

# TROOP F

## Troop F - Commanding Officers

Commanding Officer	Term
Captain L.M. Means	Nov. 24, 1931 to April 30, 1933
Captain L.B. Howard	May 1, 1933 to June 19, 1935
Captain L.E. Eslick	June 20, 1935 to March 24, 1940
Captain J.F. Shaw	March 25, 1940 to March 16, 1942
Captain W.J. Baxter	March 17, 1942 to July 13, 1942
Captain H.A. Hansen	July 13, 1942 to September 21, 1944
* Lieutenant G.W. Pate	October 1, 1944 to April 30, 1945
Captain K.O. Duncan	May 1, 1945 to August 19, 1947
Captain C.E. Potts	August 20, 1947 to February 9, 1953
Captain C.M. Parker	February 10, 1953 to December 31, 1955
Captain P.E. Corl	January 1, 1956 to February 28, 1958
Captain H.A. Wallace	March 1, 1958 to July 15, 1959
* Lieutenant S.S. Smith	July 15, 1959 to July 31, 1959
Captain G.E. Phipps	August 1, 1959 to February 7, 1966
* Lieutenant C.W. Keith	February 7, 1966 to March 1, 1966
Captain D.S. Gehrig	March 1, 1966 to January 31, 1973
Captain F.A. Jones	February 1, 1973 to September 30, 1976
Captain N.E. Tinnin	October 1, 1976 to July 31, 1979
Captain J.L. Englehart	August 1, 1979 to August 31, 1982
Captain B.D. Smith	September 1, 1982 to February 29, 1988
Captain R.R. Bergman	March 1, 1988 to July 31, 1992
Captain G.T. Vaughn	August 1, 1992 to June 30, 1993
Captain D.A. Schmitz	July 1, 1993 to September 30, 1993
Captain C.R. Jackson	October 1, 1993 to January 31, 2000
Captain D.A. Schmidt	February 1, 2000 to Present

\* Acting Commander

## 1930s

Troop F initially formed in 1931, and was located in two small rooms of the Missouri Capitol building in Jefferson City. At this time, it was known as Headquarters Troop. The troop consisted of 11 counties and eight officers. The first commanding officer was Captain Lewis M. Means. Capt. Means served as troop commander from November 24, 1931 through April 30, 1933. Other officers assigned to the troop were Sergeants Lewis Howard and Ben Booth, and

Troopers Harry Hansen, Ray Cushman, Jim McCann, Paul Burge, and Gilbert Fowler.

Trooper Herbert Brigham was appointed to the Patrol on April 4, 1932. He was in a recruit class of ... one. After two weeks of training, he was assigned to Headquarters Troop. "At that time there was no records division, no fingerprint division, and, of course, there were no radios in the cars, so most of our orders came by phone," said retired Lieutenant Herb Brigham in a 1980 interview.

"We had no heaters in our Model A roadster patrol cars, but then, they wouldn't have been of much use, anyway, because we were ordered to patrol with the tops down --- except in inclement weather when we were allowed to use side curtains. I guess you could say that our entire fleet was air-conditioned. You might wonder what we thought about patrolling in open cars. Well, it was for a good cause. We were visible to the public and it wasn't too bad. Speeds were much lower then; 35 mph was the average for patrolling. Our cars had no sirens and no red lights, but we did have a lighted sign on the dash, which spelled out "Patrol" when we wanted to stop somebody. And, we used hand signals.

My area of patrol was down U.S. Highway 54 through the Lake of the Ozarks region, and much of the route was gravel. You can imagine what my uniform looked like at the end of the day. At that time, there were only about 6,000 miles of paved roads in the state."

Sergeant Ben O. Booth, an original member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, was fatally shot on June 14, 1933, at a roadblock in Columbia, Missouri, after having stopped two persons suspected of a Mexico, Missouri, bank robbery. Sergeant Booth was 35 at the time of his death. He was married, and had two small children. Also killed in the incident was Boone County Sheriff Roger Wilson, grandfather of future Missouri Governor Roger Wilson.

The two murderers escaped after killing Sgt. Booth and Sheriff Wilson and a 17-month investigation by law enforcement officials followed. Finally, Francis McNeily, who was a known outlaw, told officers about shooting Sgt. Booth and Sheriff Wilson and implicated George McKeever. McKeever was located in the South Dakota State Penitentiary. McNeily was convicted of killing Sheriff Wilson and received a penitentiary sentence. McKeever was convicted of murdering Sgt. Booth and was hanged in Fulton, Missouri, on December 18, 1936. Neither McNeily nor McKeever was involved in the Mexico bank robbery. Sgt. Ben Booth was the first member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol to be killed in the line of duty. He was survived by his wife, a 7-year-old daughter, and an 8-year-old son.

Captain L.B. Howard became the new troop commander on May 1, 1933. During this time, two radio stations, the state owned WOS (Watch Our State) at Jefferson City and KFRU at Columbia, were used to broadcast messages to road patrolman. Also, that year the state legislature transferred WOS to the Patrol.

Troop F became an official unit designation on February 1, 1935. The troop consisted of eight officers assigned to 15 counties in central Missouri.

Capt. L.E. Eslick, Troop F, became the third commander on June 20, 1935 and served until March 24, 1940. He is credited with the design of the emblem on the shoulder patch and choice of the motto "Service and Protection".

On December 22, 1937, Troop F officers started transmitting from KHPF. The future home of Troop F was one of six identical buildings constructed in 1937. In December 1938, Troop F Headquarters was relocated to McCarty Street in Jefferson City. The new building covered 792 square feet and was the first troop to house the Communications Division. The Communications Division and radio shop were staffed with 14 men.

