

1990-1999

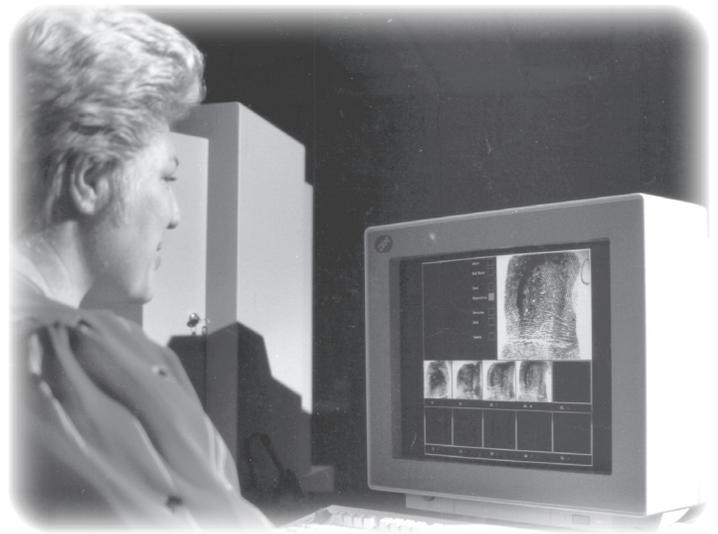
1990

Miss America Debbye Turner visited the Capitol in Jefferson City on January 10. Several troopers served on the security detail. Miss Turner was the first Missouri resident to win the Miss America title.

On March 8, 1990, Governor John Ashcroft officially announced the Patrol's new Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). The new system referred to as PRINTS (Police Rapid Identification Network Terminal System) was located in the Criminal Records Division.

A 1986 Cessna Skylane was purchased with a federal grant through the Division of Highway Safety. The aircraft was assigned to Troop B, Macon.

The Commercial Driver License program was implemented during the year. The program required written and skills tests to be administered to commercial motor vehicle drivers wanting a CDL. The Patrol first administered the written tests in January. The first CDL driving skills test in Missouri was given on July 23 by Driver Examiner Supervisor Robert L. McGraw in St. Louis County. By April 1, 1992, all commercial motor vehicle drivers nationwide were required to have a CDL license to legally operate their vehicles upon the public highways.



A technician operates an AFIS terminal.

Gerry Andres and Sammy Brizendine, of the Motor Equipment Division, built a rollover simulator exhibit. The Patrol's public information and education officers around the state used these exhibits to demonstrate the value of seat belts.

The Patrol began to actively seek accreditation by the Commission for Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies in September.

The Patrol's 62nd Recruit Class graduated June 8. The 46-member class reported for duty on June 25.

The Professional Standards Division was created on June 8. This division was assigned the responsibility of conducting or supervising internal, administrative investigations and for conducting staff inspections in the troops and divisions.

New metal name tags were distributed to uniformed members and uniformed civilians in September and October. They replaced the blue plastic tags worn since 1969.



Pictured is the security for Miss America Debbye Turner at the State Capitol in Jefferson City.

Twenty-eight police officers graduated September 7 from the first Drug Abuse Resistance Education training program taught by members of this agency.

Glock, Inc. of Smyrna, GA, was awarded the contract for new .40-caliber S&W semi-automatic pistols. The weapons, service holsters, and ammunition were distributed to personnel in early 1991.

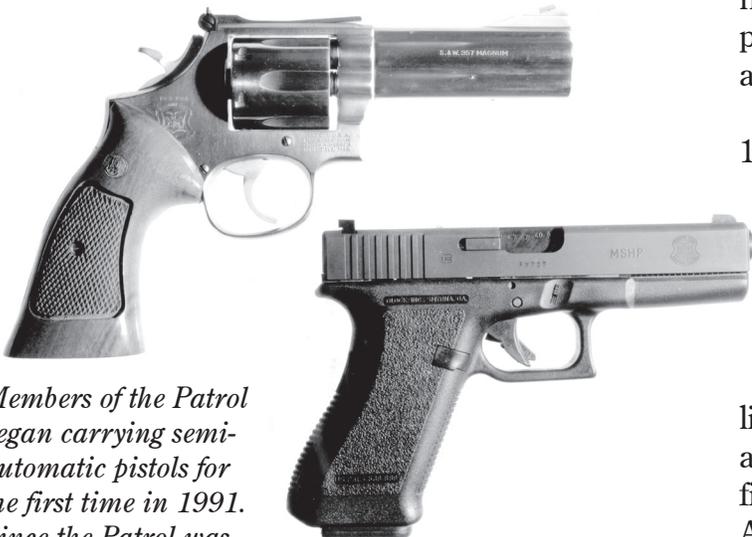
The Patrol's 63rd Recruit Class graduated on December 7. Thirty-six of the 38 members were commissioned that day. Two members of the 63rd Recruit Class, Gregory D. Smith and Ronald V. Meade, were commissioned in 1991, when they returned from active military duty. Trooper Smith was commissioned in May, and Trooper Meade received his commission in July.

Employees of the Patrol belonging to the National Guard or military reserve units were called to active duty beginning in November and December. The Kuwait crisis in the Middle East prompted the activation. It would later be named Operation Desert Storm.

1991

Members of the Patrol began Glock pistol transition training in January. The officers were required to successfully complete the training before being issued the new Glock Model 22 .40-caliber S&W pistol.

Twenty-six employees were activated into military service during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Some were stationed overseas while



Members of the Patrol began carrying semi-automatic pistols for the first time in 1991. Since the Patrol was organized in 1931, members had carried revolvers.



President George H.W. Bush celebrated the Fourth of July in Missouri in 1991.

others served in the states. All returned home safely and to their respective jobs.

Due to a sharp drop in state revenues, there was a significant cutback on Patrol funding. Certain steps were taken by the superintendent to ensure the Patrol had sufficient funds to operate. The steps included a hiring freeze, severely restricted out-of-state travel, and the cancellation of a recruit class that had been scheduled for 1991.

The Patrol received delivery of 90 Chevrolet Caprices in March. These were special police vehicles with heavy duty brakes and suspension. Approximately 200 of these vehicles were in service at the end of the year.

The Patrol acquired two German shepherds in 1991. "Argo" was assigned to Troop F, and "Ben" was assigned to Troop H. There were now six dogs in the Patrol's K-9 Unit.

