March | April 2026

PATROL NEWS

OVER NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION



from the STAFF



Major Kirk A. Davis
Administrative Services Bureau

*Editor's Note: Major Kirk A. Davis was promoted to the rank of major and the commander of the Administrative Services Bureau on February 1, 2026.

Stepping into this new role has given me an even greater appreciation for the many moving parts that keep our organization running. What happens in the field is only made possible by the dedication, professionalism, and coordination taking place behind the scenes each and every day. I have also developed a deeper appreciation for the critical role our civilian employees play in that success. Their expertise and steady commitment provides the stability and continuity that allows our agency to operate at a high level. Our civilian workforce is not simply a support function— it is an essential part of who we are and what we accomplish together.

Within the Administrative Services Bureau (ASB), we are continually strengthening the services we provide in Human Resources, Training, Recruiting and Community Outreach, and our Wellness Unit. Whether it is refining HR processes, enhancing forward-thinking training opportunities, building meaningful community connections to attract outstanding applicants, or expanding wellness resources that care for our people, our focus remains constant: to support our employees so they have the tools and resources needed to advance the Patrol's mission.

As we move forward, there are clear priorities you should expect from every division within ASB. You should expect innovation and efficiency. You should expect a high level of responsiveness and professionalism in every interaction. You should see character and commitment reflected in the quality of our work. And above all, you should see teamwork and a genuine openness to collaboration because in this bureau it is never about individual credit; it is about getting it right and delivering meaningful results.

That simple blueprint shapes our vision and guides our daily efforts. It reflects who we aspire to be and how we intend to operate in our support of our current and future employees who carry the mission forward.

— Major Kirk A. Davis



March | April 2026

PATROL NEWS

OVER NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION

Volume 60 ▪ Number 5

CELEBRATING OVER 59 YEARS OF NEWS

PATROL NEWS

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

ON THE COVER

The Patrol purchased its first helicopter in 1959 for manhunts and special events. Since then, helicopters have greatly advanced and the Patrol's use of them has also expanded. Pictured on the cover is one of the Patrol's two Bell 407 helicopters, the 93MP.

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LOOKING *beyond* THE STOP

The following officers are to be commended for looking beyond the initial traffic/boating stop. Each of these officers made at least one arrest during the period of January 2026 through February 2026.

* Editor's note: This excludes DWI/BWI arrests, warrant arrests, and "plain sight" situations. Keep in mind that there must be information in the "miscellaneous" section of the radio report to be considered for this column. Rank and assignment reflect those at printing.)

TROOP A

Cpl. C. R. Blackmon, 1 arrest
Tpr. J. L. Colwell, 1 arrest
Cpl. D. K. Fletcher, 1 arrest
Tpr. J. M. Haines, 2 arrests
Tpr. M. A. Harris, 2 arrests
Tpr. T. D. Jackson, 4 arrests
Tpr. K. R. Kennedy, 1 arrest
Tpr. I. L. Kimball, 4 arrests
Tpr. C. W. Klotz, 1 arrest
Tpr. N. Lang, 1 arrest
Cpl. A. D. Lindgren, 1 arrest
Tpr. T. S. Lutjen, 2 arrests
Cpl. C. M. McDonald, 2 arrests
Tpr. M. J. Saladrigas, 3 arrests
Cpl. B. A. Shows, 3 arrests
Tpr. K. M. Stewart, 1 arrest
Cpl. B. E. Thoman, 1 arrest
Tpr. M. T. Tucker, 1 arrest

TROOP B

Tpr. A. J. Fish, 1 arrest
Sgt. G. L. Gaines, 1 arrest
Tpr. J. N. Schafer, 1 arrest
Tpr. E. G. Schieferdecker, 1 arrest
Cpl. T. B. Smith, 1 arrest
Tpr. C. J. Snyder, 1 arrest
Cpl. B. D. Tappendorf, 1 arrest
Tpr. T. A. Willock, 3 arrests
Tpr. C. M. Wilson, 2 arrests

TROOP C

Cpl. R. A. Allee, 3 arrests
Cpl. M. D. Benson, 1 arrest
Tpr. D. J. Bittick, 2 arrests
Tpr. Z. T. Chastain, 3 arrests
Tpr. Z. C. Crumley, 1 arrest
Tpr. T. A. Gaedke, 1 arrest
Tpr. J. D. Hedrick, 1 arrest
Tpr. C. L. Kurtzman, 2 arrests
Cpl. J. E. Lacy, 1 arrest
Cpl. D. A. Norton, 1 arrest

Tpr. M. S. Ogborn, 2 arrests
Tpr. A. Palislamovic, 2 arrests
Tpr. A. D. Pogue, 2 arrests
Cpl. K. D. Roney, 1 arrest
Tpr. N. A. Schuetz, 5 arrests
Tpr. E. R. Sikes, 1 arrest
Tpr. M. Smith, 3 arrests
Tpr. E. G. Talleur, 3 arrests
Tpr. B. A. Teague, 2 arrests
Cpl. T. N. Ziegler, 1 arrest

TROOP D

Tpr. J. P. Blinkinsop, 1 arrest
Cpl. J. R. Chronister, 1 arrest
Tpr. M. W. Coleman, 1 arrest
Tpr. J. J. Collins, 1 arrest
Cpl. Z. C. Dudley, 1 arrest
Cpl. K. L. Elledge, 3 arrests
Tpr. K. R. Goddard, 1 arrest
Tpr. B. S. Gunby, 2 arrests
Tpr. G. T. Hackett, 1 arrest
Tpr. S. J. Hallam, 3 arrests
Tpr. C. B. Henderson, 2 arrests
Cpl. D. W. Henley, 1 arrest
Tpr. F. R. Jones, 2 arrests
Tpr. E. D. LeBlanc, 1 arrest
Tpr. E. S. Leek, 2 arrests
Tpr. J. D. Lock, 2 arrests
Tpr. P. L. Mason, 1 arrest
Tpr. J. T. Martin, 2 arrests
Tpr. J. D. Morrison, 1 arrest
Tpr. J. W. Nuttall, 3 arrests
Tpr. T. M. Royster, 3 arrests
Tpr. N. L. Vines, 1 arrest
Tpr. S. J. Walden, 3 arrests

TROOP E

Cpl. B. A. Alcorn, 4 arrests
Tpr. R. W. Brown, 2 arrests
Sgt. D. L. DeJournett, 1 arrest
Sgt. T. Karizamimba, 1 arrest
Cpl. C. E. Leach, 1 arrest
Tpr. A. J. LeRoux, 3 arrests
Tpr. G. L. Meloy, 1 arrest
Tpr. J. J. Schuenemeyer, 1 arrest
Tpr. N. S. Smith, 1 arrest
Tpr. T. C. Sutton, 9 arrests
Tpr. J. M. Tomaszewski, 1 arrest
Tpr. T. J. Wiebe, 1 arrest

