jumped from the fence, drew his service weapon, and fired at Hendricks striking him three times. Later that evening, Hendricks, who was wanted on a number of charges and a suspect in an Oklahoma homicide case, died.

Trooper Dan Landi was involved in a one-vehicle accident on Highway 10, 0.30 mile west of the Crooked River Bridge. The accident happened when Tpr. Landi attempted to conduct a car stop and lost control of his patrol car on wet pavement. The patrol car skidded off the roadway, overturned, and come to rest in a field. Tpr. Landi suffered minor injuries.

Captain Gary W. Phillips declared a policy of "Zero Tolerance" for enforcement of seat belts and child restraint violations due a 42 percent increase in fatalities in Troop A.

Harrah's Casino located in North Kansas City received a tip about a scam in which the gamblers used \$2 coin tokens from casinos in Louisiana and Missouri in Harrah's \$1 slot machines. Once they triggered the slot machine to play, the \$2 tokens fell back into the player's coin tray and they were basically playing for free. The group was videotaped and arrests were made.

Trooper Scott Patterson was on Missouri Highway 33 south of Kearney when he observed an orange glaze and smoke billowing in the air. Tpr. Patterson discovered a house fire in the River Bend subdivision. He drove up to the house, sounded his patrol car siren, but didn't get a response from anyone. Tpr. Patterson then went to the house and started banging on the front door. When no one answered, he broke the glass of the door. Lois Ferguson then came to the door and was advised by Tpr. Patterson that their house was on fire and she would have to leave now. Kenneth and Lois Ferguson were sleeping as the fire from the garage was spreading through their house. The smoke alarms had yet to sound a warning, because the smoke and fire was venting through the shake shingle roof.

The sixth annual Memorial Day Blood Drive was held at Troop A Headquarters. Approximately 26 persons donated blood to the drive, which was held in conjunction with the Kansas City Community Blood Bank. For the fifth year, the blood drive was dedicated to the memory of Corporal Michael E. Webster, who was killed in 1993 by a drunk driver and was a blood recipient.

The 9th Annual Missouri State Highway Patrol Awards Banquet was held in Jefferson City on May 8, 1998. The banquet was held in conjunction with the Missouri Association of State Troopers Emergency Relief Society's (MASTERS) annual meeting. The MASTERS was organized in October 1979, to provide financial assistance to the immediate families of Patrol members killed in the line of duty. Eight personnel from Troop A received awards at the banquet. Tpr. Ethan P. Ahern received a Citation of Valor for his actions in a situation involving an armed, threatening suspect in Clay County on March 20, 1998. Corporal Bruce W. Houston received the Meritorious Service Award for making significant, if not the, difference between individuals possibly losing their lives and



resolving a conflict without loss of life on at least four separate occasions as a negotiator. Corporal Gregory Martin received the Lifesaving Award for extinguishing a vehicle fire and removing two injured persons from the vehicle. Trooper A. Scott Patterson received the Lifesaving Award for saving the lives of two occupants of a house fire. Captain Gary W. Phillips received the Lifesaving Award for performing the Heimlich maneuver on his grandson, Joshua, thus dislodging an ice cube from his throat. Telecommunicator Elizabeth S. Lenger received a Certificate of Achievement Award for her calm and professional response when Tpr. Ethan Ahern was involved in a shooting in Clay County. Cpl. Greg Martin received a Work Recognition Award for his enviable record of 21 drug interdiction arrests, including the seizure of one vehicle, two weapons, 306 pounds of marijuana, and one ounce of methamphetamine. Trooper Collin M. Stosberg received the Work Recognition Award for his enviable record of 129 DWI arrests.

Troop A's Ironman Team, consisting of Corporal Bruce M. Johnson, Corporal Andy Davis, Trooper Tim Shoop, and Trooper Ethan Ahern, took part in the local event sponsored by the Lee's Summit Police Department and the Lee's Summit Police Officer's Association on September 5-7, 1997, at Fort Osage. A total of 29 teams participated. The competition consisted of an obstacle course (1.5 miles, 22 obstacles, traverse line with crossing of water hazard); 1.5 mile cross country run; and a shooting course. Tpr. Tim Shoop set a new record in the individual competition with a time of 12:45, smashing the old record by almost two minutes. The national competition was held October 19-24, 1998, in Florida. The Ironman Team consisted of Troop A officers Tpr. Tim Shoop, Tpr. Ethan Ahern, Trooper Scott Patterson, and Troop H officer Trooper Gary Sanson. The team placed 14th out of 64 teams.

In June 1998, Trooper Jeffery Spire responded to an accident at Missouri Route O and Water Shed Road in Lafayette County. The driver of the vehicle advised Tpr. Spire's that a subject at a residence on Water Shed Road had assaulted her. Upon arrival at the residence, a search was conducted, revealing a methamphetamine lab and several firearms. Arresting officers were: Troopers Jeff Spire, Derek Green, Juan Kock, Troy Blunt; Sergeant Tom Gray; Lafayette County Deputy D. Morgan,; and DEA officers.

The Mobile Safety Education Center debuted at the Missouri State Fair in August 1998. This education trailer is the result of private contributions from a number of companies. The Mobile Safety Education Center, a 40-foot Sport fifth wheel trailer, was handicap accessible and reminded people of the importance of safety -- bicycling, walking, driving, railroad, seat belt, etc. -- through a variety of displays.

Captain Edward H. Bliefnick announced that the Motor Vehicle Inspection Division would be relocating to the new Troop A Supersite located at 1950 North East Independence Avenue, Lee's Summit. The facility would open September 3, 1998.

Commercial Vehicle Officer Jerry Baker, Troop A, was named Missouri MCSAP Inspector of the Year. Inspectors compete in four areas: hazardous materials, driver inspection, level five vehicle inspection, and motor coach. Each competitor takes written tests regarding federal regulations and is interviewed by the judges. As Missouri MCSAP Inspector of the Year, CVO Baker earned the privilege of representing Missouri at the International Inspector Competition Challenge '98 in California in August. CVO Baker earned third place for hazardous materials/dangerous goods at the Challenge '98 competition.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol hosted its first National Homicide Seminar October 24 - 28, 1998. The seminar had an attendance of 159, representing state, county, and municipal departments from 39 states, including Maine and Hawaii. The Division of Drug and Crime Control hosted the event at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City.

Glennon Paul Sweet, convicted in December 1987 of killing Trooper Russell Harper, was executed by lethal injection at the Potosi Correctional Center, 11 years after the shooting.

Warsaw City Prosecutor, Martin McLaughlin, was accused of paying an undercover Missouri State Highway Patrol member approximately \$4,300 to kill and sexually mutilate his brother, Carl McLaughlin, and to rape, sodomize, and kill his former wife, Sheila McLaughlin. Officers from the Benton County Sheriff's Department and the Highway Patrol arrested McLaughlin at a Lafayette County motel on one charge of conspiracy to commit murder in the first degree after officers arranged a meeting between McLaughlin and the undercover trooper.

Troop A acquired a new radio room in 1998. The old radio room was completely reconfigured, allowing a more spacious atmosphere while at the same time allowing for placement of more state of the art technology and radio equipment. Two more operator positions were added and an additional terminal was added for the purpose of taking reports.

Troop A supported Missouri Special Olympics through the sale of Law Enforcement Torch Run T-shirts. Troop A's effort raised \$20,000.

The Troop A Supersite opened its doors to the public on September 1, 1998. The new facility houses the Troop MVI unit, the Lee's Summit area driver's testing station, and the Lee's Summit area CDL testing site.

Troop A Headquarters was brought up to current ADA standards with the reconstruction of two restrooms, and the modification of two exterior doors, and one interior door. The modifications have made the facility more handicap accessible.

Troop A acquired two new zones offices. Officers in Zone 5 acquired a new zone office in Carrollton at the new Carrollton Fire Station. Saline County Sheriff Wally George provided the officers in Zone 10, Saline County, with a new zone office in Marshall.

The Troop A Honor Guard made several appearances in the troop area during 1998, to include the Missouri State Highway Patrol's first National Homicide Seminar that was held at the Crown Center in Kansas City. The Honor Guard opened the seminar by posting the colors at the beginning of the program and recovering them at the conclusion.

Troopers Ethan P. Ahern and A. Scott Patterson were honored at the Annual Metropolitan Chiefs and Sheriff's Association Awards for Valor Banquet in November 1998. Tpr. Ahern was recognized for his courage in a shooting incident in Clay County, and Tpr. Patterson was recognized for saving the lives of a rural Kearney couple during a house fire.

Trooper Collin M. Stosberg made 138 DWI arrests in 1998. This number was the highest individual total in the Patrol.

On November 24, 1998, Corporal Gary Davidson was standing in the intersection of Missouri Highway 291 and Missouri Highway 58 directing traffic at an accident scene when he was struck by a pickup. Cpl. Davidson was thrown onto the hood of the truck, broke the front windshield out, and then broke off the outside passenger mirror as he fell to the pavement. Cpl. Davidson was transported to the hospital by patrol vehicle where he was treated for his injuries, which consisted of sore and possible cracked ribs, and numbness to his elbow. Cpl. Davidson was wearing his ballistic vest at the time of the crash. It cushioned the impact and protected his rib cage.

On December 17, 1998, Trooper C.N. Bradley was assisting Sedalia Police Department with a serious injury accident on U.S. Highway 65 in Sedalia. While he was directing northbound traffic, a vehicle swerved into the center lane and the driver's mirror struck Tpr. Bradley in the left hip area. He was taken to Bothwell Hospital by patrol vehicle where he was treated for minor injuries and released.

## 1999

On January 4, 1999, Troop A officers and deputies from the Saline County Sheriff's Department served a search warrant at a farmhouse in rural Saline County. Information indicated that a clandestine methamphetamine laboratory was located on the property. When officers arrived, they knocked and announced their presence, but received no answer. Trooper Darrin Lilleman heard the action of a gun being operated in a room off the hallway. He kicked open the door and saw a subject standing in the room pointing a pistol at him. Trooper Lance MacLaughlin also saw the suspect. Both troopers identified themselves as such and instructed the suspect to drop his gun. When he failed to respond to the order, Tpr. Lilleman fired a round from his Remington 870 shotgun striking the suspect. After being shot, the suspect continued to point the pistol at the officers and worked the action on the pistol a second time. Tpr. Lilleman fired a second shot, and when the suspect still did not drop the gun, he fired a third round. At that point, the suspect fell to the ground, dropping his weapon. A large cache of weapons was located in the residence as well as a working methamphetamine laboratory. The suspect, John R. Ernst, 44, was pronounced dead at the scene by the Saline County coroner. No officers were injured during this incident.

In January 1999, Corporal John Gassen was injured when he made contact with a man who had given his identification to another person to gain entry into the Stations Casino. The man was uncooperative and an altercation ensued.

On February 9, 1999, the Cass County Elks Lodge, #2791, honored Corporal Scott Sater as the Cass County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

In April 1999, Sergeant Hugh Fowler and Corporal Chip Drenon and two Henry County Sheriff deputies attempted to serve a felony arrest warrant on Roger W. Seiner, 32, of Clinton. Seiner was hiding behind a chimney in the dark basement and was clutching some type of object. Officers gave numerous commands for Seiner to come out and show his hands. When Seiner failed to respond to any of the officers' commands, Sgt. Fowler attempted to strike Seiner's obscured hands with a baton. At some point after Sgt. Fowler had transitioned his pistol to his left hand, as he prepared to strike Seiner's hand with the ASP baton, his pistol discharged. That round struck the chimney, ricocheted and struck Cpl. Drenon in the face, arm, and shoulder. Cpl. Drenon thought the suspect had shot him. Cpl. Drenon then shot three times, fatally wounding Seiner. A coroner's inquest was convened at the Henry County Courthouse. The coroner's jury ruled the death of Roger W. Seiner to be accidental in nature.

During the week of April 26-30, 1999, the Missouri Highway Patrol and the Missouri Department of Transportation mounted a cooperative effort to increase driver awareness of the dangers of aggressive, discourteous, and careless driving. Officers targeted highways in Jackson, Clay, Platte, and Cass counties. The goal of the enforcement program was to encourage compliance with all traffic laws. MoDOT provided specially constructed portable signs that troopers displayed when making aggressive driving traffic stops.