The Patrol's first awards banquet was held May 18 at the Law Enforcement Academy in Jefferson City. Sergeant Larry Williams was the first recipient of the Valor Award. Sgt. Williams heroically rescued numerous residents of an apartment complex when the building caught fire in 1990. Lifesaving Awards, Certificates of Achievement, and Work Recognition Awards were also presented. This recognition program was initiated in 1990. (An awards committee reviewed the



This is an aerial view of the Missouri State Highway Patrol Defensive Driving Track in Jefferson City.

members, recruits, and in-service personnel as well as for officers from other departments. Informally, the track was known as the EVOC track, named after the Emergency Vehicle Operations Course taught there.

Members of the Patrol participated in a manhunt in the California, MO, area December 9 and 10. Four persons, including three county law enforcement officers, were shot and killed and another officer wounded. The subject of the manhunt, James R. Johnson, surrendered without incident.

1992

The Patrol officially assumed responsibility for the Jefferson County Crime Laboratory in Hillsboro, MO, on January 15. The laboratory was located at Jefferson County Community College and operated as the Troop C Satellite Laboratory.

Former Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev delivered a speech on the Westminster College campus in Fulton, MO, May 6, before a crowd of nearly 20,000 people. Approximately 50 members of the Patrol assisted in security during his visit.

The 64th Recruit Class graduated 35 new members June 12.

Governor John Ashcroft signed House Bill 852 into law July 8. The new law gives the Patrol authority to apply for and serve search warrants without going through local law enforcement agencies. Troopers were still required to notify the local sheriff and be accompanied by a representative of the local sheriff's department when serving a warrant.

Sergeant Thomas E. Pfaff was honored with the 1991 Valor Award at the Patrol's 2nd Annual Awards Banquet May 16, in Jefferson City. He received the award for protecting the lives of fellow officers by confronting and disarming a man armed with a loaded rifle.

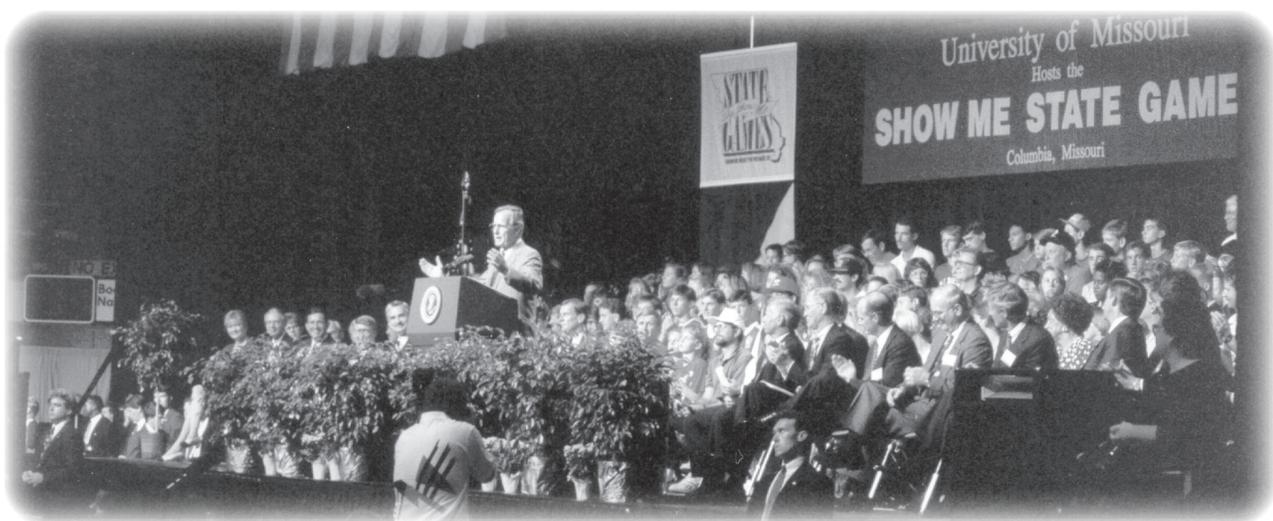
The Patrol provided security for President George H.W. Bush in Columbia, MO, on July 24. Pres. Bush officially opened the Show-Me State Games.

On November 11, the Patrol became the 10th state patrol/state police in the United States to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. The Patrol



Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev waves to the crowd on Westminster College campus (Fulton, MO) in 1992.

President George Bush opens the Show-Me State Games in 1992.



chose to seek accreditation to ensure the agency provides the highest quality of service to the public and that it would continue to do so in the future.



1993

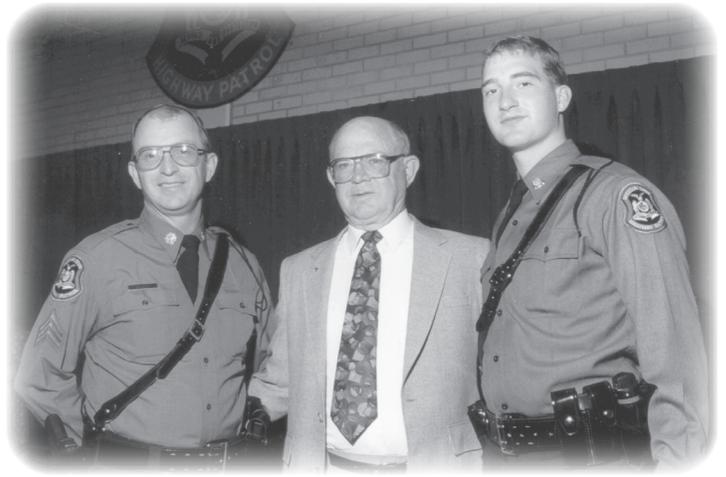
The Missouri State Highway Patrol implemented a Physical Standards Program requiring its officers to meet minimum fitness standards annually. The program consists of push-ups, sit-ups, flexibility, and a one and one-half mile run.

The Patrol took first place in its division — 501-1,000 sworn officers — in the National Chiefs' Challenge Award Program for 1992 sponsored by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The challenge highlighted law enforcement's contribution in promoting the correct use of seat belts, child safety seats, and air bags nationwide.

Corporal William L. Hobbs and Trooper Daniel P. Banasik accepted Valor Awards at the Patrol's 3rd Annual Awards Banquet May 15, in Jefferson



The Patrol implemented the Physical Standards Program in 1993.



For the first time in the Patrol's history, a father, son, and grandson had graduated from the Academy. Pictured are Sgt. Jerry A. James, Troop F; Ret. Lt. Dorwin A. James; and Tpr. Brian T. James, 65th Recruit Class.



