September | October 2026

PATROL NEWS

OVER NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION



from the STAFF



NEVER LET ROUTINE BECOME ROUTINE

Major Justin L. McCullough
Field Operations Bureau

One of the challenges in any job is that the more often we do something, the easier it is for it to become routine. That can happen anywhere in the Patrol.

For a trooper, it may be another traffic stop, crash investigation, stranded motorist, or call for service. For a communications employee, it may be another radio transmission or phone call. For someone working in a laboratory, records, information technology, maintenance, human resources, training, commercial vehicle enforcement, motor vehicle inspection, or any other part of the Patrol, it may simply be another task in a long day. But to the person on the other end of that interaction, it may not be routine at all. That is worth remembering.

Experience is valuable. It gives us confidence, improves judgment, and helps us do our jobs more efficiently. But experience should never lead to complacency. We should never become so comfortable with what we do that we lose focus on how important the work is.

For sworn members, that means approaching every interaction with the same professionalism, awareness, and sound judgment - whether it is the first contact of the shift or the last.

For civilian employees, the same principle applies. The report you process, the call you answer, the computer issue you resolve, the vehicle you repair, the evidence you handle, or the administrative task you complete may be one of many you deal with that day, but it often allows someone else in this organization to do their job safely and effectively. The public does not always see that part of the Patrol.

They may see the trooper on the roadside, but they usually do not see the communications operator supporting that trooper, the technician keeping equipment operating, the employee maintaining records, the mechanic keeping vehicles on the road, the laboratory employee processing evidence, or the many people working behind the scenes to support the mission. Every one of those roles matters.

The same can be said about how we treat people. A traffic stop may be routine to us, but it could be the only contact that person has with the Patrol for years. A citizen's call for assistance may be one of many calls handled that day, but to that individual, the problem is important. How we handle those moments matters. People remember professionalism. They remember patience. They remember being treated fairly and with respect.

That applies inside the Patrol as well. Some of the best leadership I have seen during my career has had nothing to do with rank. It comes from employees who are willing to help someone else, share their experience, step in when things get busy, or simply do the right thing without needing to be asked. Those things build strong teams, and strong teams are what allow an organization like ours to succeed.

It can be easy to focus on our own troop, division, section, or assignment, but the reality is that we all depend on one another. Not one area of the Patrol accomplishes the mission alone. Most of what we do will never receive public recognition. Many of the things that make the biggest difference happen quietly every day. A safe traffic stop. An accurate report. A calm voice on the radio. A repaired vehicle. A piece of evidence processed correctly. A technology issue resolved. A citizen treated with respect. A coworker helped when they needed it. None of those things may seem extraordinary by themselves. Together, they are what make the Patrol what it is.

So, as we go about our daily responsibilities, I would encourage each of us to stay focused, take pride in what we do, and never allow routine to become an excuse for complacency. Do the small things well. Look out for one another. Remember who we serve. Because we rarely know which ordinary moment will end up making the biggest difference.



CELEBRATING OVER 59 YEARS OF NEWS
PATROL NEWS

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The Patrol News is published by the Public Information & Education Division of the Missouri State Highway Patrol in the interest of all active and retired personnel.
(573) 526-6115

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

September | October 2026

PATROL NEWS

OVER NINETY YEARS OF SERVICE AND PROTECTION

Volume 61 ▪ Number 2

ON THE COVER

Troop C members Tpr. Daniel M. Bochucinski, Cpl. Catherine M. Bishop, Cpl. Kenneth R. Bechaud, and Cpl. Dylan H. Bert take a group photo before working at the FIFA Fan Fest.

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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 July 2026 through August 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
Tpr. T.R. Conness, 1 arrest
Cpl. Z.D. Davidson, 1 arrest
Tpr. J.V. Dillon, 1 arrest
Tpr. M.A. Harris, 1 arrest
Tpr. A.C. Hunolt, 1 arrest
Tpr. C.W. Klotz, 1 arrest
Cpl. C.M. McDonald, 1 arrest
Cpl. N.T. Ott, 1 arrest
Tpr. T.R. Peoples, 1 arrest
Cpl. B.A. Shows, 2 arrests
Tpr. R.K. Stearns, 1 arrest
Tpr. D.T. Waller, 1 arrest
Tpr. G.W. Winesburg, 1 arrest

TROOP B
Tpr. J.R. Billings, 1 arrest
Cpl. C.R. Kottwitz, 3 arrests
Tpr. C.J. Snyder, 1 arrest
Tpr. J.N. Schafer, 1 arrest
Tpr. E.G. Schieferdecker, 1 arrest

TROOP C
Cpl. R.A. Allee, 3 arrests
Tpr. T.L. Benner, 1 arrest
Tpr. D.J. Bittick, 2 arrests
Tpr. D.M. Bochucinski, 1 arrest
Tpr. T.G. Busse, 1 arrest
Tpr. Z.T. Chastain, 4 arrests
Tpr. J.S. Collier, 1 arrest
Cpl. T.H. Elliston, 1 arrest
Tpr. D.B. Howell, 1 arrest
Tpr. N. Konopelski, 1 arrest
Tpr. P.B. Martin, 1 arrest
Cpl. R.A. Metteer, 2 arrests
Tpr. T.O. Murphy, 1 arrest
Cpl. D.A. Norton, 1 arrest
Tpr. M.S. Ogborn, 1 arrest
Sgt. C.L. Pleasant, 1 arrest
Cpl. A.D. Pogue, 2 arrests
Tpr. T.A. Stamos, 1 arrest
Cpl. R.J. Steele, 1 arrest
Cpl. N.W. Stevens, 3 arrests

TROOP D
Tpr. J.P. Blinkinsop, 1 arrest
Cpl. J.R. Chronister, 1 arrest
Tpr. M.W. Coleman, 1 arrest
Cpl. K.L. Elledge, 1 arrest
Tpr. N.C. Fry, 1 arrest
Tpr. S.J. Hallam, 1 arrest
Tpr. C.B. Henderson, 3 arrests
Cpl. J.L. Hughes, 1 arrest
Tpr. F.R. Jones, 5 arrests
Tpr. J.T. Martin, 2 arrests
Tpr. Z. Moore, 1 arrest
Cpl. C.D. O'Hara, 1 arrest
Tpr. J.O. Prater, 4 arrests
Tpr. C.T. Schmidt, 3 arrests
Tpr. K.A. Wagner, 2 arrests
Tpr. R.G. Watkins, 1 arrest

TROOP E
Cpl. R.W. Eakins, 1 arrest
Tpr. L.M. Jones, 1 arrest
Tpr. G.L. Meloy, 1 arrest
Tpr. G.D. Miller, 1 arrest
Sgt. M.L. Schlief, 1 arrest
Tpr. E.N. Stinson, 1 arrest
Tpr. T.C. Sutton, 2 arrests
Tpr. T.J. Wiebe, 1 arrest

TROOP F
Tpr. L.A. Benke, 1 arrest
Tpr. L.T. Carson, 1 arrest
Tpr. W.L. Cox, 1 arrest
Sgt. T.C. Fick, 2 arrests
Tpr. D.M. Hagenhoff, 4 arrests
Cpl. O.G. Imhoff, 1 arrest
Tpr. T.M. Johnson, 1 arrest
Tpr. S.C. Latture, 1 arrest
Tpr. S.W. Mahaney, 2 arrests
Cpl. B.W. Masek, 2 arrests
Cpl. E.C. Penrod, 1 arrest
Cpl. M.L. Rice, 1 arrest
Tpr. T.A. Tarwater, 1 arrest

TROOP G
Tpr. C.C. Battreal, 2 arrests
Cpl. T.M. Broyles, 1 arrest
Cpl. J.L. Dedmon, 1 arrest
Tpr. S.T. Duggins, 2 arrests
Tpr. J.D. Healy, 7 arrests
Tpr. J.Q. Hummel, 2 arrests
Tpr. G.L. Plummer, 1 arrest
Tpr. N.B. Poynter, 2 arrests
Tpr. B.A. Swink, 1 arrest
Tpr. Z.B. Tate, 1 arrest
Tpr. A.C. White, 3 arrests

TROOP H
Cpl. M.S. Cline, 1 arrest
Cpl. K.L. Ebersold, 1 arrest
Tpr. S.P. Gomez, 2 arrests
Tpr. B.D. Hahn, 8 arrests
Cpl. J.E. Hainey, 1 arrest
Tpr. B.A. Jones, 2 arrests

