



# Secure Ohio

## January 2009 Newsletter



OHIO DEPARTMENT  
OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
EDUCATION • SERVICE • PROTECTION

Ted Strickland, Governor

Henry Guzmán, Director  
Ohio Department of Public Safety

William F. Vedra, Jr., Executive Director  
Ohio Homeland Security

### New Anti-Terrorism Efforts in Place in Central Ohio

From hate crimes to school threats, Ohio's Fusion Center monitors all credible threats.

Bill Vedra, the executive director of Ohio's Department of Homeland Security, said that fighting terrorism today is focusing on the smallest of illegal activity and not just al-Qaeda.

"Narrowing it down to just that terrorism act, we're sort of handcuffing ourselves in preventing that attack," Vedra said.

Last year, the Fusion Center took more than 150 calls from across the state. It is now reaching out to other communities with tip line posters in Arabic and Somali because Columbus is no stranger to terrorists.

Three Columbus residents were convicted for activities supporting terrorism. Homeland security investigators would not say if other cells are still operating in Ohio.

"I think law enforcement knows they need to remain vigilant for the potential

of other people within this state," said Sgt. Rudy Zupanc of the Ohio State Highway Patrol's investigative unit.

Protecting the city where you live goes beyond homeland security. There are seven signs of terrorism that police say are the basics leading up to an attack.

They include people conducting surveillance, suspicious questioning or tests of security. Other signs include someone acquiring excess supplies or simply being suspicious. Dry runs or deploying assets are also signs of terrorism.

"When we talk about 9/11 and how the dots didn't get connected, our mission here is to correct that," Zupanc said.

According to Zupanc, going after terrorism's core foundation will protect what's most important.

The state is also putting a terrorism liaison in each Ohio county to help maintain a better line of communication.

*Angela An, Reporter WBNS 10TV*

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### Upcoming Events

- **January 30** - OHS All Hands Meeting

## NBI CONTINUES EFFORTS, ADDS NEW PARTNERS

### *Initiative Continues to be Model for Multi-State Law Enforcement Collaboration*

A team of partners has been busy keeping the waterways secure through the Northern Border Initiative (NBI), which is coordinated by Ohio Homeland Security, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS).

In its most recent effort, U.S. Border Patrol, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources Division of Watercraft and U.S. Coast Guard Stations in Ashtabula, Fairport, Lorain, Marblehead Toledo, and local marine patrols participated in a joint operation Labor Day weekend to protect Ohio's maritime border and the Lake Erie coast. The NBI works to keep the border and coast secure through the efforts of its 57 partner agencies on a daily basis, but coordinated efforts are especially critical on holiday weekends when maritime traffic increases and brings an influx of people who may not be familiar with the lake or its bordering traffic.

The NBI also recently took its partnerships to a new level when the Monroe County, Michigan Sheriff's Office joined, extending NBI's reach to the Michigan coastline and international border.

"The NBI was created to ensure Ohio's operational resilience," said Henry Guzmán, director of ODPS. "It is now receiving interest from other states within the region and nationwide, which is a testament to the commitment of all of the partners involved."

The goal of the NBI is to develop the resources and capabilities to protect Lake Erie and its waterfront from a terrorist incursion or operation, illegal smuggling of goods, or any other disaster – natural or man-made. The NBI is funded through a grant made possible by U.S. Border Patrol's "Operation Stonegarden."

"The Northern Border Initiative continues to be a unique collaboration," said William Vedra, executive director of Ohio Homeland Security. "Multi-jurisdictional and multi-state collaboration are critical to protecting Ohio and our country, and the NBI is a model for encouraging this type of participation."

## Terrorism Liaison Training a Success

Ohio Homeland Security adopted a TLO or Terrorism Liaison Officer Program to establish a baseline intelligence capability throughout the state, utilizing existing law enforcement resources. Approximately 98 sworn officers were selected from Ohio's 88 counties to represent their county and area of influence. In addition, one officer was identified from each of the eight Homeland Security planning regions to serve as a Regional Intelligence Coordinator (RIC).

