



# S&P Update

A publication of the division of state and provincial

spring 2006

volume 17, number 1

## 2005 Trooper of the Year Awards



The Annual Trooper of the Year Award (above) was presented at the State and Provincial Police Midyear Meeting Banquet in Alexandria, VA. Sergeant Kirk Van Orsdel (above right) was selected as the Trooper of the Year for 2005. The four nominees are pictured, right, with the heads of their agencies: (from left) Trooper Robert Bowers, Jr., of the Virginia Department of State Police, Sergeant Kirk Van Orsdel of the California Highway Patrol, Trooper Ricky J. Conn of the Kentucky State Police, and Trooper Dallas E. Root of the Ohio State Highway Patrol.



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## Message from the General Chair

Our midyear meeting, according to your evaluations, was a resounding success. I thank all of you who took the time to attend and also to submit your evaluations.

If you still have surveys or feedback on the midyear, please forward them or call S&P Division Director Dave Tollett so that we can best meet the needs of our membership in the future. The evaluation reports form a major component in the formation of plans for next year's meeting.

As you are aware, many issues and timely topics were discussed over the week and we look forward to Colonel Rick Fuentes's Homeland Security Committee report when we meet again in Boston in October. Your Executive will be following up on a number of issues raised. A conference call will be convened shortly.

We express our many thanks to our sponsors who continue to make our

*"The Trooper of the Year Award Banquet is always a wonderful way to conclude the midyear meeting and this year, once again, was no exception."*

midyear meeting possible.

The Trooper of the Year Award Banquet is always a wonderful way to conclude the midyear meeting and this year, once again, was no exception. The keynote speaker this year was Commissioner Giuliano Zaccardelli of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

It is truly humbling to listen to the events that brought these members and their families to this occasion. Each one of us is reminded of the courage and professionalism that members of the state and provincial agencies exhibit on a daily basis.



**Commissioner Gwen Boniface**

My congratulations to all of the finalists, particularly Sergeant Kirk Van Orsdel of the California Highway Patrol—our Trooper of the Year 2005.

**Respectfully,  
Commissioner Gwen Boniface**

### Fallen S&P Officers

*The S&P Division wishes to acknowledge the following troopers, who made the ultimate sacrifice for their communities and the people they served. We extend our prayers and deepest sympathies to their families, friends and colleagues.*

**Trooper Steven R. Smith**  
Oklahoma Highway Patrol  
February 9, 2006

**Officer Earl Scott**  
California Highway Patrol  
February 17, 2006

**Trooper Kevin C. Manion**  
Virginia State Police  
February 18, 2006

**Officer Gregory John Bailey**  
California Highway Patrol  
February 25, 2006

**Trooper Andrew J. (AJ) Sperr**  
New York State Police  
March 1, 2006

*"They will be remembered—not for the way they died, but for how they lived."*

— Vivian Eney

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## People in S&P

Lt. Col. Michael Berthay, a 28-year law enforcement professional, has been appointed chief of the **Mississippi Highway Patrol** by Governor Haley Barbour. Berthay has served since 2004 as director of the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, a division of the Department of Public Safety. MBI is responsible for investigative support of the Highway Patrol's uniformed division, providing assistance to local, state and federal agencies as well as managing the Criminal Information Center.

"During his long and distinguished career at the highway patrol, he has seen all aspects of law enforcement up close and personal, and I know his contributions to public safety in Mississippi will be substantial," said Gov. Barbour.

Berthay was commissioned by the MHP in 1982. He has served on the Interdiction Team and as a sniper on the SWAT Team. In a succession of promotions, he also received other assignments in investigative and management positions in law enforcement, including



*Col. Michael Berthay, left, accepts his appointment as chief of the Mississippi Highway Patrol as Gov. Haley Barbour, right, looks on.*

a special assignment with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

Berthay holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms New Agent Academy and the U.S. Treasury Academy for Criminal Investigation. ☼

## To Communicate or Not To Communicate

*By Colonel Steven M. Pare, Rhode Island State Police*

In any organization, one of the most common problems that must be continually addressed is communication. Whether it be management, collective bargaining units, or general employees, the fear of the unknown or the failure to provide direction and purpose adequately can be crippling and costly.