TROOP F

Tpr. J. N. Adams, 3 arrests
Cpl. J. R. Atherton, 1 arrest
Tpr. J. W. Cox, 3 arrests
Tpr. M. D. Easton, 1 arrest
Cpl. M. A. Ebeling, 1 arrest
Sgt. T. C. Fick, 2 arrests
Tpr. C. A. Fox, 3 arrests
Tpr. D. G. Green, 1 arrest
Tpr. M. M. P. Guinnip, 1 arrest
Tpr. D. M. Hagenhoff, 2 arrests
Cpl. B. W. Masek, 4 arrests
Tpr. C. J. Nichols, 1 arrest
Cpl. M. L. Rice, 2 arrests
Tpr. T. R. Rosa, 1 arrest
Tpr. G. C. Schimke, 2 arrests
Tpr. P. Silvey, 1 arrest
Tpr. I. J. Smith, 1 arrest
Tpr. T. A. Tarwater, 3 arrests

TROOP G

Tpr. C. C. Battreal, 1 arrest
Sgt. M. J. Chastain, 1 arrest
Tpr. C. M. Dougherty, 2 arrests
Tpr. J. D. Healy, 3 arrests
Tpr. J. Q. Hummel, 1 arrest
Tpr. G. L. Plummer, 1 arrest
Cpl. J. R. Sellars, 1 arrest
Tpr. Z. B. Tate, 1 arrest

TROOP H

Tpr. D. K. Dunkin, 1 arrest
Tpr. S. P. Gomez, 3 arrests
Tpr. B. D. Hahn, 4 arrests
Cpl. J. M. Harrison, 2 arrests
Tpr. B. L. Israel, 1 arrest
Tpr. A. M. Mapel, 1 arrest

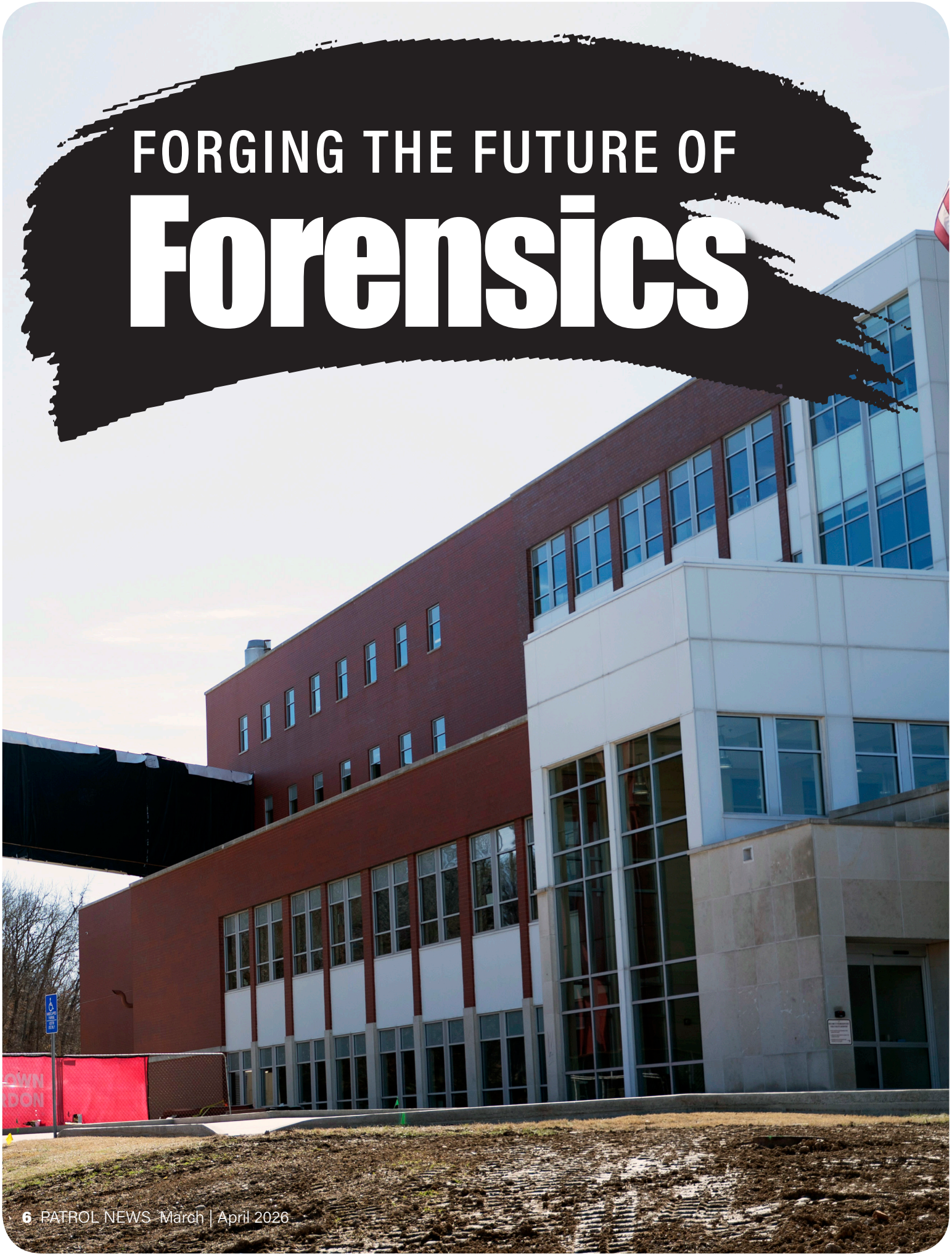
TROOP I

Tpr. T. R. Adelman, 1 arrest
Tpr. K. J. Estes, 6 arrests
Tpr. A. L. Gillispie, 1 arrest
Tpr. M. L. Grapes, 14 arrests
Tpr. K. P. Hunt, 1 arrest
Tpr. T. A. Kneuper, 1 arrest
Tpr. C. C. Marlow, 3 arrests
Sgt. J. R. McCurdy, 2 arrests
Sgt. J. J. McDonald, 1 arrest
Sgt. M. S. Mizer, 2 arrests
Tpr. C. L. Park, 1 arrest
Cpl. J. T. Peart, 1 arrest
Tpr. G. W. Picard, 3 arrests
Cpl. N. W. Summers, 1 arrest
Sgt. P. V. Volkmer, 1 arrest

Q

Sgt. T. M. Barthelmass, 2 arrests
Tpr. N. J. Bringer, 1 arrest
Tpr. B. J. Fessenden, 1 arrest
Sgt. M. A. Goodson, 1 arrest
Cpl. C. T. Hinshaw, 1 arrest
Sgt. T. L. Peters, 1 arrest
Cpl. N. A. Regan, 2 arrests
Cpl. B. M. Ryun, 6 arrests
Sgt. D. T. Shikles, 1 arrest
Cpl. E. J. Villanueva, 1 arrest
Tpr. R. J. Waite, 1 arrest

FORGING THE FUTURE OF Forensics



By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)

In May 1936, the Patrol entered the world of forensic science by opening a crime laboratory. This lab was one of the first in the country. The MSHP Crime Lab currently employs 129 full-time employees across seven locations and offers services spanning across drug chemistry, fingerprinting, firearms, trace evidence, DNA, and many more.