Officers from Troop A assisted with a security detail when Pope John Paul II visited St. Louis in January. Plans for the detail began in the spring 1998, and involved federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Officers involved assisted with security, motorcade and parade routing, emergency medical facilities, crowd and traffic control, command centers, and individual departmental responsibilities.

Trooper Gary R. Sanson, Gaming Division at the Argosy Casino in Riverside arrested two individuals on 30 felony and six misdemeanor warrants from eight different states. All of the warrants were for "check forgery" and "check fraud". The arrests occurred after the two were observed violating Missouri gaming rules and regulations.

Officers from Troop A assisted with the National Governor's Association annual meeting in St. Louis in August 1999. The conference hosted 45 governors and approximately 1,700 other attendees. Seventeen other local, state, and federal departments worked with the Patrol, and played integral parts in security preparations for the NGA.

Troop A Commercial Vehicle Officer Donald J. Hardway earned the 1999 Missouri MCSAP Commercial Vehicle Inspector of the Year award. He represented Missouri at the Challenge '99 International Inspector Competition in Tampa, Florida. At that competition, he earned third place in the Hazardous Materials/Dangerous Goods category.

On November 17, 1999, Sergeant Greg Martin stopped a vehicle for several traffic violations on eastbound Interstate 70 at the 48-mile marker in Lafayette County. Sgt. Martin's canine, Boris, was also present at the scene. Consent to search was obtained from the driver and K-9 Boris hit on the vehicle's trunk. Inside, there were two black bags containing approximately 40 pounds of methamphetamine with a street value of approximately \$3,360,000. The driver cooperated with a controlled delivery to St. Charles, Missouri. Seven subjects were arrested and four bundles of cash were seized. A search warrant was obtained for two residences in St. Charles. Seized from one of the residences were three more bundles of currency and approximately two pounds of methamphetamine. The currency and drugs were seized by the DEA. A bank counted the seized cash according to DEA regulations. Early estimates were \$55,000 to \$60,000. The DEA also seized two vehicles.

Troop A conducted two, one-week aggressive driving campaigns during 1999. Troopers assigned to these details made 2,700 enforcement contacts. The media coverage and public support for these programs was phenomenal.

Two new lieutenants were assigned to Troop A. Lieutenant Paul Etheridge replaced Lieutenant Gary Walker who retired after 30 years of service. Troop A also added a fifth lieutenant to the staff. Lieutenant Ron Johnson filled that position.

Town Hall meetings were conducted in each county of Troop A. The purpose of the town meeting was to inform residents about the functions and services performed by the patrol and to answer questions from residents.

The Mothers Against Drunk Driving Missouri State Organization recognized Trooper Jeffrey S. Karsten for the DWI arrests he made during 1998. Trooper Collin M. Stosberg was recognized for his 1998 work, and Sergeant Gregory K. Smith was recognized as the leading sergeant in DWI enforcement in the state during 1998.

Several Troop A members were honored at the annual KMBC-TV Metro Chiefs and Sheriff's Association Awards for Valor banquet in November 1999. Troopers Darrin Lilleman and Lance MacLaughlin were honored for their courage during a shooting incident in Saline County. Cpl. Bruce Houston was honored for his exemplary work in crisis negotiations. Sergeant Jim Closson was honored for his lifesaving efforts when dealing with a subject who had attempted suicide. Sgt. Greg Martin was honored for his lifesaving efforts at the scene of a serious traffic crash.

Troop A participated in a unique methamphetamine interdiction campaign during 1999. A combination of Division of Drug/Crime Control and road officers were used to conduct surveillance on anhydrous ammonia tanks at various locations around the troop. Several arrests were made as subjects attempted to steal the anhydrous ammonia. The arrests and surveillances also led to the confiscation of several working methamphetamine labs.

Construction began on a new scale house, Post A-3, east of its present location on Interstate 70. The project is slated for completion in the fall 2001.

The Missouri Highway Safety Brigade, a new effort designed to educate the public about serious health issues posed by traffic crashes, made stops in various counties within Troop A. A roll-over crash simulator, fatal vision goggles which simulate a driver's vision when driving under

the influence, a safety trivia quiz, and the internationally famed crash dummies Vince and Larry were featured during the brigade's visit.

### **2000-2009**

On January 20, 2000, Commercial Vehicle Officer Bryon Barklage conducted a commercial motor vehicle inspection at A-3 East scales in Lafayette County. CVO Barklage determined the driver's manifest and stories of the vehicle's occupants were not congruent. CVO Barklage requested the assistance of Corporal Brian Hagerty and his K-9 partner to assist in searching the load of vegetables and other listed commodities. The subsequent search resulted in the seizure of 2,500 pounds of marijuana.

On January 23, 2000, Troop A personnel were called upon to investigate one of the worst crashes in recent Missouri history. The crash occurred on southbound Interstate 29 when a sudden ice storm caused several vehicles to travel off the road and into the median. As officers were en route they observed smoke coming from the accident scene. Upon arrival they observed what was later determined to be a crash involving 32 vehicles. There were several people still trapped in their vehicles. Because of the fire and the inability of fire personnel to respond in an expedient manner due to road conditions, 10 people perished in the crash. Several off-duty desk and radio personnel had to be called in to work because of the hundreds of calls coming in from the media and public.

On January 23, 2000, Corporal Scott E. Meyer investigated an accident involving Kansas City Chief linebacker Derrick V. Thomas on Interstate 435, 0.70 miles west of Woodland Avenue. The accident occurred when Thomas lost control of his vehicle on the snow covered pavement and skidded off the left side of the roadway and overturned several times before coming to rest on its wheels. Thomas was ejected out the driver's side window and came to rest in the eastbound lanes of Interstate 435. A passenger, Michael Tellis, was ejected out the passenger side window and came to rest in the median. Tellis was pronounced dead at the scene by a Jackson County Medical Examiner. John Hagebusch, a third occupant in the vehicle and the only occupant wearing a seat belt, received nonlife-threatening injuries. Thomas died on February 8, 2000, from injuries he sustained in the accident.

According to a news release from the Henry County Sheriff's Department, just before midnight Deputy Brent Warrick and Trooper Alex Grover responded to a house on SW 201 road southwest of Deepwater on a disturbance call. At the scene a man confronted deputies with a shotgun on the back porch of the residence. The suspect, Kent E. Freeman, fired one shot at the officers but did not strike the officers. Both officers returned fire from their service weapons. The man then dropped the gun and ran toward officers. The officers tackled the suspect and restrained him. The suspect was not injured from any of the gunshots.

Governor Mel Carnahan pledged state support to assist federal prosecutors in their anti-gun efforts in the Kansas City area. Two Missouri State Highway Patrol officers were assigned to the U.S. Attorney's office in Kansas City to assist with the federal program called "Project Felon".

In April 2000, Troop A was notified by the Warrensburg Police Department of a bomb threat at the Pizza Hut located on Missouri Highway 13 in Warrensburg. A male subject called in the threat saying there was a bomb in the building and to get everyone out. Warrensburg Police Department, Johnson County Sheriff's deputies, Whiteman Air Force Base's bomb K-9, and Corporal Bruce Houston responded to the scene. The area was evacuated. No bomb was located.

The Missouri Highway Patrol concluded the first phase of the Concentrated Highway Project (CHiP), a special enforcement project to reduce fatal traffic crashes on Interstates 44, 55, and 70. Officers in Troops A, C, D, E, F, and I participated in the project.

On May 6, 2000, three members of Troop A were honored at the 10th Annual Awards Ceremony and MASTERS Banquet held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City. Supreme Court

Justice Duane Benton was the featured speaker. Tprs. Darrin K. Lilleman and Lance M. MacLaughlin were recognized for the valor displayed in a situation involving an armed subject in northern Saline County. Sergeant Jim Ripley was named "1999 Officer of the Year". He was recognized for his exemplary service through diligence and perseverance, and his performance beyond the call of duty. In 1999, Sgt. Ripley, supervisor of the Troop A Division of Drug and Crime Control Criminal Investigation Unit, opened an investigation into the operation of a private daycare service at the request of the Lafayette County Prosecutor and the Lafayette County Division of Family Services. His investigation into the death of two children, one in November 1990 and one in August 1998, led to a confession being obtained from the daycare owner who was subsequently charged with murder in the second degree. In addition, Sgt. Ripley was instrumental in the apprehension of a subject and recovery of a weapon in the Rocky Smith murder and wounding of Dan Mossman in Benton County. Sgt. Ripley was also the case agent in two officer-involved shootings in Troop A that resulted in the deaths of two individuals. Sgt. Ripley also obtained confessions in two police corruption investigations.

In June 2000, around 750 girls between their junior and senior years in high school converged on the Central Missouri State University campus in Warrensburg for the 2000 Girls State. Corporal Doug Alexander presented programs about drinking and driving, the importance of wearing seat belts, defensive driving, road rage, and the history of the Highway Patrol. Three Troop A SERT members addressed the young ladies. Sgt. Greg Martin talked about being a dog handler, Cpl. Dale Jinkens talked about being a sniper, and Cpl. Bruce Houston talked about being a negotiator.

In July 2000, Trooper Trayton Pitts was selected by the Missouri Division of Highway Safety to receive the "2000 Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Advisory Council (LETSAC) Officer of the Year Award". Tpr. Pitts accomplishments during the year included: 1,000 speeding arrests, 100 DWI arrests, 349 seat belt arrests, 383 hazardous moving arrests, and 662 non-hazardous moving violations. Additionally, he garnered 44 misdemeanor drug arrests, 31 felony arrests, and 96 warrant arrests, all resulting from traffic stops.

On July 26, 2000, Corporal Woody Hicks and other area law enforcement heads and officers teamed with Senator Jim Mathewson in an effort to provide area citizens who purchase a gun with free trigger locks.

On July 27, 2000, Corporal Brian S. Hagerty stopped a vehicle for following too closely and not driving within a single lane on Interstate 70 near Odessa and recovered 100 pounds of processed marijuana inside a shoe box and two plastic bags. Cpl. Hagerty also located \$4,031 in the car's center console.

On July 31, 2000, the Federal Railroad Administration, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Kansas City Southern Railway, and the Higginsville Police Department participated with Missouri Operation Lifesaver in an effort to increase public awareness about railroad safety. One trooper was put at the head of the train watching for drivers who violated railroad-crossing laws.

Troop A pilot, Sergeant Bruce Johnson, added a new dimension to our aircraft traffic enforcement program by adding "night flights" to our speed arsenal. Sergeant Johnson, along with the assistance of Troop A Auto. Technicians Wayne Fordham and Sean Jacobs, developed a set of lights to be placed just off the road, which could be seen by the aircraft pilot overhead. The filtered red lights, which are mounted on telescopic poles and powered by a 12-volt battery, are clearly visible to the pilot overhead unbeknownst to the unsuspecting speeder as he drives by them.

Troop A officers were involved in nine separate security details of presidential candidates for the United States when they campaigned in the Kansas City area. Troop A officers were also involved in an equal number of details with the dignitaries who came to "stump" for their candidates.

Troop A officers made 2,568 DWI arrests during the year 2000.

On February 17, 2001, two Brooklyn, New York men were charged with first-degree drug trafficking after a routine inspection at A-2-North Weigh Scales in Clay County. 400 pounds of marijuana with a street value of \$500,000 were recovered from a filing cabinet. The marijuana was located with the aid of a K-9.

Troop A officers conducted a one-week aggressive driving campaign with Operation Impact in the Kansas City metropolitan area. The effort netted 3,953 enforcement contacts. Media coverage and public support for this campaign was very positive.

Troop A officers were provided with 2001 Kansas City Royals baseball cards produced with the help of Kansas City Life Insurance Company. Each card contains safety information messages along with personal information about the player depicted on the front of the card.

Lieutenant Vincent J. Ellis was named commanding officer of Troop A on June 1, 2001. Sergeant James P. Ripley was promoted to lieutenant effective August 1, 2001.

