


MINNESOTA TROOPER

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**Thank you Troopers
for what you do and
for who you are!**

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MINNESOTA TROOPER

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On the Cover: Riots 2020

What does the MSPTA do for its Members?

This is what your \$16 per paycheck provides:

- Negotiate the MLEA Contract
- Representation during an Internal Affairs Investigation
- Representation at Critical Incident
- Lobbying at the Capitol
- Representation in the Grievance Process
- Guidance on Worker's Comp Issues
- Education in Retirement Planning
- The *Minnesota Trooper* Magazine
- Quarterly District Association Meetings
- Hardship fund for members who experience a unique hardship such as a natural disaster, illness, or loss of home due to a fire
- Membership into the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association including the Legal Defense Fund
- Membership into the National Trooper Coalition
- A voice on the State Patrol Equipment and Safety Committee



Joe Dellwo • MSPTA President

President's Report



Busy Until the End

It has been a very hectic few months for all of us. First, we continued to perform our core mission of traffic safety during the COVID-19 Crisis. Troopers remained VISIBLE on our state highways. We stopped a record number of dangerous drivers traveling at speeds over 100 mph. We continued to remove dangerous impaired drivers from our roadways. We continued to respond to crashes and assist the motoring public. Troopers also assisted in moving critical equipment in the fight against the Corona Virus across the State. Troopers brought a sense of normalcy when everything else around us was anything but normal.

the Governor and Commissioner will not say it publicly, I will proudly acknowledge: TROOPERS – A JOB WELL DONE!

We did all of this on a contract that expired June 30, 2019. Over 20 years ago when I started on the Patrol, Troopers were justly compensated for our valuable work. Our wages were on par with our comparable allied agencies. Since 2002, we have steadily fallen in wage comparison. Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) officials continue to disrespect us in the collective bargaining process. Our wages are no longer as competitive as they once were and that is unacceptable. This can be attributed in large part to MMB's policy of pattern

Even though the Governor and Commissioner will not say it publicly, I will proudly acknowledge: TROOPERS – A JOB WELL DONE!

Then came the civil unrest following the unfortunate death of George Floyd. Troopers responded to the Metro Area in record numbers during the civil disobedience. We performed our mission of restoring law and order under extremely difficult circumstances. And we did it very well. I know I speak for every Trooper when I say it was a career defining experience. After the initial uprising of late May and early June, Troopers continued to respond to the Metro Area to help maintain the peace. We brought a sense of normalcy when everything else around us was not normal.

settlement and the growing wage gap. In the long run, MMB's practices adversely affects the Patrol's ability to recruit and retain the finest to be Minnesota State Patrol Troopers.

MSPTA members time and time again demonstrated why we are called "Minnesota's Finest". None of us wanted to be there yet we answered the call. We all made the best of a bad situation and utilized the training and skills we continually prepare for. I would not have missed the opportunity to be there and serve side by side with my fellow troopers. Even though

Thankfully, during the regular legislative session, we had bipartisan support to get passed into legislation the Trooper Compensation Study. In the next 10 years, the Legislative Auditor (not MMB) will perform four studies on our compensation. It is the intent of the legislators to then use this non-partisan information to once again make our compensation competitive. Due to my retirement, I will not directly benefit from this legislation. However, I am extremely proud of all the work the MSPTA put into this successful endeavor. And I want to publicly thank Senator Jeff Howe and Representative Brad Tabke for leading the charge in their respective chambers. We spent countless hours with both the Senator and Representative to get this legislation across the goal line.

When I was elected your president, I had a few goals for the MSPTA. One was to re-establish a stronger MSPTA presence at the Capitol. With the passage of the Trooper Cadet Pay bill in the 2016 session and the Trooper Compensation Study in the 2020 session, I believe we have accomplished this goal. As we move forward, the MSPTA must remain active at the Capitol for the good of the members.

The other major goal I had was to improve communication within the MSPTA. The best thing I did to accomplish this goal was hire Rick Harjes as our webmaster. Rick brought life into our MSPTA Website. Rick's technical knowledge, his can-do attitude and ideas for improving how the MSPTA communicates are outstanding. Soon afterward, Rick became MSPTA Secretary. Together we introduced the constant communicator and electronic voting. Both have been a big success.

As I leave my position and enter retirement, I have a few parting thoughts for the membership.

- Please stay involved in the MSPTA
- Please take care of yourself both physically and mentally
- Please be there for your partners
- Please stay alert, be cautious and drive within your capabilities
- Please make it home safely at the end of your shift so you get to use your well-earned pension

In closing, it has been an honor and privilege to lead this fine association. It is a bittersweet moment for me. On one hand, it is very difficult to leave a job I still have a passion to do. On the other hand, I'm excited to start enjoying the pension all of us have rightly earned. I'm very blessed to be retiring still enjoying my job. I wish all of you a very fond and affectionate farewell.

◆ *Stay Safe.*
Joe #446

Jottings

- On September 5 the MSPTA sent a strong message to MMB and others by rejecting the proposed contract offer. Years of being frustrated by the collective bargaining process with MMB came out as Troopers overwhelmingly voted NO. Hopefully, the people in positions of power to fix our growing compensation problems take notice and finally work with us to solve these issues.
- Thanks to Pat Miles for his years of dedicated service on the Executive Council as South Delegate. In August, Pat was promoted to Lieutenant in D2400
- Welcome back to the Executive Council Jason Theel as South Delegate. Previously, Jason served as D2400 Delegate before he took a transfer to D4600.
- Thanks to all the Executive Council Members who served during my presidency. The MSPTA could not do what we do without dedicated delegates who are willing to serve their fellow Troopers
- And finally, a very special thank you to my wife Christine. Unlike me, she did not choose this job but she lived it as well. All the calls that always seem to come just as we sat down for dinner or in the middle of the night or on days off or on vacation. Without your unending support, I would never have survived. She has earned our pension too. Only the past MSPTA Presidents truly know what a huge time commitment this job entails. I wish your new president Mike LeDoux all the best.



Colonel Matt Langer

Colonel's Message

Keep Going



Thank you to everyone who showed up or sent your thoughts to be voiced at the summer district listening sessions. I always enjoy getting out to the districts where the work actually occurs. The groups are smaller, the conversations are rich, and there are always good questions asked. I started each meeting by saying we have been through a lot as an agency this year. COVID-19 brought a new reality upon us that we have never experienced. New routines, mandates, rules, and recommendations were tailored for our unique mission. When we first issued cloth face masks, I know a lot of us thought we would likely never wear them. Now they have quickly become viewed as normal, even though they provide some challenges for our work. I appreciate your patience as we continue to navigate the pandemic in a healthy way and as a cohesive organization.