Several years ago the Rhode Island State Police and the Rhode Island Troopers Association set out to open the lines of communication by holding monthly meetings between top state police administrators and the collective bargaining union's officers. These meetings were established to discuss issues, listen to ideas, provide and receive feedback in a low-key and informal setting.

We have experienced numerous successes with this program and have discovered and solved small issues prior to their becoming large problems. Furthermore, these meetings have increased the trust and respect between management and the labor union to the degree that both sides offer confidential information prior to its being made public, with the understanding that what was discussed in the meeting stays in the meeting.

These meetings were held initially at coffee establishments around the state. Eventually we found that the distractions and close proximity of citizens did not contribute to the effectiveness and purpose of the meeting. Meetings are now held at the state police headquarters conference room.

The success of any organization depends upon reliable and timely information being distributed to the members of the organization. We are fortunate that we are able to work with the Rhode Island Troopers Association in keeping those lines of communication open and free of mistrust and misinformation. ☼

## Mark Your Calendar

- May 15-17: North Central Region, Columbus, OH**
- June 5-6: Vehicle Theft, San Diego, CA**
- June 7-10: Highway Safety Committee Midyear, San Diego, CA**
- June 5-9: LEIM Conference, Grapevine, TX**
- June 11-14: North Atlantic Region, Burlington, VT**
- June 14-16: DRE Section's 12th Training Conference, Kansas City, MO**
- July 9-14: SPPADS, Orlando, FL**
- July 23-27: SPPPOS, San Antonio, TX**
- August 27-29: Mountain Pacific Region, Jackson Hole, WY**
- October 14-18: IACP Annual Conference, Boston, MA**

# ***When the World is Watching: Coordination, Partnerships are Key to Event Security***



*Michigan State Police troopers leave the staging area to report to their traffic details at locations throughout Detroit.*

***By Colonel Tadarial J. Sturdivant, Director, Michigan Department of State Police***

**S**nsuring safety for the national and international audience of the NFL Super Bowl—held this year at Ford Field in Detroit, Michigan—called for a security plan well beyond any one agency’s resource capabilities and required the coordination of federal, state and local law enforcement.

The Detroit Police Department (DPD) was the lead law enforcement agency for Super Bowl XL. Right from the start, the Michigan State Police (MSP) committed its assistance to the DPD by sending a representative to the 2004 and 2005 Super Bowls. This first-hand knowledge of the resources and planning needed to develop a compre-

hensive security plan proved extremely helpful when it came time for Detroit to host football’s biggest game.

Planning started early. Bi-monthly security meetings were arranged by the DPD beginning in May 2005 with representatives from over 25 agencies. These meetings were essential for creating relationships, discussing best practices, improving the security plan and charting progress.

At the MSP, we designated an incident commander with responsibility for developing and implementing a department-specific Operational Plan in coordination with the DPD’s master plan.

With 275 personnel assigned to Super Bowl XL, the MSP was the second largest contributor of security resources.

Using the Incident Command System, we coordinated and deployed our resources as is done in an emergency situation, such as a natural disaster. The IC System made the development and implementation of the operational plan very efficient.

MSP involvement included the areas of Traffic Management, Bomb

***“Plainclothes officers assigned to Protective Intelligence partnered with federal or local officers to patrol high-risk venues covertly.***

***Bomb Squad personnel responded to suspicious packages and provided Explosives K-9 sweeps of selected sites.”***



*Super Bowl XL was held at Ford Field in Detroit, Michigan on February 5, 2006.*

Management, Underwater Recovery, Aviation, Tactical Response, Intelligence, Communications and Technology Support.

Out-state MSP commanders assigned to this security detail were brought in to Detroit in the week preceding the event to get them acclimated. The first resources were deployed when the Joint Operations Center and the Intelligence Operations Center, both of which were housed in the Federal Building in Detroit, became operational.