In June 2001, seven officers from Troop A were honored at the 11th Annual Awards Ceremony and Masters Banquet held in Jefferson City, Missouri. Trooper Trayton T. Pitts received the Lifesaving Award for his efforts in administering CPR on a man who suffered a heart attack at the Missouri State Fair. Tpr. Pitts' ability to perform CPR was directly responsible for saving his life. Commercial Vehicle Officers Michael L. Dayringer, David W. Norman, and Bruce E. Johnson received the Lifesaving Award for their efforts in administering CPR to a subject who suffered a heart attack at the A-2-North Weigh Scales on August 22, 2000. Commercial Vehicle Officer James F. Stone received the Lifesaving Award for his ability to use his first responder training on a subject found choking on his vomit. Trooper Lance M. MacLaughlin was recognized for his impressive record of 48 felony arrests.

In July 2001, three trucks carrying nuclear fuel waste from a German reactor in South Carolina and going to a federal energy laboratory in Idaho, passed through Troop A on Interstates 70, 435, and 29.

In July 2001, Trooper Jeff Fugett was selected by the Missouri Division of Highway Safety to receive the "2001 Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Advisory Council (LETSAC) Officer of the Year Award". Tpr. Fugett's accomplishments for the year included: 829 speeding and hazardous moving arrests, 50 DWI arrests, and 362 seat belt arrests.

Officers from Troop A were sent to Branson to help keep the peace when the Hell's Angels gathered for their national 2001 Annual Run.

Several Troop A officers were honored at the annual KMBC TV-9 Metro Chiefs and Sheriff's Association Awards for Valor banquet in November 2001. Corporals Scott Brenton and Shane Green were honored for a traffic stop that resulted in the seizure of 500 pounds of marijuana. Sergeant Greg Martin, Trooper A. Scott Patterson, and Commercial Vehicle Officer Travis Ellis were honored for a commercial motor vehicle stop that resulted in the seizure of 425 pounds of marijuana. Trooper Trayton Pitts was honored for his life sustaining efforts with a heart attack victim at the 2000 Missouri State Fair. Commercial Vehicle Officer James Stone was honored for his lifesaving efforts with a choking victim at Post A-2 weigh station. Commercial Vehicle Officer Ron Voglesmeier was honored for his lifesaving efforts with an infant at the scene of a traffic crash in Jackson County. Trooper Jeff Karsten was honored for his efforts in making 149 DWI arrests in 2001.

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Patrol's motto of "Service and Protection" was changed forever. Troop A officers were assigned to security details at the Kansas City International Airport and a state office building located in Kansas City. The airport detail involved six to 12 troopers each day whose duty was general security. The state building detail involved two troopers per day whose duty was to screen everyone entering the building.

Troop A staff members received personal computers with e-mail and Internet capabilities for the first time.

Troop A driver examination stations in Kansas City and Lee's Summit conducted a pilot project involving computerized written examinations.

In October 2001, the Troop A Honor Guard purchased uniforms similar to those used in 1931. Two members of the honor guard wore the newly purchased uniforms at a Kansas City Chief's football game on October 25, 2001. The new uniforms have been very popular with the general public.

On December 6, 2001, Troop A opened the new scale house Post A-3 on Interstate 70 near Mayview. The new scale house took nearly two years to complete. It has state-of-the-art scales and an indoor inspection bay. The new scale should improve traffic movement as well as provide a safer working environment.

On January 28, 2002, Troopers Chris M. Clair and T. Hank Ehler were dispatched to the Stuckey's Restaurant located at Interstate 70 and Route J in Saline County reference a subject who had offered a ride to a female whose car had overheated. The female initially accepted the ride, but then declined when she observed the vehicle's ignition switch missing and a car radio on the floor. The female allowed her vehicle to cool down and as she proceeded east on Interstate 70, the suspect followed her very closely trying to get her to pull over. The female pulled into the Stuckey's Restaurant and ran inside. The suspect went into the building, but could not locate her. He then went back to his vehicle and waited. When the suspect saw the troopers, Tpr. Clair yelled for the suspect to show his hands. The suspect put his vehicle in reverse and accelerated sharply, narrowly missing Tpr. Ehler, and striking Tpr. Ehler's patrol car. He then accelerated forward toward Tpr. Clair. While moving out of the vehicle's path, Tpr. Clair fired two shots. One shot struck the suspect in the chest while the other grazed his wrist. He attempted to flee by driving between the female's vehicle and Tpr. Clair's patrol car. The suspect's car became disabled after striking a fence and small tree. He fled a short distance on foot before collapsing. The suspect died later at a Columbia hospital.

Troop A SERT members put together and completed a three-week basic tactical course during 2002. During the week of September 29 through October 4, 1992, Troop A SERT, along with members of the Illinois State Police, and the Kansas City (Missouri) Police Department held their second annual training event at Camp Eagle Rock in Eagle Rock. The camp encompasses several hundred acres of rugged terrain that lends itself as an excellent training environment. SERT members also provided assistance to the U.S. Secret Service during several presidential details in the Kansas City metro area. Members secured bridges and waterways via watercraft provided by the Missouri State Water Patrol. SERT members also responded to the shooting at Conception Abbey. Members were responsible for searching and securing the entire premises.

The Troop A Honor Guard presented the colors at the opening session of the Missouri House of Representatives. The flag bearers wore the 1931 uniforms during the assignments. The detail will now become an annual event.

In July 2002, the first Pre-Pass system was installed in Troop A. Pre-Pass electronically identifies, weighs, and checks the credentials of participating trucks as they approach a scale house. A signal is then sent to the truck telling the driver whether or not he needs to stop. The system is designed to reduce congestion around the scale houses. It also increases compliance with participating trucking companies.

Troop A was assigned a Bell 206/OH-58 helicopter in September 2002. The helicopter was used in several pursuits and manhunts.

Lieutenant Jim Ripley oversaw a complete renovation of the Troop A memorial wall in 2002. The wall was painted and the pictures were framed using special matting. The memorial not only honors those who have lost their lives, it reminds each trooper of the dangers they face every day. The *Lee's Summit Journal* featured an article on the Memorial Wall for troopers who have given



their lives in the line of duty. Mary A. Kuhn, Troop A housekeeper, came up with the idea and Lieutenant Ripley constructed the visual memorial at Troop A.

On Friday, September 13, 2002, a female applicant, who failed her driving test for the second time, assaulted Troop A Driver Examiner Supervisor Patricia Ivey. The applicant became verbally abusive and threatened bodily harm to all of the examiners present in the Raytown Driver Examination Station. Aaron Ewing, who had just entered the station, advised DE Sprv. Ivey that someone was trying to steal the parallel parking poles. DE Sprv. Ivey, Driver Examiner Dana Madrueno, and Aaron Ewing exited the building and the upset female started yelling that she was going to kill DE Sprv. Ivey. DE Sprv. Ivey then noticed a knife in the right hand of the upset female. The female then started walking toward DE Sprv. Ivy. She tried to calm the person down by asking her to drop the knife and relax. When the assailant got close enough, DE Sprv. Ivey grabbed the right forearm and the fight was on. DE Sprv. Ivey was able to gain control of the assailant with the help of Aaron Ewing, DE Madrueno, two neighboring employees, and members of the Raytown Fire Department, who just happened to be driving by. The upset female assailant was subdued until the Raytown Police Department arrived. The assailant was charged with three felonies and her bond set at \$200,000.

Several Troop A members were honored at the annual KMBC TV-9 Metropolitan Chief's and Sheriff's Association Awards for Valor banquet in November 2002. Troopers Chris Clair and Hank Ehler were honored for their courage during a shooting incident in Saline County in January 2002. Trooper Darrin Lilleman was honored for his investigative efforts at a fatal traffic crash in September 2002. Commercial Vehicle Officer Travis Ellis was honored for his investigative efforts in the seizure of 230 pounds of marijuana from a commercial motor vehicle in March 2002. Trooper Scott Nace was honored for his life sustaining efforts with a traffic crash victim in September 2002. Corporal Gary Davidson was honored for his life sustaining efforts with an accidental carbon monoxide poisoning victim in January 2002. Trooper Mike Jett was honored for his lifesaving efforts with a seizure victim during a traffic stop in April 2002. Sergeant Jim Closson was honored for his life sustaining efforts with an accidental carbon monoxide poisoning victim in June 2002. Commercial Vehicle Officer Janelle Waterman was honored for her efforts to support the Missouri Special Olympics.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol seized 25 methamphetamine laboratories in Lafayette County in 2002.

On February 17, 2003, Sergeant Dan Green attempted to stop a pickup for running a red light at the intersection of 72nd Street and Prairie View in Platte County. The pickup turned south into a K-Mart parking lot and failed to stop. The pursuit continued into a residential area at speeds of 60 mph. The passenger of the pickup then sat in the passenger door window facing Sgt. Green and fired at least four times. Trooper Michael Petlansky became the lead vehicle in the pursuit at 64th Street and Prairie View. The pursuit went west on 64th Street and then back into the residential area. The passenger then fired at Trooper Petlansky. Officers lost the pickup when, with its lights off, it drove through an apartment complex.

On February 24, 2003, a task force consisting of Highway Patrol and Kansas City (Missouri) Police officers conducted a vehicle search operation in the southern part of Platte County. Sgt. Green located a pickup matching the one involved in the pursuit and that it had damage consistent with the damage it would have received from striking a street sign pole the night of the pursuit. Corporal Bruce Houston responded to the scene and questioned the driver, Ariel Lugo. Lugo confessed to his part and named the shooter as Marvin D. Russ. Russ was located and arrested; however, it was determined he was not the shooter. However, he was wanted on a fugitive warrant from the state of Arkansas. Information was later received of two other possible suspects. These suspects were located, and confessed to two armed robberies, but denied ever shooting at

any troopers. A call to the TIPS Hotline led to the arrest of a fifth suspect, Derrick Shockley. The weapon used during the pursuit was recovered from Shockley's girlfriend.

In May 2003, Troop A's Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) responded to a residence north of Dockery to assist Ray County Sheriff Sam Clemens with a barricaded female. Ray County deputies had entered the residence earlier and made contact with the woman who then fired a single shot toward the deputies. SERT officers fired tear gas into the residence hoping the woman would come out of the residence. A short time later, SERT officers made entrance into the home and located the woman who was dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The FBI, the Missouri Highway Patrol, and local law enforcement agencies endorse a "No Hats, No Hoods, No Sunglasses" policy in bank lobbies. This was in response to a rise in the number of bank robberies in the state of Missouri.

Captain Vincent J. Ellis announced the "Click It or Ticket" enforcement operations that will be conducted in Troop A from May 19 through June 1, 2003. This is part of a national campaign that focuses on seat belt violations in an effort to raise seat belt use and awareness.

Tragedy struck Troop A on May 22, 2003, when Trooper Michael L. Newton was killed while making a traffic stop on Interstate 70 in Lafayette County. Tpr. Newton was taking part in the "Click-It or Ticket" seat belt safety campaign. He had a car stopped on eastbound Interstate 70, near the 47-mile marker when his patrol car was struck in the rear by an eastbound truck that had traveled onto the shoulder of the roadway. Upon impact, Tpr. Newton's car burst into flames and he was killed in the crash. The driver of the car Tpr. Newton had stopped was seated in the front passenger seat of the patrol car and sustained serious injuries from the crash. Tpr. Newton's funeral was held in Newburg, Missouri, on May 26, 2003. More than 1,000 people attended the funeral. Over 600 officers from across the country attended the funeral to pay their respects. *(On September 20, 2004, both the newly constructed bridge and its eastbound counterpart crossing the Little Piney Creek in Troop I, were dedicated to the memory of Trooper Michael L. Newton).* Paul Daniel, the driver of the truck that struck Tpr. Newton, pled guilty to four traffic misdemeanors in October 2003, and was sentenced to six months in jail.

Trooper Russell Shaul was jogging while off-duty when he rescued a man who was drowning in Pertle Springs. Tpr. Shaul noticed a boat going around in circles and a man, who was not wearing a life vest, out of the boat waving his arms. Tpr. Shaul went into the mucky water and pulled the man to shore. By the time they reached the shore, the man was unresponsive and Tpr. Shaul administered CPR. The victim regained consciousness and was transported to a local hospital for treatment. Tpr. Shaul was named "Warrensburg's Newest Hero" by proclamation of Mayor David Quibell on July 14, 2003.