In 1939, The University of Missouri football detail started in Columbia, Missouri, with 20 officers. Troops A, B, C, and F each sent five officers. In 1970, the detail had grown to a total of 75 men. In 2005, the Patrol used 37 officers on the "outside" detail to direct traffic and an additional 12 officers who assisted with security inside the stadium. This detail, other than the annual Missouri State Fair is one of the largest assignments performed each year.

In October and November 1939, 52 recruits were trained for six weeks at Camp Hawthorne near Kaiser, Missouri. A 4.5 X 7 inch, black leather, loose-leaf notebook containing 48 pages, entitled Rules and Regulations, was issued to each recruit. The men were housed four to a small cabin. It was cold and there was no heat except from a fireplace in the classroom. The only running water was cold and came from a single spigot in the latrine.

### 1940s

On December 22, 1941, a training school started at the Pete James Gymnasium in Jefferson City, Missouri. Most of the 21 recruits who graduated six weeks later replaced troopers who were called into military service for World War II. Also, 12 recruits completed six weeks of training at Jefferson City High School on September 4, 1943.

Robert E. "Nookie" Lee was hired in 1943, as a weight inspector at the scale house in Kingdom City. "Facilities were primitive then in the weigh station, which was a little bitty building. I sat on a milk stool until I scrounged up a barber chair, but they made me take it out. They were afraid I was cutting hair on the side, I guess," said Lee in a 1980 interview. "Later I located some secondhand cane-bottomed chairs and a rocker or two, repaired them at home, and put them in the scale house. We had a radio receiver, but no transmitter, so whenever I had to call Troop F Headquarters in Jefferson City, I used the telephone. Of course filing cabinets were unheard of. What few papers and books were needed, we stored in pasteboard boxes and orange crates. There was no inside plumbing, either."

"When I started, trucks weren't even required to have brake lights and you should have seen the taillights. Big trucks would be going down the road with one little taillight about the size of the clearance lights on the cabs of today's trucks. I encouraged the drivers to install more lights," said Lee.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol often participates in interesting events. One event that became historical occurred on March 5, 1946 when U.S. President Harry S. Truman and England's Prime Minister Winston Churchill were escorted to Fulton from the Jefferson City train depot, then back. Mr. Churchill held up his right hand forming the famous "V" salute and delivered his historic "Iron Curtain" speech at Westminster College. The speech became one of the most famous of the century.

An experimental FM transmitter was installed at Troop F, under authority of the Federal Communication Commission, to determine if higher power was justified for police radio/telephone channels. All patrol cars were equipped with new radios allowing not only car-to-fixed station communication, but car-to-car. This proved to be a worthwhile technological achievement --troopers could now maintain direct contact with each other during manhunts. Also, troopers could now request license checks. The reply to a license check required from 30 minutes to an hour, because records had to be checked manually at the Capitol. The results were reported back by teletype.

Retired weight inspector Robert E. "Nookie" Lee told this story about his experience at the Kingdom City scale house. "One winter night [Sgt.] Pappy Dix and I were sitting in front of the scales when a tractor-trailer pulled onto the scale platform. The rig was covered with ice and snow and his gross weight was about 6,000 pounds too heavy.

"My God, look here, Sarge," I said.

Dix chewed on his pipe a few seconds and studied the scale reading. "Pretty heavy, isn't he?" he drawled.

I told the driver to pull over and come inside. "Fellow, your truck is terribly overweight," I said.

He looked shocked. Then he said, politely, "I can't buy that." He handed me a weight ticket from Alabama where he'd loaded his cargo. The ticket showed his truck weight as considerably less than I had weighed it. In fact, if the figures on the ticket were true, he was legal in Missouri.

"I'm sorry. All I can go by is what I've weighed you at, and you're over by plenty," I said.

"Did you take into consideration the amount of ice that's accumulated on the truck?" he asked.

"There's no way I could do that without knocking it off and reweighing you. But even so, I can't believe you could have that much ice on your truck."

"Would you give me the opportunity to dig the slush off and reweigh?" said the driver.

I turned to Dix. "What do you think, Sarge?" He nodded his OK.

The truck driver walked across the highway to Don Tenney's truck stop, borrowed a sledgehammer and wrecking bar, and went to work banging and prying that ice off the truck. It was encrusted underneath, on top, and on the sides. We sat there in the scale house and chuckled over his efforts, but the pile

of ice grew until the stuff was heaped all around his rig. It looked like somebody had cleaned out a stock rack.

"I'm ready to reweigh now," the driver announced finally.

He pulled onto the platform and Dix and I couldn't believe our eyes. The truck weighed 200 or 300 pounds less than it had in Alabama. The fellow had been hauling about three tons of ice and snow on the outside of his truck!

"Well, Sarge, I've learned something tonight," I told Pappy. From then on, when we had winter storms and the trucks started building up accumulations of ice and slush, I closed the scales."

### 1950s

"One day in the early '50s, Poodle Breid [trooper] and I were sitting in the scale house when a fellow drove up and reported a man lying in a ditch near Richland Creek on Highway 54," said Weight Inspector Herbert Lee in a 1980 interview. "Officers Roy Dix and Slick Slevin went down there and found it was only a dummy dressed up in a Missouri University sweatshirt, trousers, shoes, and a hat. They brought him to the scale house, where we sat him on a little cabinet in the corner under the switchbox as a conversation piece. I'd be working nights and, every once in a while, I'd catch that booger in the corner of my eye and it would scare me, even though I knew he was just a dummy. He was that lifelike.