Now the Crime Lab is building onto their history by constructing and opening a new General Headquarters. In 2023, the General Assembly approved $104,662,200 for a 140,000 square-foot crime laboratory. During that year, a schematic design phase was completed. Then on June 27, 2024, a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new lab was held and the commencement of mass excavation began on August 2, 2024. The need for a new lab has been years in the making. Assistant Director Stacy A. Bolinger (Q/CLD) said, "We have been in desperate need of a new laboratory for many years in order to accommodate the new technologies and our expanding workforce." After the COVID-19 pandemic, funding was made available for new construction. During that time, Governor Michael L. Parson had a vision to combine all state laboratories into one building to establish a unified, collaborative laboratory campus.

Fast forward to the present and the lab is on schedule to be completed this year. Rachel J. Hays (Q/PIED) and I were able to visit the construction site and gain a sneak peek. The new lab is nothing but impressive. The laboratory will be housing the Patrol, the Missouri Department of Agriculture, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. The Patrol will be located on the north side of the building. Each of the four floors will be dedicated to an individual depository.

The first floor will host the administrative staff as well as the firearms team, where a dedicated firing range is located. Currently, the firearms team has to use the firing range at the Academy to perform their work. The new firing range will allow staff to have a readily available space and be more efficient in their work.

On the second floor, you will find DNA and DNA CODIS. The third floor is dedicated to fingerprinting and will also contain a small exercise room for all staff at the lab. The fourth floor contains toxicology, drug chemistry, and training labs. The training labs will be used by crime laboratory interns and will also serve as a collaborative tool between university colleagues and state employees. Also located on the fourth floor is a shared breakroom. All staff, regardless of department, will be able to use this breakroom. Many fridges and microwaves will be available, along with inside and outside seating.

Throughout the building, windows and skylights let in abundant light. The lab sits right off the Missouri River and allows staff to connect with each lab as well as nature. Assistant Director Bolinger said, "The guiding concept of this new building is to encourage connections between employees from all of the state laboratories and to the outside environment in order to promote collaboration and wellness."

With 150-160 construction crew members working on the building, the lab is scheduled to be completed within six to seven months. Many crime laboratory staff members are anxiously awaiting the completion of construction. Senior Forensic Scientist Katie L. Corcoran (Q/CLD) said, "We started preparing for the move almost a year ago and still have most of a year before we actually move. I truly cannot wait to move into the new lab and work in a space that was built for us!"



Work stations being installed on the second floor.





WE, LIKE SHEEP

WHEN SUPPORT LEADS US ASTRAY:
Understanding Fake Patrol Social Media Accounts



By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)

As employees and retirees, many of us take pride in seeing online public support for the Patrol. Unfortunately, the trust between members and those posting online is sometimes exploited by individuals who create fake or cloned social media accounts using the Patrol's name, images, vehicles, or insignia. These accounts design themselves to appear supportive, but that is often not the case. Aside from the obvious scam potential, these accounts don't provide any type of service. They don't accurately post alerts, public safety messages, road closures, or address citizen concerns.

Impersonating the Patrol online is easy because our public photos are abundant. Enforcement to remove these accounts by social media platforms is inconsistent and slow. As an example, the Public Information and Education Division (PIED) is currently aware of a fake Missouri State Highway Patrol Facebook account. They post our photos, but they are not affiliated with our agency. The Patrol has reported the account to Meta, but the fake page still exists.

So, why do impersonation accounts exist and what harm does this pose to those who interact with it? By copying the Patrol, bad actors borrow our institutional trust. Posting pro-Patrol or pro-law enforcement content is often how these accounts gain followers and avoid early scrutiny.

Unfortunately, current and retired personnel are often targeted because:

- They recognize patrol imagery and may be more likely to trust it
- They have established networks that can unintentionally amplify content
- They may be contacted directly via messages that appear professional

This is evidenced by the known fake Facebook site appearing to be us. It is followed extensively by some Patrol employees, retirees, and other associates and has amassed over 11,000 followers since last May. Many who have joined this group have also shared photos and other information via posts. Even well-intentioned engagement — likes, shares, or comments — can help a fake account grow and appear legitimate to the public. Algorithms reward that engagement, amplifying reach. PIED strongly suggests removing yourself from these groups.

When you engage with the fake group by posting, liking, or sharing, the impersonation account can quietly collect your information without asking directly. They harvest follower lists, usernames and profile details, and who clicks, shares, comments, or reacts quickly. Even "likes" provide usable data.

Once credibility is established with members, scams are introduced, sometimes months later. Common methods may include reaching out for donations for an injured officer, family support, merchandise sales, or job opportunities. This situation can be compared to the current procedure of not including crash victim's names in reports. The victims' names are not included due to bad actors posing as the Patrol to scam those who were already vulnerable.

This is extremely effective because the fake account has already built trust with the unsuspecting members. The bad actor will direct message followers from the fake account itself, a different account posing as Patrol-friendly, or another account that looks legitimate.

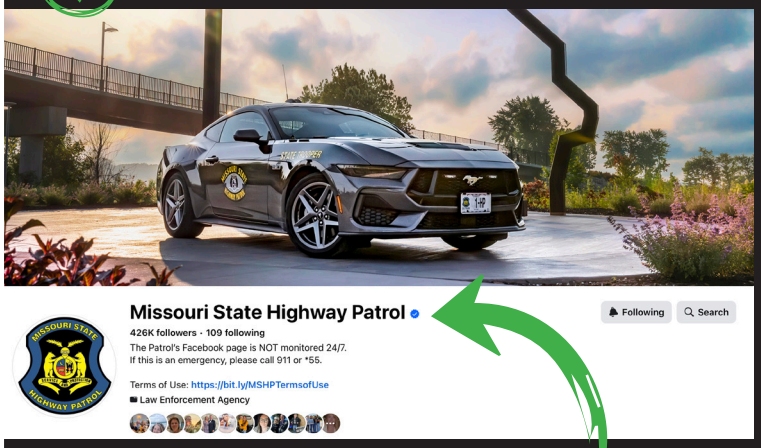
It has been known that some bad actors may use "friendly" law and order themed accounts to polarize communities, undermine confidence, and amplify divisive content during protests, elections, or critical incidents.

If you believe an account is impersonating the Patrol:

- Do not engage with the account
- Do not share or repost its content
- Report the account using the platform's impersonation tools

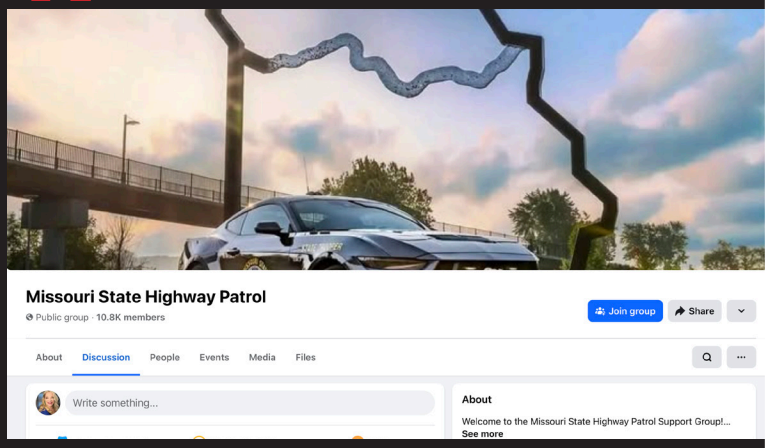
It is important to stay vigilant, even on social media. If you are unsure about the legitimacy of an account, do not engage with them. By lowering engagement with fake pages, you help stop the spread of misinformation and ensure the public receives accurate information. Thank you for helping protect the integrity of YOUR Missouri State Highway Patrol.

