

A PREMIER LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY LEADER

Wisconsin State Patrol Report 2012–2013



OUR EFFORTS TO MEET
THE EVER-CHANGING
CHALLENGES OF TRAFFIC
LAW ENFORCEMENT
AND PUBLIC SAFETY
IN WISCONSIN

Governor Scott Walker

Secretary Mark Gottlieb

Superintendent Stephen Fitzgerald





WISCONSIN STATE PATROL IN 2012 AND 2013



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Wisconsin State Patrol marked its 75th anniversary in 2014. Our illustrious 75-year history is filled with significant events and achievements. The State Patrol Report for 2012-2013 highlights our recent accomplishments.

We can be justifiably proud that our efforts have made significant contributions to improved traffic and public safety throughout the state. In addition, we continue to demonstrate outstanding cooperation with our fellow law enforcement agencies to better serve Wisconsin citizens.

Since 1939, the men and women of the State Patrol have dedicated their professional lives to meeting the complex challenges of law enforcement on our highways and in our communities. We will continue to build on that tradition of service in years to come.

Superintendent
Stephen Fitzgerald



STATE PATROL AT A GLANCE

	2012	2013
TRAFFIC CITATIONS		
Speeding	53,520	46,654
Safety belts	24,693	20,335
Total citations issued	133,200	113,103
DRUG/ALCOHOL RELATED TRAFFIC OFFENSES	3,632	2,942
TRAFFIC WARNINGS	236,683	225,534
MOTOR VEHICLE STOPS	245,329	217,622
ARRESTS		
Criminal interdiction/controlled substances	2,295	1,852
Warrant arrests	1,610	1,325
Probation/parole holds	349	305
Other non-traffic arrests	645	598
Probation/parole contacts reported to the Department of Corrections	3,428	2,623
CRASH INVESTIGATIONS	5,348	5,682
TECHNICAL RECONSTRUCTION CASES		
Criminal traffic reconstruction cases	256	212
Non-criminal traffic reconstruction cases	136	192
Total	392	404
COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY AND WEIGHT ENFORCEMENT		
Inspections	32,842	30,917
Traffic enforcement inspections	4,205	4,203
Number of unsafe commercial motor vehicle drivers taken off the road (out of service)	2,272	2,359
Number of unsafe commercial motor vehicles take off the road (out of service)	7,230	6,579
COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES WEIGHED (TOTAL)	3,745,280	3,438,957
*Static scale	330,863	326,629
*Weigh-in-motion	3,412,416	3,110,133
*Portable	2,001	2,205
POST-CRASH MCSAP INSPECTIONS	471	498
SAFETY REVIEWS AND INVESTIGATIONS		
*Compliance reviews	161	129
*New entrant program safety investigations	613	821
PARTICIPANTS IN STATE PATROL ACADEMY TRAINING COURSES AND PROGRAMS	5,280	8,169
FEDERAL FUNDING DISBURSED TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM GRANTS	\$12,129,992	\$11,776,834

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

The Wisconsin Legislature on September 1, 1939, created the Motor Vehicle Department and its Inspection and Enforcement Division, which would grow and evolve into the State Patrol.

The State Patrol has approximately 489 sworn law enforcement officers and 168 non-sworn staff members, who are assigned statewide. The major State Patrol headquarters facilities are located in Madison, Tomah, Waukesha, Fond du Lac, Wausau, Eau Claire and Spooner. The State Patrol also operates its training academy at Fort McCoy and has officers stationed at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) State Traffic Operations Center (STOC) in Milwaukee. To accomplish its mission, the State Patrol provides an array of services, programs and initiatives including the following:

PREVENTION OF TRAFFIC CRASHES:

Since its inception, the Wisconsin State Patrol has been dedicated to improving highway safety and reducing traffic crashes through effective enforcement and education. These efforts save lives and prevent injuries.

SAFETY INSPECTIONS OF LARGE TRUCKS, BUSES, MOTOR COACHES AND AMBULANCES:

As sworn law enforcement officers, State Patrol inspectors examine safety equipment on commercial motor vehicles along with drivers' logbooks and records. They also annually inspect every school bus in Wisconsin. Compliance reviews of motor carrier companies help ensure that vehicles and drivers are adhering to safety regulations and help educate the companies about legal requirements. Using federal funding from the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP), inspectors frequently respond to crash scenes involving a commercial motor vehicle to determine if any safety violations may have contributed to the crash.



Inspecting underneath semi unit.



Weighing commercial motor vehicles

ENFORCEMENT OF COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLES' WEIGHT AND SIZE LIMITS:

At 13 Safety and Weight Enforcement Facilities (SWEFS) around the state, inspectors weigh trucks to ensure they are operating within legal limits in order to protect roadway infrastructure. Inspectors also patrol highways and use portable scales in their vehicles for weight enforcement.