Flood waters destroyed roadways across the state in 1993. Pictured is MO Highway 54 in Jefferson City.

City. This year's awards ceremony was held in conjunction with The MASTERS annual banquet for the first time. Cpl. Hobbs was honored for his actions in protecting fellow officers under fire from a suspect shooting an AK-47 automatic rifle. Tpr. Banasik received his award for extricating an unconscious driver from a burning truck.

Motor Vehicle Inspection Supervisor Henry "Hank" Maness submitted a school bus inspection plan that saved the Patrol and 11 area school districts money, expedited the inspection of the buses, and increased passage rates.

Thirty-eight new troopers graduated in the 65th Recruit Class on June 18, 1993. For the first



Colonel Fred M. Mills

time in the Patrol's 62-year history, a father, son, and grandson had graduated from the Patrol Academy—Trooper Brian T. James, Sergeant Jerry A. James, and retired Lieutenant Dorwin A. James.

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. To help field the thousands of calls for road condition reports, the Patrol instituted a toll-free number with an audio-text listing closed roads. In the first six weeks, the toll-free number answered nearly 90,000 calls. During that time, Patrol personnel in all troops and at GHQ spent hours on the phone answering questions about travel conditions from all over the country and state. The flooding Missouri River swept across the Jefferson City Memorial Airport destroying the Patrol's hangar along with many other nearby buildings. The Patrol's aircraft were forced to move to higher ground at Columbia Regional Airport.



Captain Charles R. Jackson



Corporal Michael E. Webster

Cpl. Mark A. Tovar and Sgt. Timothy R. Selvey sustained only minor injuries in this helicopter crash October 6, 1993.



Acting Governor Roger Wilson signed House Bill 220 into law July 8, 1993, authorizing the Patrol to expand its forces from 900-940.

In the fall, the Missouri State Highway Patrol began holding town hall meetings, and would continue them over the next year. Troop A initiated the program with a town hall meeting in each county within the troop over the summer. Officers were present to field questions from the public; explain special equipment or units, such as the canine unit or the SERT teams; and show a slide presentation outlining the Patrol's history, services, and capabilities.

On September 1, Governor Mel Carnahan nominated Major Fred M. Mills to serve as the superintendent of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Colonel Mills was sworn in September 24, 1993.

Captain Charles R. Jackson became the first black officer to command a troop for the Missouri State Highway Patrol when he took charge of Troop F, Jefferson City, on October 1, 1993.

Corporal Michael E. Webster, 33, was killed in the line of duty when he was struck by a drunk driver on October 2, 1993, while conducting a traffic stop in Troop A.

Patrol pilot Corporal Mark A. Tovar and his passenger Sergeant Timothy R. Selvey walked away with only minor injuries from a helicopter crash October 6, 1993, at the Cassville, MO, airport. The Hughes 500 helicopter was being used in a marijuana eradication operation when Cpl. Tovar lost tail rotor control causing the helicopter to crash. It appeared bolts that mount the tail rotor gear box to the bail boom may have failed.

1994

January 1, K-9 Wiko, handled by Corporal David A. Henson became the first Patrol canine to retire from duty. Wiko, who had been with the Patrol since 1988, was retired due to severe arthritis.

The Patrol gained 59 additional troopers upon the graduation of its 66th Recruit Class on February 4, 1994. The class was the second largest to graduate in Patrol history and included the largest group of females—eight—to graduate from the Law Enforcement Academy. This brought the total



Governor Mel Carnahan signed a bill establishing the Patrol position of commercial vehicle officer, 1994.

number of female troopers in the Patrol to 28.

The Law Enforcement Academy achieved national accreditation as a D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) State Training Center.

The Patrol promoted its first female zone commander and appointed its first female assistant division director in 1994. Sergeant Keverne L. McCollum was designated zone commander of Troop H, Zone 9, in Chillicothe, on May 1, 1994. Patricia M. Muessig was named the civilian assistant director of the Human Resources Division on August 1, 1994.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol was tasked with enforcing riverboat gambling laws in Missouri. To accomplish this new role, the Patrol established a Gaming Division within its organizational structure. Formerly a unit within the Patrol's Drug and Crime Control Division (Riverboat Gambling Unit), the new division became a separate entity within the Patrol with all expenses incurred by division members in the performance of their duties paid by the Missouri Gaming Commission. Four riverboats went into operation in 1994.

Sergeant Timothy R. Selvey received the Patrol's 1993 Valor Award for saving the life of Corporal Mark A. Tovar, the pilot, following a helicopter crash Oct. 6, 1993.

On June 14, 1994, Governor Mel Carnahan signed into law legislation creating commercial vehicle officers within the Missouri State Highway



(left) Two suspects in the robbery of the South County Bank in Ashland, MO, lay dead after a gun battle with law enforcement officers in 1994. (above) Sgts. A.J. Stricker and Gregory L. Word and Cpl. David H. Mease were injured during a gun battle with two bank robbery suspects in 1994.

Patrol. Qualified commercial vehicle inspectors, who successfully completed the required training, became commissioned commercial vehicle officers.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol provided security at the Olympic Village on the campus of Washington University during the U.S. Olympic Festival held on July 1-10, in St. Louis, MO. More than 3,000 amateur athletes from around the country competed in the games. The Patrol assigned 35 officers and 13 communications personnel to the Olympic Festival security detail.

Twenty-four Highway Patrol troopers were assigned to a 60-day operation in Kansas City and St. Louis 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. Troopers assigned to the Kansas City/St. Louis details worked with homicide detectives in violent crime units; as a part of Violence Reduction Teams and City Wide Strike Forces, which included patrols and foot beats in high crime areas relating to drugs, assaults, and prostitution-related homicides; and in Community Policing efforts working with kids from violent crime communities. The operation was a success. Both the Kansas City and St. Louis City police



Tpr. Curtis A. Martin was injured and Sheriff Roy Bassett killed in a gun battle following a traffic crash on September 23, 1994.

departments saw a positive impact made on violent crime in their cities. The detail offered many troopers assigned to rural county zones the opportunity to experience law enforcement in an urban environment.

This year proved to be a violent year with six officer-involved shootings. April 17, Corporal Terry M. Wilkinson and Trooper Roger E. Pipkin were involved in a gun battle with three suspects who were believed to be in a stolen vehicle and who had fired on local law enforcement officers. One suspect was fatally shot; the two remaining suspects were captured.