Information technology technicians staffed these centers 24-hours a day through game day to ensure that all computers and networks were functioning properly. This on-site technology assistance, which was a lesson learned from the 2005 MLB All Star Game, proved invaluable.

To ensure an efficient and safe traffic flow, MSP troopers partnered with DPD officers on 12-hour shifts to work traffic points on surface streets and freeway ramps. Troopers also provided escorts for the teams, owners and visiting dignitaries. Both of these assignments, carried out in rain, snow, and extreme cold, were the most visible and, in many respects, the most important to the impression visitors had of the city and the



*Michigan State Police troopers worked to ensure a safe and efficient traffic flow for all downtown visitors during Super Bowl XL.*

event itself. Officers assigned to these traffic details provided a visible sense of security and were a great resource for information and direction to the throngs of people walking downtown.

The MSP also had personnel working in the less visible areas of Protective Intelligence, Bomb Management, Tactical Response and Aviation. Plainclothes officers assigned to Protective Intelli-

gence partnered with federal or local officers to patrol high-risk venues covertly. Bomb Squad personnel responded to suspicious packages and provided Explosives K-9 sweeps of selected sites. The MSP Emergency Support Team, or SWAT Team, provided tactical assistance at Ford Field and helped to secure the stadium's 300-foot perimeter. The MSP Aviation Unit coordinated with three other aviation units to maintain the temporary flight restrictions imposed on February 4-5.

The success of Super Bowl XL was a compliment to its well-developed security plan. The security plan worked in no small part, due to the flexibility and experience of the command staff who implemented it, as well the relationships that had developed among the agencies involved. Because many of the command officers had worked together in the past, they had knowledge of each other's strengths and weaknesses. This allowed them to respond quickly to difficult situations and to resolve issues effectively.

The cooperation among the agencies at all levels helped to ensure the successful accomplishment of the security plan and highlighted the benefit of having a state police agency involved in this type of event. ⚡

*The Joint Operations Center (below), which was open from January 28 to February 6, included representatives from over 25 agencies.*



## New Jersey City Adopts Mississippi Troopers' Families

Because of a bond developed between two women miles apart, thousands of pounds of donations were shipped to hurricane-affected state troopers on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

After Hurricane Katrina ravaged Mississippi, Chris Andrulis, a Hamilton, NJ, resident desperately wanted to volunteer her time to help those in need. She called various service organizations but received no response.

Weeks later, while shopping online, Andrulis stumbled upon a Katrina message board where she replied to a message from Jennifer Edeker, a resident of Brandon, MS, who also wanted to help. A friendship was born between the two women and supplies began their journey to Mississippi.

Edeker's garage soon began to resemble a warehouse as the shipments began arriving from New Jersey. The boxes contained items such as linens, drapes, food, toys and other household needs. School children from Hamilton Elementary made care packages from shoe boxes, filling them with items for the children of the troopers.

Edeker's father, Ray Prouty was on duty working in the Mississippi Highway Patrol Command Center when the storm hit and knew Gulfport's troopers were in desperate need. Their lives were wrecked by the storm—many had lost homes and personal possessions.

After making a few phone calls, a list of 12 affected troopers was developed and the care packages began making their way to Mississippi. Armed with clothing sizes and household needs, Andrulis collected specific items for each of the troopers' families from local Hamilton residents.

In October, a Halloween party was held in Hamilton with a law enforcement theme to encourage locals to contribute. By night's end, \$2,500 had been raised and checks for \$250 were quickly issued to each trooper.

Throughout the month of November, the contributions kept coming. Andrulis was amazed at the number of residents wanting to help. Neighbors came

together and shopped for items. Physicians who meet weekly at the local Robert Wood Johnson Foundation donated \$500 in one day. One neighbor bought 250 new children's outfits from Macy's to send south.

Andrulis told how friends, co-workers and neighbors sent in checks for the relief effort and still didn't feel like they had done enough; so, they came over to help sort and pack items for the troopers. Sorting all the donations was a major undertaking. Everyday Andrulis would come home to find 20 to 50 more pounds of items to be packed.