REAL:



- **has a blue checkmark next to name**
- **content is current**
- **does not offer items for sale**
- **indicates "Law Enforcement Agency"**

X FAKE:



- **does not have a blue checkmark next to name**
- **content is unreliable**
- **contains links to merchandise**



Created on March 17, 2026, this post announced nine "new" graduates, yet the photo of these graduates is from the fall of 2024.



Be cautious of posts like this one, found on the fake Patrol site, which offers merchandise for sale.

DEFENSE PEER TEAM TRAINING

By Audrey A. Yates (Q/WU)

Our recent DEFENSE Peer Team training was a great success! The event kicked off with team-building activities on the first night, fostering stronger connections and collaboration. The following morning, participants enjoyed a rejuvenating yoga session to start the day energized and focused.

The training included a refresher course, giving team members the opportunity to brush up on essential skills and stay prepared for real-world scenarios. To support their work in the field, each participant received a go-bag filled with resources to help them respond effectively on scene.

Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to making this training impactful and engaging!

















Driving Leadership: 2025 DVSD Award Winners

By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)



Motor Vehicle Inspector of the Year
Jonathan L. Wood, Troop F

Inspector Jonathan L. Wood (F) has been with the Patrol since 2018 and has consistently demonstrated exceptional performance, a positive attitude, and an unwavering willingness to take on new challenges. At Troop F, he has served as a field training officer and as a trainer for the new electronic school bus inspection program. Inspector Wood has also contributed his knowledge to several committees and readily assists colleagues when needed. His professionalism and interpersonal skills are evident in his interactions with coworkers and citizens alike. Inspector Wood is described as a "truly valued member of our team and an exemplary employee for the State of Missouri." When asked if he wanted to share any words of wisdom, Inspector Wood said, "Character is shown in how you interact and treat others. Lead with respect, act with professionalism, carry yourself with courtesy, and never forget your smile."



Driver Examiner of the Year
Matthew L. Dennis, Troop C

On September 17, 2012, Driver Examiner Supervisor Matthew L. Dennis (C) joined the Patrol. Since then, he has personified the Core Values of the Patrol with his positive approach, strong leadership, and commitment to professionalism. Throughout 2025, Supervisor Dennis has worked to increase service to the public at his station. He expects and maintains high-quality customer service from his team and constantly looks for alternative ways to increase both professionalism and service. He is described as someone who "thinks outside the box and tries new, innovative concepts." Supervisor Dennis also maintains an office of trust with his examiners by engaging in monthly events, holding productivity meetings, and encouraging personal growth amongst his team. Supervisor Dennis shared, "It was truly an honor to receive this award. I wouldn't be receiving this award without acknowledging all the hard work done from both my examiners and all examiners from Troop C."

Congratulations to both DVSD award winners!



Trooper Brittany S. Romano (F), Trooper Jaclyn P. Heil (F), and Corporal Ralicia A. Tyler (I) represented the Patrol at the Capital City High School National Girls and Women in Sports Day celebration on February 2, 2025.

Trooper Hawkins Named February Sworn Team Member Of The Month



By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)

Trooper Orrin D. Hawkins (E) was named the February Sworn Team Member of the Month. His initiative and thoroughness of a motor vehicle crash investigation led to charges against the driver of the vehicle.

On June 13, 2025, a 14-year-old was killed when the driver of the vehicle crossed the center line and struck another vehicle head on. The driver maintained he had to swerve to avoid a vehicle that crossed into his traffic lane. Tpr. Hawkins obtained a search warrant and, working with a forensic technician, was able to locate numerous photos through Snapchat that had been taken by the driver immediately before the crash.

Tpr. Hawkins' investigation resulted in the 17-year-old driver being certified as an adult to stand trial for manslaughter and violating provisions of the Sidden Bening Hands Free Law, involving the death of another person. "I want to thank all the supervisors that I have. In an investigation like this, it takes a lot of time. . . My direct supervisors allowed me to do it; to put forth the time and effort that it takes to investigate. This was not possible without them. It was a team effort," said Tpr. Hawkins.

SOCIAL MEDIA SNAPSHOT

SEVEN MINUTES TO SAFETY:
AMBER Alert Rescue Video Goes Viral

By Holly C. Hyde (Q/PIED)

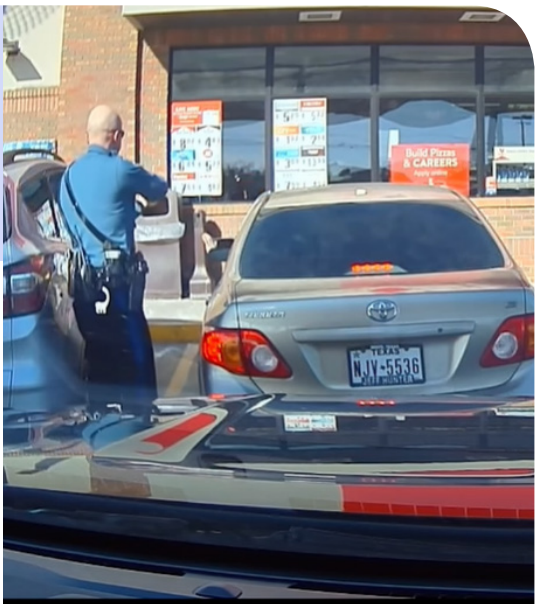
On January 31, 2026, an AMBER Alert was issued at 2:13 p.m. regarding a child abduction connected to a homicide in Mansfield, TX. Within minutes, swift action and community awareness proved invaluable. By 2:20 p.m., Missouri State Highway Patrol Trooper Jackson D. Hood (D) located the vehicle in Ozark, MO, arrested the suspect without incident, and safely recovered the child.

Public Information and Education Division Social Media Specialist Meghan E. Clouse (Q/PIED), used dashcam and body-worn camera footage to create a video for social media, documenting the safe recovery of the child.

Clouse emphasized the impact of modern law enforcement tools and public engagement: "Thanks to License Plate Reader (LPR) technology and tips from citizens, this safe recovery occurred less than 10 minutes of the alert going out."

The video quickly resonated with viewers, generating 5.9 million views. The overwhelming response reflects both public appreciation for law enforcement efforts and the emotional weight of seeing a child brought to safety.

This incident serves as a compelling reminder of how technology, teamwork, and an alert public can come together to produce life-saving outcomes in real time.





MASTERS BYLAW CHANGE TO INCLUDE COMMERCIAL VEHICLE OFFICERS

By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)

Back in January, the MASTERS updated their bylaws to include post certified Commercial Vehicle Officers to receive line of duty death benefits. This update reflects the shared commitment between the Patrol and the MASTERS to strengthen the support provided to the Patrol's personnel and their loved ones.