On May 19, officers from nine law enforcement agencies were involved in a car chase and gun bat-



Governor Mel Carnahan (center) presented the August State Employee of the Month plaque to Commercial Vehicle Officer Harry A. Scott and his wife, Sharon, in 1994. (See explanation page 74.)

tle with two suspects believed to have robbed the South County Bank in Ashland, MO, and fatally shot the bank's vice president. At the end of the car chase, one suspect exited his vehicle and shot at the Patrol helicopter in which Sgt. Gregory L. Word was riding, before ground officers could fire upon the suspects. Sergeant Word, Sergeant A.J. Stricker, and Corporal David H. Mease were injured during the shooting. It was later determined that both suspects died of self-inflicted wounds.

July 29, Corporal Robert W. Hayes was shot following a traffic stop for expired plates on Interstate 70. The four suspects were apprehended after a three-hour manhunt.

September 2, following a lengthy car chase, Trooper Perry C. Hazelwood, Troop E, fatally shot a suspect who was brandishing an automatic weapon in a busy intersection near Cape Girardeau. Two other suspects were taken into custody.

September 16, a sniper's bullet struck and nearly killed Corporal Bobbie J. Harper, Troop D, as he stood in his kitchen. The investigation determined the shooting was in retaliation for an earlier arrest by Cpl. Harper. Charges were filed against Timothy Thomas Coombs, who had fled the state. He remains a fugitive.



Cpl. Jerry C. West, Troop F, and Sgt. Kim E. Hull, Troop A, check security passes at the gate into the Olympic Village, 1994.

September 23, Trooper Curtis A. Martin, Troop I, and Maries County Sheriff Roy L. Bassett were involved in a gun battle following a routine noninjury traffic crash on U.S. Highway 63. Tpr. Martin and one suspect were wounded, and Sheriff Bassett and the other suspect were killed.

The 67th Recruit Class graduated 59 new troopers on December 16.

1995

January 1, marked the beginning of a new Sex Offender Registration Program in Missouri coordinated by the Patrol's Criminal Records and Identification Division. The program requires sex offenders to report to the sheriff and chief of police of the jurisdiction in which the sex offender resided. The Patrol would maintain the central registry file for sex offenders, which could be accessed through MULES.

Construction of the new C-4 East and West weigh stations at Foristell, MO, was completed in January. The "superstation" was equipped with the latest technology allowing inspectors to weigh commercial vehicles as they pull off the highway to pre-screen the vehicles for compliance with axle, tandem, gross weights, and more. Those vehicles in which the computers detect problems were driven into the new fully-enclosed inspection building for further investigation.

Beginning April 1, telecommunicators began working the front desks at all Patrol headquarters to assist the public. These 18 uniformed civilians were trained to fill the desk officer positions freeing up additional officers to return to road duty. This process was helped when the Patrol received more than \$500,000 from the federal government's COPS MORE program to aid in putting more officers on the road. This was another step in the Patrol's goal to assign civilians to many of its administrative positions. At the end of the year, 24 telecommunicators worked statewide.

April 3, Governor Mel Carnahan signed House Bill 461, which contained an emergency clause providing members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol "permanent" search and seizure authority.

In 1995, the Patrol began a process of reorganization within its troops to provide better coverage and expand its 24-hour coverage. Prior to the reorganization only nine of Missouri's 114 counties had 24-hour coverage. By the end of 1995, that number had increased to 38.

The 68th Recruit Class graduated 20 new troopers on May 5. Forty-one new troopers were added from the 69th Recruit Class, which graduated June 22. The 70th Recruit Class completed its training on December 15, with 55 new troopers.

Only a month after the dedication of the Patrol's new aircraft hangar at the Jefferson City



The Patrol's new aircraft hangar withstands its first test during a flood in 1995.

Memorial Airport, members of the Aircraft Division found themselves paddling, not flying, to get to their offices. Torrential spring rains in mid-Missouri and states to the west caused the Missouri River to flood ... again. The river eventually crested in Jefferson City at just under 34 feet above flood level, somewhat less than the record level 38.6 feet recorded in 1993. The new design of the hangar resulted in only minor damage during the flood in 1995.

Again in 1995, the Patrol sent officers to assist the Kansas City and St. Louis Metropolitan police



Telecommunicators, such as Troop A's Michele Edson pictured, began working at the front desks in troop headquarters on April 1, 1995.

departments. The special detail, called “Reaching Out to Form a Partnership—The Commitment Continues,” ran from May 22-August 11. Patrol officers worked in the traffic, bicycle, and homicide divisions of the two police departments adding extra manpower and expertise. In Kansas City, Patrol officers trained members of the KCPD in drug interdiction techniques. In St. Louis, Patrol officers learned about investigating gang activity.

In June, the Patrol honored Trooper Curtis A. Martin with its 1994 Valor Award for his involvement in a shooting incident September 23, 1994.

The Patrol introduced a new detail at the Missouri State Fair in 1995 — the Patrol’s bike detail. Ten officers were assigned to the special detail, which used five specially equipped police bicycles to patrol the fairgrounds in Sedalia.

Nineteen commercial vehicle inspectors became the first class of commercial vehicle officers to graduate from the Patrol’s Academy. The CVOs were required to complete a minimum of 240 hours of training under the new program. They were armed and had limited arrest powers involving commercial motor vehicle violations, but were not certified peace officers.

The Patrol introduced its new Violent Crime Support Unit in August. The special unit within the Division of Drug and Crime Control provided assistance to criminal justice agencies throughout the state during the investigations of serious crimes.

The Patrol received two SMART (Speed Monitoring Awareness Radar Trailer) units from the



Cpl. Samuel L. Mudd, Troop G, questions a Kansas City native. Cpl. Mudd was a member of the Kansas City “bike detail” in 1995.



Two Kansas City officers are pictured with five troopers who were part of the first bicycle patrol at the Missouri State Fair in 1995.



Nineteen commercial vehicle inspectors became the first to graduate from the Academy’s commercial vehicle officer school in 1995.



Governor Mel Carnahan announces the formation of the Violent Crime Support Unit in 1995.



The Patrol's Crime Laboratory was recredited for the third time by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Board. Pictured (l to r) are Col. Fred M. Mills; Lt. Terry J. Luikart, director of the Crime Laboratory Division; Maunel Valadez, ASCLD/LAB; and Lt. John H. Ford, Q/CLD.