Each TLO and RIC was required to attend a 40-hour training course designed for the TLO program. The training was held September 15-19. Instructors were selected in their area of expertise, which included the following:

- Terrorism – Domestic, International, and Virtual
- Multicultural Awareness/History of the Middle East
- Response to Terrorist Attacks

- Radicalization
- Intelligence Cycle
- 28 CFR training
- Reporting and Information Sharing
- Infrastructure Protection
- DHS Secret Clearance training (RICs)

Each instructor demonstrated professionalism and was experienced in their area of expertise which provided a solid foundation for the TLO and RIC officers.

Approximately 120 trainees were in attendance.

## ODPS AND PARTNERS GATHER FOR NATIONAL PATRIOT DAY AND NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH OBSERVANCE

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland joined ODPS Director Henry Guzmán and partners to raise awareness for National Preparedness Month and honor those who died on Sept. 11, 2001, as well as those who have served and are continuing to serve our country.

“There is no greater reminder than September 11 that tragedy can strike when we least expect it,” Strickland said. “That is why I am calling on every Ohioan, business, school, community and government to do everything possible to make sure the people of Ohio are prepared in the event of an emergency.”

September was National Preparedness Month and ODPS lead a campaign with national, state and local partners to highlight the importance of preparedness and promote community involvement through events

and activities. In coordination with the national campaign, Gov. Strickland issued a proclamation calling upon Ohioans to recognize the importance of preparing for potential disasters and emergencies by celebrating this month and participating in appropriate preparedness activities.

City of Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman; Col. Michael R. Pannell, Deputy Commanding General, 4th Marine Division, Marine Forces and Director, Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security; President, Franklin County Commission, Marilyn Brown and President Marilee Chinnici-Zuercher, FirstLink participated in the event at the Statehouse. Partner organizations also hosted exhibits on the Statehouse lawn highlighting disaster preparedness planning and community partnerships that currently exist. In honor of those who

died on Sept. 11, 2001, the Ohio Community Service Council/Ohio Citizen Corps organized volunteers to place 2,999 flags on the Statehouse lawn.

“The Ohio Department of Public Safety is committed to working with partners at all levels to ensure that the state of Ohio and its people are prepared for whatever comes our way,” Guzmán said. “Awareness is critical to encouraging individuals and organizations to make emergency plans and be informed about the types of emergencies that could occur in Ohio and their appropriate responses.”

ODPS’ Web site, [www.ready.ohio.gov](http://www.ready.ohio.gov), contains resources to help all Ohioans be prepared, including information for businesses, older Ohioans, people with disabilities, preparing pets, weather disasters and multicultural needs.



*Governor Strickland Calls Ohioans to Action*

### Preparing Diverse Communities for Emergencies

The Multicultural Relations Office at Ohio Homeland Security in collaboration with the Institute for Public Safety and Health at Columbus State Community College, organized several town hall meetings for members of the Somali community on the west side of Columbus. The meetings included workshops in Somali language on emergency preparedness; translated literature on preparedness; and distribution of emergency preparedness kits. About 85 percent of the Somali residents in Ohio have very limited use of the English language. Similar town hall meetings are scheduled in the upcoming months.

## PRESIDENT BUSH RECOGNIZES CITIZEN CORPS



On Sept. 8, 2008, President Bush recognized the service of the more than one million volunteers of the USA Freedom Corps at a Rose Garden appreciation event. Hundreds of volunteers, first responders, local elected officials, members of the armed services and disaster response and recovery agency personnel were invited guests to celebrate the efforts of all in making our communities across the nation safer and better prepared to respond to natural and man made disasters. Members of the Citizen Corps, AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, Senior Corps, Learn and Serve America and Volunteers for Prosperity came together to celebrate their service both at home and abroad in response to all hazards disasters. Those volunteers present represented the efforts of many thousands in responding to disasters, feeding the hungry, providing shelter, helping seniors and medically frail individuals to maintain their dignity, performing environmental clean up, and providing medical relief. More than one million volunteers rushed to aid the citizens of the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