To learn more about the MASTERS, or to become a member, please email office@themastersmo.org or call 573-794-2303.




MISSOURI STATE TROOPER
LAN



When you think of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, you probably picture troopers working on the highways—always on the ground. Not many would think of Patrol members working the airways of Missouri. Since 1946, the Aircraft Division has provided aerial support to those who patrol the roads of Missouri.

DING in the Aircraft Division

By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)


MISSOURI STATE TROOPER




MISSOURI STATE TROOPER



As of 2026, the Aircraft Division has three helicopters, three single-engine piston airplanes, one single-engine turbine airplane, and one multi-engine King Air. The division employs 11 pilots who provide air support for vehicle pursuits, criminal or drug surveillance, or personnel relays.

But how does someone decide to join the Aircraft Division? Trooper Kara R. Dinwiddie (Q/AD) joined the Patrol in 2015 with a desire to serve the people of Missouri. "From early on in my career, I was drawn to opportunities that allowed me to expand my skill set and contribute in different capacities." As she gained experience being on the road, Tpr. Dinwiddie became more and more interested in the Aircraft Division. In October 2022, she was selected to become part of the division. "The opportunity to merge my law enforcement experience with aviation and contribute at a higher operational level made the transition to Aircraft Division a natural and rewarding step."

Trooper Jacob H. Hirner (Q/AD) always had an end goal of flying for the Aircraft Division. "I joined the Patrol with a purpose—to challenge myself," said Tpr. Hirner. He credits his first assignment as a trooper in Troop H, and later in Troop B, for building the foundation he needed before joining the division. He said, "Becoming a pilot requires growth in two areas—as a trooper and as a pilot. Experience on the ground is foundational. Understanding what troopers face and how suspects think is essential." While working on a fleeing vehicle operation, Tpr. Hirner's decision to fly was solidified when he saw the supportive role the N93MP played to successfully end a pursuit.

"Aviation leaves little room for complacency. I must stay sharp because my crew and their family deserve it."

At the Aircraft Division, no two days are exactly alike. A typical day includes pre-flight planning, weather analysis, aircraft inspection and maintenance, and coordination of operations. Operations can range from traffic enforcement, surveillance, and community outreach events. The division also provides personnel and prisoner transport, as well as quick response to emergency disasters. Between missions, pilots are constantly training. Tpr. Hirner said, "Aviation leaves little room for complacency. I must stay sharp because my crew and their family deserve it." Almost 300 hours of training and maintenance were put in by the Aircraft Division in 2025.

Both Tpr. Dinwiddie and Tpr. Hirner have completed numerous trainings and hold many certifications. These trainings range from Instrument Rating, Multi-Engine Rating, Aircraft Transition, and Recurring Flight Proficiency. In addition to those trainings, pilots also have mission-specific training including scenario-based, water egress, and a second-call medical certificate in case of emergencies. Tpr. Dinwiddie said, "The training ensures we are fully prepared to operate safely, effectively, and confidently in a variety of environments." All pilots hold FAA certifications and can even hold certifications as Tactical Flight Officers, in night vision goggle usage, or in drone operation.

Pilots for the Aircraft Division put in many hours of hard work and dedication, and in return, there have been many memorable moments. Tpr. Hirner said, "Some of the most thrilling moments come from pursuits that end with a successful TVI. I'll admit I'm definitely overhead, cheering us on." He also mentioned he would never forget when a missing person had been located or when he learned how to hover in a Robinson R22. Tpr. Dinwiddie has enjoyed participating in many community outreach events such as Safe Ride Programs, Community Alliance Programs, and Boys and Girls State. She said, "Having the ability to serve troopers and the citizens of Missouri from a unique vantage point in the air is something in which I take great pride."

Throughout their time in the Aircraft Division, Tpr. Dinwiddie and Tpr. Hirner have learned many valuable lessons. Tpr. Dinwiddie said, "Since joining the Aircraft Division, I've learned the importance of adaptability and trust. Flying in a law enforcement capacity requires constant decision-making, situational awareness, and the ability to remain calm under pressure. Through that, I've also learned the value of humility and growth. There is always something new to learn in aviation." Tpr. Hiner said that through his time in the division he has learned patience. He said, "You have to develop a pilot mindset which can be different than a trooper's. [On the mental side you are] going through flight school, learning how to be a meteorologist, doctor, navigator, and mechanic. On the physical side, [you are learning] not just how to fly but survive.

Tpr. Dinwiddie summed up the life of a pilot for the Patrol when she said, "As Master Sergeant Shawn Price famously says, 'Achieving a pilot's license is a license to go out and learn. We never stop learning.'

2026 AIRCRAFT DIVISION

Director:

Captain Bradley D. Holman

Pilots:

MSgt. Dustin T. Metzner
MSgt. Shawn L. Price
Sgt. Eric J. Keim
Sgt. Jonathan A. Cluver
Sgt. Derek B. Carnagey
Tpr. Callie A. Volle
Tpr. Jacob H. Hirner
Tpr. Kara R. Dinwiddie
Tpr. Curtis B. Wilt

Aircraft Maintenance Specialists:

Chauncey L. Boldwin
Anthony L. Crocker

Administration Office Support Asst:

Leigh Ann Stokes



In flight: the Patrol's first helicopter, piloted by Sgt. Bill East, 1960.



The Patrol purchased its first aircraft, WWII surplus Stinson L-5, in 1946.



The Stinson L-5 prepares for takeoff on August 28, 1946.



The Patrol purchased this Beechcraft Baron in 1961 to transport the governor.



Sgt. Bill East and Tpr. Mike Hodge stand in front of the Patrol's first helicopter, a Bell 47G-2, 1960.



Pilot G.B. Hayes prepares for takeoff in Oct. 1971.



Tpr. W.D. East flew the Patrol's Bell 47G-2 to aid in the capture of a fugitive in 1959.



The Patrol purchased this Cessna Skyline in 1979.



Sgt. H.C. Looney conducts his pre-flight checks.



Cpl. J.E. Turley operates a video camera aboard a Patrol aircraft in Oct. 1971.



Sgt. W.D. East talks with a maintenance supervisor from the Bell Helicopter Corporation as he prepares to take possession of the Patrol's first helicopter in 1959.



The Patrol's new helicopter was big news for folks.



The Patrol purchased this Hughes 269-A helicopter in 1975.



Sgt. East exits the Patrol's new Bell 47G-2.



Thanks to the efforts of Cpl. J.A. "Jay" Sampietro Jr., seen here, the Troop E's Cessna 182 was re-numbered N873MP to honor Sgt. David May.



Cpl. H.L. Gebhardt and Sgt. L.L. Bounds, Octobe 1971



Troopers show off some of the Patrol's vehicles, including the Patrol's new Cessna Skyline.



Cpl. H.L. Gebhardt, Tpr. G.B. Hayes, Cpl. J.E. Turley, and Sgt. L.L. Bounds stand in front of the Patrol's STOL (Short Take-Off and Landing Helio Super Courier in 1971.)