The death of George Floyd on Memorial Day ushered us swiftly into a new era of civil unrest and criminal justice reform. The State of Minnesota called upon the State Patrol in a way never before imagined. The ability for the State Patrol to quickly mobilize and respond to the call for service is something I will always be proud of. Our teamwork, dedication, perseverance, work ethic, and integrity was put into action. Troopers dropped everything and responded from all across Minnesota to assist with unprecedented civil unrest in the metro area. It took courage to respond and deploy into the dynamic and dangerous environment presented at the time. While the headlines captured State Troopers on the front lines, we know the efforts of Capitol Security, Radio Control Operators, Commercial Vehicle Inspectors, and our Support Staff contributed to our overall ability to restore order. There are lessons learned each time we deploy into a crowd control environment. Lessons learned during this “all call” of State Patrol resources will continue to be uncovered and analyzed so we can hold true to our core value of excellence by way of continuous improvement.

Over the past few years, “sanctity of life” has become a common phrase in our profession. It often resides in a use of force policy as a best practice, but I think it is more in line with a core value. Our core value of respect captures the essence of who we are as an organization. People expect more from the State Patrol. They expect respect. It is part of our culture that started on Day One of the very first State Patrol academy. Now is the time to double down on this value and the way that we treat the people we interact with. Stop cars, write citations to change behavior, arrest those who are a danger on the roads. Our mission is always critical, but even more so when we watch fatal traffic crashes climb. But, do all of these activities while remembering who we are. While people might now be talking about the “sanctity of life,” treating people as though they have inherent value as human beings is nothing new for the State Patrol.

In trying times like these, I am thankful for many things that I could, but never will, take for granted. I am thankful for our positive culture. A culture where we work hard, do excellent work, and yet exercise humility. A culture where we avoid the use of force through command presence, communication skills, and training – all while being confident in our abilities should reasonable force be necessary. Above all, I am thankful to be working with you. Without excellent people dedicated to our cause, we would be unable to respond when the bell rings and unable to make the forward progress necessary to continue differentiating who we are.

I hope you found some time during this incredibly busy summer to be with family and friends. With any luck, you found peace, happiness, and rest somewhere along the way – even if it was brief. ♦

To Our Local Heroes

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DAYS ★ GONE ★ BY

First female pilot takes to the air

by Rick Verner

August 1989 MINNESOTA TROOPER

Mary Schrader may be watching your driving. Schrader is the only female member of the flying division of the Minnesota State Patrol and one of only a handful in the nation.

Schrader, formerly Woehrle, grew up in White Bear Township, within a radar-gun's range of I-35W and under the traffic pattern of Benson's airport.

She became interested in the airborne division during her first years as a trooper. Flying troopers told her flying was even more fun than it looked. She had to put herself through private and instrument flight lessons. However, the ratings and a badge didn't guarantee a position.

"After my first flying lesson, I told myself 'I really like this,'" Schrader said. Learning how to fly is challenging. It wasn't easy to work a regular shift, then run off to flying lessons and still maintain a normal home life.

Once she earned her ratings, an internship spot opened up in the flight division, and Schrader stayed on.

"Mary is doing an excellent job for the state," Chief Pilot Captain Ken Kammen said. "She is always willing to lend a hand." Lending a hand is important when people are lost or when blood needs to be flown to a hospital.

In order to catch the elusive speeder, an airborne patrol officer watches for a "screamer." Screamers are speeders who stand out because they quickly pass everything else on the road. Once Schrader spies a screamer, she radios a



Mary Schrader is the first female pilot with the Minnesota State Patrol. (Photo by Rick Verner)

ground officer who pulls over the fast mover.

One of Schrader's patrol areas keeps her flying over her parent's house, the intersection of Highway 96 and I-35W.

Schrader has been upgrading her ratings. She says the state will not finance a candidate through initial flight training, but once in the division, the state will pay for adding higher ratings and maintaining proficiency.

Schrader is finishing off her helicopter rating. Her flying work will change with the rating because she will be asked to do less highway patrol flying and more search and rescue, and aerial

photography for court cases.

"The three state helicopters are real workhorses," she says. There are four planes and two helicopters in the metro area. Another three planes and one helicopter are stationed outstate.

Schrader is the first person in the Woehrle family to go into law enforcement. She graduated from Lakewood Community College in 1975 and went on to finish her degree in sociology and criminology at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Her husband is an officer in the Eagan Police Department. In their spare time, they like to lift weights, scuba dive and ride their Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

Schrader likes combining flying and law enforcement. "It's fun catching speeders," she says with a smile.

The state and the court system have smiled on the flying program, supporting the evidence of the flying officers in court. "I want people to know that those cars that are passing you do get caught," said Schrader.

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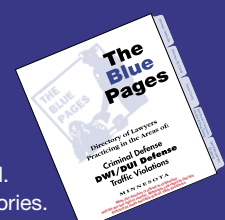
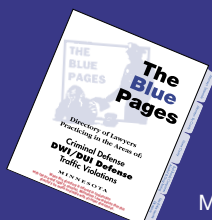
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Thank You!

Dear MSPTA,

I want to thank the MSPTA for the generous gift of money as I recover from my accident. The support from MSPTA and my partners has been outstanding. My recovery is going well and I hope to return to duty this fall.

Trp. Gregg Gerhartz, SP500

Mike LeDoux
Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association
1131 Mesaba Avenue
Duluth, MN 55811



Dear Mike:

We are feeding more people than ever thanks to you and your \$1,500.00 contribution to Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank.

While COVID-19 (Coronavirus) affects our most vulnerable Northland neighbors, **your support remains critical to our hunger-relief efforts.**

We are currently preparing thousands of emergency boxes of food for families, children and seniors in NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin. These boxes are being distributed through our region's food shelves and our own direct service programs, providing needed resources at a critical time.

Thank you, again, for your support – **we couldn't do our work without you!**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shaye Moris'.

Shaye Moris
Executive Director

A handwritten note in black ink that reads: 'Thank you, Mike & All! As you know, your generosity will feed many families, children and seniors at this critical time!' There is a small smiley face drawn above the text.

P.S. We're seeing record demand during this time of crisis. If you're able would you consider a gift to support even more families, children and seniors in need?

A handwritten note in black ink that reads: 'Be safe and thank you for your front line work!'.

No goods or services were provided in consideration of this donation.



Minnesota State Patrol

61st Trooper Training Academy

The 61st Academy of the Minnesota State Patrol

On Sunday, January 5, 2020, thirty one State Patrol Cadets filled an auditorium, surrounded by family and friends. With some understandable apprehension, the “61st” was going to learn about an 18 week journey that would bring them to their goal of becoming Minnesota State Troopers. Lt. Andy Thelen introduced the cadets to their staff officers, who would be tasked with trying to bring out the best in each and every one of them. With motivational speeches from Colonel Matt Langer, on down to probationary Troopers from the 60th academy class, the cadets realized, like it or not, this day has arrived and they would need to “dig deep” for the next 18 weeks. Next, it was off to our temporary home to get settled in, meeting new people and learning more about what was expected of them for the next 18 weeks.