During his remarks, President Bush shared the stories of volunteers who have made a difference in the lives of so many of our citizens. Among those recognized were volunteers who received President's Volunteer Service Awards. President Bush highlighted members of the audience who achieved the highest award, the Lifetime Service Award, for contributing more than 4,000 hours or the equivalent of two full years of service to their communities. The President's Volunteer Service Awards also recognize hours of service with Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. Dianne Garrett of Franklin County Citizen Corps received her award personally from President Bush when he visited Columbus in 2005, and she was at the Rose Garden event to hear the President's remarks on volunteerism. Nationwide, more than 1.3 million community volunteers have received the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Citizen Corps efforts were highlighted as President Bush spoke of the contribution of volunteers in improving responsiveness to state and local needs and expanding the engagement of faith based and community organizations

in disaster response. Citizen Corps brings together the best attributes of the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Together volunteers from all sectors work to implement innovative programs that better prepare citizens to respond to disasters. The President also recognized the efforts of CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams), lauded the creation of the Medical Reserve Corps and described the reformation of the National Community Corps (NCCC) in becoming more effective in disaster response.

Locally, the Franklin County Citizen Corps Council has developed strong partnerships with first responders, government leaders, corporate programs, nonprofit agencies, special needs groups and dedicated individuals. The Franklin County Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) is implementing a multi-jurisdictional and regional approach to assure that critical resources are in place for a coordinated disaster response. Franklin County has been nationally recognized as a leader in developing interoperable communications among local jurisdictions and has placed special emphasis on developing Citizen Corps programs and disaster preparedness education.

As a member of Franklin County Citizen Corps Council and HSAC, Beth Eck, Chair of Franklin County Citizen Corps and Vice President with FIRSTLINK, was very pleased to represent the community's efforts to prepare for disasters of all types and to assure that vital resources are available for disaster response. Other members of the Ohio delegation included Ohio Community Service Council Executive Director Kitty Burcsu; John Poole, Director of Communications; David O'Reilly, Ohio Medical Reserve Corps Co-Coordinator; Dr. Alvin Jackson, Director, Ohio Department of Health; Dr. Forest Smith, Ohio Department of Health Epidemiologist; and Becky Serpetta, Ohio Department of Health Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator. Other Ohio Citizen Corps members included Carol Rhubar of the Westerville Citizen Police Academy/Westerville Citizen Corps, Mary Woodward, President of Ohio VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster), and Bobby Olashuk Executive Director of the Volunteer Connection of Northwest Ohio.

## Patrol's Zupanc promoted to Lieutenant at Ohio Homeland Security Fusion Center in Columbus



Rudolph L. Zupanc of the Criminal Intelligence Unit was promoted to the rank of lieutenant recently by Colonel Richard H. Collins, Patrol superintendent. Lt. Zupanc will remain at General Headquarters in the Ohio Homeland Security Fusion Center.

Lt. Zupanc began his career in September 1993 as a cadet dispatcher in District 10 at the Cleveland Interstate 480 project. In May 1995, he began training as a member of the 127th Academy Class. He earned his commission in November of that year and was assigned to the Hiram Post. He transferred to the Ohio Turnpike's Office of Investigative Services in January 2002. A year later he was

promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Criminal Intelligence Unit at General Headquarters.

In May 2000 he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Kent State University. In June 1995 he earned an Associate of Science degree in Physics from Cuyahoga Community College. He graduated from both programs with Summa Cum Laude honors.

Lt. Zupanc is a certified instructor for the Ohio Peace Officers Training Council and regularly teaches basic police cadets in the area of investigation.

Originally of Maple Heights, Lt. Zupanc currently resides in Delaware with his wife, Lani, and their two sons.

## OFFICERS GET MORE TRAINING ON BORDER PROTECTION

BALTIMORE, Md. -- Two local law enforcement officers joined with their counterparts from across the country recently to learn how to better protect our borders.

Port Clinton Police Department Patrolman Ellis Fuiava and Ottawa County Sheriff's Office Dep. James Hanney attended a maritime law enforcement and safety conference in September.

Fuiava said the program focused on marine law enforcement but he learned information which could be used in other parts of his job.

The training focused on different agencies "working together and training together on a federal, state and local level. It's an excellent training," he said.

"Basically, you're bringing back ideas that you can use in your agency, useful information," the patrolman said. Officers from all over the nation shared suggestions and information.