On June 24, 2003, the Missouri Peace Officer's Association honored Sergeant Chip Drenon as the "2003 Missouri Police Officer of the Year". Sgt. Drenon was noted for his community involvement where he speaks at schools, civic group events, churches, and his involvement with sick children at Children's Mercy Hospital. His bravery and capture of a subject who had been charged with a double murder was noted, also.

Troop A officers conducted two special enforcement operations on Interstate 70 which resulted in 88 arrests, 301 warnings, and seizures of 185 pounds of marijuana, cocaine, three grams of methamphetamine, and a loaded weapon. The three-day operations were held on July 3-5 and July 8-10. Included in the 88 arrests were three DWIs, three-misdemeanor criminal, and 11 felony arrests.

During the 2003 marijuana eradication season, Troop A officers instituted "Operation Green Light". This was an intelligence gathering and surveillance operation aimed at drug dealers in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Numerous arrests were made and several indoor growing operations were located. This marks the first time that marijuana eradication efforts were focused in the city of Kansas City.

On November 25, 2003, Corporal Brian Hagerty stopped a vehicle on Interstate 70 in Lafayette County, and seized 60 pounds of liquid methamphetamine inside the vehicle.

In August 2003, Auto. Tech. III Sean Jacobs, Corporal Collin Stosberg, and Trooper Andy Bell helped make the wish of a young girl come true by constructing a wooden swing set.

On September 15, 2003, Captain Vincent J. Ellis announced the creation of the Trooper Michael L. Newton Memorial Toy Drive. The toy drive is a joint effort between the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Kansas Highway Patrol, and the citizens we serve. All of the toys collected were delivered to Children's Mercy Hospital and KU Medical Center during the month of December 2003. The toys are given to the children who had to spend the Christmas holiday season in the hospital. Krispy Kreme doughnuts joined the effort in December. The joint effort resulted in the collection of approximately \$10,000 in toys.

Several members of Troop A were honored at the annual KMBC TV-9 Metropolitan Chief's and Sheriff's Association Awards for Valor banquet. Trooper Russell W. Shaul was honored for his lifesaving efforts, while off-duty, in rescuing a subject in distress in the water and pulling him to safety and administering rescue breathing until EMS arrived. Troopers Brooks McGinnis, Michael Newton, and Jeff Spire were honored for their efforts in thwarting a possible suicide attempt and saving a two-year old child. Sergeant Nate Brown accepted the award on behalf of Tpr. Newton.

On May 22, 2004, Troop H advised Troop A that Corporal John E. Christensen was in pursuit of a pickup southbound on Interstate 29. A Platte County deputy deployed a spike-strip near Post A-1 south weigh scales. The driver of the pickup, Seth Martin, swerved to avoid the spike-strip and it was unknown whether he drove over them at that time. The pursuit continued southbound on Interstate 29. Near Platte City, at the 16-mile marker, Sergeant Dale Knox, Troop A, deployed spikes. The driver attempted to strike Sgt. Knox. The vehicle hit the spikes and continued southbound with two deflated tires. The driver hit his brakes, spun his vehicle around, and came to a stop facing oncoming patrol vehicles. The suspect exited his vehicle holding an Armalite M15A2 assault rifle and began firing at the officers. The officers returned fire, and then instructed the suspect to drop his weapon and show his hands. Corporal Kevin Haywood, Troop H, Sgt. Knox, and Trooper Eric Kolb arrived on the scene. The suspect ignored the officers' commands, aimed his rifle, and began firing again. The officers returned fire, striking the suspect. The suspect then lost consciousness and died later at the Truman Medical Center in Kansas City.

The Higginsville EMS, Police Department, and Fire Department, along with the Lafayette County Sheriff's Department, participated in the filming of a Highway Patrol safety commercial and training video at the site where Tpr. Michael Newton was killed in a fiery crash in May 2003 on Interstate 70. Sergeant Chip Drenon suggested a board be formed to do something proactive to help educate the public about the "Move Over" law. Governor Bob Holden visited Lafayette County on the one-year anniversary of Tpr. Newton's death. The Missouri Highway Patrol and Lafayette County officials proclaimed a special "Pass With Care Week" to increase public awareness of the need for motorists to be especially careful when approaching scenes where an emergency vehicle is located.

The months of June and July brought severe weather to parts of Troop A. Benton and Henry counties were the most severely impacted. A storm on June 13, 2004, swamped boats that were on the Truman Lake near the Harry S. Truman Dam. On July 5, 2004, a storm producing 60-70 mph, straight-line winds struck Benton and Henry counties causing extensive home and boat damage, and power outages for several days.

Corporal Chris Scott nominated Johanna Oliphant, 7, for the award of Honorary Trooper for the courage and unselfish desire she demonstrated in making sure her family received medical attention following a crash in which her mother's van rolled onto its side, and became partially submerged into a creek. Johanna's mother, Dorothy; sister, Alicia; and brothers, Isaiah and Elijah were trapped inside. Johanna, though injured and scared, was able to climb out the back window

of the van, wade through the creek to the shore, and then walk around the van and make contact with her mother. Dorothy told Johanna to find the nearest house and call 9-1-1. Johanna scaled a steep, rocky embankment up to the road and then walked one-quarter of a mile to the nearest house. She had to walk to three more houses before she was able to find someone at home and call the Ray County Sheriff's Department. When help arrived, she was able to give a close description of the area of the crash.

President George W. Bush visited several locations within Troop A. Officers from Troop A, along with several area law enforcement agencies, were given the task of providing security for the entire route. President Bush gave a speech at the Lee's Summit High School football stadium adjacent to Troop A's property. President Bush traveled by motor coach to Warrensburg, Knob Noster, and Sedalia via U.S. Highway 50. The president delivered another campaign speech in the arena at the Missouri State Fairgrounds. The security detail was handed over to Troop F personnel for the president's travel to Columbia.

On September 20, 2004, the newly constructed bridge and its eastbound counterpart crossing the Little Piney Creek in Troop I, were dedicated to the memory of Tpr. Michael L. Newton. Tpr. Newton lost his life on May 22, 2003, when his parked patrol car was struck on the shoulder of Interstate 70 near the 47-mile marker in Lafayette County.

Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) officers from Troop A were assigned to help provide security for a presidential debate between President George Bush and Senator John Kerry in St. Louis.

Troop A honored Trooper Wayne W. Allman on October 26, 2004. A bridge located at Missouri Highway 7 and Route B in Creighton was renamed the Trooper Wayne W. Allman Bridge. This is the location where Tpr. Allman was killed in a traffic crash on October 27, 1955. A dedication ceremony was held in Creighton. In attendance were Tpr. Allman's son, Gary Wayne Allman; grandson, Christopher Wayne Allman; and great-grandson, Justin Wayne Allman.

Several Troop A members were honored at the annual KMBC TV-9 Metropolitan Chief's and Sheriff's Association Award for Valor banquet. Trooper Shawn M. Campbell was honored for his lifesaving actions when he located a man floating in the water of Truman Lake after the man's boat capsized during a storm. Tpr. Campbell and a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ranger pulled the man to shore where ambulance personnel began to perform CPR on the man. Sergeant Dale E. Knox and Trooper Eric R. Kolb, both of Troop A; Corporals John E. Christensen and Kevin G. Haywood, both of Troop H; and Platte County Deputy Joshua Quimby were all honored for their professionalism displayed during the car chase and shooting of Seth Martin. Sergeant Scott E. Meyer and Trooper Gregory D. Primm received Lifesaving Awards for their assistance in separate incidents with suicidal subjects. Corporal Brian S. Hagerty was honored at a DIAP conference in Chicago, Illinois, for his recovery of 11 gallons of pure Phencyclidine Hydrochloride (PCP), during a traffic stop conducted on November 25, 2003.

Missouri Representative Jason Brown presented a proclamation from the Missouri House of Representatives to Sergeant Dale E. Knox and Trooper Eric R. Kolb, Troop A; Corporals John E. Christensen and Kevin G. Haywood Sr., Troop H; and Platte County Deputy Joshua Quimby, commending them for their efforts in protecting the citizens of Missouri during a pursuit and shooting.

Trooper Michael P. Fennewald received the Missouri Division of Highway Safety Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Advisory Council (LETSAC) Officer of the Year Award for his accomplishments in 2004. Tpr. Fennewald had 98 DWI, 314 speeding, 259 seatbelt, 149 driver license, 65 felony, 108 criminal misdemeanor, and 48 warrant arrests in 2004. Tpr. Fennewald also issued 857 warnings and investigated 51 accidents.

Trooper Jason C. Flanigan was working on an accident report when his patrol car was rear-ended by a drunk driver. A reconstruction of the crash revealed the drunk driver, who missed 319 feet of flares leading up to another crash site, did not brake before the 70 mph crash.

On March 6, 2005, Trooper Jeff Toal was responding to an emergency call in Benton County when he lost control of his vehicle on a curve. The vehicle ran off the roadway, struck an embankment, and overturned several times. Tpr. Toal's patrol car came to rest on its wheels, caught fire, and totally burned. Tpr. Toal was able to get out of his vehicle. He suffered moderate injuries.

Driver Examiner Tina L. Fletcher was conducting a vehicle inspection prior to administering a road test. She observed what appeared to be a fake renewal sticker on the rear license plate. She contacted Sergeant Dan Green and Corporal Ron Meade, who confirmed the sticker was not issued by the Department of Revenue. The subject driving the car admitted to buying the sticker from a subject in Kansas City and agreed to cooperate with investigators from the Department of Revenue. An investigation was conducted by agents from DOR, which resulted in the arrest of seven people, and the confiscation of numerous counterfeit renewal tabs and computers used to make counterfeit temporary permits.

On May 28, 2005, at approximately 2:08 a.m., Trooper Brandon J. Brashear notified Troop A radio that he was in pursuit of a white Chevrolet Monte Carlo on northbound Interstate 470, just south of the Lakewood exit. At approximately 2:09 a.m., Tpr. Brashear advised the vehicle was slowing down and might be stopping. No other radio traffic was received. At approximately 2:13 a.m., responding troopers found Tpr. Brashear laying in the grass on the east side of the northbound lanes of Interstate 470, just north of the Lakewood exit, with multiple gunshot wounds. The suspect had fled the scene. Tpr. Brashear was able to give responding officers a description of the suspect and vehicle. He was transported by LifeFlight helicopter to Research Hospital in Kansas City in serious condition. The suspect was located at "The Break" pool hall in Independence. At approximately 3:02 a.m., members of the Independence Police Department took the suspect into custody. He was arrested for first-degree assault on a law enforcement officer and armed criminal action. In the days following the shooting, Tpr. Brashear underwent several surgeries and has a rigorous physical therapy schedule. The nurses nicknamed him "Superman" because most people do not survive the type of injuries he sustained.

U.S. Senator Jim Talent visited Troop A to celebrate the federal "Pass With Care" amendment. Mr. Jeff Grisamore, president of Children of Promise International, an active volunteer with the Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop A headquarters, had urged Senator Talent to sponsor the amendment to require states to implement a comprehensive Pass with Care program. Numerous troopers, local law enforcement and fire officials and citizens gathered at Troop A for the celebration.

Auto. Tech. III Wayne L. Fordham and Auto. Tech. III Sean D. Jacobs were the recipients of the DPS Employee of the Month Award for July 2005. They were recognized for their work in the Motor Equipment Division. Each goes the extra mile to ensure patrol vehicles are road ready. In addition to certificates, a traveling plaque was presented and Director Mark James gave each gentleman a DPS commemorative coin. The traveling plaque was displayed at Troop A.

Officers from Troop A were among the 50 Missouri State Highway Patrol troopers and six radio operators sent to Mississippi to assist with recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina

Troop A officers, with the aid of K-9, seized 334 pounds of marijuana after two traffic stops just minutes apart on Interstate 70 in Lafayette County.

On February 23, 2006, Troop A officers stopped a 2000 Pontiac on Interstate 70 in Lafayette County for a traffic violation. Consent to search was requested and granted. 300 pounds of marijuana, a small amount of cocaine, and drug paraphernalia were located inside the vehicle.

On April 14, 2006, officers from Troop A assisted Liberty Police with the funeral detail for Michael Hartwick, an Army pilot from Orrick, MO, who was killed in Iraq. Officers were instructed by the attorney general's office to enforce the new state law about protesting funerals.