On Monday morning, January 6th, the motivated and dedicated cadets soon discovered “this is it” and, with that, the 61st Minnesota State Patrol Academy had begun. In what could only be described as organized chaos, the eager cadets went from figuring out what uniform to wear, to learning how and where to stand. The cadets were finally able to find some uniformity and make it to the next event, late I might add! A patient Lt. Thelen excused our tardiness and gave another inspirational speech, impressing on the cadets the Minnesota State Patrols core values of Respect, Integrity, Courage, Honor and Excellence. During those first few weeks there was a wide range of emotions and changes, from having to come back the first Sunday night, to utilizing the first allotted phone time and seeing some of their fellow classmates deciding

this “wasn’t for them”. What began as a more typical academy, certainly didn’t end as one!

Change was not just set aside for the new cadets. A few weeks into the academy we lost one staff officer to promotion, Lt. Karla Bearce. She was replaced by Trooper Kali Kleinschmidt, who had been a staff officer during the last academy.

During the time at the academy, the cadets came up with their class name (Move Over for Foss’ 61st) to honor the late Trooper Ted Foss #27, who was tragically killed in the line of duty 20 years earlier.

During the latter half of the academy, the cadets got a taste of “adapt and overcome”. Due to the uncertainty caused by a global pandemic from the COVID-19 virus, a number of changes were made. One of the major decisions was the academy would be condensed by four weeks and the cadets would be required to attend classes on Saturday and Sunday. This mandate required the cadets to stay at Camp Ripley in the billets for the duration of the academy, which amounted to 28 straight days away from their family and friends.

The MSP Training and Development staff of the 61st Academy would like to thank you for your perseverance, dedication, strength and motivation while completing the requirements laid, before you. We, the staff of the 61st Academy, would like to thank the families and friends for diligently standing behind the scenes and giving your cadet the encouragement and resilience to complete this journey. Your commitment and strength played an important role in your loved ones success.

Congratulations cadets of the 61st Academy and welcome to your new family. We are eager to have you join our elite ranks and welcome you. Stay safe and be well.

-The 61st Academy Staff

The MSP Training and Development Staff:

Captain Eric Barthel

Lieutenant Andrew Thelen

Lieutenant Karla Bearce

Lieutenant Don Marose

Technical Sergeant Preston Crusier

Technical Sergeant Paul Cole

Technical Sergeant Rick Harjes

Technical Sergeant David Rock

Technical Sergeant Troy Morrell

Technical Sergeant Jon Wenzel

Specialist Donelle Hintermiester

Administrative Support Senior, Navay Mar

Administrative Support, Sarah Robinson

Administrative Support, Kathy Craft

Academy Aide-de-camp:

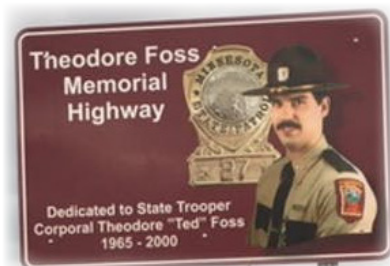
Academy Staff Officer, Trooper Scott Mattfield

Academy Staff Officer, Trooper Chris Halder

Academy Staff Officer, Technical Sgt Pilar Stier

Academy Staff Officer, Trooper Kali Kleinschmidt

Administrative Support, Holley Gries



**Move Over
for
Foss' 61st**



THE OATH OF A MINNESOTA STATE TROOPER

I _____, do solemnly swear,

To support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution and laws of the State of Minnesota, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of State Patrol Trooper employed and designated under and pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 299D, and all acts amendatory thereto;

To serve the State of Minnesota and the United States of America honestly and faithfully and at all times fulfill my oath as State Patrol Trooper;

To be loyal to my supervisors and fellow Troopers and obey and enforce the law without fear, favor or discrimination as to class, color, race or creed;

To help those in danger or distress and, if necessity arise, lay down my life rather than swerve from the path of duty; and

To conduct myself at all times in accordance with the highest moral standards and never commit any act that will reflect discredit on the Minnesota State Patrol or any member thereof.

All this I solemnly swear to the best of my knowledge and ability, so help me, God.



The 61st Academy of the Minnesota State Patrol



Respect • Integrity • Courage
Honor • Excellence

The 61st Academy of the Minnesota State Patrol

Colonel Matt Langer's Message to the Graduating Class

We knew once the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic struck Minnesota that changes would be needed in order to successfully graduate the cadets who had worked hard for many weeks at Camp Ripley. The choices were to either pause the academy, continue as-is while hoping for the best, or take some drastic measures to try and keep COVID-19 from impacting our academy. After considering the options, we decided to take actions that included cancelling any remaining travel home by the cadets on weekends. Other changes included con-

and other supplies for their loved ones who were effectively quarantined at Camp Ripley. It was truly a collective effort by many.

One of the impacts associated with the pandemic and our academy was the need to change graduation. Without the ability to secure our usual space at Mariucci Arena, or the ability to safely gather a large group, we were forced to improvise and make the best out of the situation by hosting a graduation ceremony at Camp Ripley. Family and friends were offered a livestream link so they could view the ceremony remotely. DPS Communications staff helped to ensure we could capture the event and share it with those who were unable to be present.

Deputy Commissioner O'Hern and Assistant Commissioner Hodges provided some opening remarks after the cadets marched in to our familiar opening cadence. The cadets sat socially distanced from one another as Commissioner Harrington provided advice and inspiration to the newest group of cadets. I was once again honored to provide the commencement address where I spoke about our traffic safety mission, our vision as an agency, and the importance of our core values – respect, integrity, courage, honor, and excellence.

The cadets were sworn in after being administered the Oath of a Minnesota State Trooper. Despite a smaller and condensed graduation ceremony than we had hoped, it was powerful nonetheless. It was keeping with our tradition and befitting of the work that goes into earning the opportunity to become a State Trooper.

While each graduating class is unique, our 61st Academy has a story to tell unlike any other. Just like we have graduated WWII-era Troopers, Vietnam-era Troopers, 9/11-era Troopers, 2020 brought the graduation of COVID-19-era Troopers.

During the graduation ceremony on April 11, 2020, none of us contemplated the challenges brought upon our state and organization after the death of George



Colonel Matt Langer speaks to the class.

dening the training time to include weekend education, limiting the number of instructors, and amplifying the hygiene practices we always have in place to keep an academy class healthy.

I am extremely grateful for the contributions of everyone involved with the changes that were made. Training and Development staff took this on as a challenge and dutifully planned for the completion of the academy in a way that has never been done. Staff officers embraced the necessary challenges and accepted their responsibility to work as hard as they could to expedite training, while not losing anything by the condensed format. The cadets took a deep breath and realized that while they might be done sooner, it meant they would not see their families on weekends until they came home after graduation. Families stepped up their work too and helped deliver necessary clothing

Floyd on Memorial Day. As a testament to the training we provide and the caliber of the people we hire, the 61st Academy participated admirably during all aspects of the State Patrol's response to the unrest, while still on field training. We should be proud of their work and thankful for their dedication as they persevered through challenges we could not have predicted. Job well-done.



The 61st Graduating Class listens to Colonel Langer's speech.



DPS Commissioner John Harrington speaks with the graduating class.