One evening, a few weeks after that, Poodle Breid stopped a truck driver in front of the scale house for a minor traffic violation and brought him inside to write a warning ticket. The scale house had two rooms and we noticed the fellow staring through the doorway at the dummy while Poodle talked to him. The lights were out in the other room though, so he couldn't see the dummy distinctly.

"Poodle," I said, "I'm ready for coffee when you get through here."

"Me, too," said Poodle, "but that sonofabuck in the other room might get up and leave while we're gone."

"I'll take care of that," I said. I walked into the other room, pulled my billy club from under the counter, and whopped the dummy right on the head. He slumped down like he was unconscious. I put away the club and rejoined Breid and the driver. "Poodle," I said, "you won't have to worry about that fellow. He'll be here when we get back." The truck driver didn't say anything. He just walked to his truck, looking back every few steps.

The next day Captain Potts paid us a visit. "You get that dummy out of here!" he ordered. "A guy called the office this morning and said you beat some poor fellow half to death last night!"

"We had a lot of funny things happen around the scale house," said Lee.

On September 22, 1954, for the first and thus far last time, all available patrolmen in the state were directed to report to the penitentiary in Jefferson City as quickly as possible. A full-scale riot had started in which approximately 500 inmates were running loose and several buildings and vehicles were on fire. By 11:30 p.m., 265 patrolmen in 202 cars had arrived at the penitentiary without

casualty, except for a few damaged car engines. By mid-morning the next day, there were approximately 2,000 peace officers and National Guardsman on duty at the prison. During the riot five buildings were completely destroyed and two others partially destroyed. Three inmates were killed and 21 wounded by gunfire. In addition, another was stabbed and eight more were injured while fighting each other.

On October 23, 1954, a second riot at the penitentiary in Jefferson City occurred. The second riot was less severe. One inmate was killed by gunfire and seven injured by authorities. Twenty-two individuals were injured by fighting with fellow inmates.

In 1955 several additions occurred to Troop F. A garage for the installation of special car equipment and minor car maintenance was opened. On July 1, 1955, Camden County was transferred from Troop I to Troop F.

The 25th anniversary of the Patrol saw eight recruits complete their training at Troop F on October 21, 1956. The Patrol had grown in manpower from 55 officers in 1931 to 355 officers and 233 civilian employees in 1956.

On April 25, 1957, four officers were using the Patrol's first radar unit to check buses and trucks on Highway 40, three miles west of Columbia when they observed an eastbound, Cadillac without lights, bearing Colorado plates, following another car very closely. Trooper George Grazier pursued the car and signaled the driver to stop in Columbia. While Tpr. Grazier was questioning the violator regarding car ownership and looking at the motor number on the left doorpost, the man reached under the driver's seat and brought out a .22-caliber automatic pistol. He commanded Tpr. Grazier to get into the driver's seat, and then placed himself in the right rear seat. Directing Tpr. Grazier to drive several blocks, he informed the trooper he was not going to kill him, but instead was going to kill himself. Tpr. Grazier heard a shot and found that the subject had shot himself. He died in a hospital a short time later. He was wanted for a jailbreak in Nebraska.

Trooper Ralph Rider transferred to Troop F, Jefferson City in 1956. He had this to say during a 2005 interview, "When I arrived in Camden County there were five badges in the county—the sheriff, one deputy, Camdenton city marshal, state conservation agent, and me. I worked night and day.

At this time, in communities like this, there were not many opportunities to work together. Either you did it or it didn't get done. That's about the size of it. The sheriff's office was very sparsely staffed and only during the daytime; city police officers were very few, also. So, you just had to do it. My phone number has always been in the public book. People called me at home a lot. I always have felt strongly about taking part in the community and making it better."

## 1960s

In February 1960, two commercial vehicle inspectors were moved to Jefferson City and assigned statewide duties with portable scales.

"In 1964, the papers said I was kidnapped, but it was only for about 10 minutes," said Retired Sergeant Ralph Rider during an interview in 2005. "Some people were shooting in this little one horse resort—it had two cabins. The sheriff didn't have anyone to send, so they called the Highway Patrol. When I got there, I found three men. They had a stack of jeans about three feet high that they'd obviously stolen, and they had lots of change. While I was digging through the stack of jeans, and I came upon a .38-caliber revolver. I said, "We better go into the sheriff's office and check on this. We can't check on this on the radio here." Radio service has improved a lot since.

I wanted to get them out of there. So, we started. At that time, once we were in our car, we had to take our revolver out of our holster and put it under our right leg. That way, it didn't show, and we were closer to it than the person we were taking in. The fella right behind me got his arm around my neck and lifted me up. Being an obedient trooper, I had my lap belt on. He got me stretched as far as he could. He yelled to one of the other guys, "Get his gun!" The man reached for my holster and said, "He doesn't have one!" But, the first guy had me stretched and they found the gun. The second guy handed the gun to the fella behind. I waited wondering, *"What's going to happen now?!"*

Instead of a loud explosion, there was a hard knock on my forehead, which left a gash requiring 22 stitches to close. Being about half bright, and the spirit of survival being very strong, I slumped down and played 'possum. We'd just started to leave, and when he lifted me up, my foot came off the gas and the car stopped. They dragged me out and wrapped me in a fishing seine on the ground. Then, they went back to their cabin and loaded their car. One of them came back to check on me. One asked, "Is he still breathing?" I was thinking I wanted to live through this, too.