On April 29, 2006, Trooper Brandon J. Brashear received the first Purple Heart awarded by the Patrol. The presentation occurred at the Patrol's 15th Annual Awards Banquet. Tpr. Brashear was shot numerous times following a pursuit on May 28, 2005. (He would be cleared to return to full duty on March 13, 2007.)

On June 26, 2006, officers from Troop A assisted the Henry County Sheriff's Department and Clinton Police at the site of a building collapse on the downtown square in Clinton, MO. Nine people were recovered alive after being trapped for several hours. One person died.

Troop A public information and education officers took possession of the troop's seat belt convincer in June. It was used in conjunction with the rollover simulator during numerous programs and events throughout Troop A to promote seat belt use.

The southeast area of Troop A was the target of two tornadoes that caused major damage in Sedalia, MO, the last two weeks of April. Several Troop A officers responded to the area to provide security and assist the residents following these two tragic events. On December 1, 2006, the southeast area of Troop A was hit by a major snowstorm that left approximately 18 inches of snow on the ground. Patrol vehicles were unable to negotiate the deep snow, thus officers resorted to four-wheel drive vehicles and cell phones for transportation and communication.

On January 31, 2007, President George W. Bush discussed his healthcare proposals to assist the uninsured to gain health insurance at St. Luke's East Hospital in Lee's Summit. Lt. D.S. Sater, detail commander, and Lt. B.T. Deshler, officer-in-charge of route security, and 31 troopers assisted the Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department and the Lee's Summit Police Department with the detail, which lasted from 10:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

On February 6-7, 2007, officers from Troop A and the Division of Drug and Crime Control participated in a bi-state, multi-agency operation involving the simultaneous inspections of several salvage yards that operate car-crushers on both sides of the Missouri-Kansas state line. These salvage yards were suspected of being the destination of numerous stolen vehicles. Tow truck drivers had stolen the vehicles after they had broken down and been left roadside by their owners on highways throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area.

On February 7, 2007, officers from Troop A, Kansas City Police Department and other police agencies, along with Kansas City Fire Department, responded to a chemical fire and explosion at Chem-Central. This company is located south of the Missouri River between Interstate 35 and Interstate 435. All northbound and southbound lanes of I-35 were shut down for approximately one hour.

On June 27, 2007, Troop communications received information that OnStar was tracking a stolen Hummer H2 from Salt Lake City, Utah. The Hummer was eastbound on Interstate 70 and just exited at the 37-mile marker in Odessa, Missouri. The ensuing investigation revealed the driver and passenger had been involved in credit card theft, fraud, and vehicle theft in several states, including California, Missouri, Kansas, Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah.

On September 11, 2007, the first ever Tour of Missouri competitive bicycle race was held in the Kansas City area. On September 12, the race started in Clinton before moving south into Troop D.

On November 24, 2007, Troop A SWAT responded to assist the Saline County Sheriff's Department with a violent and uncooperative subject barricaded in a house north of Houstonia. During negotiations, the subject fired a gunshot in the room. SWAT members entered the room and the subject pointed a weapon in their direction. A SWAT member shot the subject, who later succumbed to his injuries.

On December 21, 2007, four officers from Troop A were reassigned as commercial vehicle enforcement troopers. Their primary duties will include enforcement of commercial vehicle and special mobile equipment hazardous moving and safety laws, administrative orders, rules, and regulations.

In March 2008, Trooper Jeffrey M. Toal stopped a 1996 Chevrolet Blazer on Missouri 13 Highway at Coal Creek Road in Henry County for defective equipment. As a result of the traffic stop approximately 12 grams of methamphetamine, misdemeanor marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and one stolen laptop was recovered. The four occupants in the vehicle were arrested. A total of five felony charges and three misdemeanor charges were filed. Between the four occupants, 13 felony warrants and two misdemeanor warrants were cleared.

On April 18, 2008, at approximately 1:35 p.m., Trooper Matthew B. Koch stopped a 1989 Ford Ranger pickup for a traffic violation on southbound Interstate 29 at U. S. 169 Highway in Clay County. Tpr. Koch contacted the driver and obtained his identification and insurance card and returned to his patrol vehicle. As Tpr. Koch approached the Ford Ranger to re-contact the driver, he found the driver slumped forward inside the vehicle, suffering from a single self-inflicted gunshot wound. The driver was pronounced dead at the scene by the Jackson County Medical Examiner's Office.

On May 17, 2008, the Move Over Missouri 5k Race/Walk in memory of Trooper Michael L. Newton took place at the Maple Leaf Conservation Area in Lafayette County. The 5k Race/Walk was sponsored by the Lafayette County Prosecutor's Office, the Missouri River Valley Citizen's Advisory Board, and Troop A of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. All proceeds from the race/walk were donated in Tpr. Newton's memory to the Outdoor Skills Camp for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children, which doesn't charge the children who attend the camp.

In May 2008, Tommy Ray Rollins Jr. was found guilty and sentenced to two life sentences, plus 15 years, plus seven years in the shooting of Trooper Brandon J. Brashear. The shooting occurred on May 28, 2005, on northbound Interstate 470 just south of Lakewood after a short vehicle pursuit with Rollins.

In June 2008, Colonel Keathley informed the public the Patrol was adding Harley-Davidson FLHTP Electra Glide Police motorcycles to its fleet of vehicles. Two of the eight motorcycles were assigned to Troop A. Sergeant Richard C. Fletcher and Corporal Steven M. Salfrank were assigned to the motorcycles after attending specialized training provided by Northwestern University and Harley-Davidson in Memphis, TN.

As a result of a joint narcotics investigation, several search warrants were served on June 20, 2008, at three locations in Carrollton, MO. Six people were arrested for related drug charges and one person was arrested on a misdemeanor warrant. The Carroll County Sheriff's Department, the Carrollton Police Department, and the Highway Patrol were involved in the investigation. The Missouri State Highway Patrol's Troop A and F SWAT teams and the Ray County Sheriff's Department tactical team assisted with the service of the warrants.

Captain Vincent J. Ellis retired effective July 1, 2008, as the troop commander of Troop A. He retired after 36 years of dedicated service.

Robert L. Powell was promoted to the rank of captain and designated commanding officer of Troop A, Lee's Summit, effective July 1, 2008. Powell had been serving as acting troop commander since April 19, 2008.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol along with the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department hosted a DIAP Conference at the Crown Center Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. The dates of the conference were August 25-29.

On September 8, 2008, at approximately 8:07 p.m., members of the Patrol responded to the rest area on northbound I-29 in Platte County to investigate the report of a subject in the restroom who had been shot. The subject was found deceased with a gunshot wound. Investigators from

the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Division of Drug and Crime Control, Troop A, had ruled the death investigation a homicide and continue to seek answers into this investigation.

On September 8, 2008, the second Tour of Missouri competitive bicycle race was held in Troop A. The first day of the race started in St. Joseph, Troop H, and ended in Kansas City, MO. On September 9, the race started in Clinton before moving south into Troop D.

On October 2, 2008, the 15th Annual Corporal Michael E. Webster Memorial Blood Drive was held at Troop A Headquarters. Cpl. Webster was killed on October 2, 1993, when a drunk driver struck him while he stood next to a vehicle he had stopped for a traffic violation. The Patrol, along with the Community Blood Center of Kansas City, hosts the blood drive to emphasize the seriousness associated with alcohol-related traffic crashes and to honor Cpl. Webster. Forty-seven pints of blood were donated to the Kansas City Community Blood Center. Kathey Webster, widow of Cpl. Webster, attended the blood drive and gave support to all who donated.

The Sixth Annual Trooper Michael Newton Toy Drive was held from November 20, 2008, until December 12, 2008. The toy drive is a cooperative effort between the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Kansas Highway Patrol, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, the Children's Miracle Network, and the citizens we serve. The drive is designed to brighten the lives of children who are forced to spend the Christmas holiday season in the hospital. All donations were delivered to children at the KU Medical Center and the Ronald McDonald House. The toy drive is named for Trooper Michael Newton, who died in the line of duty in 2003.

On November 4, 2008, Corporal Andrew J. Bell stopped a 1993 Oldsmobile on Missouri 131 Highway at Interstate 70 in Lafayette County for a traffic violation. The vehicle license that Cpl. Bell ran was entered as a felony vehicle wanted in connection to a homicide. Cpl. Bell took the driver, a 41-year-old male of St. Louis, Missouri, into custody. The man was wanted in connection to the homicide of a University City, MO, police officer, which occurred on October 31, 2008, in the 600 block of Leland, University City, MO.

On November 13, 2008, Sergeant Darewin L. Clardy was honored by KMBC-TV 9 and the Metropolitan Chief's and Sheriff's Association at a banquet held at the Kansas City, MO, Marriott Hotel. Sgt. Clardy was awarded a Bronze Award for his investigation into school burglaries, a narcotics investigation, and a manslaughter investigation.

On November 22, 2008, Sergeant Dale O. Jinkens was conducting a traffic stop at the top of the ramp from westbound Interstate 70 to Little Blue Parkway. During the course of the stop, Sgt. Jinkens observed, in his rearview mirror, a vehicle fire on Interstate 70 at the bottom of the same exit ramp. He immediately concluded his traffic stop and responded to the scene. Upon arriving, Sgt. Jinkens observed a van and trailer engulfed in flames.

He contacted Troop A Headquarters and asked for fire and emergency medical personnel to respond to the scene. The fire was the result of a small passenger car having impacted the trailer being pulled by the van. Sgt. Jinkens positioned his patrol vehicle to block the westbound traffic on Interstate 70. He then exited his vehicle, and was informed by a bystander at the scene that an unconscious person had been partially ejected from the side window of the small passenger car, and that the person was on fire. Sgt. Jinkens found an unconscious female trapped with her upper body pinned between her vehicle and the median barrier.

He used his fire extinguisher to put out some of the fire that was on and around the unconscious female. With the aid of two passers-by, Sgt. Jinkens pushed the rear of the overturned vehicle away from the concrete divider, creating enough room for him to reach the unconscious female that was still on fire and drag her from the car. Sgt. Jinkens quickly extinguished the fire on the victim's upper body and then handed her off to others at the scene who then moved her to a safe area away from the burning vehicles.

The female victim was transported to the hospital. The driver and passenger of the van suffered minor injuries, and no injuries, respectively.



On April 8, 2009, members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol completed a Student Alliance Program at Clinton High School. This is the second year the Highway Patrol conducted such a program at Clinton High School. The program consisted of troopers coming to the school one day each week for six weeks. The interactive program gave the students a hands-on experience, which promoted good citizenship and showed them what career opportunities exist within the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

On April 18, 2009, Colonel James F. Keathley, superintendent of the Patrol, presented awards to two Troop A employees at the Patrol's 19th annual awards and The MASTERS banquet held at the Holiday Inn Select Executive Center in Columbia, MO. Family, friends, and The MASTERS members gathered to honor the heroes of 2008. Troop A Auto Technician III Sean D. Jacobs was honored as the Civilian Employee of The Year and Sergeant Dale O. Jinkens was presented with the Valor Award.

Sergeant Dale O. Jinkens, Troop A, was presented with the Valor Award for the previously explained incident occurring on November 22, 2008. (See story above.) His bravery also resulted in his being named March 2009 DPS Employee of the Month and April 2009 State Employee of the Month. In November 2009, Governor Jay Nixon awarded the state's highest public safety award, the Missouri Medal of Valor, to Sgt. Jinkens for his actions at this traffic crash.

On April 23, 2009, Corporal Kevin M. Fisher, a commercial vehicle enforcement trooper, stopped the driver of a tractor-trailer in Lafayette County for a compliance check. Subsequent investigation led to the seizure of 600 pounds of marijuana located within the trucks load of produce. The driver was arrested for trafficking in the first degree.

From May 12-14, Troop A personnel participated in the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) Truck Check, in Kansas City, MO. The operation was conducted by commercial vehicle enforcement troopers, commercial vehicle officers, and commercial vehicle inspectors from Troops A, B, D, F, G, and H. The operation was a joint effort with officers from the Kansas City Police Department's Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Unit and Traffic Safety Division. The goal of the operation was to remove unsafe commercial vehicles and unqualified or impaired drivers from Missouri's roadways. Officers set up numerous checkpoints around the Kansas City area and stopped commercial vehicles to conduct random driver and vehicle inspections. During the three-day operation, officers performed 697 inspections with 1,189 violations discovered. There were 84 vehicles and 31 drivers placed out-of-service. In addition, officers made 240 arrests and issued 698 warnings.