Several townships in New Jersey adopted hurricane-affected Mississippi cities as well. Picayune and Ocean Springs have also received help from New Jersey.

"I can't be any prouder of our community than I am right now, of how hard they worked and how quickly they were able to come together to pull this off. In five days, (residents) managed to collect,



*Jennifer Edeker with a shipment of New Jersey care boxes before delivery to Troop K*

sort and pack 40,000 pounds of material," said Washington Township Mayor David Fried.

Edeker, whose garage was beginning to resemble a UPS store, called the Mississippi Department of Public Safety (MDPS) for help. She reached Angie Underwood, a public affairs coordinator, who prepared to pipeline the goods to the affected troopers. Several people were involved in the long chain of shipments to the Coas, delivered just in time for Christmas.

The enormous show of kindness and the giving attitude of New Jersey will never be forgotten. Troop K is forever indebted to many, all due to two women determined to help. ♻️

*BELOW: Commissioner George Phillips, right, and Col. Marvin Curtis, left, present to Master Sgt. David Kenny \$250 checks for all the Hurricane Katrina-affected troopers in the Mississippi Highway Patrol's Gulfport district. The money was raised at a Hamilton, New Jersey, fund-raiser.*



# Idaho Establishes Statewide Interoperability Executive Council

In 2003 Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne established the Statewide Interoperability Executive Council with the express charge to "...provide policy level direction and promote efficient and effective use of resources for matters related to public safety wireless interoperability."

The council was also directed to "...provide recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature, when appropriate, concerning issues related to statewide interoperable radio communications for public safety in Idaho."

The SIEC is comprised of key decision-making representatives from federal, state, and municipal entities, including the FBI, Homeland Security Transportation Security Administration, the Idaho Tribal Government, the Idaho Chiefs of Police Association, the Idaho State Police.

All stakeholder representatives have pledged their support to develop an interoperable communications system for inter- and intra-state emergency responders. These key representatives provide decision-making strength in both leadership and technology issues.

The governance of the council consists of leadership, organizational structures, direction, and processes that ensure interoperable communications sustain and extend the enterprise's mission, strategies and objectives in a planned manner.

The SIEC began its work in December 2003 and has since produced a solid planning foundation on which to build interoperable communications for Idaho.

The Idaho Communications Agencies' Wireless Interoperable Network Plan (I-C-A-WIN) defines a system that touches every corner of the state. Idaho is comprised of 44 counties and 200 incorporated cities that are spread over 83,557 square miles and measures 480 miles north to south and 300 miles east to west. Clearly, statewide interoperable communications must reach into populated and remote, geographically

diverse areas to ensure coverage. The system will also allow for connectivity of Idaho's surrounding states.

Presently the SIEC is developing guidance and coordination of stakeholder interoperable communications efforts for long-term support and sustainability. In addition, communication and information sharing is strong with our surrounding states as together we coordinate our interoperable communications planning and implementation.

The Idaho SIEC was one of five states chosen in 2004 by the National Governors Association's Center for Best Practices, to participate in the Public Safety Wireless Interoperability Policy

*"The Idaho SIEC was one of five states chosen in 2004 by the National Governors Association's Center for Best Practices, to participate in the Public Safety Wireless Interoperability Policy Academy currently underway."*

Academy currently underway. The NGA has chosen Idaho's collaborative interoperability document, I-C-A-WIN, as a model for other states to follow.

Idaho plans to implement a communications infrastructure utilizing 700 MHz technology. The system will incorporate the current UHF and VHF systems, segmenting into accommodation of the Federal Communications Commission's narrow-banding changes, eventually arriving at a hybrid narrow-band system that will provide the transmission of voice, video, images and data. The system will allow for connectivity of Idaho's 44 counties and its surrounding states with the use of microwave and broadband fiber for redundancy and additional security.