Crash reconstruction

CRASH RECONSTRUCTIONS AND FORENSIC CRIME-SCENE MAPPING:

Members of the Technical Reconstruction Unit (TRU) are assisted by other troopers around the state who are trained in crash reconstruction. They use electronic surveying instruments, drawing and mathematical software applications, crash data retrieval systems and computerized simulation to determine precisely what happened during a crash and why. More than 70 percent of the approximately 400 crashes reconstructed each year by the TRU are at the request of local law enforcement agencies. In addition, the TRU provides forensic mapping of crime scenes including three-dimensional bullet trajectory diagrams that demonstrate complex scientific evidence to juries. Fire investigators also have requested TRU mapping of homes and buildings where arson is suspected. Because of their knowledge and experience, members of the TRU often provide expert testimony in court cases.

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW



K-9 Max

INTERDICTION OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND DRUG-SMUGGLING, INCLUDING THE USE OF K-9 TEAMS: During traffic stops, State Patrol officers use their training and experience to identify possible indicators of criminal activity, such as drug smuggling. In searches for illicit contraband, State Patrol K-9s and their handlers are adept in finding illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia and explosives. The State Patrol K-9 program is funded through the legal forfeiture of assets by those who commit drug-related crimes. The State Patrol also coordinates interdiction efforts as a member of the federal High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program based in Milwaukee. The State Patrol is the lead agency in Wisconsin for the federal Domestic Highway Enforcement initiative, which “promotes collaborative, intelligence-led, unbiased policing in coordinated and mutually supportive multi-jurisdictional law enforcement efforts on the nation’s highways.”



Recruit class training

STATE PATROL ACADEMY: The academy, located at Fort McCoy, provides comprehensive law enforcement training for members of the State Patrol—from experienced officers to new recruits. Other local, state and federal agencies also train at the academy and use its facilities including the Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC).



Northern Wisconsin forest fire

AERIAL TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT, SEARCH AND RESCUE, AND SURVEILLANCE: The Air Support Unit has sworn officers who are licensed pilots ready to fly missions throughout the state using aircraft based in Madison, Eau Claire and Green Bay. From their airborne vantage point, they can detect speeding, aggressive driving, tailgating, unsafe lane changes and other traffic violations. When requested, the ASU also assists in search and rescue missions for missing persons and surveillance for law enforcement agencies.

PROTECTION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND DIGNITARIES: The Dignitary Protection Unit provides protective services to elected officials and other dignitaries. These services include advanced reconnaissance of sites that will be visited, safe and secure transportation to the sites, as well as protection throughout the visit to the site.

PUBLIC SAFETY, HOMELAND SECURITY, AND ASSISTANCE TO OTHER AGENCIES: With a focus on preparedness and planning, officers have the training and resources to respond statewide to a wide-range of emergencies such as tornadoes, floods, forest fires, hazardous materials spills and other disasters that threaten public safety. Using the Incident Command System, State Patrol officers can be readily integrated with other law enforcement agencies for traffic and crowd control at large public events.

TESTING AND APPROVAL OF EQUIPMENT FOR ENFORCEMENT OF DRUNKEN DRIVING LAWS: The Chemical Testing Section distributes, repairs and maintains breath alcohol testing equipment for law enforcement agencies throughout the state. The section also trains officers on the use of testing equipment and offers guidance to prosecuting attorneys about legal issues regarding testing procedures. The section is responsible for certifying various types of ignition interlock devices (IIDs).



Testing ignition interlock device

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW, HIGHLIGHTS, ACHIEVEMENTS



Law enforcement dispatchers

STATEWIDE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Communications professionals manage a voice and data network used by local, state and federal agencies as well as the State Patrol. With this statewide network, law enforcement dispatchers (LEDs) at State Patrol posts can help direct officers in the field for responses to crashes, incidents and emergencies. The officers use mobile data computers in their vehicles to access driver's license records, criminal histories, and other information needed for enforcement actions.



No texting while driving simulator

DISBURSEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING TO OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION:

In partnership with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Bureau of Transportation Safety plans, coordinates and funds programs to improve the driving behavior and decision-making of roadway users. Programs are designed to improve safety among motor vehicle drivers, passengers, commercial motor vehicle operators, motorcyclists, bicyclists and pedestrians.



Semi crash

COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY CAMPAIGNS PREVENT LARGE-TRUCK CRASHES:

To prevent traffic crashes involving large trucks, buses and other commercial motor vehicles, State Patrol inspectors participated in motor carrier safety campaigns sponsored by the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

The State Patrol intensified its enforcement and education efforts during the annual Roadcheck, Brake Safety Week, and Operation Safe Driver campaigns. For instance, during the 72-hour Roadcheck period in 2013, the State Patrol conducted more than 950 inspections and detected more than 4,000 safety violations. As a result, 224 vehicles and 63 drivers were declared out of service until the violations were corrected.

A combination of effective law enforcement and safety education has helped improve commercial motor vehicle safety in Wisconsin during the last 10 years. In 2012, large-truck crashes declined approximately 26 percent compared with 2003. Moreover, large-truck crash fatalities dropped from 102 in 2003 to 71 in 2012, which was a 30 percent reduction.