They took my car and drove up a side road a little ways and parked it. They took the ignition wire (from the distributor to the coil). Key or no key, you couldn't get it started. They left. Since they'd come back and checked on me a time or two, I decided I wasn't going to blow this now. I waited until I heard the squirrels. They'd checked on me enough times I was still apprehensive. Finally, I heard a squirrel chattering away. I figured that was a good sign. He wouldn't be out there if they were still around. (As an aside, I haven't shot a squirrel since then.)

I always had a clothes hanger with me. I just stuck it between the coil and the distributor cap and started the car," said retired Sgt. Rider.

Troop F began assigning two officers to security detail at the Governor's Mansion in 1966. The two officers were changed every three months. This practice continued until the permanent formation of the Governor's Security Division.

A task force of over 20 troopers was called to the Lincoln University campus in Jefferson City twice in May 1969. The first disturbance involved the occupation of the Student Union by 200 students, who refused to leave until a list of 35 demands were met by the administration. However, the demonstrators

left voluntarily when helmeted officers appeared and an injunction was read ordering them to vacate the premises.

During the latter part May 1969, violence erupted once more when arson, sniper fire, and vandalism occurred on the campus. The Student Union was partially burned and windows were smashed. Troopers patrolled the campus around the clock for several days until the school term ended.

Trooper Jesse R. Jenkins, 29, was killed in the line of duty on October 14, 1969, by Robert M. Thomas. Tpr. Jenkins and Montgomery County Sheriff Clarence Landrum had apprehended Thomas and another subject as they attempted to burglarize a radio and television shop in Montgomery City, Missouri, on the night of October 13. Following a preliminary hearing in magistrate court, Thomas and his accomplice were returned to the sheriff's office. While Sheriff Landrum was answering a telephone call, Thomas pulled the sheriff's .38-caliber pistol from its holster. As Thomas began backing from the room, Tpr. Jenkins drew his service revolver and the two men exchanged shots, inflicting fatal chest wounds to each other. A total of 11 shots were fired, five by Thomas and six by Tpr. Jenkins. No one else in the room at the time was injured.

Tpr. Jesse Jenkins was a native of Belgrade, Missouri, and had been a member of the Highway Patrol for two years. His death brought the number of officers killed in the line of duty to eight. Tpr. Jenkins was survived by his wife and two sons.

### **1970s**

In the 1970s, Troop F was comprised of 13 counties and seven zones. These zones were watched over by 75 men, eight driver examiners, and six weight inspectors, who are assisted by 12 civilians.

Troop F officers provided escort for the Apollo 11 Command Module and Lunar Rock Sample exhibit trailer as it traveled to Jefferson City. The exhibit was on display from July 17-20, 1971, at the Capitol Building. The exhibit included the Command Module, which was operated by Michael Collins while Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin descended for man's first walk on the Moon's surface. The space suits worn by the astronauts, rock samples gathered by the space men, and photo murals of the Moon's surface were also on display. Astronauts Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins visited the Capital City just one year to the day that man first set foot on the moon.

### **1980s**

Troop F Headquarters was moved to its present site two miles east of Jefferson City near the intersection of Shamrock Road and U.S. Highway 50 in August 1980. The old facility was located on McCarty Street in Jefferson City. In March, the garage and radio shop were completed behind Troop F Headquarters in Jefferson City.

Trooper Dennis H. Marriott, 36, died June 13, 1981, from injuries suffered on June 1 when he was struck by a vehicle after exiting from his patrol car for a

traffic stop. The accident occurred on U.S. Highway 54 south in Jefferson City, Missouri, in Cole County.

The vehicle that hit Tpr. Marriott stopped momentarily after the incident and then left the scene. The vehicle was stopped a few minutes later by the Jefferson City Police Department, and the female driver was found to be intoxicated and was arrested. The driver was later tried and sentenced to 10 years in prison on a charge of manslaughter.

A native of Columbia, Missouri, Tpr. Marriott died of his injuries almost two weeks later at the University Medical Center. He was the 11th uniformed member of this agency to lose his life in the line of duty. Tpr. Marriott was survived by his wife and four children.

Open houses were held in 1981 at troop headquarters buildings around the state in observance of the Missouri State Highway Patrol's 50th anniversary.

Troop F officers were kept busy with a variety of special security details:

- Nearly 50 members of the Patrol were assigned to the Governor's Cup Hydroplane Boat Race detail at the Lake of the Ozarks.
- The Olympic Torch traveled through Troop F in June on its way to the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California. Security for the runners was provided throughout Missouri during their travels.
- In June, approximately 200 members of the Hells Angels met at the Lake of the Ozarks. Members of Troop F provided security to assist the local police and to ensure the safety of the public.
- Over 100 members of the Patrol assisted the United States Secret Service in providing security for President Ronald Reagan during his visit to Columbia, Missouri, on March 26, 1987. The Patrol was responsible for route security and traffic control, manning the motorcade lead and tail cars, providing helicopter support, and providing a special response team.

Traffic stops for Troop F officers proved to be much more than "routine" during 1987:

Trooper T.R. Selvey, Troop F, was forced to shoot and kill Steven Edward Staub on April 19, following a car and foot chase in Boonville, Missouri. Trooper M.E. Chitwood and Trooper D.A. Brooks were also closely involved in the pursuit of the subject. Staub was wanted by authorities in Florida.

Sergeant Larry Varner, Troop F, was disarmed on September 19, by Edward A. Bodeau during a traffic stop. Sgt. Varner was not hurt and Bodeau was captured in less than 24 hours in the Blackwater area near Boonville, Missouri.