TROOP I
Tpr. D.J. Creamer, 2 arrests
Tpr. K.J. Estes, 2 arrests
Tpr. K.L. Francom, 3 arrests
Tpr. A.L. Gillispie, 2 arrests
Cpl. C.C. Marlow, 1 arrest
Sgt. J.R. McCurdy, 1 arrest
Tpr. C.L. Park, 1 arrest
Cpl. J.T. Peart, 1 arrest
Tpr. G.W. Picard, 1 arrest
Tpr. A.C. Philipps, 1 arrest
Sgt. G.S. Sloan, 1 arrest
Cpl. J.R. Summers, 1 arrest
Sgt. P.J. Volkmer, 2 arrests
Cpl. P.J. Vroegop, 1 arrest
Tpr. D.R. Willhite, 1 arrest

Q
Sgt. T.J. Adams, 1 arrest
Sgt. L.G. Amighetti, 1 arrest
Sgt. N.A. Bax, 2 arrests
Cpl. T.S. Beeson, 4 arrests
Tpr. M.L. Bradley, 1 arrest
Cpl. C.T. Hinshaw, 2 arrests
Lt. S.B. Johnson, 1 arrest
Cpl. M.W. Neely, 2 arrests
Cpl. N.A. Regan, 2 arrests
Cpl. B.M. Ryun, 5 arrests
Cpl. E.J. Villanueva, 3 arrests

GATHERING TO STRENGTHEN LEADERSHIP AND *Advance the Mission*

By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)

Command staff from across the Missouri State Highway Patrol gathered July 21 and 22, 2026, for the annual Commanders Conference in Defiance, MO. The conference brought together leaders from every bureau, troop, and division to discuss emerging challenges, share lessons learned, and strengthen the Patrol's commitment to serving Missouri.

The two-day conference featured presentations on officer wellness, tactical operations, a critical incident review of the February 23, 2026, officer-involved shooting in Christian County, promotional processes, budgeting, and organizational priorities. Commanders also received updates on legislative issues, participated in discussions on recruiting, training, and employee wellness, and reviewed takeaways from major operations, including the Patrol's support of FIFA events.

Special presentations highlighted the father-son Valor Award, SWAT capabilities, and appreciation awards to Sergeant Clark D. Parrott (E) and Sergeant Andrew D. Gadberry (C) for their efforts during the FIFA World Cup. The conference concluded with an open question-and-answer session with Colonel Michael A. Turner and Lieutenant Colonel Wallace V. Ahrens.

Through collaboration and professional development, commanders returned to their respective divisions better equipped to support employees and serve Missouri.



Dr. Jennifer Prohaska, founder of Tactical Longevity, was a guest presenter on neuro-rehabilitation psychology, trauma, and critical incident response.



Troop C SWAT members prepared to show off their capabilities at the Commanders Conference.



Troop C SWAT demonstrate how to break into a fortified building.



Sgt. Clark D. Parrott (E) and Sgt. Andrew D. Gadberry (C) receive appreciation awards for their efforts during the FIFA World Cup.

spotlight on Wellness

By Catlynn E. Newbold (Q/WU)



FINANCIAL WELLNESS RESOURCES

Now Available

We're excited to share new financial wellness opportunities for all Missouri State Highway Patrol employees and their spouses. Feeling confident about your finances is an important part of overall well-being, and SRG Financial Advisors will be offering free classes and on-demand learning opportunities to help you make sense of the benefits available to you throughout your career.

These sessions will cover topics such as:

- Understanding your pension
- Making the most of your Deferred Compensation (457) Plan
- Coordinating retirement benefits and tax planning
- Building a long-term retirement income strategy
- Financial planning at every career stage
- Investment fundamentals
- Estate planning basics
- Preparing for a work-optional future

All sessions are completely voluntary and will be offered both in person and virtually so you can participate in whatever way works best for you. More details, including schedules and access links, will be shared through the Wellness Unit.

SCAN TO JOIN OUR WELLNESS EMAIL LIST!

19TH COMMERCIAL VEHICLE OFFICER CLASS

GRADUATES



(l to r): CVO Briana K. England, CVO Patrick J. Bruno, CVO Laura L. Ballew, CVO Henrique F. Goncalves

By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)

On August 28, 2026, the 19th Commercial Vehicle Officer (CVO) Class gathered in the Academy's gym one last time. The 19th CVO Class was ready to graduate and step into their new roles of serving the citizens of Missouri. The class completed over 900 hours of training consisting of administrative procedures and Patrol policy; constitutional law, Missouri statutory, and traffic law; domestic violence, criminal, crime scene, and traffic crash investigation; hazardous materials response, defensive tactics, firearms, and driver training. They also received commercial vehicle-specific training and obtained their North American Standard Part A and Part B certifications. Additionally, the class obtained 600 hours per POST in several areas of curricula.

The Missouri Trucking Association President and Chief Executive Officer Mr. Tom Crawford provided the keynote address during the graduation ceremony. CVO Laura L. Ballew addressed the 19th CVO Class as class commander. She reminded the class of their mission. "We are entering a specialized, vital line of defense. The highways of Missouri are the economic arteries of this country, and it is our mandate to ensure every commercial vehicle is safe and compliant." CVO Ballew also encouraged the class to carry three principles with them: treat every person with professionalism, rely on your training, and guard your integrity.

> **"We are entering a specialized, vital line of defense. . . and it is our mandate to ensure every commercial vehicle is safe and compliant."**
> - CVO Laura L. Ballew

Two awards were presented at the graduation; CVO Ballew received the Academics Award and CVO Patrick J. Bruno received the Firearms Award. The Oath of Office was led by Judge Joseph Shetler, associate judge for Cole County. The invocation and benediction were given by Mr. Tom Holdsworth, the father-in-law of CVO Ballew.

Congratulations to the 19th CVO Class!

PATROL GOES THE DISTANCE AT FIFA WORLD CUP

KANSAS CITY, MO - JUNE 16TH TO JULY 11TH



By Justin D. Howard (A) and Clark D. Parrott (E)

When the world's largest sporting event came to Kansas City, MO, the call for service extended far beyond city limits.

Forty-four days, seven week-long deployments, more than 80 law enforcement agencies, 532 troopers, and one succinct mission of ensuring public safety.

Hosting an international event of this magnitude required months of planning, extensive coordination, and a unified approach among all agencies involved. Throughout the FIFA World Cup Tournament, the Missouri State Highway Patrol played a significant role, providing manpower, specialized units, and resources in ensuring the safety and security of the hundreds of thousands of fans who traveled to the Kansas City region.

Captain Steven B. Johnson (Q/FOB) said, "The Patrol's response to FIFA was built on a people-first philosophy that prioritized the safety, well-being, and support of both our personnel and the public throughout every phase of planning and deployment. This approach was reiterated in the communication structures and on-scene expectations, ensuring officers had the information, resources, and support necessary to operate confidently in high-density, high-visibility environments. Complementing this was a logistics framework of behind-the-scenes personnel, ensuring every detail specific component had the equipment needed to keep themselves safe and carry out this complex mission. Together, these elements created an operational posture that enabled the Patrol to deliver an organized and reliable response to one of the largest special events ever hosted in the region."

The National World War I Memorial served as the venue for 19 FIFA Fan Festival events, welcoming more than 400,000 attendees. Just a few miles away, KC Stadium, regularly known as Arrowhead Stadium, was the world stage for six FIFA World Cup matches, drawing 413,169 fans from around the world. Operationally, this was a complex undertaking. Plans shifted, adjustments were made in real time, and circumstances required fluidity and flexibility. We had personnel serving in many areas around the KC metro; at vehicle and pedestrian traffic posts, FIFA Fan Fest, KC Stadium, The Origin Hotel (Team Argentina basecamp), William Jewell College, Mobile Command Post, and the Joint Operations Center. At these locations we had members serving in multiple capacities; road function, Public Order, SWAT, criminal intelligence, communications, drone mitigation, and administrative roles. Personnel were spread thin, but remained operationally strong. Everyone worked to bring clarity to confusion and professionalism to every situation.