STATE ENDS 2013 WITH LOWEST NUMBER OF TRAFFIC DEATHS IN NEARLY 70 YEARS:

Wisconsin ended 2013 with 527 traffic fatalities, which was the lowest annual total since 1944. State traffic deaths in 2013 also were down 74—approximately a 12 percent reduction—from 2012 when 601 people died and 44 fewer than the five-year average of 571 deaths.

Traffic fatalities went down in 2013 in every category, including motorcyclists and pedestrians as well as drivers and passengers. The single biggest reduction was the number of passengers killed in crashes. Passenger fatalities fell by 41, from 124 in 2012 to 83 in 2013. The decrease in passenger fatalities was due in part to an increase in safety belt use in Wisconsin to an all-time high of 82 percent.

AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN 2012 AND 2013



Reconstructing a fatal crash

NEW OFFICERS JOIN THE RANKS:

The State Patrol added new troopers and inspectors with the graduation of 32 cadets in the 58th Recruit Class in March 2012 after 23 weeks of intense training. Cadets in the 59th Recruit Class began their training in October 2013 and 30 of them graduated in March 2014.



High-visibility enforcement

THE BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION SAFETY FUNDS OWI TASK FORCES AROUND THE STATE:

To combat drunken driving, the State Patrol and law enforcement agencies around the state teamed up for Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) task forces using federal funding administered by the State Patrol's Bureau of Transportation Safety. There were 11 multi-jurisdictional task forces operating in federal fiscal year 2013. The effectiveness of the OWI task forces combined with other enforcement and education efforts helped reduce fatalities and injuries from alcohol-related crashes.

SERVICES OF TECHNICAL RECONSTRUCTION UNIT ARE IN HIGH DEMAND:

The 15 members of the Technical Reconstruction Unit assisted by other troopers around the state who are trained in crash reconstruction are in high demand for their expertise and stand

ready to respond whenever and wherever needed. In 2013, the TRU responded for a variety of crash reconstructions and forensic mapping of crime scenes. The following are just a few instances when the TRU's efforts were critical components of an investigation:

Mark Bucki was convicted of first-degree intentional homicide for stabbing and strangling his wife in Lincoln County before dumping her body in a swamp in Taylor County. TRU troopers provided forensic mapping at Bucki's Lincoln County residence in April 2013. Troopers from the Northwest Region provided forensic mapping in Taylor County where the victim's body was found. The TRU also provided the court with scaled diagrams of the crime scenes and a trooper testified in the criminal proceeding.

Gabriel Campos of Marshfield was sentenced to 40 years in prison after pleading guilty to first-degree intentional homicide for the stabbing death of Masie McCullough in September 2012. TRU troopers provided the forensic mapping of the crime scene and created scale diagrams.

A total of 15 automobiles and SUVs along with one commercial motor vehicle crashed on US 45 in Menomonee Falls during adverse winter-weather conditions on Dec. 8, 2013. There was one fatality when a vehicle struck the rear of the semi-trailer, and several other people sustained moderate to serious injuries. TRU troopers reconstructed the crash.

HIGHLIGHTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS



Trained State Patrol pilot

AIR SUPPORT UNIT CONDUCTS AERIAL ENFORCEMENT MISSIONS TO DETER SPEEDING AND OTHER VIOLATIONS:

In 2013, the Air Support Unit (ASU) conducted approximately 64 aerial enforcement missions. Using an aerial vantage point, pilots in the State Patrol's Air Support Unit can identify traffic violations as they occur over an extended distance and expanse of roadways.

In addition, pilots can detect traffic violations in areas that are difficult for enforcement by officers on the ground such as construction work zones, no passing zones, and roadways without adequate shoulders or median crossovers.

STATE PATROL PROVIDES SECURITY FOR NATIONAL GOVERNOR'S ASSOCIATION MEETING:

In August 2013, the National Governors Association's (NGA) summer meeting returned to Milwaukee, and the State Patrol was called upon again to lead the complex security effort.

The NGA, a nonpartisan organization founded in 1908, is the collective voice of the governors of the nation's 55 states, territories and commonwealths. The NGA's annual summer meeting attracts not only governors and their staffs but former presidents, federal and state cabinet secretaries, foreign diplomats, national media and policy experts of every stripe.

The State Patrol Security Team lead a two-year planning effort that culminated in a security apparatus encompassing more than 150 troopers and inspectors, State Capitol Police officers and Department of Natural Resources wardens. The security efforts also involved local, county and federal agencies and the National Guard.

Governor Scott Walker remarked after the event, "When I offered to host the National Governors Association (NGA) summer meeting in Milwaukee, I knew extensive collaboration and preparation would be required to plan a successful conference. The safety and security of those participating in the meeting was a top priority, and the Wisconsin State Patrol played an invaluable role in keeping NGA attendees safe. I am immensely grateful to them for their role in ensuring the success of the NGA summer meeting."