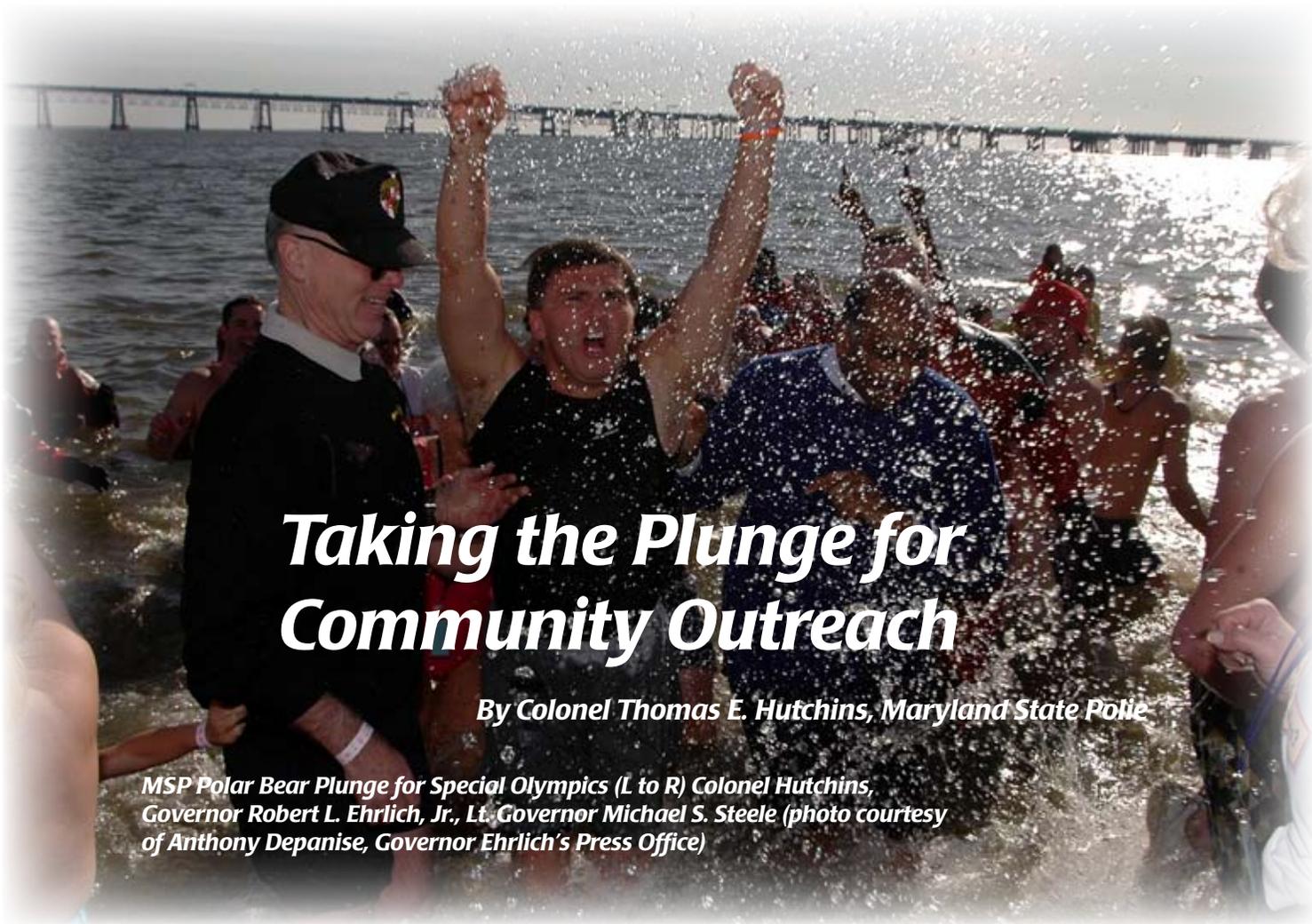
Two UHF/VHF/700 MHz infrastructure projects are underway in

Idaho by the Ada and Bannock County sheriff's departments in partnership with their surrounding jurisdictions. The Bannock County system in southeast Idaho is scheduled to be operational in April and provides a model that will deal with challenging geography. The Ada County system in southwest Idaho is scheduled to be operational September 2007 and provides a model that will deal with dense population and diverse public safety agencies. Both efforts involve multiple counties, agencies, disciplines and jurisdictions. Idaho is now seeking to leverage these projects as the foundation upon which full statewide interoperability will be built.