## 1990s

Nineteen officers were assigned to the detail when former President Ronald Reagan came to Fulton, Missouri, on November 9, 1990, for a dedication from the Berlin Wall. Four officers were assigned to the opening of the Katy Trail at Rocheport in the spring 1990, and three officers were assigned to assist with traffic on Interstate 70 during the filming of a Stephen King movie in December 1990.

Troop F formed its first K-9 team when "Argo" was assigned to Trooper David H. Mease. This brought the number of dogs in the Highway Patrol's K-9 Unit to six. "Argo" would become a valuable asset in the task of removing dangerous drugs from our highways.

Trooper Larry Dudgeon, Troop F, saved the lives of two disabled persons from their burning van on May 24, 1991. The incident occurred in Montgomery County when Dudgeon noticed smoke coming from their van. He pulled the trapped passenger, her dog, and her wheelchair from the smoke-filled van. Then Dudgeon returned to the burning van and, with the assistance of an off-duty fireman, removed the driver from the van. The fire was apparently caused by a faulty electrical system.

Troop F officers and troopers from around the state participated in a manhunt in the California, Missouri, area December 9-10, 1991. Four persons, including three county law enforcement officers, were shot and killed and another officer wounded. James R. Johnson, the subject of the manhunt, was taken into custody without incident. Mr. Johnson was later convicted of murder and sentenced to death. He was put to death in 2004.

Troop F officers provided security for President George Bush in Columbia, Missouri, on July 24, 1992, as he officially opened the Show-Me State Games.

Motor Vehicle Inspection Supervisor Henry "Hank" Maness, Troop F, was selected Missouri State Employee of the Month for April after submitting a school bus inspection plan that saved the Patrol and 11 area school districts money, expedited the inspection of buses, and increased passage rates.

The Great Flood of '93 paralyzed most of the Midwest as well as mid-Missouri, flooding farmland, destroying highways and bridges, and bringing most travel to a standstill. The flooding Missouri River swept across the Jefferson City Memorial Airport destroying the Patrol's hangar, along with many other nearby buildings.

Captain Charles R. Jackson became the first African-American officer to become a troop commander for the Missouri State Highway Patrol when he took charge of Troop F Headquarters in Jefferson City on October 1, 1993. In 2001, Governor Bob Holden appointed Captain Jackson director of the Department of Public Safety. Capt. Jackson served throughout Gov. Holden's term in office.

On May 19, 1994, Troop F officers were involved in the pursuit of suspected bank robbers. The pair robbed the South County Bank in Ashland, Missouri, and fatally shot the vice president of the bank. During the pursuit, the passenger in the vehicle repeatedly fired at law enforcement officers. After losing

control of their vehicle, the driver fell out of his vehicle laying near the rear wheel. The passenger exited the car and began firing at the Patrol helicopter that was flying above the suspect vehicle. The helicopter was struck by 12 pellets of 00 buckshot, which injured Sergeants Gregory L. Word and A.J. Stricker, Q-AD, and Cpl. David H. Mease, Troop F. Both robbery suspects died of self-inflicted gun shot wounds.

On June 29, 1994, Cpl. Robert W. Hayes, Troop F was shot after he stopped a vehicle for expired plates on Interstate 70 in Cooper County. After spotting a pistol protruding from beneath the passenger's seat, Hayes had the front seat passenger get out of the vehicle and placed handcuffs on the man. As one of the passengers from the rear seat exited the vehicle, the other rear seat passenger leaned forward and fired a single gunshot at Hayes' chest. His bulletproof vest stopped the bullet and saved his life. Area law enforcement officers captured all four suspects after a three-hour manhunt in the Boonville area.

The Rocheport Bridge renovation project was a major undertaking for Troop F officers. Through energetic efforts of Patrol personnel, only one fatality occurred during the seven-month project. The Missouri Highway and Transportation Department had projected as many as 13 fatalities might occur. Officers participated in 837 hours of extra work, and issued 536 tickets and 639 warnings. Only 15 traffic crashes occurred during the duration of the project.

Operation "Wolf Pack" was initiated for the first time at the Lake of the Ozarks. Officers from several troops combined their efforts to locate and arrest impaired drivers. Operation "Wolf Pack" was conducted during the months of July, August, and September.

The National Championship Balloon Races were held in Columbia from August 18-27, 1995. Twelve officers were assigned to the event full-time with other officers assisting as needed. Approximately 150,000 people attended the 10-day event.

Corporal Christopher J. Harris and Trooper Gary E. Gundy were in pursuit of a kidnapper who had taken his girlfriend hostage after a domestic dispute. During the pursuit, the suspect fired several shots at citizens along the highway. After the suspect's vehicle was disabled by a tire deflator, the suspect left his vehicle and ran across the interstate toward another vehicle that had pulled to the side of the road upon seeing emergency lights. The suspect was ordered to stop. He then turned and fired at the officers, who, fearing for the lives of citizens in the area, opened fire killing the suspect.

A COPS' grant allowed for the assignment of two officers for the first time to cities of Laurie and Sunrise Beach. The program also allowed for the creation of Zone 12, Osage and Gasconade counties and for the first time an officer was assigned to the city of Linn.

Troop F K-9 Argo retired in September 1997, after more than six and one-half years of service. During his career, he located over \$14 million in drugs.