This 1960s Aero Commander was purchased by the Patrol in 1965 to transport the governor.

Obituaries



Jim Eberhardt

JAMES "JIM" P. EBERHARDT

On January 31, 2026, James Phillip Eberhardt passed away peacefully at his home in Lee's Summit, MO. Jim proudly served his country for 26 years in the United States Air Force. On average, he was on 270 flights a year. After retirement, he continued serving his community. He joined the Patrol in 2003 as a Commercial Vehicle Enforcement officer. Jim retired from the Patrol after 10 years of dedicated service. He later joined the Colorado State Patrol and dedicated seven years of service. Jim is survived by his wife Rosalie Eberhardt, two children, four siblings, and many grandchildren, great grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews. To learn more about Jim, please visit the Langsford Funeral Home Inc. website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Eberhardt family.



Matt Lopane

MATTHEW "MATT" A. LOPANE

Matthew Albert Lopane passed on January 22, 2026, at the age of 57. Matt joined the Patrol in 1990 and worked in the Gaming Division and Organized Crime Unit. He retired as a sergeant after 30 years of dedicated service. After Matt's retirement, he enjoyed selling and buying real estate. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia (Cyndi); his fur baby Monti; and his wife's amazing, supporting, and loving family. To learn more about Matt, please visit the Alternative Funeral and Cremation Services website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Lopane family.



Jim W. Garrison Jr.

JAMES "JIM" W. GARRISON JR.

James "Jim" Wrexford Garrison passed away at the age of 75 on February 14, 2026. After graduating from Penn Valley Community College, he began his career in law enforcement with the Jackson County Sheriff's Department and later the Blue Springs Police Department. He joined the Patrol at the age of 29, and dedicated more than 20 years of service at Troop A. After retirement, Jim continued his life of service by obtaining his Funeral Director's license and joining the staff of Thurman Funeral Home and served as the coroner for Ray County for one term. Jim is survived by his wife, Berlinda Joylene Bush, two daughters, seven grandchildren, and three sisters. To learn more about Jim, please visit the Thurman Funeral Home website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Garrison family.



Charles Bernskoetter

CHARLES B. BERNSKOETTER

On March 4, 2026, Charles B. Bernskoetter passed away at his residence. Charles was drafted during the Korean War and served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955, where he attained the rank of sergeant. Charles joined the Patrol in 1962 and retired as Budget Director after 34 years of dedicated service. He was a longtime member of the "Wears Creek Yacht Club", a group of retired Patrol employees. Outside of Charles's professional life, he loved living on the farm, raising cattle, and tending to a large garden every year. He is survived by his wife, Millie Bernskoetter, seven children, 18 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, his sister, Norma (Charles) Bexten, and his brother Harry (Cathy) Bernskoetter. To learn more about Charles, please visit the Trimble Funeral Homes website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Bernskoetter family.



ANYONE CAN BE A LEADER

By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)

On January 28, 2026, law enforcement agencies met at the Concord Baptist Church in Jefferson City, MO, to hear Paul D. Butler's inspiring perspective on how every employee, regardless of rank, can be an effective leader. Mr. Butler has over 22 years of experience in law enforcement. Mr. Butler's presentation was part of the Commander's Conference, but this particular event was open to all Patrol employees, including city and county law enforcement officers and other state officials. Mr. Butler emphasized the importance of purpose and promises in leadership. He explained that leadership is rooted in relationships—both at home and at work.

Throughout the four-hour session, many pieces of wisdom were shared with those in attendance. Some key takeaways include:

- Your purpose is your foundation
- Invest in and love your people
- Don't shy away from conflict
- Reactions ruin relationships, not actions
- Work ethic is a learned behavior
- Leaders remove obstacles and make hard conversations happen
- Respect and knowledge are built through experience
- Strive for consensus, not compromise

The Patrol had attendees from all over the organization; civilian, members, and uniformed. I asked fellow employees to share with me what they learned from Mr. Butler's presentation.

Human Resources Generalist Sabrina D. Hartman (Q/HRD) said, "It was great hearing out loud that 'top leaders' should be there for those that struggle on the team to make them better performers. Leaders tend to 'pour into' the top performers mostly, not realizing that they can typically motivate themselves with or without a leader. It was also good to be reminded that everyone on 'your team' is a team member – great leaders see them fully and can help them bring out their best attributes."

Captain Michael A. Petlansky (Q/WPD) said, "The seminar was an invaluable opportunity to step away from the daily grind and focus on leadership fundamentals. Butler's insights—rooted in decades of experience—remain relevant today. He offered practical solutions for challenges that persist in law enforcement leadership."

To hear and learn more from Mr. Butler, Patrol employees can now access his podcast, "Leadership for a Lifetime", on the Training Opportunities page found on the Academy's Intranet.

Congratulations ON YOUR RETIREMENT

For your years of dedicated service, loyalty, and selfless giving, we thank you.



ERIC W. GIBSON
MVI Chief
Troop D
Retired Feb. 1, 2026
30 years, 7 mo. of dedicated service



LLOYD G. RICHARDS
MVI Supervisor
Troop D
Retired Feb. 1, 2026
34 years, 5 mo. of dedicated service



DANIEL P. WOHNOUTKA
Sergeant
Q/AD
Retired Feb. 1, 2026
36 years, 7 mo. of dedicated service



COREY J. SCHOENEBERG
Major
Q/ASB
Retired Feb. 1, 2026
29 years, 7 mo. of dedicated service



GARY D. OETTING
Corporal
Troop A
Retired Feb. 1, 2026
27 years, 2 mo. of dedicated service



SUSAN K. SICKMAN
Admin. Support Prof.
Q/WPD
Retired Feb. 1, 2026
21 years of dedicated service



CHRISTOPHER L. TERRY
Procurement Manager
Q/BPD
Retired Feb. 1, 2026
26 years of dedicated service



JOYCE L. WIEGAND
Program Assistant
Q/CJIS
Retired Feb. 1, 2026
24 years, 8 mo. of dedicated service



JOHN K. HALIM
Driver Examiner
Troop F
Retired Feb. 1, 2026
1 year, 4 mo. of dedicated service



STACEY L. MOSHER
Sergeant
Q/GSD
Retired March 1, 2026
26 years, 1 mo. of dedicated service



JIMMY L. CLEVELAND
Chief Technician
Q/CommD
Retired March 1, 2026
31 years, 5 mo. of dedicated service



KELLY L. BOWMAN
Assistant Chief
Troop D
Retired March 1, 2026
20 years, 5 mo. of dedicated service



TROY F. GRAHAM
Trooper 1st Class
Q/GD
Retired March 1, 2026
17 years, 8 mo. of dedicated service



CHARLES W. HOFF
Sergeant
Q/WPD
Retired March 1, 2026
30 years, 5 mo. of dedicated service



ROBERT D. CREWSE
Trooper 1st Class
Troop G
Retired March 1, 2026
23 years, 4 mo. of dedicated service

4 Troopers Honored



(l to r) Corporal Christian J. Mendez (C), Trooper Dylan H. Bert (C), Corporal Brandon L. Harris (F), Corporal Brant W. Masek (F)

During the Heartland Tactical Officer's Association Conference, four Missouri State Highway Patrol troopers were honored with the Valor Award for their efforts during a hostage situation in 2025. Below is the submitted narrative for their efforts.