Captain Greg D. Primm (A) said, "If you were tracking global events and intelligence in the two years leading up to the World Cup, you know concerns were high for a wide spectrum of risks. The eyes of the world were on us, and this was a no-fail mission. While some of our efforts were technology-heavy, we leaned even more heavily on quality observational skills. Each trooper was a sensor, a tripwire, a monitor, and a protector for all who attended FIFA events. Their friendly demeanors and constant crowd engagements were community outreach but also criminal and terrorism filters and assessment tools. Being 'ladies and gentlemen who enforce the law' allowed them to sort who needed additional scrutiny to keep the public safe. These skills are a very connected concept to our daily duties, now just brought to the world stage. Our agency shone in this spotlight. Our partnership with Kansas City, Missouri Police and all the mutual aid partners was exceptional and effective. I am appreciative of each person assigned to this detail and the way they delivered a clutch performance."

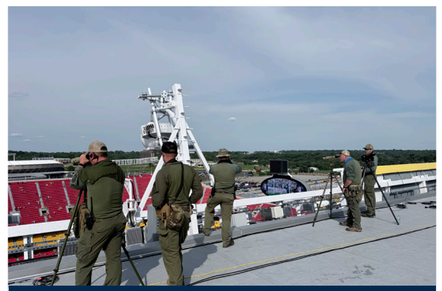
From Lionel Messi's historic hat trick in Kansas City's opening World Cup match to the Netherlands' Oranje Fan Walk, where more than 36,000 fans filled Grand Boulevard in a sea of orange, and the thrilling quarterfinal match in which Argentina defeated Switzerland in extra time, the FIFA World Cup Tournament in Kansas City was both nationally and globally recognized as being a highly successful event. While the world's attention was focused on the excitement surrounding the tournament, countless public safety professionals worked behind the scenes to ensure operations ran smoothly. The Patrol should be proud of this success, as it was the direct result of dedication, teamwork, and commitment to doing things the right way. The Patrol performed effectively during one of the most significant operations in agency history, exemplifying true professionalism.



Troop A SWAT pose for a photo during FIFA.



Members from the Public Order Unit take a quick picture break during the festivities.



The view from the top.





Tpr. Cyle A. Cundiff (F) gets ready to direct traffic in Kansas City.



Capt. Michael A. Petlansky (Q/WPD) speaks with young fans during Fan Fest.



Col. Michael A. Turner (Q/SO) visits members of the World Cup detail.



Sgt. Andrew D. Gadberry (C) and Sgt. Charles L. Pleasant (C) take a quick selfie during the detail.



RED DOT TRAINING

By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)

Recently, Patrol members have been completing training and certification for the use of a new service weapon, Glock 45 Duty Pistol with mounted Aimpoint COA Optic, also known as a red dot pistol.

The new pistol features a new sight. Instead of the traditional iron sight, the new gun has a glass lens that projects a glowing red dot. The new service weapon has both pros and cons. Members have to break in a new holster, become comfortable with a new service weapon, and the new optic doesn't fix the shooting fundamentals: grip, trigger press, stance, and dry firing. But the new equipment now allows members to have a faster time on target, follow-up on shots is faster, and an increased visual awareness. Trooper Thomas O. Mitchell (Q/TND), who led the charge on the training said, "Once members got over the learning curve of a new service weapon, their accuracy greatly improved".

Members were required to attend a two-day training course at General Headquarters for the new red dot pistol. Day one consisted of time in the classroom and at the outdoor range. Classroom time provided an overview of the new weapon. Time at the outdoor range was used to help the user gain familiarity and grow confident in using the new pistol. Day two was spent at both the outdoor and indoor range. Members spent the first half of the day at the outdoor range with a free shoot and also following different commands from the instructor. Commands ranged in the distance from the target and number of rounds to fire. The second half of the day was spent out of the heat and in the indoor range. Time at the indoor range consisted of shooting in low-light environments and with no light except for their service flashlight. Towards the end of the day, members were tested to gain their certification with the red dot pistol. "I have always found red dots very beneficial in quick sight acquisition and faster follow-up shots. The training we received was fantastic," said Trooper Samuel L. Ponder (F). "As someone who regularly uses firearms for recreational target shooting, hunting, or practice range sessions, I still learned a substantial amount from our instructors. Our red dot training was the most beneficial and in-depth firearms training I have received since the Academy".



Tpr. Thomas O. Mitchell (Q/TND) draws specific target boxes for CVO Maxx C. Walker (F).



Capt. Danielle E. Heil (Q/RCOD) and Lt. Stephen M. Burgun (Q/GD) fire their new service weapons.



Tpr. Thomas O. Mitchell (Q/TND) gives commands during the training.



Sgt. Geoffrey A. Beaulieu (F) eyes his target before firing.

MUSEUM ADDS NEW DISPLAY



By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)

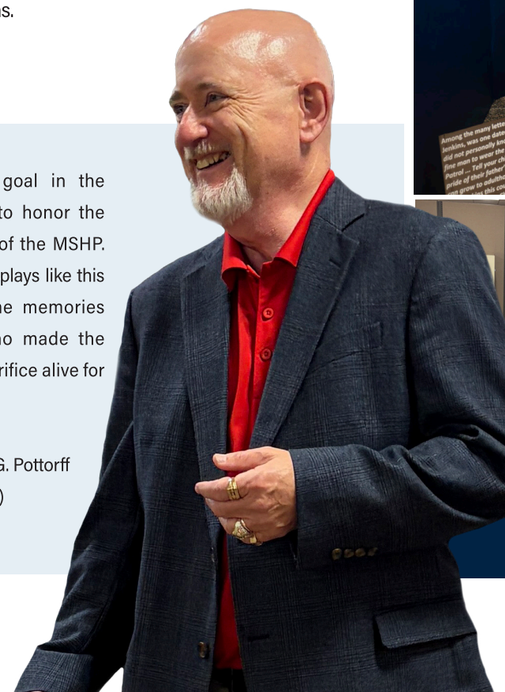
The Colonel Alvin R. Lubker Safety & Education Center has added a new display showcasing the story of one of the Patrol's fallen members, Trooper Jesse R. "Roger" Jenkins. Tpr. Jenkins made the ultimate sacrifice on October 14, 1969, after exchanging gunfire with a prisoner at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office.

Located in the display is the chair that Tpr. Jenkins had at his desk—you can see a hole from a bullet fired at Jenkins. Multiple bullets and bullet fragments are also available for viewing. Mrs. Janet Jenkins and Jeffery Jenkins, wife and son of Tpr. Jenkins, also donated his Class A uniform for display. We believe this is the same uniform that Tpr. Jenkins wore on October 14, 1969. On the upper left torso of the shirt is what looks like a bullet hole that was sewn up. However, there is no historical or written evidence confirming that the damage is from a bullet.

The Patrol is very grateful for the donation from the Jenkins family and is honored to display the heroic story of Tpr. Jenkins.



> "Our goal in the museum is to honor the rich history of the MSHP. Hopefully, displays like this can keep the memories of those who made the Ultimate Sacrifice alive for all to know.
>
> — Mark G. Pottorff (Q/PIED)







Capt. Scott B. White (Q/BPD) and Mark G. Pottorff (Q/PIED) examine photographs and prepare Jenkins' uniform for display.

BRING YOUR KID TO WORK DAY












Our next generation of big possibilites

AND ALSO THIS GUY.























RECOGNITION OF EXCELLENCE

By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)

MAY

DPS SWORN TEAM MEMBER OF THE MONTH

TROOPER JACKSON HOOD (D)



QUICK ACTION SAVES A CHILD'S LIFE

Trooper Jackson Hood (D) was named the May DPS Sworn Team Member of the Month for his quick action and rescue of a child in January 2026.

On January 21, 2026, Tpr. Hood became aware of a possible sighting of a suspect vehicle that was part of an AMBER Alert. The vehicle was seen at a convenience store in Ozark, MO, and Tpr. Hood immediately responded to the scene. When he arrived, Tpr. Hood used his patrol vehicle to block the driver from leaving and quickly took the driver into custody. The four-year-old child, whose mother had been murdered, was located safe in the vehicle.

Tpr. Hood's vigilance, professionalism, and prompt action led to the arrest of a dangerous fugitive and the recovery of a kidnapped four-year-old, whose mother had just been murdered, within seven minutes of the AMBER Alert being issued.

Tpr. Hood was honored at the Team Member of the Month award on May 13 at General Headquarters. Tpr. Hood shared, "I don't know if I can take credit. It's a team effort between the civilians who called in the AMBER Alert, dispatch who sent out the alert, the detectives down in Texas. It's not just me; it was everyone who was involved."