For more information on the Idaho Statewide Interoperability Executive Council please visit the SIEC web site at [www.siec.id.gov](http://www.siec.id.gov).

## SIEC Members

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**National Interagency Fire Center**  
**U.S. Department of Homeland Security**  
**Transportation Security Administration**  
**Idaho Tribal Government**  
**Idaho Chiefs of Police Association**  
**Idaho Fire Chiefs Association**  
**Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security**  
**Idaho Department of Lands**  
**Idaho State Police**  
**Idaho Department of Health**  
**Welfare Emergency Services Bureau**  
**Idaho National Guard**  
**Idaho Transportation Department**  
**Idaho Sheriffs Association**  
**Idaho Association of Counties**  
**Association of Idaho Cities**  
**Idaho Department of Fish and Game**  
**Idaho Department of Administration**  
**Idaho Department of Corrections.**



# Taking the Plunge for Community Outreach

By Colonel Thomas E. Hutchins, Maryland State Police

*MSP Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics (L to R) Colonel Hutchins, Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Lt. Governor Michael S. Steele (photo courtesy of Anthony Depanise, Governor Ehrlich's Press Office)*

Sometimes it can be challenging for a state police department to find unique methods to reach the various communities we serve in a way that informs and educates citizens about important public safety information, while reminding them of the vital role our department has in keeping them safe in their homes and on the highways.

In 2005, the MSP used both traditional and non-traditional operations to tell our story throughout the state.

## **The Trooper Tour**

During August, September and October, I was proud to lead dozens of state police personnel across Maryland in what we called the "Trooper Tour".

The purpose of the tour was to show our citizens the resources we can provide to support a road patrol trooper anywhere in Maryland.

Flyers and media announcements were distributed ahead of time, invit-

ing people to attend an evening event in their county. Personal letters sent to elected officials, police chiefs, sheriffs, and civic leaders invited them to be part of a brief program we had at each event.

After a slow start, we adjusted our itinerary and took the tour to Wal-Mart parking lots and other shopping centers, where there are always plenty of people.

At each stop of the tour, we displayed our latest vehicles, technologies and public safety education information.

The exhibit included our command vehicle, our new integrated communications truck, our mobile data computer equipped patrol car with the latest emergency lights, our Project 54 patrol car with voice-activated technology, our Special Tactical Assault Team and tactical paramedic resources, and the bomb robot and related equipment from the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Displays also included information from the Forensic Sciences Division,

the Vehicle Theft Prevention Council, Maryland Center for Missing Children and other bureaus and units within the department.

Thousands of Marylanders visited these displays. Every night, visitors told me they never knew the state police had this type of equipment or was so involved in statewide public safety efforts. By their comments I knew we were accomplishing the purpose of the tour: To inform and educate our citizens and their leaders about the essential role the MSP has in homeland security, traffic and criminal law enforcement, assisting local police and contributing to the high quality of life enjoyed in our state.

The Trooper Tour showed our troopers in their traditional roles. Another MSP outreach gives our department the opportunity to demonstrate our role as helping people, but in a much more non-traditional way.

Beginning in 1997, under the leadership of then Superintendent, Colonel David B. Mitchell, the Maryland State Police accepted a challenge from Special Olympics Maryland to initiate a winter plunge to raise funds to support the year round sports training and competition they provide for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

### **The Polar Bear Plunge**

The concept is simple. Participants raise a minimum of \$50 in pledges for the opportunity to jump into the Chesapeake Bay in January. They receive a commemorative sweatshirt, lunch, and a group photo. On the sweatshirt is the event logo, which always incorporates the Maryland State Police shield.

The first MSP Polar Bear Plunge was held in January 1997, when about 300 plungers raised \$70,000. The tenth annual event was held in January 2006, when more than 4,400 plungers raised more than \$1 million. We actually hold

three separate events around the state each year, in what is now called the MSP Winter Water Series.