By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)

"...through broken glass, over barricades, without cover, and in life-threatening weather—to save an innocent life."

On April 20, 2025, Troop F SWAT, supported by Troop C SWAT, responded to a critical hostage situation in Ralls County, MO. The suspect had forcibly entered his estranged wife's home, assaulted her, and held her at knifepoint, threatening to kill her if law enforcement intervened. Severe thunderstorms and tornado warnings compounded the danger as troopers arrived.

Deputies established a perimeter and SWAT teams entered the residence, finding the suspect and victim barricaded on the second floor. The stairwell was blocked floor-to-ceiling with furniture, leaving only exterior windows as alternate access points. Intelligence suggested the suspect might also be armed with a firearm. Negotiations confirmed the victim had been assaulted, and the suspect repeatedly stated he would not surrender and intended to die in front of the victim.

Despite worsening weather - including 85 mph winds, hail, lightning, and a tornado touchdown less than two miles away - troopers held their positions. Quick Reaction Forces (QRFs) were staged inside and outside the residence, prepared for immediate rescue. When the victim's screams indicated an imminent sexual assault, Incident Command ordered an emergency breach.

Corporal Brandon L. Harris (F) and Corporal Christian J. Mendez (C) led the 3-side ladder team, ascending a rain-slicked roof under extreme conditions. Cpl. Harris broke a second-story window and forced his body through shards of glass, sustaining lacerations, followed by Cpl. Mendez and others. Inside, they advanced toward the victim's screams. Simultaneously, Corporal Brant W. Masek (F) and Trooper Dylan H. Bert (C) breached the stairwell barricade, climbing over debris without lethal cover to reach the second floor.

Cpl. Harris reached the bedroom first, forcing entry as the suspect tried to block the door. Harris positioned himself between the suspect and victim. Cpl. Mendez shielded the victim with his body, carried her to safety, and handed her off to other troopers for evacuation. Meanwhile, Tpr. Bert and Cpl. Masek engaged the suspect, taking him to the ground despite violent resistance. Additional troopers assisted in securing the suspect.

The victim was rescued before further harm could occur. Multiple troopers sustained injuries during the operation, but their actions prevented a tragedy. These troopers knowingly placed themselves in grave danger—through broken glass, over barricades, without cover, and in life-threatening weather—to save an innocent life.

Their actions exemplify the highest standards of valor: risking their lives without hesitation to protect another, under conditions that few would dare face.

PATROL HISTORY

By Sgt. E. M. Raub (Q/RDD)

"Common Sense" is a phrase we often hear in relation to law enforcement work. While it is difficult to define, all agree that it is an essential element in an investigation. Our present reputation is based in large part on the common sense of the early members of the Patrol. The following article typifies that common sense approach to police work.

William Brandon lived in Columbia with his common law wife, Angie Britt. Their relationship on November 6, 1935, was about as chilly as the overcast 40-degree weather outside their small home. Brandon noticed a peculiar taste in his sandwich during lunch and accused Britt of trying to poison him. (Analysis of the sandwich in a laboratory did later reveal the presence of a lye solution). A disturbance ensued in which Brandon hit Britt on her head with a toy baseball bat and twisted a clothesline around her neck.

City officers were notified of the disturbance but arrived too late. They found Britt dead upon their arrival. Brandon had fled. Coroner M. P. Neal said the woman had been strangled.

Trooper Clark W. Huston felt the suspect might try to hitchhike from the area, so he patrolled along US 40 watching for him. After several unsuccessful hours, Huston parked his car in Columbia and arranged to ride with a truck driver who was en route to St. Louis.

Brandon had successfully avoided the patrol car by hiding along an embankment whenever a car approached, but as a tractor-trailer came along, he ran up to the shoulder and waved his hat to flag the driver. The big rig pulled over and stopped, and the elated fugitive scurried to climb into the cab, where he came face to face with the uniformed patrolman. There, four miles west of Kingdom City, the murder suspect was arrested without incident.

(This article was originally printed in the March 1987 issue of the Patrol News. Captain Raub is now retired.)



In this 1954 photograph, Tpr. Paul Volkmer works traffic in conjunction with Patrol aircraft.

WITH sympathy

Sgt. John C. "Clint" Gilliland (H) - grandmother-in-law

Ret. Cpl. Dewey K. Heppe - mother

Tpr. Dakota L. Little (B) - great-grandmother

Tpr. Douglas S. Christmas (Q/GD) - mother-in-law

Tpr. Edgar J. Raya (C) - mother

Asst. Chief Radio Operator Melissa A. Swinford (H) - grandfather

CVO Jeremy C. Jobson (B) - mother-in-law

DE Supervisor Valerie M. Everhart (A) - father

Tpr. Adam C. Moran (C) - great grandmother

Ret. Sgt. Kenneth C. Boyle - wife

Admin. Supp. Asst. Jennifer L. Hulse (A) - father

Ret. Specialist Patricia J. (Massey) Williams - husband

Ret. Personnel Records Clerk III Bernadette C. Sieren - husband

MVI Bryan D. Zumsteg (C) - mother



Looking Back

IN THE PATROL NEWS



1995's Third Largest Heroin Seizure in United States

by Sgt. Gary R. Heskett, Troop C

Oct. 28, 1995, Sgt. Sam Steward stopped a 1988 Nissan bearing Virginia license plates for several violations. The vehicle was occupied by two Guatemalan Nationals, reportedly traveling from Guatemala to St. Louis. Neither of the subjects spoke English, so Sgt. Steward enlisted the services of Eureka Police Officer Carmelo Crivello, who speaks Spanish fluently. In addition to his Spanish-speaking capabilities, Officer Crevillo also is a successful highway interdictor.

After a brief conversation it was suspected that the two individuals probably were involved in some type of criminal activity. Consent to search the vehicle was requested and granted. Several indicators were discovered that led the officers to suspect the gas tank probably was concealing contraband. Those indicators included scratches on the gas tank, scarred and loose bolts as well as hoses that were cleaner at the point they entered the tank than the remainder of the hoses. A five gallon plastic gas container also was located in the trunk.

The driver of the Nissan agreed to drive to a nearby repair shop in Eureka where the vehicle could be examined safely and the proper tools would be available. Just after the gas tank was removed, Cpl. Sam Lakey and Brando arrived at the repair shop. A canine sniff was conducted, and Brando alerted to the gas tank. Considering the method of concealment, Brando's discovery was very impressive.

The gas tank was cut open and found to contain a rectangular shaped metal container that had been covered with a wax-like substance. It was 24 inches long and approximately four inches wide. The container then was cut open and found to hold 337 one-inch to one and one-quarter inch long sausage shaped packages. Two of the packages were field tested for heroin and cocaine. Each package tested positive for cocaine.