NEW EFFORTS TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE:

During national Child Passenger Safety Week in September 2013, State Patrol posts delivered child safety seats to approximately 25 hospitals and clinics. The medical facilities then distributed the seats to eligible low-income expectant mothers and families. The 500 infant safety seats and 400 booster seats for statewide distribution were purchased with federal funding administered by the State Patrol's Bureau of Transportation Safety.

To help ensure that children in vehicles are secured in the right seat in the right way, the State Patrol's Zero In Wisconsin program developed and distributed an instructional video in 2012 titled "How to Properly Use Child Safety Seats in Wisconsin." The video is available online <http://www.zeroinwisconsin.gov/ChildSafetySeats/>.



Delivering child safety seats

HIGHLIGHTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS



Half-cruiser and half-taxi



Drive Sober app poster

DRIVE SOBER MOBILE APP INTRODUCED:

To help motorists prevent a drunken driving arrest—or even worse, a crash—the Bureau of Transportation Safety launched its “Drive Sober” app for smart phones in March 2013. Since its introduction, more than 50,000 people have downloaded it.

The Drive Sober app includes a blood alcohol estimator, a designated driver selector and a function to find a safe ride home that uses the phone’s GPS to provide contacts for nearby taxi, mass transit and designated-driver services. A free download of the app is available online by visiting zeroinwisconsin.gov.

CHOOSE YOUR RIDE VEHICLE ATTRACTS

ATTENTION: The State Patrol’s “Choose Your Ride” vehicle, which is half cruiser and half taxi, always gets plenty of attention on the highway and at public events. The vehicle is a high-mileage cruiser that the State Patrol could no longer use for patrolling highways and was destined for auction. The State Patrol’s Bureau of Transportation Safety used \$1,700 in federal funding for the design and application of the vehicle markings. The distinctive vehicle hit the road in June 2013 and appeared at 35 events in the first six months it was on the road.

MOBILE ARCHITECTURE FOR COMMUNICATIONS HANDLING (MACH) DEPLOYED:

The State Patrol and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources jointly funded the licensing of MACH for use by public safety agencies within Wisconsin. MACH software can be used by officers in vehicles, law enforcement dispatchers in communications centers and supervisors in emergency operations center to communicate and display the locations of public safety vehicles as well as incident locations on a shared map.

As a comprehensive incident management tool, the benefits of MACH include enhanced safety for officers as well as timelier and better coordinated multi-agency responses to crashes and other emergencies. The State Patrol began pilot testing of MACH in 2010, and the full deployment was completed in January 2014. A rollout to additional Wisconsin public safety agencies will continue. A video explaining MACH is on the WisDOT You Tube site at www.youtube.com/watch?v=io-eLDgNcto

HIGHLIGHTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS



K-9 Charlie

LONG-TIME MEMBERS OF STATE PATROL K-9 UNIT RETIRE AFTER YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE:

K-9 Charlie, who began service with the Wisconsin State Patrol in 2006, retired from law enforcement activities in August 2013 and subsequently passed away after a battle with cancer in May 2014. During his career, Charlie partnered with Inspector Brian Wiginton and most recently with Trooper Chris Lohman. While assigned by the State Patrol to the Milwaukee High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), Charlie and Trooper Lohman assisted in numerous narcotics seizures. Charlie was instrumental in approximately 1,500 searches resulting in 387 drug-related seizures during the course of his career. The State Patrol granted Trooper Lohman's request that he take ownership of Charlie after the devoted K-9's days of service ended. Trooper Lohman cared for his partner until the cancer progressed to the point that Charlie needed to be put to sleep.

Wisconsin State Patrol K-9 "Ivy" of the North Central Region—Wausau Post retired in 2013 after being diagnosed with a degenerative joint disease. Her partner, Inspector Tye Howver, received permission from the State Patrol to become her owner upon her retirement. Ivy began her service with the State Patrol in 2006 and was instrumental in assisting Inspector Howver in making numerous narcotics seizures. During their partnership, the team conducted more than 1,800 searches resulting in 472 drug-related seizures. Inspector Howver and Ivy also were responsible for the seizure of \$549,262. Most notable was a cash seizure from a commercial motor vehicle of nearly \$450,000 in April 2010. The follow-up investigation resulted in numerous drug related arrests and seizures in Minnesota and California.



K-9 Ivy

STATE PATROL WINS POLICE VEHICLE DESIGN CONTEST FOR ITS NEW CRUISERS:

The exterior design for the State Patrol's 2013 Ford cruisers won the International Police Vehicle Design Contest in the Federal and State Agencies Category sponsored by "Law and Order" magazine.

The vehicle design captures the look of vintage State Patrol cruisers to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the agency in September 2014. The contest judges commented, "This is a simple, but very classic and old-school design. It strikes a fine balance of just enough but not too much."



Award winner

HIGHLIGHTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

SPECIAL AWARD RECIPIENTS RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE AND LIFE-SAVING ACTIONS:

To recognize members who have demonstrated exemplary service, the State Patrol each year presents Special Awards at a ceremony in the State Capitol.