Missouri Division of Highway Safety in August. The SMART units were portable trailers equipped with a radar and display device. When a motor vehicle approached the trailer, the radar detected how fast the vehicle was traveling and displayed the speed.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Laboratory system underwent and successfully passed the re-accreditation process of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) during 1995.

On October 2, U.S. Highway 40 from Missouri Highway 291 in Independence, MO, to Missouri Route BB in Grain Valley, MO, was dedicated as the "Cpl. M.E. Webster Memorial Parkway." (EOW October 2, 1993. See page 75.)

The Patrol's Troop D Satellite Crime Laboratory moved into a newly renovated building located on the campus of Southwest Missouri State University. This move was completed in December.



Mr. Dan Needham, director of the Division of Highway Safety, presented two SMART units to Col. Fred Mills at a news conference in 1995.



The Patrol placed second in the best dressed police department competition in 1995. Pictured from left to right are Lt. Harold W. Stanfield, Cpl. Alan H. Walton, Cpl. Luke Vislay, Cpl. Kathy A. Frazier, and Tpr. Vince S. Rice.

The Springfield, MO, and St. Louis County and Metropolitan police departments received remote Automated Fingerprint Identification System terminals with the help of the Patrol.

Missouri was awarded \$1.6 million to modernize its criminal history records system through the Department of Justice's National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP). The Criminal Records and Identification Division, the state's central repository for all criminal records, coordinated this automation of criminal history records at all levels of the criminal justice system.

1996

The Patrol retired its last two motorcycles in February 1996. The Kawasaki police motorcycles had been stationed in Troop A. One of the two motorcycles was placed on display in the Patrol's Safety Education Center.

Corporal Rex B. Kaunley and Trooper Darren S. Call, members of the Troop D Special Emergency Response Team, were injured in a gun battle between the Patrol's SERT and a 73-year-old Ozark County resident February 12, 1996. The SERT was activated at the request of the Ozark County Sheriff's Department after one of their deputies was shot and injured by a man who deputies believed had tried to set fire to a neighbor's house. Members of the SERT had established a command post near Theodosia, MO, and were securing the area when they spotted the suspect. After being told to drop his weapon, the man turned and opened fire on the officers, who returned fire,



Patrol retired its last motorcycle to the Safety Education Center, 1996.

killing the suspect. Cpl. Kaunley suffered a wound to his thigh; Tpr. Call sustained a scalp wound. A jury in a coroner's inquest exonerated the officers in the suspect's death.

Sergeant Randy V. Sullivan was killed in a traffic crash February 17, on MO Highway 72 in Madison County, eight miles west of Fredericktown, MO. The crash occurred when Sgt. Sullivan, 40, checked a vehicle's excessive speed with his radar; turned around to overtake the violator; and, as he came over a hill, ran off the roadway and struck several trees. Troopers responding to the scene found Sgt. Sullivan's patrol car engulfed in flames; Sgt. Sullivan's body was located in the car. A Patrol recruit, who was riding with Sullivan, was found outside the vehicle; he sustained moderate injuries. Sgt. Sullivan was survived by his wife and three sons.

The Patrol's Public Information and Education Division developed a public service campaign with the theme "Do you know your limit? We do!" to help educate the public on new speed limits established by House Bill 1047.

Four officers accepted the Patrol's Valor Award for 1995 for their acts of heroism while involved in a vehicular pursuit/hostage situation on Interstate 70 in Saline County. Sergeant Juan O. Villanueva, Corporal Gregory Q. Billings, Corporal Chris 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



Sergeant Randy V. Sullivan



Governor Mel Carnahan announced the new speed limits at a news conference on March 13, 1996.

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 on the officers who, fearing for the lives of citizens in the area, returned fire killing the suspect.

Commercial Vehicle Officer Harry A. Scott interdicted more than 3,000 pounds of marijuana off Interstate 44 in April.

Troopers Alan R. Sullivan and Travis E. Bigler were critically injured in a hit-and-run crash on September 5. The officers were standing at the side of U.S. Highway 71 south of Butler, MO, talking with a commercial vehicle driver, when Tpr. Bigler was struck by a pickup and thrown into Tpr.

Sullivan and the truck driver. After an intensive investigation a 62-year-old man from the Rich Hill, MO, area was arrested for leaving the scene of an accident.

Trooper McDonald H. Brand shot and killed Martin Lee Wells, 39, on September 23, 1996. Tpr. Brand had stopped Wells for excessive speed and careless and imprudent driving on Interstate 44. When Wells stepped out of his vehicle, a revolver dropped to the ground. Wells reached down to grab the weapon and began struggling with Tpr. Brand. As Wells pointed his weapon at Tpr. Brand at point-blank range, the trooper drew his service pistol and fired on Wells.



(l to r) Tprs. Alan R. Sullivan and Travis E. Bigler, Troop A, were critically injured in a hit-and-run on September 5, 1996.



Troop H invited local citizens to an open house to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1996.

In October D.A.R.E. America Worldwide chose the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Training Division as the new Midwest D.A.R.E. Regional Training Center.

The Aircraft Division received a C-12 turbo-prop twin-engine King Air through a military surplus program. This aircraft had the ability to transport 10 people at once, cutting costs for the Patrol.

The Patrol graduated 102 new troopers in 1996. The 71st Recruit Class, with 54 members, graduated June 14. The 48 members of the 72nd Recruit Class graduated December 14.

Several Patrol employees played roles in the 1996 Summer Olympic Games held in Atlanta. Sergeant Arthur J. Flynn and retired Driver Examiner Charleen T. Bossman each carried the flame as the Olympic torch came through Missouri. Three other Patrol employees — Corporal Rex B. Kaunley, Assistant Telecommunications Engineer William E. Pollard, and Sergeant David O. Meade — volunteered on the Centennial Olympic Games Security Team for the 21 days of the games.

1997

The Patrol again assisted the Missouri National Guard at Governor Mel Carnahan's Inauguration. Officers provided security for government officials and guests at the celebration, and conducted road patrols on major routes leading into Jefferson City.

In 1997, Patrol officers received six hours of POST-certified training on clandestine laboratory recognition and safety. Instruction was provided by officers from the Narcotics Section of the Division of Drug and Crime Control and personnel from the Crime Laboratory Division.

It was announced that a partnership agreement was reached between the Patrol and Mineral Area College to build a new Troop C Satellite building on the college campus. The new building would also house the crime laboratory.