On June 10, 2009, the Patrol assisted with a triple homicide investigation that occurred in Cole Camp, Missouri, on June 9, 2009. The victims were identified as Donnie R. Luetjen, 64, Sharon K. Luetjen, 61, and Taron D. Luetjen, 15, all from Cole Camp, Missouri. As a result of the investigation, Robert Blurton was arrested for three counts of first degree murder.

On June 30, 2009, Trooper Cody Dunfee and officers from the Bates County Sheriff's Department attempted to serve a search warrant at a residence on County Road 4501 in Bates County. Bates County had information the occupant of the residence was wanted on attempted murder warrants from Pasco County, FL, and Cook County, IL. The suspect had been living under an alias for nearly 25 years. Tpr. Dunfee and Bates County deputies announced their presence and attempted to breach the front door of the residence. When the deputies were unable to breach the front door, Tpr. Dunfee reverted to his SWAT training by calling for a secondary breach. The rear sliding glass door of the residence was breached and Tpr. Dunfee was the first to enter the residence.

Upon the officers' entry into the residence, the suspect fired upon Tpr. Dunfee. Tpr. Dunfee returned fire with his issued M-4 rifle, striking the suspect twice, and resulting in his retreat into a back bedroom. During the exchange of gunfire, Tpr. Dunfee was shot once in his tactical vest by a Marlin .30-.30 rifle. Although not rated to stop rifle fire, his vest combination stopped the .30-.30

round. Tpr. Dunfee took up a position within the residence to protect the lives of other officers and contain the suspect, even after realizing he had been shot. Tpr. Dunfee and the Bates County deputies eventually exited the residence and set up an exterior perimeter. Tpr. Dunfee was treated by paramedics at the scene and released, sustaining only minor injuries to his abdomen. The Troop A SWAT responded to the scene and negotiator's attempts to make contact with the subject were unsuccessful. Through the use of a pole camera, the subject was observed slumped over on the floor of the bedroom in which he had retreated. Members of Troop A SWAT entered the residence and discovered the suspect, Douglas S. Miller, deceased due to a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

In September, the third Tour of Missouri competitive bicycle race began in St. Louis, Troop C, before traveling through and concluding in Kansas City (Troop A).

On October 2, the 16th Annual Corporal Michael E. Webster Memorial Blood Drive was held at Troop A Headquarters.

On October 17, 2009, more than a year later, the Patrol arrested two suspects for the murder of Valentin G. Kirilchuk, a truck driver who was killed at the northbound Interstate 29 rest stop between the Camden Point and Dearborn exits in Platte County. The suspects arrested in the case were a man and his girlfriend who were incarcerated in other states for other crimes. The man was already a convicted killer, serving a life sentence for a murder in Ohio that occurred the month prior to the killing in Platte County. John M. Hughes, 33, was incarcerated in Ohio, and Dana K. Tutor, 34, was incarcerated in Mississippi, were accused of luring Kirilchuk, 39, of Springfield, MO, into a restroom at the rest area where he was robbed and killed. Kirilchuk's body was later found by a passer-by.

In October, several Troop A officers participated in the Fourth Student Alliance Program in Platte County at the Northland Career Center. Twenty-six juniors and 11 seniors from the Northland Career Center's Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) class received their certificates for completing a week-long course presented by several members from Troop A. Northland's CSI class is taught by Darrik Bruns, son of the late Corporal H.C. "Hank" Bruns (KOD February 16, 1987).

On November 10, 2009, as a result of multi-jurisdictional investigation initiated by the Lafayette County Sheriff's Department and assisted by the Rural Missouri Major Case Squad and the Missouri State Highway Patrol, five family members were arrested on active warrants for sex crimes perpetrated against children. The investigation is continuing.

Members of the Sedalia Police Department and the Missouri State Highway Patrol conducted a joint undercover drug investigation. This was a seven-month-long investigation. The operation was named Enforcement Response and Interdiction of Narcotics (E.R.I.N.), which was a full-time drug investigation that focused largely on street-level drug deals in the Sedalia area. The operation started in May 2009 and a total of 32 suspects were identified as a result of this investigation. The total bond amount on all of the active warrants was \$9,195,000. In addition, some of the charges include the sale of drugs within 2,000 feet of a school. During the drug investigation, undercover officers purchased the following types of drugs: Marijuana, crack cocaine, cocaine, methamphetamine, ecstasy, morphine, hash oil cake, imitation controlled substance, and drug paraphernalia. On the morning of Thursday, December 3, 2009, Troop A officers and SWAT team, members of the Missouri State Water Patrol, and officers from the Sedalia Police Department conducted a warrant sweep and arrested 25 individuals from Sedalia on felony narcotics violations. Additional suspects remained at-large, and the investigation continues with further arrests expected.

The Seventh Annual Trooper Michael L. Newton Toy Drive was held in Troop A from November 16 through December 18, 2009.

On December 15, 2009, members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol were conducting a short-term drug investigation in Kansas City, MO. Officers followed a suspect involved in the investigation through city streets to an address on Metropolitan Avenue in Kansas City, KS. At

approximately 2:41 p.m., two uniformed troopers and one undercover officer made contact with the suspect outside of the residence. After talking with the suspect, consent to search the residence was requested and granted. The suspect allowed the officers to enter the residence. As the suspect opened a door inside of the residence, he reached inside an adjacent door and produced a shotgun. The suspect pointed the shotgun at the two officers who were inside the residence. One of the uniformed officers fired several rounds striking the suspect. At approximately 3:25 p.m., the suspect exited the residence and was taken into custody. The suspect was transported to an area hospital for treatment of injuries. None of the officers involved were injured.

In 2009, troopers assigned to Troop A made 60,926 arrests including 1, 502 driving while intoxicated arrests, and issued 55,144 warnings, which assisted in an almost 20 percent decrease in fatalities from the previous year. Troop A received 70,310 calls from the public for service. The following is a list of the Troop A "Top 10 DWI Enforcement Officers."

<b>Name</b>	<b>DWI Arrests (2009)</b>
NELSON, LARRY	55
DILLON, ADAM V.	53
UTZ, JOSHUA C.	50
OLIVER, WILLIAM E.	41
MIRANDA, MANUEL	39
KLINE, DAVID	37
DUNFEE, CODY G.	34
COATS, STEVEN A.	31
WOOD, RYAN A.	31
TESCH, GREGORY K.	30

## **2010-**

In April 2010, Troop A personnel provided a "Church Security Seminar" in Lee's Summit, Missouri. The seminar consisted of Patrol employees training approximately 75 area churches in self defense, tactical verbal skills, and lessons learned from past church incidents.

In May 2010, a joint investigation of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Butler Police Department, and the Kansas Highway Patrol revealed a tractor trailer theft criminal enterprise. The investigation initially began with the recovery of a stolen semi-trailer parked illegally on a private parking lot in Butler, MO. This subsequently led to further information about several stolen tractor trailers within the Kansas City metropolitan area. The investigation has led to the recovery of six stolen tractors and eight semi-trailers within the states of Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Maryland. Two of the seized trailers had been seized previously by the California Highway Patrol and subsequently stolen from their storage facility. Within the confines of a trailer seized by the Kansas Highway Patrol were numerous stolen car parts and tools which is consistent with a rolling "chop shop" operation. The total value of the seizure is in excess of \$500,000.

Troop A officers made 31 criminal interdiction arrests resulting in the seizure of \$18,041 in cash, 1,461 pounds of marijuana, seven pounds of methamphetamine, three weapons, and 169 grams of hashish. The majority of the marijuana seized came from a commercial vehicle, which was stopped by CVO Sprv. I Michael L. Dayringer at Post A2-North weigh station, in Kearney, MO. Several inconsistencies led CVO Sprv. I Dayringer to believe criminal behavior was taking place and

he requested the assistance of Trooper Brody R. Sanson. A subsequent search of the commercial motor vehicle revealed 1,240 pounds of marijuana located inside the trailer.

The marijuana eradication effort yielded 10 indoor growing operations consisting of over 325 plants. Over \$17,000 was seized as well as seven pounds of processed marijuana and thousands of dollars in growing equipment. Eleven people were arrested in connection with these indoor growing operations.

Troop A personnel conducted a Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) truck check in Cass, Clay, Jackson, and Platte counties. This operation was conducted by commercial vehicle enforcement troopers, commercial vehicle officers, and commercial vehicle inspectors from Troops A, B, C, D, F, and H. During the three-day operation, officers performed 454 inspections with 915 violations discovered. There were 18 drivers and 57 motor vehicles placed out-of-service. In addition, officers issued 150 citations.

On October 5, 2010, the 17th Annual Corporal Michael E. Webster Memorial Blood Drive was held at Troop A Headquarters. The blood drive is an annual event held to raise awareness about the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol. Cpl. Webster was killed on October 2, 1993, by a drunk driver while standing next to a vehicle he had stopped for a traffic violation. The Patrol, along with the Community Blood Center of Kansas City, hosts the blood drive to emphasize the seriousness associated with alcohol-related crashes. Blood is an essential element, which may help save someone's life that has been involved in a traffic crash.

In November, Sergeant William P. "Bill" Bremer pursued a burglary suspect into rural Henry County before the suspect's vehicle became disabled near Creighton, MO. The 23-year-old burglary suspect opened the driver's side door and fired at Sgt. Bremer, striking his patrol car's windshield. Sgt. Bremer returned fire from within his patrol vehicle before exiting his patrol car and seeking cover. The suspect remained inside his vehicle and would not comply with orders to exit the vehicle. The Missouri State Highway Patrol Troop A SWAT team was notified and responded to the scene. Attempts to negotiate with the suspect were unsuccessful and he ultimately took his own life.

The Eighth Annual Trooper Michael L. Newton Toy Drive was held in Troop A from November 16 through December 18, 2010.

Troop A honored the top 10 officers for driving while intoxicated arrests in 2010: Corporal Cody G. Dunfee, Trooper Kyle W. Murphy, Trooper Josh C. Utz, Trooper Alexander R. Vivas, Trooper Rick E. Scism, Trooper Chad S. Kutzner, Trooper Josh D. Owens, Trooper David J. Kline, and Trooper Joel E. Given.

On January 31, 2011, the entire Troop A area was covered in a blanket of snow and ice. Freezing rain followed by sleet, heavy snow, high winds, and bitterly cold temperatures made driving treacherous. Exposure to the extremely cold temperatures and wind chill for extended periods of time was very dangerous, and even deadly, if motorists became stranded. For the first time in recent memory, Interstate 70 was closed due to the inclement weather, and citizens were discouraged from traveling on the highways. Leave days were cancelled for troopers within Troop A, and they worked 12-hour shifts, some in four-wheel-drive vehicles, to provide adequate service to the motoring public.

On February 4, 2011, Sergeant Nathan C. Ahern was working along U.S. Highway 50 in Pettis County, when he located a suspect wanted in connection to an Amber Alert issued earlier in the day. Sgt. Ahern arrested the subject. The children, who were still inside of the vehicle, were returned safely to their custodial parents.

On March 17, 2011, Sergeant R. Brooks McGinnis stopped a black 2000 Mercury Villager van bearing Nevada registration for following too closely on I-70 in Lafayette County. The two occupants of the vehicle exhibited overly nervous behavior and provided inconsistent statements regarding the nature and purpose of their trip. The driver gave verbal consent to search the van.

Upon conducting a search of the vehicle, several hundred one-inch baggies (empty contraband bags) were located within a sock inside the passenger's luggage. K-9 Puki was deployed and alerted to the odor of illegal drugs at the rear of the vehicle. Upon inspection of the van's rear air conditioner vent system, five kilo size packages of cocaine were concealed inside. Both subjects were arrested without incident and transported to the Lafayette County Sheriff's Department. While en route to the jail, the driver admitted to being paid \$1,000 per kilo for delivery to the St. Louis area.