Minnesota State Patrol's 61st Graduating Class



Trp. Cody Boegeman SP504

I am originally from Bloomington, MN and currently residing in Apple Valley. Prior to the Minnesota State Patrol I was a Sergeant in the U.S Army Reserve, and a Correctional Officer for the Minnesota Department of Corrections. My hobbies include bodybuilding, skateboarding, snowboarding, and staying active outdoors. My career goals are to one day become a K-9 handler or Special Response Team member. I am assigned to the St. Paul station.



Trp. Brennon Brase SP44

I grew up in Owatonna, Minnesota. I graduated high school and went to Minnesota State University where I received my Bachelor's Degree in law enforcement. While working towards my degree, I worked full time as a hospital security officer with Allina Health, as a reserve officer with the Owatonna Police Department, and as a special deputy with the Steele County Sheriff's Office. I got married in June of 2019. I enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, and spending time with my wife Jessica and chocolate lab when I'm not working. I am assigned to the Fairmont station.



Trp. Christopher Caldwell SP307

I worked an 18 year career with the St Paul Public Works Sewer Department. I held the title of a crew leader and a pump operator. I have always had an interest in law enforcement and felt it was a good time to pursue a career in it. Through LETO, I was able get a job for the State Patrol. I have been married for fifteen years, with five kids. My hobbies are collecting 1980's action figures, from TMNT, to Transformers, I have a massive toy collection. I'm a huge movie critic and enjoy watching new content, so the whole pandemic has put a real hold on that. I am assigned to the Minneapolis station.



Trp. Nathan Elzen SP50

I am originally from Medford, Minnesota. I am currently station out of the Mankato district. I recently received my bachelor's degree in law enforcement with a minor in sociology from Minnesota State University of Mankato. I currently spend a majority of my free time working out and teaching my three year old German Shorthair Pointer new tricks. One of my goals with the Minnesota State Patrol is to become excellent at arresting drunk drivers and getting them off the roadway. I am assigned to the Fairmont station.



Trp. Breidy Garcia SP653

I am originally from Honduras with a Hispanic background. I moved to Minnesota in 2004. I graduated from Bethel University and worked as a community health worker for several years at HCMC. I am the youngest of 5 siblings. In my free time, I like to spend time with my dog and train for Marathons. I was hired by State Patrol through the LETO program and I am assigned to the East Metro District, Saint Paul station.



Trp. Andres Guerra SP346

I am originally from Woodbury, MN and graduated from East Ridge High School in 2011. I then attended the University of Iowa in Iowa City, IA where I received a Bachelor's Degree in 2015. I enjoy running, playing/coaching soccer, playing video games, and spending time with family and close friends in my free time. I was a police officer in the Des Moines metro area prior to joining the Minnesota State Patrol. I am assigned to the overnight Minneapolis station.



Trp. Kelvin Harris SP512

My name is Kelvin Keneah Harris. I am from Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa. I moved from Liberia to the US in 2011. I attended Prairie Seeds Academy High School and got my Associate degree in criminal justice from Minneapolis Community College. I am currently finishing up my BSC at Metropolitan State University. Before coming to the Minnesota State Patrol, I worked 5 years at Boston Scientific, the medical device company. I am the only brother to six sisters. I am a huge soccer and basketball fan. I enjoy playing soccer with my team and watching comedy movies. I am assigned to the Minneapolis station.



Trp. Alexander Hervey SP613

I am originally from Pine Island, MN where I am also a volunteer firefighter. I have had a number of jobs recently after ending my enlistment with the United States Army as an infantryman. These jobs include ambulance dispatcher, correctional officer, and water patrol deputy. I graduated from Mankato state with a bachelors degree in criminal justice and later went back to school to get my EMT certification. I am happily married with no children just yet. I am assigned to the Windom Station.



Trp. Curtis Jepson SP337

Originally, from Frazee, MN, I graduated high school in 2000 and spent a few years in college. In 2003 I enlisted into the Marine Corps as a crew member on an Abrams M1A1 main battle tank. After four years of active duty, I moved back to Minnesota and I joined the National Guard. I also started a career in construction. I was mostly involved with industrial construction at refinery's across the country. In my free time I enjoy anything that keeps me active outdoors, like bow hunting for whitetails in the fall. I am assigned to Bagley station.



Trp. Jenifer Josephson SP295

I am originally from Salinas, CA. I am currently living in Hinckley, MN. I moved to North Dakota in 2012 to play collegiate sports and pursue my degree in Criminal Justice. I worked in corrections for 5 years and wanted to pursue a career in law enforcement. After filling out a few local applications, I decided I wanted to be closer to family in Wisconsin. The Minnesota State Patrol was the best fit for me as I could be close to family and enjoy the beautiful state of MN. I was hired through the LETO program and I am assigned to the Pine City station.



Trp. Justin Knowles SP619

I am originally from Whipolt, MN. I now live in Hibbing, MN. I'm a husband and a dad of four, with 3 boys and a girl. We enjoy the outdoors and staying active. Before joining the State Patrol, I worked for 4 different police agencies with a little over ten years combined. I was lucky enough to switch stations with another cadet at the academy to get assigned to the Hibbing Station in the Virginia District.



Trp. Brandon Lindemoen SP41

I was born and raised in Blaine, MN. I graduated from Blaine High School in 2013 and went to the University of North Dakota where I received my Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice. After graduating from UND in 2017, I started my career as a detention deputy at the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. I then went back to school to receive my law enforcement certificate to join the MN State Patrol. I am assigned to the Virginia Station.



Trp. Rachel McCabe SP147

I was born and raised in Minneapolis, MN. I grew up exploring the outdoors with my siblings on our annual camping trips. I attended the University of Wisconsin River Falls to pursue an interest in art and rugby. I graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and continued in the glass blowing industry for a couple of years. I was working as an industrial floor coating and resin consultant when I heard of the LETO program that the Minnesota State Patrol offered. I was later hired through the LETO program and I am now assigned to the Thief River Falls station.



Trp. Jacob Moen SP530

I am originally from the Twin Cities area. I now live in Montrose with my wife and 4 kids. We enjoy camping, playing board games and learning soccer. I came to the State Patrol through the LETO program with a background in mental health counseling. Prior to coming to the State Patrol, I was an adjunct professor and instructional designer at a university in downtown Minneapolis. I am assigned to the Windom Station.



Trp. Arrue Nephew SP523

I am originally from Cloquet, and I am excited to return to where I grew up. I have been married to my husband since 2018. We both enjoy playing video games in our free time and spending time with our cats. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and never thought I would become a State Trooper. I always thought I would do something related to environmental research. I am assigned to the Duluth station.



Trp. Scott Oslund SP135

I am originally from Fertile, MN. I have been married to my wife Josie since 2016. I graduated high school in 2015 and immediately started working towards a degree in music. During my second year of college I began working a security job and discovered my love for law enforcement. I changed my major and graduated with a degree in law enforcement in 2019. Before joining the State Patrol I worked as a 911 dispatcher for Pennington County. I am assigned to the Thief River Falls station.