The Alis Ben Johns 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 when Missouri State Water



A criminalist takes a sample from a suspected clandestine methamphetamine laboratory.

Patrol officers cornered Johns in an abandoned cabin. Johns was wounded and taken to Bothwell Hospital in Sedalia; his girlfriend was taken into custody. Johns was found guilty on three counts of first degree murder and given a sentence of life without parole. His girlfriend was convicted for her part in the crime spree and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Ms. Jenny M. Smith, a criminalist in the Patrol Crime Laboratory Division, was honored by the Springfield Police Department for her role in the investigation of a Southern Missouri homicide. Criminalist Smith examined debris collected from the victim's clothing and found 11 types of particles which were eventually described, examined, and found to be similar to debris from the rear area of the suspect's van. Criminalist Smith spent several months working on the case and testified for a total of 14 hours (five in deposition and nine on the stand). Her work was part of the success-



Members of law enforcement update the media regarding the manhunt for Alis Ben Johns.

ful prosecution of a Springfield, MO, man for the murder of a 12-year-old girl.

Two Patrol officers received the Valor Award for their courageous actions in officer-involved shootings during 1996.

Trooper James T. Hedrick, was honored for his involvement in the apprehensions of a murder/kidnapping suspect in St. Louis County. A male subject was shot and killed and a female kidnapped following a domestic dispute in Cape Girardeau County. Following the homicide, the male assailant and his hostage started north on Interstate 55. Tpr. Hedrick and other Troop C officers spotted the vehicle, pursued it onto Interstate



Commercial vehicle license tests began taking place at the Troop A Supersite.

270, and forced the vehicle to stop using a rolling roadblock. The suspect continuously flourished two pistols, pointing them at officers and the kidnapped victim. After ramming Tpr. Hedrick's car, the suspect had a clear view of the trooper. Gunfire was exchanged: The suspect was hit once in the head and once in the chest; Tpr. Hedrick received a minor leg wound from a bullet fragment believed to have ricocheted after a bullet struck a patrol car.

Trooper McDonald H. Brand was honored with the Valor Award for his heroism when confronted with a traffic violator who was armed and intent on taking the trooper's life. (See page 83 for details.)

The 73rd Recruit Class graduated June 14, with 50 new troopers appointed.

A team of three employees from the Communications Division received a Governor's Award for Quality and Productivity. The team was recognized for their participation in the development of the Patrol's Missouri Automated Report Telephone System (MARTS). Those honored were Assistant Chief Telecommunications Engineers Anthony F. Chinnici and Jeffrey K. Herzer, along with Chief Projects Engineer James A. Lundsted.



Specialized training and equipment help the Major Crash Investigation Unit conduct detailed investigations and reconstructions of high-profile or serious vehicle crashes.

The Firearms Section of the Crime Laboratory Division made its first Drugfire hit in July 1997. The Drugfire system is a computer system in which images of expended cartridge cases are entered and stored in a database. During a routine stop, Trooper James L. Musche seized a pistol. The pistol was sent to the crime laboratory in Jefferson City to test for functionality and for entry into the Drugfire system. An image of an expended cartridge case from the pistol closely resembled one in the database which had been entered after a drive-by shooting in Newton County. Microscopic comparisons were made between the two cartridges and it was confirmed that the pistol Tpr. Musche had confiscated was the same pistol used in the drive-by shooting a year earlier. When confronted with the evidence provided by the Drugfire system, the suspect confessed to the drive-by shooting.

Sergeant Greg A. Hug and Corporal Franklin D. Chambers infiltrated a radical militia group in Jackson County, MO. For four months in 1997, Sgt. Hug and Cpl. Chambers attended numerous meetings where 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, and agents arrested seven members of the group before injuries or damage occurred.

Col. Fred M. Mills retired September 1. Governor Mel Carnahan appointed Weldon L. Wilhoit colonel effective October 1. Colonel Wilhoit became the 18th superintendent of the Patrol.

Effective October 15, the Patrol's Major Crash Investigation Unit was fully operational. This unit included three, two-person teams with alternates for each team. The purpose of the Major Crash Investigation Unit was to conduct detailed investigations and reconstructions of high-profile or serious vehicle crashes. The formation of the MCIU 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 had approximately \$30,000 of equipment at their disposal. The Major Crash Investigation Teams were stationed in Troop A, Lee's Summit; Troop C, Kirkwood; and, Troop D, Springfield; and divided the state geographically. The teams report to the Field Operations Bureau. The MCIU continues to operate today.

Troop G's Satellite Laboratory moved from the basement of Troop G Headquarters to its own building on the grounds of the troop. The new facility was 2,400 square feet. The basement of the new laboratory provided much needed space for the troop's evidence room, and a much larger radio repair shop.



The Crime Laboratory Division made its first Drugfire hit in 1997.



Colonel Weldon L. Wilhoit

1998

The 74th and 75th recruit classes graduated from the Patrol Academy. Forty troopers were commissioned on January 16; another 45 were commissioned on August 1.

Commercial Vehicle Officer Linda J. Stafford went beyond the initial stop at the eastbound weigh station on Interstate 44 in Joplin, in June 1997. Her suspicions prompted her to call for assistance, which resulted in 325 kilograms of cocaine being seized. Her work resulted in felony arrests from Baltimore, MD, to Texas, and into Mexico.

To assist the Missouri State Highway Patrol in its efforts to locate and dismantle methamphetamine laboratories, a toll-free hotline was established. The number became operational 24 hours per day effective February 2. Patrol investigators conducted 547 meth investigations and seized 480 methamphetamine laboratories in 1998.

With the ninth CVO class graduating at the end of March, all personnel required to attend the six-week course had done so. Future classes consisted of new employees to the Patrol and would be formed as needed.

The Patrol reached out to assist DWI victims and surviving families of DWI-related crashes. A grant from DPS (funded through the Victims of Crime Act) enabled the Patrol to establish a DWI Victim Hotline. Information from the calls was forwarded to the appropriate troop coordinator or zone advocate.

Troop C officers responded to a 98-vehicle crash in April. Officers from three local police departments assisted, as did two fire departments. Ten ambulances with paramedic crews responded. The final crash report totaled approximately 221 pages. More than 40 people were injured with the most serious injury being a broken femur. The high percentage of drivers wearing seat belts was considered the reason for the lack of serious injuries and fatalities.