JUNE & JULY

June DPS Sworn Team Member of the Month and July State Team Member of the Month

CORPORAL ADAM G. McATEE (Q/DDCC)



INVESTIGATIVE WORK LEADS TO CHILD'S RESCUE

In November 2024, a Minnesota officer reached out to Corporal Adam G. McAtee (Q/DDCC) to report evidence showed that a man recently arrested was communicating with a Missouri man about sex trafficking a child. Cpl. McAtee quickly identified the Missouri suspect, but the child's identity was still unknown. Eventually, Cpl. McAtee's investigation revealed a second child victim. Cpl. McAtee continued his efforts in the investigation, leading to a collaboration of multiple agencies to serve a search warrant in the Kansas City area. The search revealed a third child victim of sexual exploitation.

With the help of facial recognition software, the original child was tracked to Georgia, where officers located and rescued the child. Cpl. McAtee's persistence led to two arrests and the location of three child victims within one year. The two suspects have each been federally indicted in the Western District of Missouri. Department of Public Safety Director Mark S. James told Cpl. McAtee, "I was struck not only by the outstanding investigative work but the leadership that was shown throughout the process. When you're calling on other departments in Missouri and agencies from other states—that is a true testament to your leadership and capabilities."

JULY

DPS SWORN TEAM MEMBER OF THE MONTH

TROOPER RYAN A. LILLY (C)



WRONG WAY DRIVER THWARTED

Trooper Ryan A. Lilly (C) was named the Sworn Team Member of the Month for his decisive and fearless action to intercept a wrong-way driver. Near the end of his shift on April 5, 2026, Troop C Radio broadcasted a wrong-way driver in Jefferson County. Recognizing the danger to the public, Tpr. Lilly immediately responded to the area. Tpr. Lilly positioned his vehicle in the northbound lane, activated his emergency equipment, and signaled the driver to stop. Instead, the driver traveled off the left shoulder to go around Tpr. Lilly.

As the vehicle passed, Tpr. Lilly struck the left rear of the vehicle in a controlled strike, causing it to travel through the median and come to a stop. The driver was arrested for DWI, failure to yield to an emergency vehicle, and driving the wrong direction on a divided highway. There was no training for Tpr. Lilly's maneuver. He placed himself in harm's way to protect the public and prevent a potentially fatal crash. His selfless actions reflect the Patrol's high standards. Colonel Michael A. Turner said, "You [Tpr. Lilly] put the needs and the safety of the motoring public above yourself. And that's who we [the Patrol] are. And I couldn't be prouder of that."

JULY

DPS NON-SWORN TEAM MEMBER OF THE MONTH

LEAD ADMIN. SUPPORT ASSISTANT JAMIE L. PEART (I)



ABOVE AND BEYOND SERVICE

Lead Administrative Support Assistant Jamie L. Peart (I) was named the Non-Sworn Team Member of the Month for her skillful and tireless work training troopers on the Patrol's Missouri Automated Reporting System (MARS).

When MARS was deployed as a pilot program in Troop I, Peart approached the new technology with a hands-on approach, patience, and an investment of her own time. Though it is not part of her job description, Peart learned the ins and outs of the new app, its screens and processes, and how troopers would use it. This is not unusual to Peart; she routinely invests her own time in making sure the team succeeds. Ms. Peart regularly reaches out to troopers by phone or text outside normal hours to make sure things are running smoothly and to catch small issues before they turn into bigger system problems. She also reaches out to the Cyber Technology Division Application Development team to keep them informed of problems. This two-way communication has contributed to the success of MARS. Major Justin L. McCullough (Q/FOB) said, "Equally worth noting is Ms. Peart's unfailingly positive attitude. She is quick to compliment her co-workers, and a pleasure to work with in every interaction. Ms. Peart uplifts the people around her and that energy is carried throughout the rest of Troop I."

AUGUST

DPS SWORN TEAM MEMBER OF THE MONTH

CORPORAL JESSE D. PROCKNOW (C)



DETECTIVE WORK BRINGS JUSTICE

Corporal Jesse D. Procknow (C) was named the August DPS Sworn Team Member of the Month for his outstanding work to locate and apprehend a suspected child predator and rescue an 11-year-old girl.

On January 25, 2026, the Jersey County, IL, Sheriff's Office reported a suspected sex offender was believed to be transporting an 11-year-old victim into Missouri. Cpl. Procknow positioned his patrol vehicle to monitor incoming traffic to St. Louis County from Illinois. Cpl. Procknow spotted and stopped the suspect vehicle and interviewed the child. During the interview, Cpl. Procknow utilized Patrol Interdiction for the Protection of Children training. He arrested the suspect for a traffic violation, and the Jersey County Sheriff's Office pursued criminal charges in Illinois. The child was reunited with her mother. Cpl. Procknow's swift action and interviewing skills likely helped to end the sexual abuse of a child and prevent further victims from abuse.

"I happened to be at the right place at the right time. . . I did what I thought was right at the time," said Cpl. Procknow. His investigation led to the suspect being convicted and sentenced to 16 years. Multiple local and federal level cases have since been opened, and additional victims have been identified.

TWO PATROL EMPLOYEES HONORED

at 2025 Statewide Awards Ceremony

By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)





In June 30, 2026, two employees of the Patrol were recognized for their efforts that earned them the title of State Team Member of the Month: Corporal Kyle A. Seabaugh (Q/DDCC), March 2025, and Motor Vehicle Inspector Supervisor Cory B. Boatright (D), November 2025.

The Office of Administration hosted the reception at The Millbottom event center in Jefferson City. Governor Mike Kehoe was in attendance to celebrate the efforts of the state's workforce who continue to make a difference for Missouri's residents.

"Our state team members are the backbone of Missouri's success, demonstrating unparalleled dedication and excellence every single day," said Governor Kehoe. "It is an honor to celebrate these outstanding individuals who consistently step up to serve their fellow citizens and make our communities a better place to live, work, and thrive."

To learn more about the efforts of the Patrol employees, please visit the March/April 2025 and the November/December 2025 editions of the Patrol News, respectively.

Congratulations to our 2025 State Team Member of the Month recipients!

FATHER AND SON MAKE PATROL HISTORY

By Megan L. Edwards (Q/PIED)

Since 1931, the Patrol has recognized members whose selfless actions have gone beyond the call of duty through the presentation of the Valor Award. And through the past 95 years, many men and women have earned the reward. Trooper Justin D. Hedrick (C) and Retired Sergeant James T. "Todd" Hedrick made history by becoming the Patrol's first father/son Valor Award recipients.

On March 21, 1996, Ret. Sgt. Hedrick earned his Valor Award for his actions within just 14 months of his service as a trooper. At the time, Hedrick was assigned to Jefferson County. While on patrol, he located a suspect who had killed the fiancé of his ex-girlfriend in Cape Girardeau, MO, then kidnapped her before traveling north on I-55 to Troy, MO. Hedrick pursued the suspect vehicle and was able to stop the suspect near the Interstate 270 and Highway 40/64 interchange. As Hedrick exited his patrol car, the suspect pointed a firearm at him, a distance of only eight to 10 feet, and they exchanged gunfire. Hedrick struck the suspect multiple times, allowing assisting troopers to safely rescue the kidnapped victim. During the exchange, Hedrick was struck in his right thigh. The suspect was later convicted and ultimately executed for his crimes in the fall of 2019.

Three decades later, history repeated itself on September 6, 2024. Tpr. Justin Hedrick had nine months of service with the Patrol, when he and Trooper Trey A. Gaedke (C), pursued a suspect in South County. Similarly to his father's incident, the suspect involved was accompanied by a female who was reportedly in danger. The suspect was fleeing law enforcement officials in Texas due to reportedly setting his residence on fire.

During the pursuit, the suspect overturned his vehicle. As Tpr. Hedrick and Tpr. Gaedke approached the vehicle, the suspect exited and pointed a pistol at Tpr. Hedrick and Tpr. Gaedke. Both returned fire and stopped the threat. Their actions brought an incredibly dangerous situation to a successful conclusion, and both were deservedly awarded the Patrol's Valor Award.