Tpr. Kirk Davis, who also speaks Spanish fluently, translated for DDCC Sgt. Lee Ann Higgenbotham and Drug Enforcement Administration agents during the follow-up investigation. The two suspects admitted at least part of their involvement in the transportation of the contraband.

The contraband was seized by DEA agents and forwarded to their laboratory in Chicago. It was discovered that the 101 packages that had a black stripe contained cocaine. The 236 packages having no stripe contained heroin. The cocaine, weighing approximately 2.24 pounds was 91 percent pure. The heroin, weighing approximately 5.13 pounds was 81 percent pure.

There are many levels of distribution with each commanding a specific price for the product. The street value of the cocaine was estimated at $100,000, and the street value of the heroin was estimated at approximately $9,000,000. According to the El Paso Intelligence Center, this heroin seizure was the third largest Pipeline seizure in the United States in 1995 and in the top 10 ever recorded. The largest seizure in 1995 was 13.86 pounds in California on Jan. 31.

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30 YEARS AGO

On October 28, 1995, Sgt. John S. "Sam" Steward stopped a vehicle for multiple violations, and consent to search the vehicle was granted. The gas tank held 337 one-inch to one and one-quarter inch long packages of heroin and cocaine. According to the El Paso Intelligence Center, this seizure was the third largest in the U.S. in 1995 and in the top 10 ever recorded. You can read more about the seizure in the March 1996 edition of the *Patrol News.*



50 YEARS AGO

50 years - In the April 1976 edition of the *Patrol News*, The Information Systems Division, now known as CJIS, was featured. Notable highlights in the article included the two computers taking up the entire top floor of the General Headquarters building, 60 staff members, and four major areas of expertise.



Missing Persons Unit Celebrates 20 Years

On July 19, 1985, Governor John Ashcroft signed House Bill 366 into law creating a Missing Persons Unit within

1. Collect and disseminate information regarding missing persons in

retired, some of Curt's other major accomplishments while supervising the Missing Persons Unit were his ex-

/" as they related to
s and becoming a char-
se "Interstate Enforce-
who Recover Children
ancil." Asked what was
st challenges he had
he Unit, Curt re-
ng the word out."

In 1991, the Patrol took a new direction by pursuing standards outlined by CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc.) in the accreditation process. As a result, the Patrol combined the Missing Persons Unit with the newly created Juvenile Unit. Sgt. Kurt E. Mueller, (a corporal at the time) was assigned as the unit's supervisor. In addition to maintaining the services of the Missing Person Unit, the new unit also coordinated the Patrol's juvenile enforcement and prevention programs. Sgt. Mueller said some of his earliest challenges were similar to Sgt. Matthews'.

In 1994, the Missing Person Unit experienced its second major change by combining with the Lottery Enforcement Unit, in addition to the Juvenile Unit. "As weird a combination as these three units appear," says Sgt. Mueller, "supervising all three actually has made us more efficient." This can be attributed to the addition of a civilian employee, who handles all the administrative responsibilities of each unit, as well as, manages the Missing Persons Clearinghouse.

In 1998, Sergeant Keverne L. McCollum transferred from Chillicothe, Troop H, to General Headquarters and began supervising the Missing Persons Unit. In 2002, Sgt. McCollum proposed new legislation

Continued on the next page.

ook action. Policy and procedures for
w enforcement agencies were im-
roved to report more effectively and
investigate missing person
ases. Most importantly,
ommunication was en-
anced. A network was
reated between local,
tate, and federal agencies
hat also included the pub-
ic, media, and private or-
anizations. Awareness
nabled education, which
s turn resulted in better
ervices for victims and
heir families. Soon, people
earned a missing person
ran not always reported
fter a certain time limita-
ion, or that foul play sus-
ected in a disappearance
as mandatory. Now, the
ssue is much larger, en-
ompassing runaways,
amily and non-family ab-
uctions, and adults missing voluntar-
y, involuntarily, or because of a
isability or endangerment.

The legislation signed into law by
ov. Ashcroft not only mandated im-
roved reporting procedures for miss-
ng persons, it also directed the
superintendent of the Missouri State
ighway Patrol to "organize a Missing
ersons Unit within the Patrol, which
hall be the central repository for the
tate regarding missing persons. The
ead of this Missing Persons Unit shall,
rith the approval of the superintendent
f the Patrol, establish services
eemed necessary to locate missing
ersons." The primary functions of the
nit are identified in state statute
Chapter 43.402RSMo.) as:

ports of missing persons by a uni-
formed or commissioned member
of the Patrol.

2005 Winning Entry

In response to this new mandate, it was determined the Missing Persons Unit would be placed within the Patrol's Criminal Investigation Bureau under the command of the director of the Division of Drug and Crime Control. By February 1986, the Missing Persons Unit was activated and under the supervision of Sergeant Curt Matthews. Sgt. Matthews had been instrumental in the formation of a nationally recognized, nonprofit organization in the Kansas City area known as, "The Lost Child Network". He continued his work on behalf of missing children by recommending legislative changes regarding child custody issues and parental abductions. Now

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20 YEARS AGO

On July 19, 1985, Governor John Ashcroft signed House Bill 366 into law creating a Missing Persons Unit with the Patrol. In the March-April 2006 edition of the Patrol News, they celebrated 20 years of the unit being created. The creation of the Missing Persons Unit enhanced communication between local, state, and federal agencies that also included the public, media, and private organizations.



40 YEARS AGO

40 years - Sergeant Fred C. Howard (E) of the 1137th Missouri National Guard Military Police was featured in the March 1986 edition of the Patrol News. He and other members of the Patrol belonging to the National Guard participated in exercises in Camp Ripley, MN. They trained in freezing rain on top of 18-24 inches of snow, with sub-zero temperatures and wind chills of 30-40 degrees below zero.



Unselfish Act Inspires Officers

y Sgt. Jake P. Angle, Troop H

The Make-A-Wish Foundation
rovided the opportunity to ask for
nything to an 8-year-old little girl diag-
osed with brain cancer. Maybe she'd
ke a trip to Disneyland or to meet
meone famous or maybe a new four
heeler? No! Amelia Meyer, of Kansas
ity, MO, asked for everyone to "take
are of the world" for one day by pick-
g up trash from parks.

This brave little girl found out i
December of last year that she had
brain tumor. Amelia, the daughter
a Kansas City police officer, wanted
make the world a better place. Whi
she endured chemotherapy and rad
tion treatments she would go to he
happy place, which was walking wi
her grandma at the local park picki
up trash to take care of the world.

Members of the Missouri State
Highway Patrol, Savannah Police D

10 YEARS AGO

Members of the Patrol, along with other law enforcement agencies, gathered and picked up trash at Savannah Messick Park and Duncan Park both in Savannah, MO, on February 27, 2016. This act of service was done through the Make-A-Wish Foundation for then eight-year-old Amelia Meyer. Amelia's story was published in the March-April 2016 edition of the Patrol News.

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
General Headquarters
P.O. Box 568
1510 E. Elm St.
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0568





K-9 handlers Cpl. Trent S. Beeson (Q/FOB) and Cpl. Nicholas A. Regan (Q/FOB) pose with the unit's newest additions, Frak and Toro.