Also on March 17, 2011, Corporal Greg D. Primm stopped a vehicle on I-70 in Lafayette County for a registration violation and cutting in on an overtaken vehicle. While walking up to vehicle, the occupants sprayed air freshener which blew into Cpl. Primm's face. The driver was overly apologetic, overly polite, and nervous. The female passenger was listed as a missing person through California. The odor of marijuana was detected from the driver while he was sitting in Cpl. Primm's patrol car. Probable cause to search revealed a duffle bag containing 10 plastic containers of hydroponic marijuana, five baggies of cocaine, and four electronic scales located in the cargo area of the vehicle.

On April 15, 2011, Sergeant Brian E. Kelley accepted the Sara Andrasek Memorial Award during the sixth annual Victim's Rights Breakfast hosted by the Platte County Prosecuting Attorney's Office. The recognition came as a result of Sgt. Kelley's thorough investigation and his continued support to the victims' families. On August 22, 2010, Sgt. Kelley worked a two-car crash in which a 22-year-old driver was killed and her passenger was injured. The driver of the other vehicle was driving his Camaro SS on Interstate 29 at 152 mph seconds before the crash. His blood alcohol content was .171 hours after the crash. The driver of the Camaro pled guilty to manslaughter and assault and is currently serving a 17-year prison term.

In May, Troop A officers, along with 15 other law enforcement agencies from Missouri and Kansas, initiated an aggressive driving campaign. An enforcement campaign of this large scale had never been undertaken. This campaign was a four-day enforcement period targeting aggressive driving and utilizing aircraft from the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department. The campaign resulted in 1,562 citations issued for various violations of law, a felony arrest for fleeing, and the recovery of a stolen motorcycle.

On June 1, 2011, at 3:48 p.m., Sergeant Mark D. DeGraffenreid and a Lafayette County deputy attempted to initiate a traffic stop on a suspect wanted for questioning in the investigation of a homicide that occurred earlier in the day in St. Joseph, Missouri. The suspect, Ty Arnold, 28, of St. Joseph, was wanted in connection to the shooting death of his wife. Arnold was observed traveling eastbound on Interstate 70 near Higginsville, Missouri, by a Lafayette County deputy. The deputy followed Arnold as troopers responded to the area. As the suspect vehicle passed by Sgt. DeGraffenreid, who was stationary on the right shoulder of I-70, the officer moved directly behind the suspect. The suspect exited onto southbound U.S. Highway 65 from eastbound Interstate 70. Sgt. DeGraffenreid activated his emergency lights and a pursuit ensued. Arnold attempted to avoid spike strips deployed by a trooper further south by traveling through the median and turning around to travel north on U.S. Highway 65. As the suspect did this, he fired several rounds at Sgt. DeGraffenreid from his vehicle.

Sgt. DeGraffenreid was able to return fire toward the suspect before re-engaging in the pursuit. As the pursuit continued north, the suspect fired several rounds indiscriminately from his vehicle. The pursuit continued northbound on U.S. 65 from I-70 when the suspect's vehicle became disabled. Arnold exited his vehicle and fired rounds at Sgt. DeGraffenreid and a Lafayette County deputy with a high powered rifle, striking their patrol vehicles. The suspect returned to his vehicle where he was found to be deceased from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Three people in the area at the time of the shooting were injured as a result of Arnold firing indiscriminately from his vehicle. All three victims survived their injuries.

On July 8, 2011, the Patrol made an arrest more than two years after the 2008 murder of Cara Jo Roberts, a young mother who was killed in her Harrisonville home. The suspect, a 52-year-old former police officer, was arrested and charged in connection to a 2010 murder in Kansas City, and the forcible rape of a woman in 2011, in Harrisonville, Missouri, in addition to the Roberts murder. DNA taken from the Harrisonville woman matched DNA in both murder cases. The suspect was charged with first degree murder and armed criminal action. In March 2010, at the request of the Harrisonville Police Department, the Patrol assumed responsibility in the investigation which led to the arrest.

On August 1, 2011, Trooper Frederick F. "Fred" Guthrie Jr. was assigned to Missouri River flood detail in Holt County with K-9 Reed when he and K-9 Reed were tragically swept away by swift moving floodwaters. The incident occurred on Missouri Highway 118 at Missouri Highway 111. K-9 Reed's body was recovered the next day. Tpr. Guthrie was a combined 17-year-veteran of the former Missouri State Water Patrol and the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and was the 30th member to die in the line of duty.

Tpr. Guthrie is survived by his wife, Teresa, daughter, Amber, and sons, Dylan and Cody. After an extensive and exhaustive search, Tpr. Guthrie's body was recovered on January 12, 2012, in a brush pile south of where K-9 Reed was recovered near the original search site.

During the 2011 Missouri State Fair, Patrol personnel dealt with damaging storms on the fairgrounds, resulting in the first-ever official closing of the fair in memory. Miraculously, as a result of planning and execution, no one was injured during the storms despite heavy damage to property on the fairgrounds.

On October 1, 2011, 10 members of the Water Patrol Division were assigned to various zones throughout Troop A.

On October 4, 2011, the 18th Annual Corporal Michael E. Webster Memorial Blood Drive took place at Troop A Headquarters. The Patrol, along with the Community Blood Center of Kansas City, hosts the blood drive.

The Ninth Annual Trooper Michael L. Newton Toy Drive took place in Troop A from November 17 through December 19, 2011. The toy drive was a cooperative effort between the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Kansas Highway Patrol, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, and the citizens they serve. In addition to the Toy Drive, Tpr. Newton's parents, Bobbie and Gary, his son, Tyler, and Troop A employees cooked and served meals for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. It was a rare opportunity for those involved to serve their community and to see how the toy drive affects the children and families in need.

On November 18, 2011, The Metropolitan Police and Sheriff's Association honored Sergeant Mark D. DeGraffenreid with the Medal of Valor, as well as Officer of the Year for the officer-involved shooting incident. Trooper Frederick F. "Fred" Guthrie Jr. was honored posthumously with the Medal of Valor at the same event.

Troop A officers made 44 criminal interdiction arrests in 2011. These arrests resulted in the seizure of \$90,632, and a total of 253 pounds of marijuana, 204 ecstasy tablets, 11 pounds of cocaine, three and a half pounds of methamphetamine, and two weapons. The methamphetamine seizure came from a traffic stop conducted by Corporal Greg D. Primm on Interstate 70. During the course of the traffic stop, inconsistencies and deceptive behavior of the occupants led Cpl. Primm to ask for consent to search the vehicle, which was granted. Cpl. Primm subsequently searched the vehicle and located three and a half pounds of methamphetamine concealed inside the rear passenger's seat cushion. Sergeant R. Brooks McGinnis and K-9 Puki assisted Cpl. Primm at the traffic stop.

In 2012, two members of Troop A were honored for their service to their communities. In June, Forty and Eight honored Trooper Alex R. Vivas as the 40/8 Law Officer of the Year. Forty and Eight is an independent, by invitation, honor organization of male and female U.S. veterans. Each year, they honor a law enforcement officer. This year, they honored Tpr. Vivas for his outstanding enforcement efforts. In August, the United States Attorney General's Office recognized Trooper Greg K. Tesch with the Enoch Morelock Award. The MASTERS presented its Public Service Award to Tpr. Tesch at the annual awards banquet. These awards honored Tpr. Tesch for his volunteer work with such organizations as Boy Scouts of America, Literacy Kansas City, The American Red Cross, and Missouri Special Olympics.

In July, Kauffman Stadium hosted the Major League Baseball All-Star Game. The magnitude of this event required months of planning and the need to reconfigure highway ramps. The Patrol provided 30 troopers, five support personnel, a helicopter, and two mobile command center vehicles for traffic control. Despite working under extremely hot and humid conditions, troopers diligently guided traffic in and around the stadium during the three-day event with great success. In fact, in the July 11, 2012 edition of *The Kansas City Star*, an article written by Reporter Mike Hendricks entitled "Report Card," gave the Patrol an "A" for traffic control.

Troop A Sergeant R. Brooks McGinnis and Corporal Greg D. Primm had a busy and productive March. On March 7, Cpl. Primm stopped a vehicle on Interstate 70 in Saline County and located 51 pounds of marijuana. On March 13, Sgt. McGinnis conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 70 in Saline County and located 117 pounds of marijuana. Later that same day, Cpl. Primm stopped a vehicle traveling east on Interstate 70 in Saline County and located two pounds of methamphetamine. Troop A criminal interdiction efforts for 2012 resulted in 469 pounds of marijuana, 36 pounds of cocaine, 3.3 pounds of methamphetamine, and 30 ecstasy tablets being seized.

The "Trooper Fred F. Guthrie Jr. Memorial Highway" is a portion of Interstate 29 between Missouri Highway 273 (near Tracy, MO) and Missouri Route E (near Camden Point, MO). This designation became official during a special ceremony on October 5, 2012.

Troop A welcomed seven new troopers from the 95th Recruit Class. Both the 19th Annual Corporal Michael E. Webster Memorial Blood Drive and the 10th annual Trooper Michael L. Newton Toy Drive met with great success.

On January 17, 2013, Sgt. Brooks McGinnis stopped a 2012 Chevrolet Cruze for a traffic violation on eastbound Interstate 70 near the 67-mile marker in Saline County. During the course of the traffic stop, inconsistencies and deceptive behavior of the driver led Sgt. McGinnis to ask for consent to search the vehicle, which was granted. A search resulted in 22.5 pounds of marijuana concealed inside the trunk of the vehicle. The driver and a passenger, both from the state of Virginia, were arrested for second degree drug trafficking and transported to Saline County Jail.

Marine operations troopers provided Certified Boating Safety Education Courses in Independence, Smithville, and Warsaw from March through June 2013.

On March 15, 2013, Trooper Dennis Mathes stopped a 2013 Hyundai Sonata for a traffic violation on eastbound Interstate 70 near the 63-mile marker in Saline County, Missouri. During the course of the traffic stop, inconsistencies and deceptive behavior of the driver and passenger led the trooper to ask for consent to search the vehicle, which was granted. The trooper subsequently searched the vehicle, locating 9.5 pounds of marijuana and 6.25 pounds of edible marijuana candies concealed inside the trunk of the vehicle. The driver and passenger, both from Indiana, were arrested for possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

On April 1, 2013, Sergeant Nathan C. Ahern was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and assigned to Troop A.

On June 22, 2013, marine operations troopers recovered a body from the Missouri River at the Shoal Creek Access in Clay County. The body was positively identified as a missing 20-year-old man from Overland Park, Kansas.

On July 29, 2013, six new troopers reported to duty at Troop A. The new troopers are members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol's 96th Recruit Class that graduated from the Patrol Academy on July 12, 2013, and reported for duty on July 29, 2013.

Marine operations troopers conducted a boating sobriety checkpoint conducted on Saturday, July 27, 2013, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Smithville Lake. A total of 127 vessels, and 385 boaters were contacted by Missouri State Highway Patrol marine operations troopers during this operation. The troopers issued three citations and 50 warnings, and conducted sobriety tests on 15 individuals.

On September 17, 2013, Corporal Greg Primm conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 70, on a recreational vehicle. During the course of the traffic stop, Cpl. Primm noticed the driver and passenger were overly nervous. Cpl. Primm was given consent to search the vehicle and subsequently located 101 pounds of cocaine in the wall of the recreational vehicle. This traffic stop led to five additional arrests in two states and the seizure of \$772,000 in cash.

For the first time, the 20th Annual Michael E. Webster blood drive was a coordinated statewide event. Troop A coordinated the October 2, 2013 event with Mrs. Kathey Webster, Cpl. Webster's widow, and Colonel Repogle. All nine troops, General Headquarters, the American Red Cross, Be The Match, Community Blood Center of Kansas City, local law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and community colleges teamed up to hold blood drives in Cpl. Webster's memory. Because each pint (unit) can save up to three lives, nearly 1,400 lives could be saved thanks to the donors and volunteers.

In November 2013, Troop A personnel kicked off the 11th Annual Michael L. Newton Toy Drive, which resulted in \$3,000 worth of toys to the Ronald McDonald House and Kansas University Medical Center. Troop A personnel also volunteered and served a barbecue dinner at the Ronald McDonald house in December, and delivered toys to children and their siblings who are spending Christmas in the hospital.