Major Kirk A. Davis (Q/ASB) presented the award to the Hedricks during the Commanders Conference on July 21, 2026. Presenting the award was especially meaningful to him. Major Davis was Ret. Sgt. Hedrick's zone mate when they worked in Jefferson County and was with him following his officer-involved shooting. Major Davis was then serving in the Professional Standards Division and conducted the administrative investigation of Tpr. Hedrick's intentional striking of a wrong-way driver. Major Davis said, "In both cases, I was struck by the same thing: two young troopers, early in their careers, who faced life-threatening circumstances with remarkable composure, courage, and professionalism. Watching both of them earn the Patrol's highest recognition—and now seeing them make history together as the first father and son to receive the Valor Award—is something truly special."



> "Watching both of them earn the Patrol's highest recognition—and now seeing them make history together as the first father and son to receive the Valor Award—is something truly special."
>
> — Major Kirk A. Davis (Q/ASB)



Col. Michael A. Turner (Q/SO) congratulate Ret. Sgt. and Tpr. Hedrick on a job well done.



Ret. Sgt. James T. Hedrick and Tpr. Justin D. Hedrick (C) share what the Valor Award means to them at the Commanders Conference.

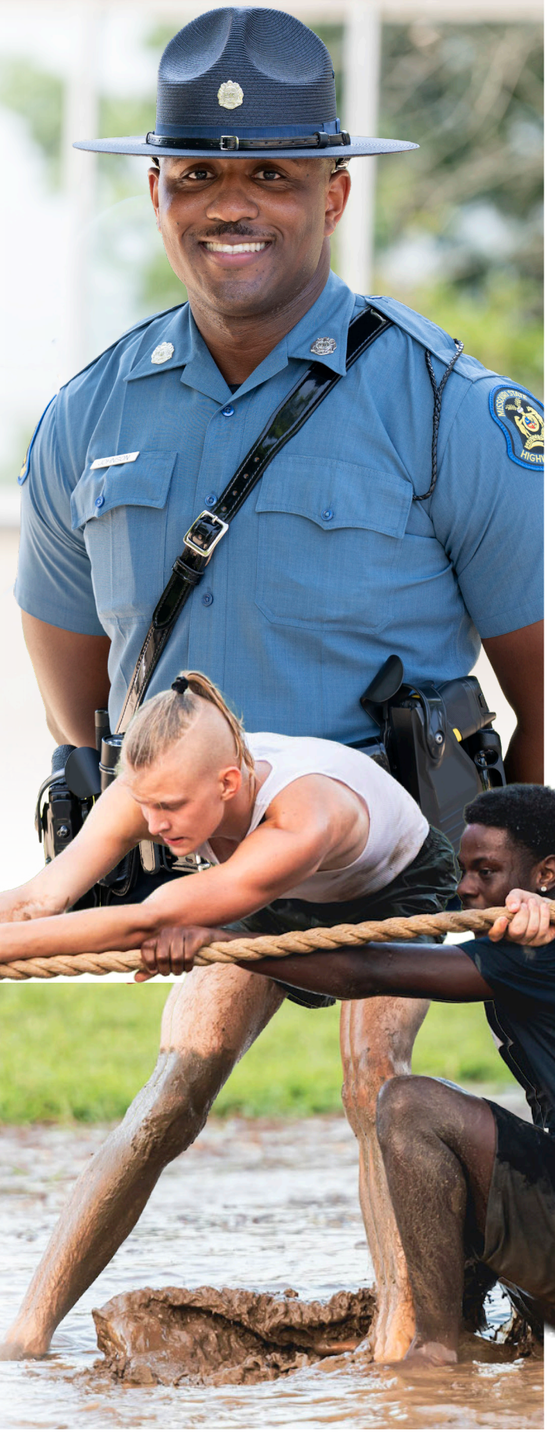


The Hedrick family pose for a photo after the award presentation.

MISSOURI STATE PATROL FOUNDATION:

Strengthening Service Through Community Support

By Col. Michael A. Turner, Superintendent



Have you ever been asked how someone can support the Missouri State Highway Patrol, but were not sure what to tell them?

For years, the main option was through MASTERS (Missouri Association of State Troopers Emergency Relief Society). The MASTERS was formed in the late 1970s and supports surviving members of any uniformed member or commercial vehicle officer killed in the line of duty. Their commitment to the families who gave so much has never wavered and cannot be understated. The Patrol is eternally grateful for their support.

An additional, less well known, option for supporting the Patrol is through the State Patrol Foundation. Founded in 2018, the Missouri State Patrol Foundation is a charitable, 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization. Donations from individuals and businesses throughout the state help the Foundation aid the Patrol in ways that public government funds cannot; including youth law enforcement camps, specialty training and equipment for officers, and other public safety programs and services.

Recently, the Foundation approved the expenditure of funds to pay for the following equipment/items:

- Four Ace WatchDog systems for the K9 patrol vehicles. This system monitors the temperature of the interior of the vehicles and sounds alarms should the temperature become excessively high.
- Four Skydio R10 drones for use in SWAT operations. This allows SWAT members to gain visibility, communicate, and negotiate in a tactical environment from a safer distance.
- Additional funds to complete the Patrol yearbook.

Through dedicated leadership, meaningful partnerships, and forward-looking initiatives, the Missouri State Patrol Foundation continues to support the Patrol's mission and reinforce its connection to the communities it serves.



> "The State Patrol Foundation helps bridge the gap, providing resources and opportunities that allow us to better serve our communities."
>
> — Col. Michael A. Turner, Superintendent

THE MISSION

The mission of the State Patrol Foundation is to support the Missouri State Highway Patrol by providing services, equipment, and support, which might not otherwise be available, and accepting contributions for such purposes.

THE BOARD

Each member of the Foundation's Board of Directors has a personal connection with the Patrol and is committed to supporting troopers in their mission to protect and serve Missouri. The Board collects and guides monetary donations and is comprised of volunteers who share the mission and values of the Patrol.

THE YOUTH ACADEMY PROGRAM

Among other initiatives, The Missouri State Patrol Foundation helps fund the Youth Academy Program, which provides a firsthand experience to youth as they learn about the role of law enforcement officers in their community. Through camps and events, the program fosters communictation, relationship building, and a positive attitude between officers and youth, while providing mentoring and development of life skills for those interested in a career in criminal justice or law enforcement.





RECENTLY FUNDED ITEMS

Four Ace WatchDog systems for the K9 patrol vehicles.

This system monitors the temperature of the interior of the vehicles and sounds alarms should the temperature become excessive.

Four Skydio R10 drones for use in SWAT operations.

This allows SWAT members to gain visibility, communicate and negotiate in a tactical environment from a safer distance.

Additional funds to complete the Patrol yearbook.

SUPPORT THE MISSION

Donate online at:
mopatrolfoundation.com
or mail with any special instructions to:
State Patrol Foundation
PO Box 922
Jefferson City, MO 65102

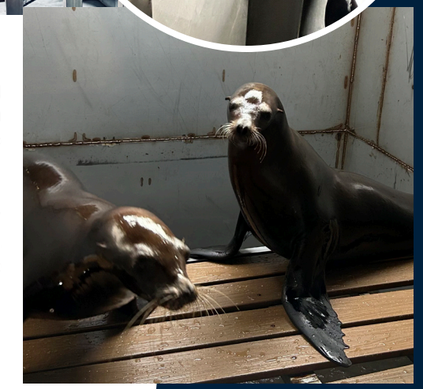
Questions about your donation may be directed to:
donate@mopatrolfoundation.com

SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

SOCIAL MEDIA SNAPSHOT







Working a crash involving three sea lions was NOT on Trooper Chase A. Fox's (F) bingo card this morning.

The sea lions, on their way to the State Fair, were uninjured. The single vehicle crash left one occupant with moderate injuries.



A sight no one expected, but one that families won't forget.

Missouri National Guard evacuated 202 young campers and counselors who had been stranded at Camp Taum Sauk, in Reynolds County. Everyone was reunited safely with loved ones. We're grateful for the coordinated efforts of all the partner agencies who worked together to make this happen.

7.10.26
Arcadia, MO
Sgt. Eddie Young



"If you see this video making the rounds on social media, everyone is OK."

One of our rescue boats capsized after the outboard motor became entangled with a submerged line. Two troopers immediately entered the water and safely self-rescued. No injuries were reported.

Floodwater is unpredictable and often hides hazards, even for those of us with specialized training and equipment. This incident is a reminder of the dangers our troopers and partner agencies face while responding to emergencies and why we urge everyone to stay out of flooded areas whenever possible.