In February 1997, Troop F officers were involved in the Alis Ben Johns' manhunt. Johns had murdered Camden County resident Leonard Voyles. He eluded capture in Camden, Miller, and Pulaski counties before being captured near Warsaw on April 7, 1997. This proved to be the largest manhunt in which the Patrol has been involved.

August saw the U.S. Hot Air Balloon Nationals take to the skies of Boone County. These hot air balloon races drew large crowds of spectators, which required traffic control in the early mornings and late evenings. This was the completion of the three years the races were to be held in Boone County. The organizers complimented the Patrol for being well organized, and the expedient manner in which the estimated 250,000 visitors were moved in and out of the fairgrounds.

In August, Sergeant Christopher J. Harris assisted a Cooper County deputy sheriff on a traffic stop. During the interview of the subject, Sgt. Harris noticed the subject attempted to open a fanny pack. Sgt. Harris checked the fanny pack to find a handgun concealed inside. A check of the subject's vehicle revealed several pipe bombs and another handgun in the trunk. The residence of the subject, a South American who resided south of St. Louis, was checked and additional materials commonly used in the construction of explosive devices were located. The subject would not divulge what he intended to use the pipe bombs for, only that he was going to make arrangements for his cremation in Kansas City.

On August 1, 1998, the Columbia Driver Examination Station moved to a new home in a state-owned building. It had been a tenant at the local National Guard Armory during the 1970s and early 1980s, then was moved to a local church during the rest of the '80s.

CVO Scott Suling, Troop F, was named DPS Employee of the Month for May 1998. He was named State Employee of the Month for July 1998 by Gov. Mel Carnahan. CVO Suling was working the portable scale unit 1511 on the eastbound lane of U.S. Highway 54 south of Jefferson City when he stopped an eastbound tractor-trailer unit for tinted windows. While questioning the driver and co-driver, CVO Suling became suspicious and asked for assistance from a trooper. After the trooper obtained consent to search, 556 pounds of processed marijuana was located.

There were two additions to the facilities within Troop F during 1998. The first was the completion of wheelchair ramps to bring the headquarters into compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Also, concrete was poured for the new CDL "Supersite" located at U.S. Highway 50 and Big Horn Drive on the west side of Jefferson City.

On April 3, 1999, Troop F's Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) was called to assist the Cole County Sheriff's Department with a barricaded suspect in a mobile home near Brazito, Missouri. The suspect, Raymond L. Walls, had been involved in a domestic dispute. The team began negotiations upon arrival. After several hours, the subject indicated he would surrender to Cole

County Sheriff John Hemeyer. The subject came out of the mobile home with a small handgun and pointed it at Sergeant Jerry C. West and Sergeant Vince S. Rice. Both sergeants fired their weapons, and the subject was struck by two bullets. He was pronounced dead at St. Mary's Health Center in Jefferson City, Missouri.

In August 1999, 300 Hell's Angels motorcycle "club" members descended on Lake Ozark, Missouri, for their annual meeting. A cooperative effort between the Patrol and the local law enforcement agencies resulted in the visit being uneventful.

The Troop F interdiction team made over 170 arrests in 1999, including the recovery of five stolen vehicles and the seizure of sizeable quantities of illegal drugs. One stop resulted in the discovery of over \$122,000 in counterfeit checks and the termination of a statewide check fraud scheme.

### 2000s

On October 16, 2000, a plane crash took the life of Governor Mel Carnahan, former Chief of Staff Chris Sifford, and Gov. Carnahan's son, Randy. Dignitaries from across the nation attended the funeral. There were 264 uniformed officers, 10 radio operators, and three civilians assigned to Gov. Carnahan's funeral.

Troop F unveiled its new CDL site located just off U.S. Highway 50 west of Jefferson City. This building houses the supervisory offices of the commercial driver's license and motor vehicle inspection sections. Also, the new building is the home of all commercial driver's license testing and salvage title inspections. The site is used not only by divisions within the Patrol, but will be utilized by other state agencies as a training complex.

Troop F officers received several awards related to outstanding roadwork. Sergeant Tim R. Tinnin received an award for leading all sergeants in the state in driving while intoxicated arrests. Corporal Paul Kerperin picked up the same award for leading all Troop F officers in driving while intoxicated arrests. The Jefferson City Optimist Club named Trooper Kirk A. Davis the Cole County Officer of the Year.

In October, a male subject walked into the front lobby of Troop F and wanted to confess to killing his wife on a river access road located in front of Troop F Headquarters. Troop F officers were directed to the area and located the victim's body. The suspect later pled guilty and was sentenced to prison.

Troop F Division of Drug and Crime Control officers were instrumental in solving a murder case by use of a facial reconstruction. The victim had been missing from Kansas City since 1999.

The Jefferson City Driver Examination Station was selected to participate in a pilot program to administer written tests in English and Spanish by computer. This proved to be a very popular program with testing applicants.

After the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, Troopers Glen D. Ward and David S. Franklin were called to active duty with their military reserve units. Troop F officers assisted in providing

security details for the Ike Skelton National Guard Headquarters, the Harry S. Truman Building, the Secretary of State Building, and for the Callaway Nuclear Plant.

Troop F presented its first Community Alliance Program. This program, modeled after a police citizens' academy, was intended to familiarize community participants with the functions of the Patrol. After completion of the six-week program, the graduates were presented with a class photograph, framed plaque and certificate. As an additional benefit, the Patrol hoped the Community Alliance Program would be used as a recruiting tool.

Former Troop F Commander, Charles R. Jackson, a 26-year veteran of the Patrol, was appointed director of the Department of Public Safety. He was sworn in on May 30, 2001.