State Patrol Superintendent Stephen Fitzgerald said, "All members of the State Patrol make our highways and communities safer through their professional and tireless dedication to traffic and public safety. But the members of the State Patrol who received special awards have demonstrated exceptional expertise and courage under extremely stressful conditions. They were nominated for their awards by their fellow members of the State Patrol for actions that go above and beyond their normal duties."

TYPES OF AWARDS:

MEDAL OF VALOR AWARD:

recognizes actions taken by an employee who has demonstrated valor, courage or bravery to a high degree beyond the normal expectations of an individual.

PURPLE HEART AWARD:

recognizes an employee who was seriously injured or wounded or who lost his or her life while in the performance of duty.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD:

recognizes an employee who places himself or herself at risk of injury while exceeding the expectations of his or her duties.

COMMENDABLE SERVICE AWARD:

recognizes an employee who performs a highly creditable act above and beyond the normal job expectations or recognizes accomplishments that contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of the State Patrol and enhance the professional image to the public we serve.

LIFESAVING AWARD:

recognizes an employee who performs a lifesaving effort.

2012 SPECIAL AWARDS RECIPIENTS

TROOPER DAMION A. KOSMOSKY:
Meritorious Service Award

SGT. JOHN P. JONES:
Lifesaving Award

TROOPER KATE J. SAMPSON:
Lifesaving Award

TROOPER DONALD P. MADGZAS:
Lifesaving Award

TROOPER BRYAN E. WRYCHA:
Lifesaving Award

TROOPER RYAN J. RATTUNDE:
Lifesaving Award

TROOPER ROBERT E. SIMPSON:
Lifesaving Award

**POLICE COMMUNICATIONS
OPERATOR JAMES H. SMITH:**
Lifesaving Award

TROOPER NATHAN D. WRIGHT:
Lifesaving Award

TROOPER IOAN ALEXANDRU TROFIN:
Lifesaving Award

SGT. JEFFREY A. NELSON:
Lifesaving Award

TROOPER STEVEN M. WOJCIK:
Lifesaving Award

TROOPER BRAD BRAY:
Lifesaving Award

TROOPER CLINT T. ROWLEY:
Lifesaving Award

INSPECTOR TERESA A. BURCHARD:
Lifesaving Award

**COMMUNICATIONS TECHNICIAN
SUPERVISOR JAMES R. KRAUSE:**
Lifesaving Award

**POLICE COMMUNICATIONS
OPERATOR JEAN L. BENGTON:**
Commendable Service Award



2013 SPECIAL AWARDS RECIPIENTS*

TROOPER STEVEN R. LINDEMANN:
Medal of Valor Award

TROOPER EDWARD P. WITKIEWICZ:
Meritorious Service Award
and Lifesaving Award

TROOPER TRENT P. BETLEY:
Meritorious Service Award

TROOPER ROBERT W. UNRUH:
Meritorious Service Awards

TROOPER THOMAS J. AURES:
Lifesaving Award

SGT. ERIC S. BEINE:
Lifesaving Award

TROOPER JEREMY T. MCNULTY:
Lifesaving Award

TROOPER KYLE A. DEVRIES:
Lifesaving Award

TROOPER ANTHONY C. MARTIN:
Lifesaving Award

TROOPER ADAM J. NIEMUTH:
Lifesaving Award

TROOPER KRISTIAN P. PERALES:
Lifesaving Award

**CAPTAIN TIM CARNAHAN,
CAPTAIN JEFFREY FRENETTE,
CAPTAIN CHARLES TEASDALE,
LIEUTENANT ANTHONY BURRELL,
LIEUTENANT TIM HUIBREGTSE,
LIEUTENANT PAUL MATL,
LIEUTENANT JACK MCMAHON,
LIEUTENANT GERALD VOIGHT,
SERGEANT DANIEL STEELE:**
Commendable Service Awards.

**PROGRAM ASSISTANT ADVANCED
BEVERLY A. SIMONDS:**
Commendable Service Award

***DEPUTY JACOB CASTILLO**
of the Kenosha County Sheriff's
Office also received a State Patrol
Lifesaving Award in 2013.



People Program mentoring

FAN MAIL

State Patrol officers and other staff members have received numerous unsolicited messages of gratitude and praise for a job well done. Here are some examples of hard work, professionalism and dedication to public service.

★ WOMAN ARRESTED FOR DRUNKEN DRIVING BY TROOPER ANDREW HYER SAYS IT WAS THE WAKE-UP CALL SHE NEEDED AND SAVED HER LIFE

Dear Trooper Andrew Hyer,

I am writing to you to thank you for saving my life. It was New Year's Day in Howards Grove, WI. You pulled me over for drunk driving. I did not go easily and was very obnoxious. Later, I got into trouble at work for ethics violations. I had been asking God for a long time to deliver me from my alcoholism. He sent you. It was exactly the wake-up call I needed. I have been sober ever since that night. It will be 4 years on January 2, 2014. I wanted you to know that I appreciate what you do. Keep up the good work and thanks again.