A runaway barge struck the President Riverboat Casino on the Admiral in April. There were 2,300 people on board the 375-foot-long casino at the time. The impact caused the Admiral's center exit ramp and a temporary walkway just off the ramp to buckle and break. Due to the quick action



Troop C formed an honor guard in 1998. The group included Trooper Daniel H. Dubbs, Trooper Jeffery B. Myers, Trooper Matthew G. Schmiehausen, and Corporal Jeffrey L. Wilson.



Shown is the school bus fleet excellence award sticker.

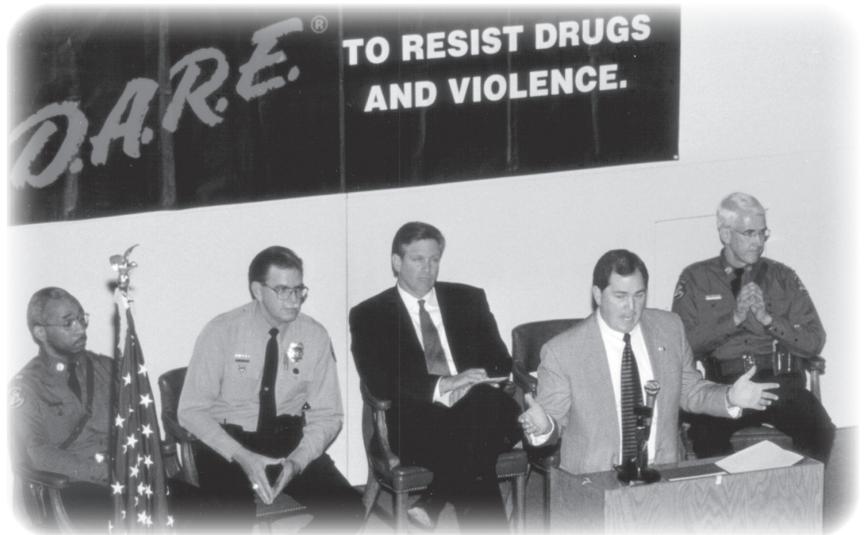
of Trooper Eric C. Beishir most of the patrons on the ramp and walkway exited prior to the collision.

The new MVI/DE complex at Troop A's Super-site was completed in July. The site was located at the intersection of Independence Avenue and Colbern Road. Inspections and driver testing began at the complex September 1.

Corporal James B. King received the 1998 Valor Award at the awards banquet on May 30, 1998. He was honored for his actions in a situation involving an armed, threatening suspect in Pulaski County. On March 17, 1997, officers responded to Ruby's Tavern in Richland, MO. Upon arriving at the scene, the officers assumed different locations around the building, with Cpl. King and Trooper Donald M. Hedrick positioned at the rear door of the tavern. Attempts to convince the gunman to relinquish his weapon and surrender were unsuccessful. The gunman became enraged at one point and fired seven rounds at the officers near the front door. When the shots had subsided, Tpr. Hedrick was able to open the rear door, making it possible for Cpl. King to observe the gunman, who was crouched behind the bar attempting to reload his weapon. Realizing that moment to be an opportunity to disarm the gunman, Cpl. King rushed into the tavern.



Sgt. Martin K. Elmore, Troop G, laughs with a Special Olympics athlete.



Lieutenant Governor Roger Wilson proclaimed April 9, 1998, D.A.R.E. Day.

Cpl. King knocked the weapon from the gunman's hand and quickly pinned him to the floor. Other officers then entered the tavern and assisted with securing the gunman.

Commercial Vehicle Officer Scott M. Suling was working portable scale unit 1511 on the eastbound lane of U.S. Highway 54 south of Jefferson City when he stopped an eastbound tractor-trailer



Governor Mel Carnahan signs legislation dubbed "the meth bill."

unit for tinted windows. While questioning the driver and co-driver, CVO Suling became suspicious and contacted a trooper for assistance. After the trooper obtained consent to search the vehicle, it was found to contain 556 pounds of processed marijuana.

As an incentive to school bus owners, the Missouri State Highway Patrol implemented a School

Bus Fleet Excellence Award in 1998. The program's purpose was to recognize school bus fleets identified through the Patrol's annual inspection as having an excellent fleet. It was an incentive to maintain buses that pass the initial Patrol inspection with a 95 percent or better score.

A tornado touched down in Wright City in April. Commercial Vehicle Officer Supervisor Carol A. Young was at Post C-4 in Foristell. She took cover under her car on the eastern end of the pit. She was joined by police chiefs from Wentzville and Foristell, a motorcyclist, and two other motorists seeking shelter. No one was injured. Both garage doors were destroyed, but the contents of the shed were not touched.

Commercial Vehicle Officer Steve D. Wilmesherr called for a trooper during a commercial vehicle inspection and Sergeant Sean B. Moore responded. The driver consented to a search of the tractor-trailer, and 1,819 pounds of marijuana, 1,467 pounds of cocaine, and 4.4 pounds of heroin were seized from the trailer — over \$122 million in illegal drugs. CVO Wilmesherr and Sgt. Moore had interdicted the largest combined shipment of illegal drugs in the nation to date.

The Mobile Safety Education Center debuted at the Missouri State Fair in August. This educational trailer was the result of private contributions from a number of companies.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol joined in a partnership with the Missouri State Water Patrol and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in



The Mobile Safety Education Center debuted at the 1998 Missouri State Fair.



Billboards like these were seen around the state.

1998. The “Life Jackets and Seat Belts Save Lives” campaign was the result. This safety message was displayed on 11 billboards throughout the state.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol hosted its first National Homicide Seminar October 24-28. 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 Crowne Center in Kansas City, MO.

Sergeant Randle E. King served as supervisor to the Troop B Criminal Investigation Unit of the Division of Drug and Crime Control. In 1994, Sgt. King began actively investigating the unsolved 1984 murder of Julianne Helton of Marcelline, MO. In 1998, Sgt. King and the Troop B Unit’s investigation resulted in first degree murder charges against four of the five suspects in Ms. Helton’s murder. The fifth suspect was 14 years old at the time of the murder and became a cooperating witness.

1999

In January, the Patrol unveiled its first public Internet website.

The Patrol replaced the PR-24 baton with the Armament Systems Procedures baton. Training with the ASP was completed in March. The new style of baton was chosen primarily because it was compact and had no side handle, which made it something troopers could carry with them more comfortably.



(l to r) Sgt. Thomas M. Scott and Cpl. C. Rod Land hold the ASP baton and the PR-24, respectively.