These plunges do not just raise an incredible amount of money for a great cause. They also provide us a unusual way to market the MSP. Media advertising and coverage of the events, as well as brochures, posters, and merchandise, include the MSP name and show our personnel working in a different way to help others.

The events also give us an opportunity to deploy various department assets and provide valuable testing and training. Those assets include tactical squads, dive teams, and traffic control units.

Whether we are in uniform at a summer display on a shopping center parking lot, or in shorts splashing around in winter water, our message is still the same: We are the Maryland State Police—"ever vigilant and always prepared." ❄

## **Nebraska Graduates 50th Recruit Class**



The Nebraska State Patrol graduated its 50th Basic Recruit Class in January, during a ceremony held in the Grand Ballroom of the Cornhusker Hotel in downtown Lincoln.

Guest speakers included Governor Dave Heineman and Assistant Attorney General Matt McNair.

The 28 members of the class completed 20 weeks of training at the Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy in Grand Island. Their instruction involved more than 1,000 hours and 32 exams.

Twenty-five of the new troopers will be assigned to the Carrier Enforcement Division of the Nebraska State Patrol, while the remaining graduates will be assigned to the Traffic Services Division.

Recruit Anthony Frederick was badged by his father, Investigator John Frederick of Grand Island. Trooper Anthony Frederick is the second of Investigator Frederick's sons to join the patrol.

The newly badged officers will undergo six months of on-the-job instruction with veteran troopers in the field. ❄

*Colonel Hutchins discusses the State Fire Marshal's bomb robot to interested visitors at the Maryland State Police Trooper Tour.*



# Pennsylvania's Member Assistance Program Completes 19th Year of Supporting Troopers

By Corporal Govan Martin, Program Manager, Pennsylvania State Police

The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) Member Assistance Program (MAP) marked its nineteenth year of operation in 2005.

The mission of MAP is to provide confidential assistance to department personnel and their families.

MAP advocates for the mental and emotional health of our PSP family so they can lead healthier, more productive lives. MAP accomplishes this mission by having a dedicated group of full-time and field peer contacts who give their time, commitment, and dedication to helping others.

MAP continues to see a significant rise in every major category of assisting our department personnel and their families. These statistics show that one-on-one consultation and support continue to be the priority of the program.

The statistics from the year 2005 show the trust placed in MAP by our personnel:

- MAP responded to 77 critical incidents.
- MAP interactions with all department personnel (enlisted and civilian) and their families totaled 11,938.
- MAP personnel dedicated 8,714 hours to assisting department Personnel and their families.

The two most continued requests for assistance is once again, job-related and family issues. These two areas account for approximately 55 percent of total individual contacts and hours expended.

In November, the MAP internet web site, [www.pspcares.state.pa.us](http://www.pspcares.state.pa.us), went online. The goal of this web site is to provide PSP personnel and their families with details on MAP and the support it can offer as well as additional information on such topics as mental health/substance abuse, the PSP Chaplaincy Program, and resource links.

MAP hosted the first Annual Mid-Atlantic Law Enforcement Employee

Assistance Program (EAP) Conference on April 25-27. MAP was host to six state police agencies and the FBI.

The goal of this conference is to build unity among our EAP personnel as well as to foster and engender ideas on how better to assist the members of our law enforcement family. ☘

*Share your agency's achievements with your S&P colleagues!*

*Deadline for the next S&P newsletter issue is June 19.*



## National Law Enforcement Leadership Institute on Violence Against Women

The **National Law Enforcement Leadership Institute on Violence Against Women**, an initiative of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, offers sworn law enforcement executives a unique opportunity to enhance agency response to the complex realities of violence against women crimes.