7.10.26
Black River
Reynolds County



On July 10, 2026, southern Missouri experienced severe flooding. Two members of the Patrol, Sergeant Johnathan R. Roberts (G) and Sergeant Logan B. Monahan (Q/WPD), were riding in a rescue boat on the Black River in Reynolds County. While on the river, the boat's outboard motor became entangled with a submerged line. As the boat began to capsize, Sgt. Roberts and Sgt. Monahan immediately entered the water and safely self-rescued.

Obituaries



Pat Patrick

MORRIS E. "PAT" PATRICK

On July 5, 2026, Morris E. Patrick passed away at the age of 83. Much of Pat's life was spent in service. He served in the Vietnam War and then dedicated 33 years of service to the Patrol. Pat retired in 2001 as lieutenant colonel. He is survived by his wife, Wanda; his daughters, Debrah Huffman and Roxanne Schellman; sons-in-law Dave Amiss and Matt Schellman; his beloved grandchildren, Danny (Alex), Caroline, Mattie, and Ella; his brother and sister, Gil and Gail, their spouses and children. To learn more about Pat, please visit the Dignity Memorial website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Patrick family.



Jim Allen

JAMES L. "JIM" ALLEN

James L. Allen passed away on July 7, 2026, at his home in Warsaw, MO. Jim graduated from Winona High School in 1972 and attended School of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, MO where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree. In 1981, Jim began his career with the MSHP Water Patrol. He was assigned to the Osceola area of Truman Lake. Jim enjoyed presenting boating and water safety programs to students. He retired from the Water Patrol in 2010 after 30 years of dedicated service. Jim is survived by his wife, Lori Allen, his son Tyler (Kaylon) Allen, three granddaughters, his brother, and numerous other relatives and many friends. To learn more about Jim, please visit the Warsaw Funeral and Cremation website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Allen family.



Laverne Baker

LAVERNE L. BAKER

Laverne L. Baker passed away on August 7, 2026, at the Timbers in Holts Summit, MO, with her family by her side. She graduated from Chamois High School in 1951. In 1987, she moved to Jefferson City and joined the Patrol. After 26 years of dedicated service, Laverne retired as a quality control clerk for the Patrol Records Division. She is survived by her brother, David Baker; sisters; Barbara Maxwell and Debra Cramer; sister-in-law, Ann Baker; and many nieces and nephews. To learn more about Laverne, please visit the Millard Family Chapels website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Baker family.



Clifford Cumins

CLIFFORD W. CUMINS

Clifford W. Cumins departed this life on July 31, 2026, at his home. Clifford joined the Patrol in 1964 and retired in 1995 with the rank of sergeant. During that time, Clifford also built an extensive military career in the Army Reserves and National Guard. Clifford is survived by his loving wife, Wanda; his two sons, Jeffery Cumins and Michael (Heather) Cumins; his three daughters, Trina (Joshua) King, Stacie (Clint) Moss, and Tamara (Joe) Mell; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind a very special niece, Kristi (Jimmy) Winn; one nephew, Matt (Morgan) Cumins; two cousins who were loved like sisters, Alyce Raley and Julie Batchelder; two extra special friends, Johnny and Joy Gipson; and numerous family members and friends who mourn his passing. To learn more about Clifford, please visit the McSpadden Funeral Home, LLC website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Cumins family.

J.D. Klug

JIMMIE D. "J.D." KLUG

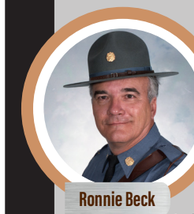
On August 14, 2026, Jimmie D. "J.D." Klug passed away peacefully at Villa Marie Nursing Home after an extended battle with Alzheimers. On March 2, 1964, J.D. joined the Missouri Army National Guard and served for almost six years during the Vietnam War era. He rose to the rank of SP5, proudly earning the Expert Rifle Medal. While he was never deployed, he served faithfully until receiving an honorable discharge on November 30, 1969. J.D began working for the Patrol in 1966 and dedicated 30 years of service before retiring in 1996. Throughout his time at the Patrol, J.D. worked in various facets, including one of the state's first bomb squad units, as well as the homicide and narcotic units, acting as an undercover agent for half of his career. J.D. is survived by his two sons, Kevin (Tracy) Klug and Kasey (Ashley) Klug; sister, Caroline Burch; brother, Conley (Karen) Klug; grandchildren, Lilia, Wyatt, Alexys, and Paxton Klug; and numerous members of his extended family, and many friends. To learn more about J.D., please visit the Freeman Mortuary website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Klug family.



Lewis Laub

LEWIS D. LAUB

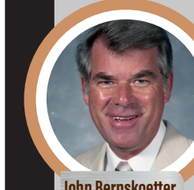
Lewis D. Laub passed away on August 12, 2026. He joined the Patrol on July 1, 1972, and retired with the rank of sergeant on November 1, 2001, after 29 years of dedicated service. He served the citizens of Troop D and worked for the Criminal Investigation Division, General Headquarters. He is survived by his wife, Mary Laub. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Laub family.



Ronnie Beck

RONNIE L. BECK

Ronnie L. Beck passed away on August 14, 2026, at Hubble Creek Care Facility in Jackson, MO. He joined the Patrol in 1966 and retired after 31 years of dedicated service in 1997. He retired as lieutenant of the Public Information and Education Division. Ronnie is survived by his wife, Esther; daughters, Shannon (Chris) Tomlinson and Brenda (Gary) Messmer; daughter-in-law, Lisa Beck; sister, Pam (Don) Peeler; and grandchildren, Christian Hood, Alexander Beck, Nathaniel Beck, Kade Groh, and Colton Groh. To learn more about Ronnie, please visit the McCombs Funeral Home, Inc. website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Beck family.



John Bernskoetter

JOHN F. BERNSKOETTER

On August 26, 2026, John F. Bernskoetter passed away at Heisinger West in Jefferson City, MO. John served in the United States Army from 1961 until 1963. For 36 years he worked in the Motor Equipment Division of the Patrol and retired in 1992. John is survived by his sister, Lucille Bernskoetter, many nieces and nephews, and other extended family members. To learn more about John, please visit the Trimble Funeral Homes website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Bernskoetter family.



David Smith

IVAN D. "DAVID" SMITH

On August 26, 2026, Ivan D. "David" Smith passed away peacefully at his home in Grain Valley, MO, surrounded by his family. David accomplished a goal he set in high school in January 1983 by becoming a member of the Patrol. He served in Mound City, Rock Port, Cameron, Tarkio, St. Joseph, and Lee's Summit, before finishing his service as captain of the Human Resources Division at General Headquarters. David retired in 2012. He is survived by his wife, retired Chief CVO Vonda Smith (nee Larkin), and his two sons, Jeffrey and Blake, and their wives, Kendra and Christine, respectively. One of David's biggest joys and greatest sources of pride were his six surviving grandchildren: Penelope, Isabella, Samuel, Lola, Richard, and Whitney. He is also survived by three nephews, five great-nephews, and one great niece. To learn more about David, please visit the Stith Family Funeral Home & Cremation Services website. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Smith family.



Mary Bruns

MARY A. BRUNS

Mary A. Bruns passed away on August 22, 2026, at the age of 80. Mary dedicated nine years of service to the Patrol as a housekeeper for Troop C. She retired in 2008. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Bruns family.

HIGHWAY HIGHLIGHTS



SGT. JUSTIN C. EWING (A)

On June 13, 2026, a plane crashed in Butler, MO. Sergeant Justin C. Ewing (A) showed his professionalism and compassion while helping the victims' family members through the tragedy. Ms. Leasa Hoefling wrote, "In no way is it ever easy to give life-changing news, and yet this gentleman held his composure and was there for those victims and their loved ones."

CPL. DYLAN H. BERT (C)
TPR. TIMOTHY J. O'SULLIVAN (C)



Mr. Tony Nugent was driving during the morning rush in Hazelwood, MO, when his car began to stall on North Lindbergh at the 270 East ramp. Mr. Nugent requested traffic assistance to the area. Corporal Dylan H. Bert (C) and Trooper Timothy J. O'Sullivan (C) arrived on the scene. Mr. Nugent wrote, "The two officers who arrived were very nice and efficient in handling the situation, and even assisted me with getting a tow truck. . . They made a stressful situation very manageable, and it was appreciated".