Pope John Paul II visited Missouri in January 1999.

Pope John Paul II visited St. Louis, MO, in January. Plans for this detail began in 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. More than 130 troopers were assigned to the detail.

The 76th Recruit Class graduated July 1, with 33 new troopers commissioned.

Troop D officers seized 7,500 pounds of processed marijuana on March 10. The drugs were found hidden in a tractor-trailer unit during a routine inspection by Commercial Vehicle Officers Ricky L. Talbert and Jerrold D. Brooks. This was believed to be the single largest seizure of marijuana to occur in Missouri to date.

Trooper Ethan P. Ahern received the Valor Award at the Missouri State Highway Patrol's 9th Annual Awards Ceremony in May 1999 for his actions in a situation involving an armed, threatening suspect in Clay County, MO. On March 20, 1998, Tpr. Ahern effected a vehicle stop on Interstate 35. When the stop was initiated, the driver, Robert



Tpr. Leanne Hall, Troop A, holds a rosary blessed by Pope John Paul II.

D. Hendrick, charged back toward Tpr. Ahern's patrol car.

Hendrick ran between the two cars and up a grass embankment. He then scaled a six-foot chain-link fence and began running up the outer road. When Tpr. Ahern was on the fence, Hendrick turned and pointed a 9mm pistol at him. Tpr. Ahern, fearing for his own life, jumped from the fence, drew his service weapon, and fired at Mr. Hendrick, striking him three times. Later that evening, Hendrick, who was wanted on a number of charges and a suspect in an Oklahoma homicide case, died.

Troop C's new laboratory opened in April. The laboratory, located on the Mineral Area College campus, included a large evidence locker, a separate instrument room, offices for the criminalists, and a waiting/reception area where evidence was submitted. The building also housed the Troop C Service Center, DDCC office, and garage.

Sergeant David C. May, 41, a Patrol pilot, was killed in the line of duty on May 17, from injuries sustained in a helicopter crash in the Poplar Bluff area. He and a professional photographer, Ricky Wayne Gunnels Jr., 22, had been photographing



Sergeant David C. May

and videotaping the “Law Enforcement Torch Run” for Special Olympics. Gunnels also died as a result of injuries sustained in the crash. According to witnesses, Sgt. May guided the helicopter away

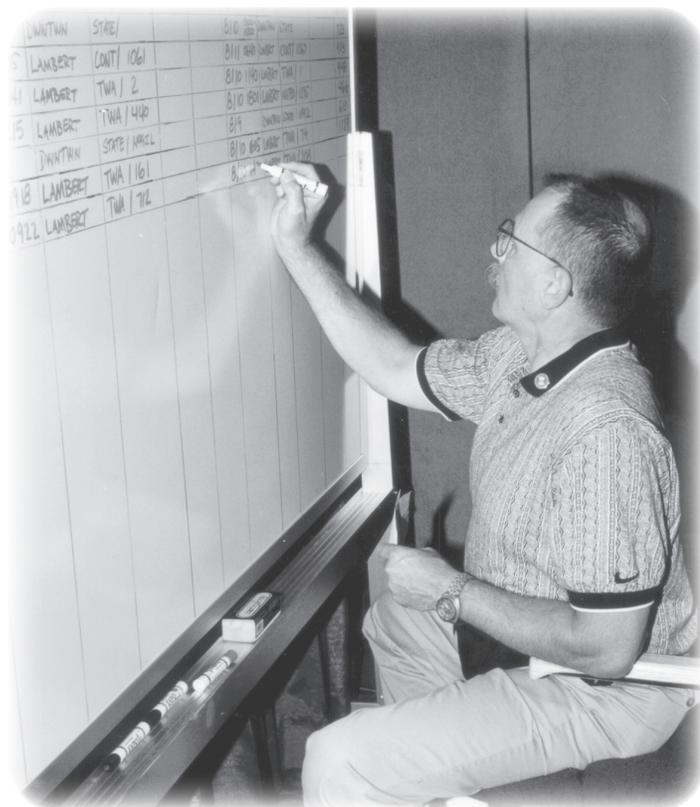
from businesses, homes, and pedestrians as it fell. This heroic action showed his devotion to serving and protecting the people of Missouri. Sgt. May was survived by his wife, their two daughters, and his father.

The National Governor’s Association held its annual meeting in St. Louis in August. The Patrol assigned 180 personnel from all nine troops and General Headquarters to the detail. 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 the preparation of and security for the NGA.

A collaborative effort on the part of Troops G, E, and I and the Aircraft Division rescued a Missouri Air National Guard pilot after his F-15 fighter plane crashed. The crash occurred when the F-15 fighter plane collided with another F-15 during aerial maneuvers in Shannon County in August 1999. The second F-15 made it safely back to base at Lambert Field in St. Louis.



Lt. Vincent J. Ellis, Troop A, welcomes Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura to the National Governor’s Association annual meeting, held in St. Louis in 1999.



Lt. Philip L. Ahern, Troop C, tracked the arrival and departure times of the governors who attended the NGA's annual meeting.

Sergeant Robert G. Kimberling, 43, was shot and killed on October 6, on Interstate 29 in St. Joseph. The incident occurred after Sgt. Kimberling stopped a motorist who had left the Farris Truck Stop in Faucett, MO, without paying for \$24.69 of fuel. The driver, Jason M. Friske of Madison,



Sergeant Robert G. Kimberling

WI, met Sgt. Kimberling at the rear of his vehicle then turned and went back to the open driver's side door, where he reached in and got a Colt .357 revolver. Friske shot Sgt. Kimberling five times. During the struggle, Sgt. Kimberling was able to draw his weapon and fire three rounds. Two bullets struck Friske. Unable to stand because of his wounds, Friske used his last bullet to kill himself. Sgt. Kimberling was survived by his wife and two daughters.

A Community Alliance Program was offered in Troop D for the first time. This new public relations program was similar in concept to a citizens' academy. The mission of this program was to familiarize participants with Patrol operations and procedures through recruit-style, classroom training, practical exercises, and personal interaction with members and employees of the Patrol. The Community Alliance Program proved to be a tremendous success.

Learfield Communications began providing the Patrol with space on their website. Traffic crashes and news releases were then added to Missouri-net.com free-of-charge to the Patrol.



This young boy was thrilled to meet K-9 Barry and Cpl. John E. Christensen, Troop H, when they visited him at Camp Quality. This special, weeklong camp is designed for children with serious illnesses.