NAME WITHHELD

★ TROOPER MICHAEL LARSEN THANKED BY PARENTS WHOSE DAUGHTER WAS ARRESTED FOR DRUNKEN DRIVING

My husband and I wanted to send you our most sincere thanks for the service you provide as a state trooper... You pulled over a young woman who was speeding on I-90 and driving under the influence. The young woman was our daughter. We have no doubt that you prevented her from killing herself and/or someone else that night, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You have given our daughter a second chance. Although we will never know what led up to the events of that night, this has been a huge wake-up call for her, and we believe she will never repeat this mistake.

I read your report of the incident and reviewed the video tape. Although as a parent, it was difficult to watch, I was impressed with the manner in which you handled the situation. You were firm, professional, and empathetic. Our daughter was very lucky that she got stopped when she did and lucky that you were the officer who stopped her and handled the case. I'm sure there are many unpleasant things about your job, but please know that the work you do makes an incredible difference.

Since that incident, she has completed another college semester, paid her fines, completed the required driving/alcohol course, is still working, and is planning on applying to a master's of nursing program next year. Were it not for your actions, none of this would have been possible. Because of your actions, she has been given a second chance and an opportunity to make a positive difference in the world.

NAME WITHHELD

★ WOMAN WHOSE HUSBAND HAS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE "OVERWHELMED BY COMPASSION" SHOWN BY TROOPERS BRIAN ZAEMISCH AND BRIAN FISCH.

(A woman called the DeForest Post and said that) Trooper Brian Zaemisch and Trooper Brian Fisch assisted her husband, who has Alzheimer's and was lost and disoriented. She asked me to relay her gratitude to the troopers who helped her husband and to let their supervisors know what wonderful people they have to supervise. She was overwhelmed by their compassion and courtesy. She was so grateful that she was allowed to leave her car in our parking lot until she could make arrangements to retrieve it. She said it made a very distressing situation so much easier to bear.



Badger statue at Capitol



Media event



Crash reconstruction

★ **TROOPER CLINT ROWLEY
COMMENDED FOR ROLE IN
APPREHENDING ATTEMPTED
HOMICIDE SUSPECT**

I am writing to commend the actions of Trooper Clint Rowley on October 29, 2012, in the city of Beloit. Trooper Rowley's professional actions during the apprehension of an attempted homicide subject reduced the dangers to members of our community. His actions were the primary reason for the apprehension of this subject and the safety of the juvenile passenger held in the vehicle. I am sure his report details the entire incident.

I met Trooper Rowley at the scene where the pursuit was concluded. There, I congratulated him on his effort and thanked him while he calmly collected information and evidence for his report.

Thank you for the continued support of the State Patrol in helping to keep our communities safe.

CHIEF NORM JACOBS
Beloit Police Department

★ **POLICE COMMUNICATIONS
OPERATOR PAM BEIRNE
HELPS GET AN IMPAIRED
DRIVER OFF THE ROAD**

Dave Tucker, of Holmen, WI, called back to express his thanks to the PCO (Pam Beirne) whom he spoke with on the morning of Wednesday, June 20, for helping to get an impaired driver off the road. Mr. Tucker called the DeForest communications center, with information about a vehicle which was being driven erratically and repeatedly stopping in the lane of traffic. PCO Beirne remained on the phone with Mr. Tucker for about 15 minutes, collecting information on the vehicle location, and the driver's behavior, until the vehicle was located near Portage, and the driver was arrested for operating while intoxicated.

★ **WAUSHARA COUNTY SHERIFF
PRAISES ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT
FROM THE STATE PATROL DURING
ARMED ROBBERY INCIDENT**

State Patrol Personnel: Troopers Clark Albers, Ryan Dobbs, Michael Larsen, Thomas Parrott, Thomas Rahmer, Daniel Stainbrook, Inspector Luke Turner, Sgt. Travis Wanless.

Mere words cannot adequately express the appreciation that deputies of the Waushara County Sheriff's Office and I have for the assistance and support you gave on the afternoon and evening of the event that unfolded on August 14, 2013. The armed robbery, chase and stand-off are something we train for but are never fully prepared for.

Your quick, skilled and professional response was instrumental in the incident being brought under control without injury to law enforcement or members of the community. ... From taking the call, to responding to the scene, to confronting the suspect, to securing the scene, to ending the incident, to investigating the crime, to the emotional support, to supplying food and facilities, all involved played a significant role in the success of the mission.

DAVID PETERSON, SHERIFF
Waushara County Sheriff's Office



K-9 meets kids

★ **ROBERTS POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF CREDITS TROOPER KYLE DEVRIES WITH HELPING TO SOLVE SCHOOL ARSON CASE “QUICKLY AND WITH PRECISION”**

Dear Trooper Kyle DeVries;

On April 30, 2013 an unknown suspect broke into the Saint Croix Central Elementary School. This suspect committed several criminal acts inside of the school and ultimately committed a final act of arson which resulted in displacing over 600 elementary students ages 4-10 years old.