SGT. AMYE D. JOHNSON (G)

On June 9, 2026, Mr. Joseph Daniel was driving a 2021 Mack dump truck that he had purchased in Mississippi to bring back to Missouri. During his travels, he was stopped by Sergeant Amye D. Johnson (G). Mr. Daniel was starting a business and was given incorrect and incomplete information about the documents needed. "Sgt. Johnson took the time to talk with me and explain some of the resources we could use to get an accurate picture of what we needed to transport a vehicle," said Mr. Daniel. "At the end of this traffic stop, my respect and appreciation for Sergeant Johnson was extremely high, and it remains there." He went on to say that his boss commented later that the traffic stop was a blessing and helped them get their business on a better path.



TPR. HUNTER L. RIVERA (C)

Trooper Hunter L. Rivera (C) assisted Ms. Michelle Chambers on July 12, 2026, when she lost her cellphone after placing it on the top of her car and driving off without it. The phone flew off onto the highway and landed in the center median. Ms. Chambers wrote, "Not only was Tpr. Rivera willing to take on the very unimportant job of looking for my phone on the highway, he located it via GPS coordinates! He went above and beyond to help me with a problem that was completely my fault and truly saved the day for me. I am so grateful Tpr. Rivera is patrolling in my area and I wish him the best of luck in the future."



TPR. TRAVIS L. SULLIVAN (G)

Trooper Travis L. Sullivan (G) received a commendation from Ms. Margaret Buckner for sitting with her while waiting for a tow truck on the side of Highway 60. She said, "He was extremely kind and made us feel safer while waiting for our tow truck . . . It's the little things we truly appreciate."

THE BEGINNING: TROOP A SERT

SPECIAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

For over 40 years, the Patrol has had a specialized team for emergency responses. The earliest written account of the Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) was found in *A Journey Through Patrol History*. It reported that in 1986, Troops A, C, and F SERTs participated in a five-day training exercise in Jefferson City. On October 1, 2006, SERT officially changed its name to Special Weapons and Tactics team (SWAT) and is still named SWAT to this day. Ret. Lt. Dwight E. Heseman graciously shared this bit of SERT history to be shared in the Patrol News.

Below is an email from retired Lieutenant Joe Dayringer on May 4, 2006.

Sgt. Dan Green,

Reference your question for some information regarding the origination of the Troop A SERT, I have talked with Gil Schwartz, and we located this picture of one of our early Troop A SERT Teams. We believe those pictured from left to right are:

(Back Row) Lt. James L. "Jim" Calhoun, Tpr. David E. "Dave" Holt, Tpr. Mikey J. Humphreys, Tpr. Dwight E. Heseman, Tpr. Stanley T. "Stan" Oglesby, Tpr. Arvin Cousins, and Sgt. Gilbert R. Schwartz.

(Front Row) Sgt. Edgar J. "Joe" Dayringer, Tpr. Timothy R. "Tim" Selvey, Tpr. Roger L. Smith, Tpr. Eddie M. "Ed" Hill, Tpr. Lawrence D. Meservey, and Tpr. Morris E. Patrick.

Others who later served on the team from Troop A included:

Tpr. Gerald D. "Gary" Friar, Tpr. Michael W. "Mike" Rogers, Tpr. Robert E. "Bob" Bloomberg, Tpr. Thomas L. "Tom" Gray, Tpr. Clyde W. Townsend, Tpr. Dewayne Laub, Sgt. Paul M. "Mike" Mulholland, and Tpr. Bradley S. "Brad" Baker. Later, Sgt. Frederick M. "Fred" Mills became our first trained hostage negotiator.

We recall the first "Cover Team" being trained in August of 1979 and the first "Entry Team" being trained during the following spring of 1980. The training was conducted by the Kansas City Police Department for several agencies of the KC Metropolitan Area. Later, we also received some training on boarding aircraft from the FBI. The first SERT Operations Manual was written by Lts. Schwartz and Dayringer and has been the basis for expansion and improvements to accommodate today's Patrol SERT teams across the state and their expanding technology and weapons. Surplus military property was initially used for field training and call outs until the team could be formally recognized and equipped.

NOTABLE CALLOUTS

Some of the Troop A SERT Team call-outs and cases:

1. **Noel**
   Troop D, where two Leavenworth escapees who fled to that area were captured with the assistance of the Missouri National Guard.
2. **Lee's Summit**
   Troop A, where a search of a home for an individual wanted for an assault was later determined to have fled the home before it was secured.
3. **Harrisonville**
   Troop A, where a huge Cass County marijuana seizure was made near Freeman where two armed lookouts were arrested. DEA was involved and the shipping operation traced and later arrests made by them.
4. **Springfield**
   Troop D shooting of Cpl. Bob Harper and subsequent arrest of Glen Sweet.
5. **Grain Valley**
   Troop A, where a barricaded person was negotiated with and finally arrested.
6. **Branson/Hollister**
   Troop D shooting of Tpr. Jimmy Linegar and wounding of Tpr. Alan Himes where David Tate was arrested.
7. **Odessa**
   Troop A, where a hostage had been taken but was later able to escape and when the assailant fired shots at him was himself shot by members of the team.
8. **Rolla**
   Troop I, with the marathon John Brown manhunt.
9. **Nevada**
   Troop D, where a three-day manhunt ensued after an armed suspect had shot at a deputy, then fled. He was later involved in a shoot out with the team which resulted in his death.



Congratulations ON YOUR RETIREMENT



ERIK A. GOTTMAN
Captain
Troop B
Retired August 1, 2026
30 years, 10 mo. of dedicated service



JOSEPH L. ARMISTEAD
Captain
Q/TND
Retired August 1, 2026
24 years, 9 mo. of dedicated service



DAREN C. BELARDO
Trooper
Q/GD
Retired August 1, 2026
15 years, 6 mo. of dedicated service



DAREWIN L. CLARDY
Captain
Q/DVSD
Retired August 1, 2026
33 years of dedicated service



MICHAEL P. KELLY
MVI Supervisor
Troop B
Retired August 1, 2026
31 years, 6 mo. of dedicated service



PEGGY L. RODGERS
Driver Examiner
Troop E
Retired August 1, 2026
6 years, 9 mo. of dedicated service



KAVEN D. RONEY
Corporal
Troop C
Retired August 1, 2026
10 years, 6 mo. of dedicated service



TIMMY D. SHOOP
Sergeant
Troop B
Retired August 1, 2026
33 years of dedicated service



ROLLIE B. SKAGGS
Corporal
Troop B
Retired August 1, 2026
29 years, 1 mo. of dedicated service



JONATHAN W. BUTNER
Motor Vehicle Chief
Troop B
Retired September 1, 2026
33 years of dedicated service



ALLISON R. HUMPHREY
CDL Examination Auditor
Troop F
Retired September 1, 2026
10 years, 1 mo. of dedicated service



CARRIE L. RODDY
Master Sergeant
Q/DDCC
Retired September 1, 2026
33 years, 1 mo. of dedicated service



JAMES D. COX
Sergeant
Q/FOB
Retired September 1, 2026
29 years, 2 mo. of dedicated service



SHAWN M. DOUGHERTY
Sergeant
Troop G
Retired September 1, 2026
25 years, 7 mo. of dedicated service



JON D. HULSE
Sergeant
Q/GD
Retired September 1, 2026
29 years, 2 mo. of dedicated service



PAUL D. KERPERIN
Major
Q/CIB
Retired September 1, 2026
31 years, 2 mo. of dedicated service



JULIE A. KERR
Captain
Q/BPD
Retired September 1, 2026
36 years, 2 mo. of dedicated service



JAMES L. MUSCHE
Sergeant
Q/DDCC
Retired September 1, 2026
32 years, 2 mo. of dedicated service



JEFFERY M. OWEN
Sergeant
Q/DDCC
Retired September 1, 2026
32 years, 2 mo. of dedicated service



MARY A. REDEL
Lead Exec. Admin. Supp. Prof.
Q/SO
Retired September 1, 2026
17 years, 2 mo. of dedicated service

FORGING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Youth Academy 2026



By Cpl. R. Mike Malone (Q/RCOD)

For most young people, summer is a time to relax and enjoy a break from school. For the young men and women attending the Missouri State Highway Patrol Youth Academy, it was an opportunity to grow, lead, and discover their potential.