The three-day Leadership Institute provides:

- an opportunity to assess current agency efforts to hold perpetrators accountable
- a chance to examine innovative investigative strategies
- support from experts to design practical action plans specific to agency needs & resources
- time for networking with colleagues to discuss challenges & solutions

*For those selected to attend, expenses related to participation (travel, lodging, food) are covered.*

**Be a leader. Apply today.**

[www.theiacp.org/research/VAWLawEnforceInit.html](http://www.theiacp.org/research/VAWLawEnforceInit.html)



# Kentucky Drug Task Force Praised By Feds

A multi-agency marijuana eradication team under Kentucky State Police leadership has received two national recognitions for its efforts in 2005.

The Kentucky Eradication Task Force received a Citation and a Director's Award for Distinguished Service from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP).

"Last year, this task force helped to eradicate more than one billion dollars worth of marijuana," reported KSP Commissioner Mark Miller. "Since Kentucky is ranked as one of the top five marijuana producing states, this hard work has had a definite impact by taking drugs off the streets in communities throughout Kentucky and around the country."

Miller added that the task force's success is especially relevant considering the increased use of marijuana by

12 to 17-year-olds, which was cited as 342,000 in a 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

The Director's Award, signed by ONDCP Director John P. Walters, was presented "in honor and in great appreciation of the individuals whose outstanding accomplishments greatly enhanced the results of The National Marijuana Eradication Initiative—your remarkable efforts have helped protect America from crime, drugs and violence."

The citation praised the interagency flight and eradication operations and intelligence, investigations and surveillance activities of the task force, whose efforts "resulted in the eradication of more than 450,000 marijuana plants and seizures of more than 1,100 pounds of bulk marijuana, 90 weapons, \$172,000 in cash and property and the arrest of

174 suspects involved in drug-related operations."

The Kentucky Eradication Task Force is comprised of KSP, the Kentucky National Guard, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Marshal Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, Kentucky Motor Vehicle Enforcement, the Civil Air Patrol, the Appalachia HIDTA Intelligence Center and numerous local agencies.

"To be recognized by the Executive Office of the President is a special distinction," said Miller. "It indicates that our teamwork in eradicating marijuana in Kentucky is being recognized at the national level. I commend all members of the task force for their hard work and dedication."

Contact: Major Lisa Rudzinski, Media Relations Branch, (502) 695-6344 ☎

## Alberta Contributes \$300,000 Toward Memorial for Fallen Mounties

Excerpted from a article by John Cotter, Canadian Press, and submitted by Darrell LaFosse, RCMP

Alberta will contribute \$300,000 toward a memorial to honor four RCMP officers gunned down last year.

The pledge by the provincial government brought joy and relief to people in the small farming community of Mayerthorpe, Alberta, who have been struggling to raise the \$1.5 million needed to complete the national memorial by March 3, 2007, the second anniversary of the shootings.

"This brings us to about half-way to our quest," said Margaret Thibault, who is the director of victim's services for the RCMP in the area. "It takes some of the pressure off for sure."

The society now plans to apply for a \$500,000 federal grant for the memorial, which will honor all police officers who die in the line of duty.

Plans include four life-size bronze statues depicting constables Brock Myrol, Peter Schiemann, Leo Johnston and

Anthony Gordon to sit in a park across the street from the Mayerthorpe RCMP detachment.

The four Mounties were ambushed by James Roszko on March 3, 2005, while they were guarding evidence in a stolen car parts and marijuana grow-op investigation. (See *S&P Update*, Spring Issue 2005) Roszko was wounded in the gunfight and later turned his gun on himself.

The landscaped park would have a visitor information center to display cards and letters sent to the area from around the world.

The province's donation is coming from the Alberta Lottery Fund.

"The memorial will act as a constant reminder . . . of the four brave RCMP officers who lost their lives protecting and serving their community," said Gaming Minister Gordon Graydon.

People in the Mayerthorpe area raised about \$48,000 during a memorial hockey game and auction.

Thibault said the application for the federal grant hasn't been completed yet,



but organizers have been assured it will be reviewed quickly and sympathetically by Ottawa.

There were concerns some people might not support the idea of building a national monument in a remote community far away from Central Canada, she said.

"People expect national memorials to be in Ottawa or Toronto—major cities—so this is unusual to have one in a small town.

"Mayerthorpe is the only place for this national memorial." ☎