The Isle of Capri Casino opened in Boonville, Missouri, on December 6, 2001. This brought to 11 the number of casinos in the state.

Trooper Donald L. Doza, was honored following his actions during a traffic stop. He responded to a call for assistance from Captain Wolfe of the Cooper County Sheriff's Department. When he arrived, he observed the subject retrieve a 9mm handgun from under his seat and point it toward the window, where Captain Wolfe would be standing. Tpr. Doza tapped on the passenger side of the vehicle and ordered the subject to drop the weapon. Captain Wolfe returned to the vehicle and the officers subdued the subject after a struggle. Tpr. Doza's actions saved the Captain Wolfe's life that day. Tpr. Doza was named DPS Employee of the Month for July 2002, due to his actions during this incident.

Troop F was able to provide community leaders a chance to familiarize themselves with the Patrol by hosting its second Community Alliance Program. During February and March, 20 individuals successfully completed the program. This program has proven to be highly successful and well received by the participants.

Troop F assisted in numerous security details supporting the Department of Homeland Security. Details at the Missouri State Capitol, Bagnell Dam, and the Callaway Nuclear Plant were conducted to deter foreign and domestic terrorism.

In May 2003, several security details were entrusted to Troop F. Security was provided for Vice President Cheney while he spoke at the University of Missouri School of Agriculture graduation ceremonies. Security was handled at the Ultramax Triathlon at the Lake of the Ozarks and the Special Olympics Torch Run.

Troop F's SERT was reactivated in mid-May 2003. The team, for the first time, began utilizing a regional concept by including officers from Troop's F, B, and I.

Several employees participated in Troop F's first "Fighting Machine" Pull for Special Olympics. Participants helped raise several hundred dollars while battling the rain and other law enforcement teams in friendly competition.

In September 2003, Troop F officers were called to assist the Missouri Department of Corrections after two prison inmates allegedly committed murder

and escaped the Jefferson City Correctional Center. Several possible sightings outside the prison were investigated before the inmates were located behind a false wall inside the prison.

During 2003, Troop F Communications became the central point for the newly created "Amber Alert" system. The program was developed to inform the media and public of abductions in a timely manner. The system is a partnership between Missouri government agencies, media outlets, and a few corporations. This system was activated in November after a child was reported abducted in Lafayette County. Trooper R. Rick Ryerson and Sergeant Rick L. Johnson assisted the Moniteau County Sheriff's Office in locating the child in California, Missouri. The child was safely returned to her father. In 2003, eleven children were listed as missing in the system. All 11 children were recovered.

Several Troop F officers were honored throughout the year. Trooper Mark W. Hicks was honored with a special Missouri State Senate resolution for the compassion he displayed in comforting a seven-year-old after the boy's father was killed in a motor vehicle crash in Audrain County. Tpr. Hicks spent six hours with the boy until family members could arrive. The resolution was presented by Senator John Cauthorn (R-Mexico).

Troopers C. Joey Day and Brandon M. White received Lifesaving Awards at the Patrol's annual awards ceremony.

Corporal Mike A. Turner received the G.W. Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award given by the South Callaway and Fulton Rotary Clubs. Cpl. Turner was honored also with a resolution presented by Representative Danie Moore (R-Fulton).

Troop F driver examiners were the first to receive computers to conduct testing in the Jefferson City and Columbia offices. The touch screen test is user friendly and available for any class license and school bus permit. The computer allows tests to be conducted orally, and administers tests in seven foreign languages.

Troop F hosted its third Community Alliance Program during March and April. The program was offered to high school counselors for the first time. The first Educator's Alliance Program was intended to introduce counselors to the Patrol and help them answer questions they may receive from students who have an interest in law enforcement. This program is an effective tool in recruiting young individuals to consider the Missouri State Highway Patrol when searching for a career choice.

In June, Trooper Jeff L. White, was involved in a shooting incident on Interstate 70 in Callaway County after a traffic stop. Trooper White stopped the vehicle after being notified by Troop F Communications the driver was brandishing a weapon at other motorists on the highway. The driver exited his vehicle and aimed a handgun at Tpr. White. Tpr. White fired at the subject and fatally wounded him. The subject was wanted by Tampa, Florida, law enforcement authorities for a double homicide that had occurred several days

earlier. Tpr. White was presented the G.W. Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by the South Callaway and Fulton Rotary Club for his actions.

On May 8, 2004, the Patrol honored Troop F Corporal Michael A. Turner at its annual awards ceremony and The MASTERS banquet. Cpl. Turner was recognized for handling a threatening situation involving a suicidal man. Officers were sent to a rural area in Callaway County where an armed man challenged officers to shoot him. While deputies talked to the man, Cpl. Turner moved into a concealed position. When an opportune moment presented itself, Cpl. Turner rushed the subject and secured him in handcuffs after a brief struggle.

On September 10, 2004, a portion of U.S. Highway 54 in Cole County became the Trooper Dennis H. Marriott Memorial Highway. Tpr. Marriott was killed in the line of duty on June 13, 1981, after he was struck by an intoxicated driver's vehicle.

Troop F celebrated its 25th anniversary at its present location in 2005. Troop F is divided into 12 zones within the 13 central Missouri counties that comprise the troop.

Several officers received special recognition from MADD for their efforts in removing impaired drivers from Missouri's roadways. Corporal Paul D. Kerperin, Trooper Brent J. Drummond, and Trooper Joseph L. Armistead were responsible for the arrest of over 150 intoxicated individuals.