Trp. John Ophoven SP553

I was born and raised in Grand Rapids, MN. Previous to the State Patrol, I had 3 years of experience with the Polk County Sheriff's Office as a transport deputy, and 2.5 years with the Morris Police Department as a police officer. I am also in the US Army Reserves as a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Specialist. I live alone with my black lab, Stryker. My hobbies include golf, hunting, four wheeling, driving, road trips, and working on vehicles. I am assigned to the Crookston station.



Trp. Adam Rochlin SP82

I am originally from Edina, MN. I attended North Dakota State University where I received my bachelor's degree in criminal justice. I then went on to attend the Alexandria Tech Skills program just prior to applying for the MN State Patrol. I am currently working in the Thief River Falls station where I spend my free time hunting and fishing.



Trp. Spencer Stockwell SP190

I am from LeSueur, MN. I previously worked as an electronics installer/technician and an AC/DC electrician for a marina on Lake Superior. I also worked part time security at a hospital in Duluth, MN. In my free time I like to run (I've completed 9 half-marathons). During the summer I spend my free time sailing or hiking with my dog. During the winter I spend time ice fishing. I chose the State Patrol because of the educational aspect of the agency. We receive some of the best training & education in the state and we get the opportunity use it to educate the public. I am assigned to the Windom station.



Trp. Brandon Thongvivong SP93

I am originally from Windom, MN. I graduated college in 2017 from Minnesota State University of Mankato with a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement. Before joining the State Patrol, I worked for two years with the Windom Police Department. In my free time, I like to go to the gym, travel to different places I haven't been before, and spend time with my family and friends. I am assigned to the Windom station.

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Trp. Clifford Weidell SP247

I was an explosive detection K9 handler. I worked primarily at the MSP Airport, but also worked events such as the Super Bowl and the Chicago Marathon. Prior to that, I was a defense contractor in Afghanistan. I enjoy hunting, fishing, and camping. I also enjoy trail running, swimming, and Nordic skiing. Throughout my career in the Marines and as a contractor, I trained service members from multiple nations. I joined the State Patrol because I want to make a difference in the lives of Minnesotans. I want to continue my service and the State Patrol was natural choice. I am assigned to Two Harbors.



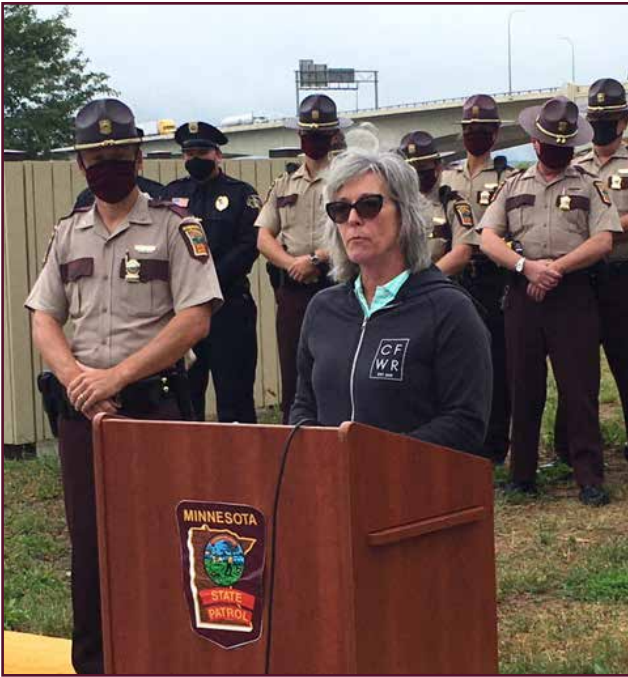
Trp. Anthony Zajac SP427

I was born and raised in Brooklyn Park, MN. I graduated from Park Center Senior High in 2010. I graduated from Rasmussen College and completed the skills program in 2012. In 2018, I bought a home in Montrose, MN and currently live there with my girlfriend, Amanda. Before joining the State Patrol, I worked for Target HQ in Brooklyn Park. I started playing hockey when I was 2 years old and baseball when I was 6. I still play both today. I currently play for the Northwest Orioles during the summertime. I also enjoy golfing during my free time. I am assigned to the East Grand Forks/Crookston station.

State Patrol Mission Statement

"Protect and serve all people in the state through assistance, education, and enforcement; provide support to allied agencies; and provide for the safe, efficient movement of traffic on Minnesota's roadways."





20th Anniversary Corporal Ted Foss

The Minnesota State Patrol dedicated a new highway memorial sign in honor of Ted Foss on the 20th year anniversary of his death. Corporal Foss, a 15 year veteran of the State Patrol, was hit and killed by a passing vehicle in 2000 during a traffic stop on the shoulder of interstate 90 in Winona.

20 years later, Foss' wife Andrea Walski spoke for the first time, hoping her husband's death is a reminder to all motorist to move over for emergency vehicles working on the side of the road. ♦



Minnesota State Fair 1934



These photos show the Officers and their motorcycles parked near the Grandstand practicing for the day they appeared at the State Fair Grandstand in uniform and also driving in formation during the state fair. The date on the photos is 1934. Notice the Black Shirts and White caps. The Black shirts did not stick around very long. They were very hot and the officers didn't like them. ♦



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PTSD: A Silent Epidemic

While law enforcement is a high-stress career, the last three months in Minneapolis and St. Paul have pushed many State Troopers and police officers to their breaking point. Since June 1, Meuser, Yackley & Rowland has been retained by hundreds of State Troopers, police officers, deputy sheriffs & firefighters suffering from physical and mental health injuries, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Given the fact that the State Patrol, National Guard, Department of Natural Resources and several local law enforcement agencies have been called upon to help respond to the riots and “peaceful protests” in Minneapolis and St. Paul and were subjected to the same physical and verbal abuse, we believe that the number of law enforcement officers who experience mental health symptoms consistent PTSD will continue to grow.

Media reports focus on officer shootings leading to the misperception that gunfire is the greatest risk to which a law enforcement officer is exposed. No one can deny the inherent risk of being shot but the startling fact is that more law enforcement officers die from suicide than any other cause. We have lost two clients this year due to suicide. Two other officers died from suicide in November.

Post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, is a mental health condition that may affect people who have experienced or witnessed a traumatic event such as a serious accident, significant bodily injury, sexual abuse/violence or other personal assault. It has been estimated that 15 percent of law enforcement officers in the U.S. experience symptoms consistent with PTSD. Based upon our experience, the percentage of law enforcement experiencing symptoms consistent with PTSD is substantially higher, especially recently. In Minnesota, there are approximately 10,400 licensed law enforcement officers. Even assuming the 15% is accurate, that means over 1,500 of them are dealing with the debilitating effects of PTSD on an ongoing basis.