On December 14, 2013, the entire Troop A area was covered in a blanket of snow and ice. Freezing rain followed by sleet, heavy snow, high winds, and bitterly cold temperatures made driving treacherous and dangerous; as all highways were snow covered. Leave was canceled for troopers, who worked 12-hour shifts, some in four-wheel drive vehicles, to provide adequate service to the motoring public.

In 2013, Troopers in Troop A investigated crashes involving 72 fatalities, and marine operations troopers investigated six drownings. Troop A personnel conducted student alliance programs in the Platte County School District, Raytown School District, and at the University of Central Missouri (Warrensburg). The Troop A commercial vehicle inspectors and officers conducted 14,245 inspections, which included 6,732 out-of-service violations and 37,891 safety violations (warnings). They also had a total of 9,530 arrests for 2013. Troop A's Support Enforcement Interstate Zone made 42 arrests and seized 185 pounds of marijuana, 101 pounds of cocaine, and \$80,599.

In January 2014, Troop A welcomed seven new troopers from the 97th Recruit Class.

On January 13, 2014, Sergeant Greg D. Primm initiated a traffic stop on Interstate 70 in Saline County. Subsequent search of the vehicle revealed two small bundles of methamphetamine wrapped in electrical tape under the passenger seat. The methamphetamine weighed approximately four ounces. In February 2014, Troop A conducted a HIDTA operation in Interstate 70. Sgt. Primm arrested three subjects for narcotic violations following three separate traffic stops. The suspect's criminal activity included marijuana, marijuana edibles/oils, THC liquid, several grams of hash, and various drug paraphernalia items.

Trooper Dennis D. Mathes conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 70 and the driver subsequently gave consent to search the vehicle. During the search, Tpr. Mathes located six pounds of methamphetamine in the wall of the passenger side door. The stop occurred on February 18.



On February 25, 2014 Troop A employees save the life of a 67-year-old Napoleon, MO, resident who had suffered a heart attack on the parking lot of the Patrol's motor vehicle inspection/driver examination facility, in Lee's Summit, MO. Three Patrol employees, DE Supervisor Jennifer M. Whiting, CVO David O. Bagley, and Lt. Dale O. Jinkens responded to the area and observed an unconscious male lying on the ground, surrounded by other citizens. They performed CPR until emergency medical services from Lee's Summit Fire Department took over. EMS personnel applied several shocks from an automated external defibrillator before transporting the man to St. Luke's Medical Center emergency room. Medical personnel later confirmed the victim, who regained consciousness, had suffered a heart attack. The actions of the three Patrol employees were directly responsible for saving the man's life. They were later recognized and accepted Lifesaving Awards from the Metropolitan Police Chiefs and Sheriff's Association during their annual awards banquet.

On March 2, 2014, Trooper David A. Paulsen conducted a traffic stop on Missouri Highway 7 in Benton County. The odor of marijuana was present and a subsequent search of the vehicle revealed one pound of marijuana. Also located in the driver's wallet was \$2,000 cash.

On March 25, 2014, Trooper Greg Primm conducted a traffic stop on Interstate 70 in Lafayette County. The subjects in the vehicle were exhibiting deceptive behavior. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed T-Mobile customer agreement documents for people not present in the vehicle. Further investigation revealed the three occupants were stealing T-Mobile customer account information and financing high-end electronics and cellular phones back to the customer accounts. Information found within electronic devices of which the suspects denied ownership, along with a false driver's license found in the vehicle, indicated other people were involved in the commission of the crimes. The total retail value of the property located in the vehicle was \$4,470.55. The total amount of theft against the T-Mobile customer's accounts found in the vehicle was \$6,261.70.

On May 22, 2014, DE Supervisor Tim Murphy was administering the driving portion of an examination in Clinton, MO, when he noticed smoke. He directed the applicant to travel onto Water Street where smoke was pouring from the upper floor of a residence. DE Sprv. Murphy dialed 9-1-1 then ran into the residence where he located an elderly homeowner and his granddaughter. He removed the occupants along with three dogs, but was unable to rescue a fourth dog from the second floor due to the intense smoke. Because of his actions, DE Sprv. Murphy was named DPS Employee of the Month for August 2014. He was also later recognized, and received, a Lifesaving award from the Metropolitan Police Chiefs and Sheriff's Association during their annual awards banquet.

July 1, 2014 marked a time of transition for Troop A as we welcomed four new troopers from the 98th Recruit Class. Captain Robert L. Powell retired from the Missouri State Highway Patrol after 35 years of dedicated service. Capt. Powell served in Troop A (Jackson, Lafayette, Clay, and Platte counties) and Troop D (Service Center) during his career. Capt. Powell served as Troop A's commanding officer from July 2008 to September 2014. Captain Eric T. Olson was promoted and designated as Troop A's commanding officer.

DE Sprv. Tim Murphy, Troop A, accepted the August 2014 Department of Public Safety Employee of the Month award. DE Sprv. Murphy was selected for this award for his courageous actions, which resulted in his saving two lives. While administering a driver examination, DE Sprv. Murphy saw smoke from a nearby neighborhood. He directed the young driver license applicant toward the smoke and located a burning residence. DE Sprv. Murphy requested emergency assistance, ran to the residence, and removed two occupants, one of which was elderly and unable to walk without assistance. DE Sprv. Murphy went above and beyond what is normally expected without regard for his personal safety.

On August 12, 2014, Missouri State Highway Patrol troopers responded to Mathewson Exhibit Center regarding possible elevated carbon monoxide levels at an event during the Missouri State Fair. Fire personnel and troopers evacuated the building following a carbon monoxide test. As a result,

some individuals were evaluated at the scene for symptoms including nausea, drowsiness, and headaches. One individual was transported to Bothwell Regional Healthcare Center in Sedalia, MO, for further evaluation of symptoms. Later that afternoon CO levels in the exhibit center were determined to be safe and normal activities resumed.

On August 31, 2014, Missouri State Highway Patrol K-9 Puki retired. Puki joined the Patrol in September 2007, when he was assigned to Sergeant R. Brooks McGinnis. During Puki's seven years of dedicated service, approximately 10,000 students and citizens attended demonstrations regarding Puki's abilities. The following are some of Puki's enforcement totals, which are based on "refusals."

- Deployments – 360
- Marijuana – 511 pounds
- Hash – 2 pounds
- Cocaine – 46 pounds
- Methamphetamine – 14 pounds
- Currency – \$160,095
- Felony Arrests – 76
- Fugitive Apprehensions – 8

"I couldn't have asked for a better dog" said Sgt. McGinnis. "I take solace in knowing there are a bunch of bad guys in prison from his excellent work."

Troop A Corporal C. Nate Bradley was instrumental in the recovery of 72 stolen vehicles in 2014, which added up to a little over \$1 million—\$1,018,500 to be exact.

Captain Eric T. Olson transferred to General Headquarters and was designated director of the Division of Drug and Crime Control effective May 1, 2015. Lt. Scott A. Shipers was promoted to captain and became Troop A's commanding officer also on May 1.

Sergeant Casey E. Utterback accepted a Meritorious Service Award on April 30, 2016, at the annual Patrol Awards Ceremony and The MASTERS Banquet. The award was the result of his actions on June 22, 2015. That day, Sgt. Utterback was traveling in his personal vehicle with his wife when he observed a truck become disabled in the intersection of Missouri Highway 131 and U.S. Highway 40. The female driver ran to his vehicle and attempted to open Sgt. Utterback's door, yelling for him to exit his vehicle. She then reached through the open window and attempted to pull him out of the vehicle. He removed the keys from the ignition and handed them to his wife. He then pushed the female backward and opened the door. The female ran to the next car and attempted to take it from the driver and was unsuccessful. At this time, Sgt. Utterback noticed the female's disabled truck was rolling toward some vehicles. He and several citizens managed to prevent a crash and place the truck into park. Meanwhile, the female had forced her way into a vehicle and was sitting on top of the driver. Sgt. Utterback and a bystander removed the female suspect from the vehicle, at which time he identified himself as a Missouri state trooper. He and the bystander detained her until officers arrived. Prior to contact with Sgt. Utterback, the female and two males were suspects in a burglary, and were involved in a pursuit with a Lafayette County deputy prior to crashing their vehicle. She ran from that scene, stole a truck, and then crashed it before the truck became disabled.

Also at the awards banquet, Trooper Aaron A. Engelhart accepted the 2015 Benjamin Oliver Booth Officer of the Year award. Tpr Engelhart made 175 driving while intoxicated arrests, 13 of which were for felony arrests in 2015. This is the highest number of driving while intoxicated arrests ever made in a single year by a member of the Patrol. In 2015, he accepted a work recognition award from Mothers Against Drunk Driving-Heartland Chapter honoring his efforts to remove impaired drivers from our roadways. Tpr. Engelhart has established himself as a leader among his peers. His enforcement activity generates an extreme amount of paperwork. His paperwork is submitted error free and includes a detailed account of the events prior to, during, and immediately following his enforcement contacts. He also responds to his share of reactive calls for service. In 2015, he investigated 67 traffic crashes and made 697 arrests, 19 of which were drug related. His

professionalism and dedication to helping those in need generates calls from the public to troop staff expressing their appreciation.

Trooper David A. Paulsen accepted 2016 The MASTERS Public Service Award on April 29, 2017, at the annual awards banquet. In both his professional and personal life, Tpr. Paulsen embodies the Patrol's Core Values. Service is at the core of his character. Tpr. Paulsen is deeply involved in his church and several volunteer organizations, lending both his time and carpentry skills.

Sergeants R. Brooks McGinnis and Greg D. Primm, both Troop A, were honored for their interdiction work. In 2015, they made 671 traffic stops, which led to 159 searches with contraband being found in 126 of them. That relates to a 79 percent success rate. The team spends countless hours assisting troopers and local officers with vehicle stops, searches, arrests, and follow-up investigations. Sergeants McGinnis and Primm were named May 2016 DPS Employee of the Month and June 2016 State Employee of the Month.

Trooper Aaron A. Engelhart, Troop A, accepted the 2016 Law Enforcement Traffic Safety Advisory Council Officer of the Year award. Tpr. Engelhart graduated from the Patrol's Academy in January 2013. During his first full year as a trooper, he arrested 109 intoxicated drivers, made 700 additional arrests, and issued nearly 1,400 warnings. During 2015, Tpr. Engelhart made 175 DWI arrests, the highest number of DWI arrests in a single year by a member of the Patrol. In addition, Tpr. Engelhart made 291 hazardous moving arrests, 127 non-hazardous moving arrests, 23 seat belt arrests, and 19 drug-related arrests, and issued 920 warnings last year. He also investigated 27 traffic crashes in 2015. He accepted the award at the LETSAC annual conference in July 2016.

Trooper James E. Thuss was named September 2016 DPS Employee of the Month as a result of his actions on February 2, 2016. Tpr. Thuss was patrolling Missouri Route D near Missouri Highway 58 in Cass County. He checked a vehicle traveling 68 mph in a 50 mph zone. Trooper Thuss turned his patrol car around to initiate a traffic stop. As he was doing so, the violator increased his vehicle's speed to 101 mph, traveled through a red stoplight into a four-way intersection, and struck another vehicle. The violator then fled the scene. Trooper Thuss contacted Troop A to request assistance and then stopped to assist the driver of the second vehicle, which had caught fire. Trooper Thuss was able to free the driver from the driver's seat, pull her into the passenger seat, and lift her from the burning vehicle. A bystander assisted Trooper Thuss in carrying her to safety. The suspect driving the vehicle that fled the scene was apprehended in a nearby field. Tpr. Thuss was named Missouri State Employee of the Month for October 2016. He accepted a Lifesaving Award at the annual awards banquet (April 29, 2017), also.

Troop A and local Gaming Division officers escorted 300 superloads from Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base in Belton, MO, to Stewartsville, MO, over a period of six weeks. The superloads represented 50 of the 95 windmills being erected. The effort included 10 officers per day working six days a week beginning in September 2016. Due to the size of the loads and restrictions, escorts utilized two separate routes. The large base sections utilized a route which took approximately five hours to complete. The blades and smaller sections utilized a route which took approximately one and one-half hours.