Held at Eagle Sky Challenge Camp in Piedmont, MO, the Youth Academy brought together young men and women, ages 16 to 18, for a week focused on leadership, teamwork, communication, resilience, and service. While the Youth Academy included physical challenges and demanding activities, its purpose reached far beyond completing an obstacle or overcoming a difficult task. It was about developing the character and leadership qualities that will serve these young men and women throughout their lives.

This year's Youth Academy brought new opportunities for growth. Cadets were required to adapt, communicate, make decisions, and rely on one another. As one of the largest classes in recent years, it also brought together a diverse group of young people who arrived as individuals and quickly became a team.

As the week progressed, the transformation became evident. Cadets who began the week as strangers developed trust and learned to depend on one another. They discovered that effective leadership is not about being the loudest voice or standing at the front—it is about taking responsibility, setting the example, putting the team first, and helping others reach their potential.

The Youth Academy provides young people with more than a week of activities. It gives them an opportunity to build confidence, develop leadership skills, strengthen character, and gain a deeper understanding of what it means to serve others. It also provides a firsthand look at the Patrol and the opportunities available through a career dedicated to serving Missouri and its communities.

The Patrol is proud to invest in the next generation of leaders. The cadets who attended Youth Academy 2026 did not simply learn how to overcome obstacles; they learned how to lead, how to serve, and how to bring others with them.

Because the leaders of tomorrow are being developed today.

Among these young men and women may be the future troopers who will one day wear the uniform and serve the citizens of Missouri.



BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND DEVELOPING SKILLS

















PATROL HISTORY

By Cpl. E. M. Raub (F)

In an address to the American Society of Civil Engineers on October 23, 1939, Colonel B. M. Casteel spoke about traffic safety and the public's lack of awareness for it.

He was quoted, "Every year, highway accidents, most of them avoidable, kill more people than the entire casualty list of the World War (note - there had only been one world war at that point in history). This condition will continue until public conscience is aroused enough to make people do something about it."

He continued, "Although they read of people being killed in accidents every day, Americans as a people do not realize the danger."

Casteel then pointed out that a bill in the previous legislative session had been aimed at reducing accidents by establishing a 60 mile per hour speed limit by day and a 50 mile per hour speed limit at night. That bill was defeated.

Several speed limit laws had experienced the same fate, including one introduced in 1935, which would have limited speed to 50 mph. Sixty mph would have been permitted when passing other traffic, but would have allowed for a distance not exceeding 300 feet while passing.

Quoting a report from the National Safety Council, Casteel said that most accidents were due to one of five basic causes: Excessive speed, drunk drivers, night driving, pedestrians and 'accident-prone drivers.'

Casteel properly observed that excessive speed was responsible for a great many accidents because engineering had advanced the speed of automobiles in a short period of time, and driving skills and highway construction had been unable to keep pace.

On May 31, 1957, seventeen and a half years after Casteel's address, the Missouri Legislature passed the first comprehensive speed limit law. Seventy mph was the maximum speed on divided highways, with lesser limits placed on two lane roads and for driving at night. That law became effective August 29, 1957.

(This article was printed originally in the May 1985 issue of the Patrol News. Captain Raub is now retired.)

YEARBOOK UPDATE

The Public Information and Education Division (PIED) has been working hard with Acclaim Press to create a yearbook for the Patrol's 95th Anniversary. PIED will be receiving a drafted version of the yearbook and will give Acclaim Press all edits very soon. Once any edits are made, the yearbook will be printed and mailed to customers.

Questions?
Email: customerservice@acclaimpress.com
Phone: (573) 472-9800 ext. 11

WITH sympathy

DE Ginger L. Meads (A) - father-in-law

Cpl. Ronald W. Eakins (E) - brother-in-law

Tpr. Jerry W. Hunter (A) - father

Ret. Auto. Tech. Suprv. George W. Dorge - wife

Tpr. Bailey N. Hunsicker (F) - father

Sgt. Clinton M. Duppong (B) - father

Ret. Lt. Richard L. Rehmeier - wife

Ret. AFIS Entry Oper. II Kathryn A. Peters - husband

Ret. Sgt. Gary S. Horton - mother

Comm Operator Melanie A. Stallsworth (H) - son

MVI Suprv. Tina G.K. Miller (C) - father-in-law

Stores/Warehouse Asst. Kevin A. Klug (Q/BPD) - father

CVO Joseph T. Garland (D) - father

Asst. Chief Operator Scott A. Miller (C) - grandmother

Tpr. Colten B. Henderson (D) - wife

Ret. Cpl. Justin E. Henderson - daughter-in-law

Ret. Chief CVO Vonda K. Smith - husband

Ret. A.C.T.E. William E. Pollard - cousin

Ret. Technician I Steven C. Wyatt - wife

Ret. Sr. Chief MVI Barry J. Bean - wife

Ret. Sr. Secretary Janet L. Waer - sister

Chief Technician Eric W. Presser (G) - grandfather

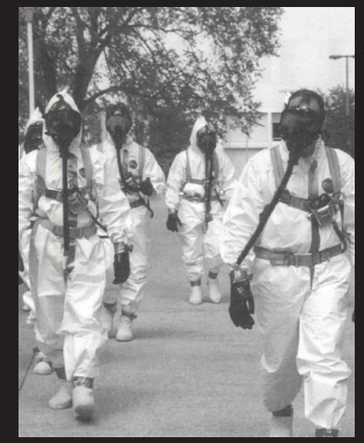
Ret. Chief Examiner Lora J. Galate - mother

Ret. Admin. Asst. Marcia J. "Janell" Ledford - mother

Ret. Cpl. James E. "Jim" Wilde - mother

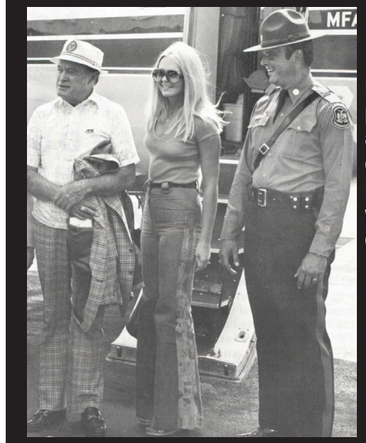
DE Nanilehua O. "Nani" Wilde (D) - mother-in-law

LOOKING BACK
IN THE PATROL NEWS



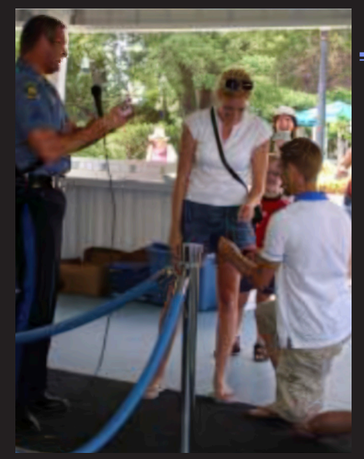
30 YEARS AGO

The September 1996 edition of the Patrol News featured the Clandestine Laboratory Safety Training School. The DEA-certified training was conducted by a certified industrial hygienist and took place May 6-10, 1996, at the Patrol's Academy. 15 criminalists across all 12 crime labs in Missouri were instructed on chemical, fire, and explosive hazards in clandestine drug labs.



50 YEARS AGO

Bob Hope visited Missouri for performances in Springfield and Columbia in 1976. A photo of Patrol personnel greeting Mr. Hope and part of his company was featured in the October 1976 edition of the Patrol News.



20 YEARS AGO

Otto—the Talking Car helped a MoDOT employee pop the question to his girlfriend at the 2006 Missouri State Fair. A picture of the proposal can be found in the September/October 2006 edition of the Patrol News.



40 YEARS AGO

The 11-day manhunt for Michael Wayne Jackson in Wright City was featured in the 1986 edition of the Patrol News. Jackson was wanted in connection with a string of murders, abductions, thefts, and other acts of violence. Officers from Troops B, C, F, I, and Q assisted in the manhunt and contributed a total of approximately 9,000 man hours. Jackson was pronounced dead from a self-inflicted head wound on October 2, 1986.



10 YEARS AGO

The Career Recruitment Division hosted its first Youth Academy on July 19, 2016. Ten high school students attended the academy and were instructed in Patrol history, ethic and integrity, firearms safety, and use of force issues. To read the full article, please visit the September/October 2016 edition of the Patrol News.

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Trooper Jaclyn P. Heil (F) and Trooper Collin J. Nichols (F) represented the Patrol at the 2nd Annual Top Trooper Competition in Ohio.