While a State Trooper can develop PTSD as a result of a single incident, our experience with law enforcement



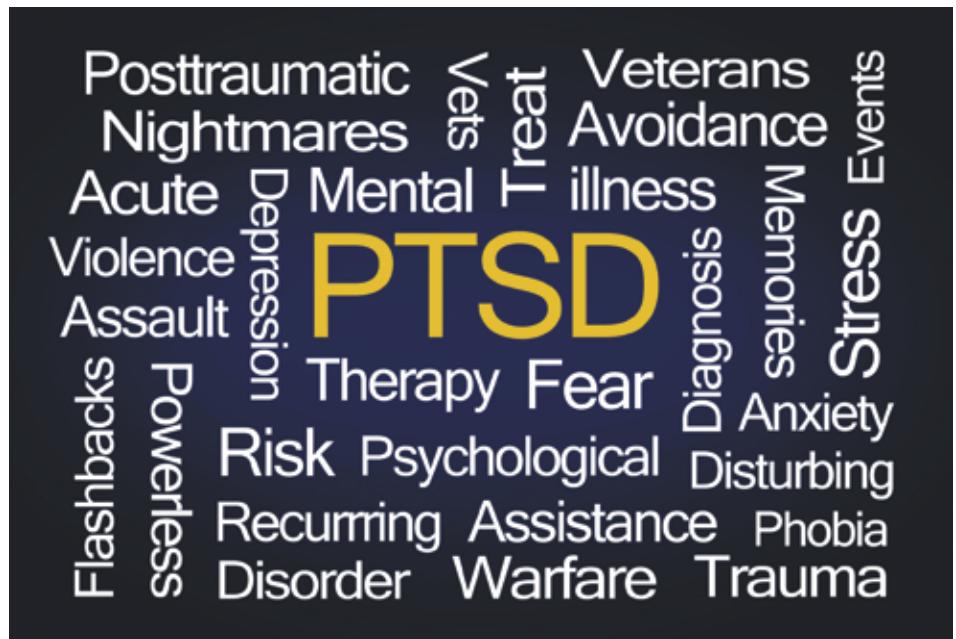
is that the vast majority of them develop symptoms as a direct result of their cumulative exposure to hundreds of traumatic incidents such as suicides, motor vehicle and industrial accidents, homicides, sexual assault and the death of children over the course of their career.

No one chooses to have PTSD. And, I assure you, it is almost impossible to “fake” PTSD. Symptoms can develop shortly after a critical incident, or they can develop gradually, over an extended period, often going undiagnosed for years.

Every case is different but common symptoms include anxiety, panic, depression, nightmares, intrusive thoughts, sleeplessness, fatigue, feelings of detachment or estrangement from others, hypervigilance, irritability, anger, flashbacks, lack of concentration or focus, reckless or self-destructive behavior and suicidal thoughts.

Perhaps it is how law enforcement officers are wired, perhaps it is the culture in which they work but the reality is that the vast majority of our State Troopers never seek help on their own, choosing to deal with their symptoms on their own, suffering in silence.

These symptoms don't just affect the State Troopers but also have a profound effect on their family and friends. Relationships are damaged if not destroyed. It is common for the spouse or significant other of a State Trooper to make the initial contact with our office noting that their loved one is “not the same person” they once were.



Too often our clients convince themselves that if only they can make it until they turn 55 years old then they can retire and their life will return to normal. Unfortunately, this is a recipe for disaster. Through continued exposure to traumatic events, their condition will worsen over time. PTSD is not a condition to ignore. It is the real deal. I never want to look into the eyes of a loved one having lost someone because they did not receive necessary treatment in time.

Many departments offer EAP, Employee Assistance Programs. These programs are of limited help as they are often provided immediately after a traumatic event before an officer begins experiencing symptoms. Moreover, State Troopers are hesitant to work with EAP for fear that their superiors will learn that they are seeking assistance and place their career in jeopardy. No one wants to be “that guy” that everyone talks about as being too emotional or weak.

PTSD is a silent epidemic. You cannot tell by looking at someone, if he or she is suffering from PTSD. A State Trooper suffering from PTSD may be able to put on a brave face for short periods of time but fall apart as soon as they are in private. PTSD does not strike all at once. It comes on gradually without your knowledge or understanding. Over time it may overwhelm you to the point that you can no longer function. PTSD must be addressed head-on. A State Trooper with PTSD does not have to suffer in silence. There are resources available to officers who have PTSD to prevent the loss of their lives, careers or family. ♦

What can a State Trooper or a loved one do if they think that they are suffering from symptoms consistent with PTSD?

- Seek counseling. You cannot address this issue on your own. Personally, I recommend that you seek a counselor who specializes in working with law enforcement officers suffering with PTSD. Law enforcement is unique and different from the general public. I would not necessarily recommend going through EAP as the State Trooper must be able to trust the counselor and preserve their ability to continue in their careers. Treatment can be sought “off the books” through a confidential source.
- Talk to a lawyer who concentrates in this area of law. You need a lawyer knowledgeable about workers compensation, the MSRS State Patrol Plan, and Continuation of Healthcare benefits under Minnesota Statute 299A.465. Each of these types of claims are potentially available to State Troopers and are designed to ensure that medical expenses and wage loss are covered while the officer is treating and may be available in the event an officer is unable to return to law enforcement.

What can the department do to help State Troopers suffering from PTSD?

- Law enforcement agencies must focus on the long term. They must address the problem, not deny it. They must change the culture to ensure that a State Trooper struggling with PTSD is supported not ridiculed. Treat mental conditions in the same manner as they do physical conditions. This will not happen overnight but with time can and must be implemented. Too many experienced officers are leaving their departments at a time in which the departments can least afford to lose them.

Provide State Troopers with counseling on a semi-annual basis with a psychologist of their own choosing on a confidential basis where records are protected and knowledge that they're seeking treatment is limited to non-superiors with protections ensured against adverse consequences to their jobs.

We must all work together to stem the tide of PTSD. State Troopers risk their lives every day to protect us. The least that we can do is to be there when they need help themselves.

References

Blue H.E.L.P.

Community Policing Dispatch

Ron Meuser, Jr.

Ron is the founding partner of Meuser, Yackley & Rowland, P.A. A law firm whose eight attorneys practice exclusively in the area of workers' compensation, PERA/MSRS disability, Continuation of Healthcare, and personal injury. They have represented over 500 law enforcement officers with PTSD.

What is new at the Investigative Services Section?

by Sgt. Kelly Phillips

In the 11(+) years I have been assigned to ISS (D2000) I have seen several supervisors come and go. Sometimes we have gone without but made due. Mostly because we have Shylina Gibson as our Administrative Assistant to keep us in line. I have also seen several Troopers promoted to Tech Sgt. here move onto other areas or promoted higher up. Recently, the command staff made the decision to bring a Captain back to ISS along with a second Lieutenant. I think I can speak for everyone in the office when I say we are excited to see what the new changes will bring! I often joke that we are the “forgotten” district within the State Patrol. So, for those that are not familiar with who all falls under or who has been moved under ISS, I asked (actually begged) someone from each specialty to write a little about the programs. If you have any questions about any of the programs, or are interested in one of the specialties, please feel free to reach out and ask us! We are here to help and support the Troopers with any questions you may have (763-279-4000).