Early in the fire suppression phase indicators pointed toward an intentionally set fire. Knowing the complexity of fire investigation coupled with the size of the school, I was well aware that this investigation would require significant resources. You are one of the heroes who answered the call that day and worked tirelessly through less than desirable conditions to solve this crime and bring the perpetrator to justice. I wish I had the words to express the appreciation I have for you coming to the aid of the Roberts Police Department during this investigation. It is law enforcement professionals like you who make this the greatest and most honorable profession in the world.

CHIEF DANIEL BURGESS
Roberts Police Department

★ **FAMILY THANKS TROOPER MATT BARLAR FOR HIS COMPASSION WHILE DELIVERING DEATH NOTIFICATION**

Trooper Matt Barlar responded to a fatal crash. After the crash, he was responsible for making the death notification to the family. The mother of the deceased wrote a thank you card that stated the following: “As I am journeying through these weeks of my grieving process, I think about those beginning hours and realize how Trooper Barlar truly helped me and my family.”

★ **MAN WHO RECEIVED CPR FROM TROOPERS KEVIN MEIER AND MEL YASICK THANKS THEM FOR SAVING HIS LIFE.**

The SW Region—DeForest Post received a message regarding Troopers Kevin Meier and Mel Yasick

During the Wisconsin Badgers' football game on Saturday, Sept. 7, Troopers Kevin Meier & Mel Yasick were called upon by an elderly individual to perform CPR. The gentleman wanted to relay his thanks and appreciation for saving his life. He wanted them to know he is doing well.

★ **DNR SECRETARY COMMENDS STATE PATROL'S RESPONSE TO HUGE FOREST FIRE IN DOUGLAS COUNTY**

On behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the people of Wisconsin, I would like to personally thank and commend you and your troopers for the assistance that they provided us in battling the Germann Road fire. While facing extreme fire behavior, your troopers worked diligently to ensure the public was safe from the fire. The continuing cooperation between our agencies in responding to emergencies that threaten lives, homes and our valuable natural resources shows the tremendous commitment that your people have. The troopers that you sent were invaluable in helping firefighters safely work on the ground at stopping this terrible blaze. I am also proud to say that through their efforts, although sadly we did lose some homes, cabins and outbuildings, there was not a single fatality or even an injury during the entire effort.

CATHY STEPP
Secretary, State of Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources



Safety education



Weight enforcement

★ **APPLETON POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF PRAISES STATE PATROL'S RESPONSE AFTER TORNADOES AND STRAIGHT-LINE WINDS KNOCKED OUT POWER AND DAMAGED THE CITY**

I write to thank you for the adept assistance provided by several members of your organization on August 7, 2013. Due to the tornadoes and straight-line winds that struck the Fox Valley area during the early morning, the Appleton Police Department was tasked with controlling multiple signaled intersections without power. Additionally, many of our streets were impassable due to downed trees and dangerous electrical wires.

The assistance provided by your officers (Troopers Kris Mondloch, Keane Meyer, Tim Berg, and Inspectors Kevin Giese, Sharon Windey, Carl Giese and Tom Behm) and Sgt. Tim McGrath was invaluable. ... The traffic control and enforcement by your officers in this area provided a much safer work area for the WE Energies personnel attempting to restore power to the Fox Valley. In addition to their quick response, the amount of time your officers spent assisting the Appleton Police Department was quite impressive.

PETER J. HELEIN
Chief of Police

★ **EXPERIENCED TRUCK DRIVER HAS NEVER MET AN OFFICER LIKE INSPECTOR JAMES MURRAY**

On August 3, 2012, the NC Region–Wausau Post received a phone call thanking Inspector James Murray for doing a great job. The caller said: "I never met a State Patrol officer who went out of his way to rectify a problem as did Inspector James Murray the other day. He even gave us phone numbers of whom we needed to call for assistance. I just want to let his supervisor know Inspector James Murray gets a star for the day. He's doing a great job! I want to say, Thanks. I've driven truck for 28 years, and I've never run into someone like him."

★ **STEVENS POINT POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF COMPLIMENTS SGT. RHEA STERTZ AND STATE PATROL OFFICERS FOR THEIR COMMENDABLE TEAM WORK DURING INTERDICTION DETAIL**

On September 13, 2013, the (Stevens Point Police) Department in conjunction with the State Patrol conducted a drug interdiction detail in the City of Stevens Point. The collaborative effort between our two agencies was commendable. As I am sure you are aware, it's essential to develop partnerships with fellow police agencies to address the challenges we face related to budget shortfalls and staffing. The community definitely benefitted with the increased enforcement highlighted by the apprehension of an individual sought for first-degree sexual assault on a 13-year-old warrant. The following list notes the actions of officers between the hours of 6 p.m. and 12 a.m.

*78 traffic stops
6 criminal arrests (drug related)
7 warrant arrests (4 were felony arrests)
2 OWI arrests
2 open intoxicant violations
19 traffic citations*

On behalf of the Stevens Point Police Department and the community we serve, please accept my appreciation for a job well done. We would like to recognize the work of Sgt. Rhae Stertz, who coordinated the interdiction detail to supply the manpower we needed.