"There were a lot of agencies from Ohio represented," Fuiava said.

He compiled what he learned into a summary for Chief Tom Blohm to use elsewhere in the department, he said.

Hanney said he shared his information with Chief Deputy Randy Reidmaier and Captain Steve Levorchick about what he learned. "They're going to expand on it from there," the deputy said.

Hanney said the trip was funded through the northern border initiative through Ohio Homeland Security.



*A number of law enforcement agencies worked together this summer to do boat checks along the Portage River. Port Clinton Police Department Patrolman Ellis Fuiava, a member of the harbor patrol, was among them. He recently attended a border patrol safety conference with Ottawa County Sheriff's Office Dep. James Hanney. (NH file photo)*

"We've got the nuclear plant, we've got the ferries going to Put-in-Bay," he said. He learned "tactical operations on the water, basically, if something were to happen on one of the ships, basically how we could intervene and help the people on board," he said.

During the three-day conference, officers held discussions about tactical operations on vessels, new technologies for marine law enforcement, vessel escorts and security zones and conducting realistic maritime exercises.

## NBI OFFICERS ATTEND NATIONAL MARITIME TACTICAL SECURITY CONFERENCE

On Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008, Officers and Representatives from area agencies around the northern tip of Ohio had attended the MARTAC08 Conference, which was held at the Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland. Maritime Law Enforcement & Security Conference.



*Photo by Nic Dipalma*

This conference had brought in officials from throughout the United States. Agencies from the Federal, to the Local levels had attended.

Ken Longnecker, who is the Publisher / Editor-In-Chief of Marine Tactical was the speaker, who was assisted by Kyle Cottrell, who is the Conference Director. Officers, Representatives, and guests were welcomed, in what would be a (3) three day informative conference. There were a few guests speakers throughout the conference in addition to breakout sessions. Discussions include Tactical Operations on Vessels, New Technologies for Marine Law Enforcement, Vessel Escorts & Security Zones, Conducting Realistic Maritime Exercises.

Throughout this conference, a demonstration exercise was also conducted for the attendees on operations on the water in stopping and taking control of a large vessel, which had involved numerous law enforcement agencies, and Coast Guard Unit in the Baltimore harbor. Vendors were also at the Baltimore pier in displaying an array of vessels used and purchased by Marine Law Enforcement Units. At the Hotel, vendors were there as well displaying the most recent surveillance and marine technology equipment used for Marine Law Enforcement.

From the State of Ohio, Officers and Representatives from the Ohio Department of Public Safety/Ohio Homeland Security, Huron Police Department, Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office, Lake County Sheriff's Office, Sandusky Police Department, Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, Lorain County Sheriff's Office, Port Clinton Police Department, Ottawa County Sheriff's Office, Perrysburg Township Police Department, and Lucas County Sheriff's Office.

On behalf of the Officers that attended from Ohio, we would all like to thank Ken Longnecker and Kyle Cottrell, and for all of the staff at Marine Tactical for making this conference an excellent one.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Ohio Homeland Security made it possible for the agencies in the State of Ohio to attend, through the Northern Border Initiative.

All Officers from Ohio that attended are members of participating agencies of the Northern Border Initiative Task Force (NBITF) coordinated by the Ohio Department of Public Safety-Division of Ohio Homeland Security.

Having these types of conferences, brings agencies together and allows a better understanding of how each agency works, which results in multi agency participation and cooperation.

Thank you to Olen Martin, NBI Coordinator for support in assisting each of the agencies in the NBI Operations, in Ohio. Also, Jim Burton, Project/Grants Manager, for keeping attendee's informed while in Baltimore, MD.