Shylina Gibson



Captain Travis Schaap

In May, the Investigative Services Section underwent some changes with the addition of a Captain, two Lieutenants and two more programs. ISS is now home to the Crash Reconstruction Program, the Canine Program, the Vehicle Crimes Unit, DRE Program, SRT and the DEA Task Force Trooper. I have been the Captain at ISS since May and things have not settled down. We filled a Lieutenant's position with Lt. Robert Zak, the DRE Coordinator's Position with Sgt. Tyler Milless, lost a valuable member of the Crash Reconstruction Program to a promotion which created an opening we will be working to fill in the near future. All the while, I have been meeting with the Program Coordinators and Investigators learning more about each specialty, what is working and things we can improve upon.

What is exciting about being the Captain at ISS is the opportunity. Each specialty at ISS is already doing good work and I have the opportunity to work with the Coordinators, Recons, Canine Teams and Investigators to build upon the different programs and help push the programs to new heights. We will also look to be more involved in the districts so others know what resources ISS can provide to them. Stepping into a new role always comes with the unknown but being surrounded by a great team who wants to be part of ISS has certainly helped the transition. You will be hearing more about ISS going forward.



Lt. Bob Zak

A little about me, I served as Director of Fleet Operations at CHQ since 2011, and started officially in ISS on July 22, 2020. The areas that I will be overseeing are the Crash Reconstruction and Canine programs.

I have many goals for ISS but for now, my short term goals are to learn as much as I can about each program in ISS, build rapport with all team members, enhance communication & information related to program activities statewide.

My long term goals are to shorten the average number of days to close fatal crash investigations, plan for future equipment needs, use data to increase efficiency of program operations & enhance training, and maximize the services ISS provides to the public and allied agencies.

Crash Reconstruction - Full Time Crash Reconstruction Specialists

The crash reconstruction program currently has 30 crash reconstruction specialists (CRS). Four are full time based out of ISS along with our fulltime crash data analyst and the recon coordinator. The majority of our recons (25) work the road and perform reconstruction duties as well. You might ask why anyone would want to be a “station” recon. The answer is not for the additional 3% pay bump, if you’re doing it for the pay, I can assure you that you likely will not do it for long. It has to be a passion, you have to be someone who finds crashes intriguing.

Looking at crash scenes and putting the pieces together is challenging, however it is rewarding as well. It’s hard to explain the feeling you have when a case is closed and you have explained in detail how and why a crash occurred. Whether it’s a criminal case or simply a case you complete to answer loved ones questions. I can tell you after nearly 20 years of experience that there is nothing like explaining to a family how their loved one was killed. It is not a pleasant experience however there is a reassuring feeling you get when family members thank you for the work you did and the time you spend explaining to them what happened and why.

Currently our program is growing, in Nov 2019 we began training 8 troopers as CRS. This training has been postponed due to COVID-19. A second group of 15 troopers will start their training the week of September 21. We plan to combine these two groups into one class of 23 at the end of January 2021 for the two week reconstruction class. These plans obviously could change depending on how the pandemic plays out this fall and winter. We hope to have them fully trained and ready to go by the end of this coming winter.

Another exciting development is aerial mapping utilizing an unmanned aerial system (UAS), better known as a drone. The State Patrol has finalized our general order for UAS to be used primarily for crash reconstruction purposes. The implementation of the UAS will greatly increase our ability to accurately forensic map crash scenes. This will also greatly reduce road closure times as it cuts scene processing times significantly. We hope to obtain one or possibly two drones later this year and build the UAS program from there. The relative affordability of the UAS will enable us to grow the program more quickly than we did our robotic mapping systems. Some have likely forgotten that we incorporated 31 robotic mapping systems into our program in just under three years’ time. The cost of the robotic mapping systems which we will continue to utilize is considerably more than a UAS. By comparison we can purchase approximately 8 drones for the cost of one robotic system.





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K-9

The Minnesota State Patrol Canine unit is staffed with 14 Drug Detection Canine Teams statewide. Sgt. Chad Mills is the canine unit coordinator and trainer. The program has seen some change in the last couple years. Since 2018, seven new canines have been trained and four new handlers. The Canine unit also instructs criminal patrol courses statewide to other Troopers and law enforcement agencies. We are currently in process of getting replacement canine for Trp. Doug Rauenhorst to replace his previous canine partner Diesel. Since 2015 the MSP Canine Teams have been deployed 2,952 times (MSP: 2062 Assists: 890) resulting in Millions in drug proceeds and thousands of pounds of drugs being removed from Minnesota Highways.

2015-2020:

\$3,966,536 in drug proceeds seized

8,451.5 Lbs. of Marijuana

1,029.2 Lbs. of Methamphetamine

151.5 Lbs. of Cocaine

33.2 Lbs. of Heroin

17.4 Lbs. of Psilocybin Mushrooms

392 tables of MDMA (Ecstasy)

16 hidden false compartments located in vehicles.



**Sgt. Chad Mills and
K9 Arco (retired)**



**Sgt. Scott
Schneider and
K9 Amon**



**Trp. Aaron Myren
K9 Argo**



**Trp. Anthony Mains
and K9 Dutchie**



**Trp. Austin
Christensen and
K9 King**



**Trp. Doug
Rauenhorst and K9
Diesel (retired)**



**Trp. Jacob Bredsten
and K9 Jery**



**Trp. Jacob Ristau
and K9 Maty**



**Trp. Jacob Ruppert
and Rocco**



**Trp. Jarid Nacey
and Lusi**



**Trp. Nick Otterson
and K9 Busa**



**Trp. Shaun
Leshovsky
and K9 Breki**



**Trp. Tony Butler
and K9 Felix**



**Trp. Tyler Iverson
and Keno**



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Vehicle Crimes Unit (VCU)

The mission of the Vehicle Crimes Unit (VCU) is to investigate registration tax and motor vehicle sales tax liabilities from individuals and businesses that currently do not pay all taxes owed, and to investigate illegal or improper activity related to the sale, transfer, titling and registration of motor vehicles. The scope and type of crime investigated by the VCU continually expands. Unit members rely on one another to assist in large investigations that include preparing and executing search warrants, obtaining evidence and prosecuting violators. The VCU invests considerable time educating other law enforcement agencies that might lack experience investigating complex motor vehicle fraud schemes.

Many offenses referred to the VCU as “civil offenses” by other agencies have led to successful criminal prosecution at the conclusion of the VCU’s investigation. Since the inception of the unit, the VCU and DOR have collaborated to recover millions of dollars in Minnesota sales tax, and the VCU has assisted thousands of victims through various forms of assistance.