The Troop F marijuana eradication team completed a successful year by making 26 felony arrests as the result of locating four indoor and six outdoor growing operations. In August the team conducted a Special Enforcement Eradication Project in conjunction with area law enforcement agencies. During the operation a total of 54 cultivated plants were located.

Troop F hosted its fourth annual Community Alliance Program during March and April 2005. The 21 individuals who completed the program were presented with a class photograph, framed award, and certificate.

Troop F personnel assisted the Make-A-Wish Foundation by raising over \$500. The effort was led by Jill Speckhals and helped two children live their dream of going to Disney World in Florida. In addition, Troop F employees helped raise nearly \$2,200 to benefit the Special Olympics of Missouri.

The Division of Drug and Crime Control in Troop F received a boost when Sergeant Rick D. Herndon transferred into the unit from Troop B in March. The Troop F DDCC officers investigated many crimes and assisted other law enforcement agencies with investigations. In May, the DDCC unit assisted Gasconade County authorities with a robbery investigation in Mt. Sterling, Missouri. The robbery and subsequent shootout with Gasconade County Sheriff's Deputies resulted in a car chase and manhunt for the suspect. Trooper Ralph C. Tatoian was fatally injured in a car crash while responding to the manhunt. The suspect was captured and later charged in the death of Tpr. Tatoian.

Troop F officers assisted in numerous special assignments throughout 2005. Most notable was the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in Mississippi. In September, Captain Dale A. Schmidt led a group of troopers to Biloxi, Mississippi,

for a period of nine days. Troopers assisted with security details in areas of severe devastation. Other Troop F officers assigned to the detail included, Sergeant David E. Earney, Corporal Corey J. Schoenberg, Trooper Demond Tauber, and Trooper Wallace V. Ahrens. In December 2005, Trooper Dan A. Bickel took part in a similar relief effort in Mississippi.

In 2005 the Troop F Full-Time Recruiter, Tpr. Bruce McLaughlin translated and recorded Spanish Public Service Announcements on 24 radio stations.

In January 2006, Trooper Christopher Harper traveled to Louisiana to assist with Hurricane "Rita" relief efforts at the request of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. Six members were assigned to the detail, which lasted from January 6 to January 23, 2006. "We stayed in tents on the old fairgrounds in Cameron, LA," recalled Tpr. Harper. "The area was known as Tent City. We mostly patrolled the roads of Cameron Parish. We dealt with some looters inside the city limits of Cameron."

Throughout the seventy-five year history of Troop F, the Missouri State Highway Patrol employees have served the citizens of Missouri faithfully. They look forward to continuing to serve our state and meeting the challenges of the future.

On January 8, 2006, Troop F welcomed Lieutenant Larry W. Plunkett as a member of the administrative staff. Lt. Plunkett transferred to Troop F after serving as the Troop E public information and education officer.

President George W. Bush arrived at the Columbia Regional Airport on April 11, 2006. President Bush traveled to Jefferson City for speaking appearances at Heisinger Bluffs Retirement Center and the Etta and Joseph Miller Performing Arts Center. Troop F officers provided security for the primary route of the motorcade.

On July 25, 2006, Corporal S. Dave Rudloff, Troop F, noticed a stalled commercial vehicle on Route B in Cole County. As Cpl. Rudloff was speaking with the driver and obtaining information, the driver began acting suspicious and eventually fled on foot. After a short foot pursuit, the driver was taken into custody. Cpl. Rudloff's investigation revealed the vehicle had been stolen only minutes before. After a search warrant was obtained for the suspect's residence, over \$110,000 in stolen vehicles, motorcycles, and trailers were discovered. Cpl. Rudloff was named the Department of Public Safety Employee of the Month for December 2006.

Troop F officers were honored to participate in funeral escorts of military personnel who gave their lives while serving our country in Iraq. On April 23, 2006, the body of Lance Corporal Darin Settle was escorted to Henley, MO. The body of Lance Corporal Leon Dereps was escorted to Jamestown, MO, on May 6, 2006. On October 20, 2006, the body of Staff Sergeant Lawrence Parrish was escorted to Versailles, MO.

On September 8, 2006, while conducting Troop F eradication exercises in Gasconade County, an individual shot an arrow from a compound bow at the Missouri State Highway Patrol helicopter flying overhead. The occupants in the

helicopter, Sergeant David K. Striegel and Corporal Paul D. Kerperin, were not injured. The suspect was later arrested for his actions.

Troop F hosted an open house on September 17, 2006, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Despite the rainy conditions, nearly 300 people showed up to view displays, patrol vehicles, and demonstrations.

In a ceremony arranged by the Missouri State Troopers Association, a portion of U.S. Highway 54 in Camden County was dedicated as the "Trooper Ross S. Creach Memorial Highway". On September 29, 2006, over 100 family members and friends gathered at First Baptist Church in Macks Creek, MO, to honor a trooper who was killed 63 years ago. A copy of Senate Bill 667 was presented to his widow, Mrs. Charlotte Creach Bonner. Tpr. Creach died on December 12, 1943, after being struck by a car being driven by a drunk driver.

On December 1, 2006, a major winter storm dumped nearly 16 inches of snow on the central Missouri area. On Interstate 70, over 1,000 vehicles were stranded in the eastbound lanes near the Cooper and Saline county line. In addition, I-70 traffic was restricted on the eastern border of Troop F with traffic backed from Montgomery County into Warren County.

The Troop F SWAT was the recipient of an armored vehicle in 2006. The "Bearcat" will be utilized for officer insertions and rescue during callouts of the team.