KEVIN RUDER
Chief of Police, Stevens Point
Police Department

★ ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL SAYS THAT TROOPER RYAN ZUKOWSKI SHOULD BE COMMEDED FOR HIS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO PROSECUTION'S SUCCESS

Re. State v Magolski, Waupaca County Case No. 11-CF-87

I want to compliment and commend the Wisconsin State Patrol and specifically Trooper Ryan Zukowski for his work on the above-referenced case. His work was superb.

Trooper Zukowski used his well-honed computer and diagramming skills to create models of our crime scene. He was able to intersperse photographs, as well as adjust the colors and qualities of the slides (without distortion or creating a misleading presentation), which resulted in an outstanding final product.

Trooper Zukowski met several times with the prosecution and the law enforcement team as we prepared for trial. He was open to the collaborative process and painstakingly perfected the final PowerPoint show that was so capably presented to the jury by Trooper Tom Parrott. Ryan Zukowski is a consummate professional and also a wonderfully thoughtful, warm and personable individual. He is an absolute delight to work with. I have heard the highest praise for Trooper Zukowski from two of my fellow prosecutors. I certainly understand why and concur.

Trooper Zukowski's dedication to his work, his thorough knowledge of electronic presentation programs, and his grasp of persuasive presentation methods make him an outstanding team member. We were fortunate to have him on our team and proud to use his work. Trooper Zukowski should be commended for his significant contribution to the overall success of the prosecution.

DAVID J. WAMBACH

Assistant Attorney General
State of Wisconsin,
Department of Justice

★ WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF THANKS TROOPERS TIM AUSTIN AND TOM ERDMANN FOR RESPONSE TO CHRISTMAS EVE SHOOTING

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Troopers Tim Austin and Tom Erdmann who responded to the shooting in the Town of Clayton, Winnebago County, on the evening of December 24, 2011.

With their assistance, due to limited staffing availability during the holiday, we were able to manage two crime scenes, roadblocks and a large-scale manhunt. Your personnel were nothing but professional and courageous, and we could not have ensured public safety without their assistance.

It is situations like this that remind us of how fortunate we are to be able to count on our neighboring counties when a crisis arises. For that I want to thank you again.

JOHN F. MATZ

Winnebago County Sheriff



Little Convincer



Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial ceremony



Motorcycle safety

★ **MINNESOTA DRIVER THANKS TROOPER CATHERINE FRYE FOR SHOWING CONCERN FOR HER SAFETY WHILE ISSUING CITATION**

I just want to express my appreciation for the way Officer (Trooper Catherine) Frye handled the situation when she issued a citation to me on October 17 on Highway 29. She was clearly concerned for my welfare and that of my daughter who was my passenger. I was pretty tired at the time, and she insisted that my daughter do the rest of the driving. We followed her instructions and had a very safe trip. She probably treats all the people she stops in the same caring way. I, for one, am glad to have met her.

LENORE HARMON
Rossville, MN

★ **SOUTH MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT THANKS TROOPER MICHAEL SMITH FOR "THOROUGH AND PROFESSIONAL" INVESTIGATION OF FATAL CRASH**

I would like to express my appreciation for the assistance the South Milwaukee Police Department received from the Wisconsin State Patrol, specifically Trooper Michael Smith on December 13, 2012, when the South Milwaukee Police Department requested the assistance of the Wisconsin State Patrol Technical Reconstruction Unit for a fatal motor vehicle accident. Trooper Smith responded to the scene to assist the Department.

Trooper Smith's investigation was thorough and professional. The cooperation, courtesy, and professionalism of Trooper Smith should be commended.

CHIEF ANN M. WELLENS
City of South Milwaukee
Police Department

★ **MOTORIST THANKS TROOPER SEBASTIAN MARTINEZ FOR HELPING TO EASE HIS ANXIETY AFTER A CRASH**

Dear Trooper Sebastian Martinez,

Today (Monday, Dec. 9, 2013) around 6:00 a.m., you responded to a traffic accident on I-94 near HWY G in Racine that I was involved in. I wanted to thank you for your professionalism and courtesy this morning. Finding oneself in a traffic accident is upsetting and stressful. Your pleasant and calm demeanor was greatly appreciated. I've been replaying this in my mind all day, and I keep thinking how your interaction contributed to easing my anxiety—instead of the opposite!

DAVID NEWMAN

★ **TROOPER DAVID FOWLES KEEPS SEMI DRIVER "FROM FREEZING TO DEATH"**

On Jan. 19th (the coldest night of the year), I experienced coolant problems with my semi truck on Hwy 41 near Lomira, Wisconsin. Officer Fowles came to my assistance and kept me from freezing to death while helping me with the issues with my truck. Kudos to Officer Fowles from a very appreciative Wisconsin resident.

CHUCK ZAMZOW
Oshkosh, WI



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