A partnership with the Department of Revenue (DOR), Driver and Vehicle Services division (DVS), and the Department of Commerce (DOC) that began in 2010 has

expanded significantly since the VCU began operating. Members of the VCU, the DOR and DVS are currently working together on numerous cases, with each agency able to apply their expertise in a concerted effort. Without the partnerships between these agencies, most of the tax revenue being recovered would not benefit the state. Each agency relies on the others to ensure that monies owed the State of Minnesota are properly assessed and recovered by the DOR. Other agencies have often become involved in these cases as well, such as the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, ATF, FBI, DEA, and local agency task forces dealing with financial and other crimes. The partners agree that each agency has been much more successful with the help of the others.

Six Investigative Sergeants are currently assigned to the VCU. Three are located in the metro area, one in the northern region of the state (Detroit Lakes area), one in the southern region (Rochester area), and one in the central region (St. Cloud area). The VCU is supervised by the Investigative Services Section (ISS) Commander of the State Patrol who is based in Golden Valley.

Any Sergeant in the VCU is available to assist you and can be reached at 763-279-4000 or Patrol.VCU@state.mn.us.



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DRE Program

As the DRE Coordinator, I am responsible for developing, implementing, and coordinating statewide impaired driving training and certification programs. I work with a variety of groups and businesses including, but not limited to, the Office of Traffic Safety, eCharging, DWI Task Force, TZD, IACP, NHTSA, etc. Currently, we are looking ahead toward the legalization of marijuana that is more than likely coming. I, with the involvement of others, are trying to come up with a plan on how to prevent and enforce marijuana impaired driving. With that, my goal for this program is to increase the number of Drug Recognition Evaluators as well as Phlebotomists. As of right now, the DRE program still uses paper when classes are taught. Currently, I am working on converting as many things as possible to electronic versions. I look forward to getting training going, as soon as COVID slows down and we are

able to hold classes. Below are the current approximate numbers of DREs and Phlebotomists.

Total Drug Recognition Evaluators: 192

State Patrol DREs: 49

Total Evaluations done in MN: 21,496

Total Evaluations done in 2019: 1,375

Evaluations in 2020 to date (07/29/2020): 438

Total Phlebotomists: 91

State Patrol Phlebotomists: 23

Total SFST Instructors: 116

State Patrol SFST Instructors: 38

Total DRE/ARIDE Instructors: 58

State Patrol DRE/ARIDE Instructors: 14

Drug Task Force The TFO (task force officer) position is currently assigned to the interdiction group 73 with the DEA. In this position have multiple roles as both a liaison for narcotics related cases being introduced into the federal system, and as a case agent for criminal and financial crimes related to narcotics trafficking. Last year at MSP we set the record at 2.8 million in seized cash. My group is specialized in the handling and investigations of financial instruments, i.e. Cash, money orders, crypto currencies, vehicles, etc. If you ever find yourself on a stop involving a large amount of currency or suspected narcotics proceeds, CALL ME! We work on planes, trains, and automobile and work closely with the MSP K9 units. Currently, my group is on a case involving a Title3 wiretapping case and requires around the clock monitoring and surveillance of targets in the twin cities metro.



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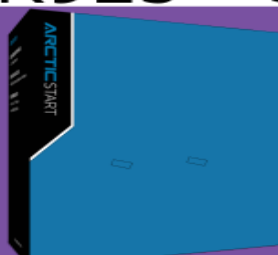
Stay safe and take care of those close to you. Our thoughts are with you, our community, our great state of Minnesota, our nation and our world.



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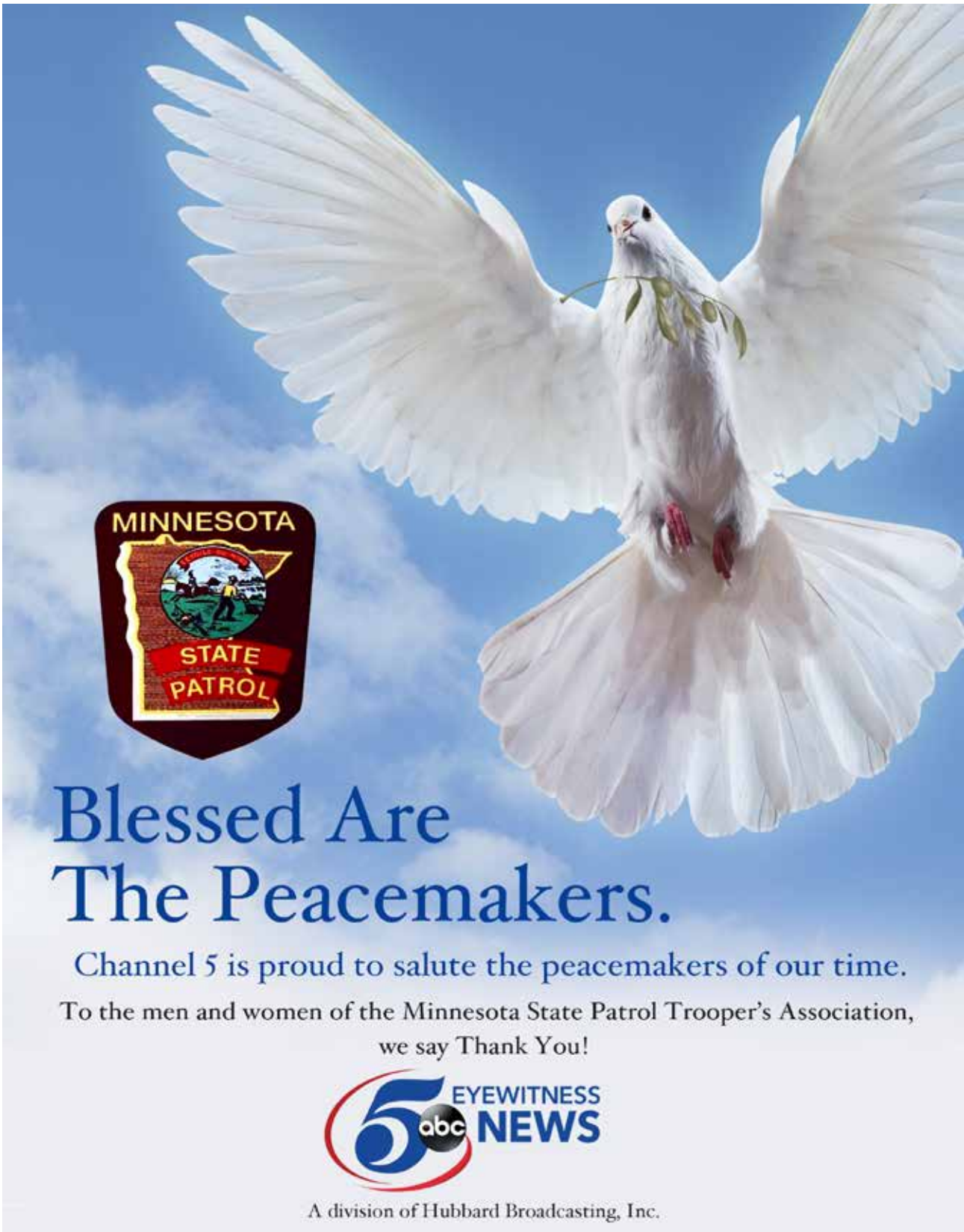


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