*Article by Catharine Hadley (chadley@gannett.com)  
Courtesy of Port Clinton News Herald*

## LETTER OF THANKS FROM HURON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sir,  
*On behalf of the Huron Police Department's Harbor Patrol Unit, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the Department of Homeland Security for the donation of the Mustang Integrity flotation jackets and pants. As the coordinator for the Marine Patrol I have taken an active role in the Northern Border Initiative and have been working with Olen Martin and Jim Burton to further our efforts up on Lake Erie. The main purpose of this letter was to serve as a thank you, however, I also wanted to make you aware of a situation in which I was directly involved and the items were put to good use.*

*Saturday, Nov. 1 was a typical fall day on Lake Erie. Temperatures were in the mid 40's, with gusty 10-15 mph winds and 2-3 foot waves. The jackets and pants provided warmth and comfort allowing us to patrol comfortably. On Sunday, Nov. 2nd, I scheduled a 3:00pm boat shift and we were met with considerably different conditions. The air temperature was in the low 40's, the wind had switched out of the northeast at 15-20mph and the waves were now 3-5 feet. We were dispatched to locate a capsized kayaker. She had been overwhelmed by 6-8 foot swells breaking against sheet piling that lines a spoil site. The victim was located and we were ultimately able to get her to safety, but not without some tense moments.*

*Although my partner and I were able to avoid being thrown into the water, the combination of the waves, wind and minor precipitation during the rescue operation would have made the task even more difficult had we not been wearing the Mustang jackets and pants. The protection afforded us the opportunity to operate and function without hesitation. The donation played an integral part in our success and we look forward to getting many years of use out of them. Thanks again.*

*Sincerely,*

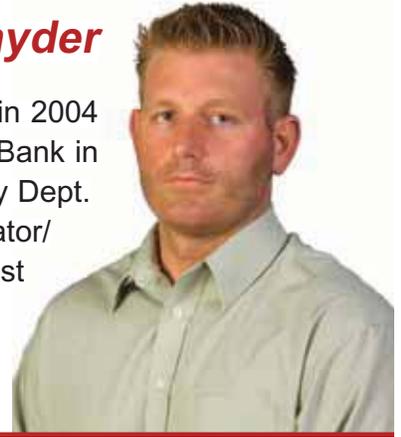
*Sgt. Kevin M. Durbin  
Huron Police Harbor Patrol Coordinator  
Erie County- Terrorism Liaison Officer*



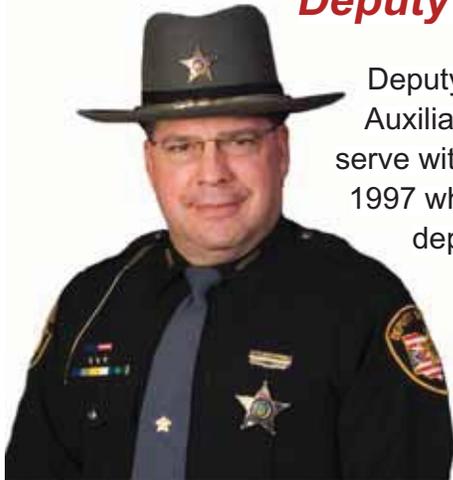
## New Employees

### *Joshua Snyder*

Josh Snyder attended Ohio Valley College in Parkersburg, WV, and graduated in 2004 with a degree in Business Management. After college he worked at Advantage Bank in Cambridge before taking a position as a Fraud Investigator for Guernsey County Dept. of Job and Family Services. Josh will serve as a Central Ohio Private Investigator/ Security Guard (PISG) Investigator and will be covering the central and southeast part of the state for Ohio Homeland Security.



### *Deputy Sheriff Timothy Schambs*



Deputy Timothy Schambs began his career at Upper Arlington P.D. in 1990 as an Auxiliary Officer. He received his peace officer certificate in 1992 and continued to serve with Upper Arlington P.D. as a Reserve Officer and Court Liaison officer through 1997 when he began his new career with Delaware County Sheriff's Office as a patrol deputy. He served 2 years in the patrol division, 8 years in the detective division, and 2 years in the Warrants Division prior to this newly appointed position.

Sheriff Schambs will take on the role within Ohio Homeland Security as the Buckeye State Sheriff's Association Intel Officer. As the BSSA Intel Officer, he will have many responsibilities within the SAIC, such as maintaining a situational

awareness regarding priority intelligence requirements, assisting with research, such as working closely with law enforcement and WMD/Health Security concerns components in the SAIC to collect related information, conducting investigative research on tips and leads referred to the SAIC, and helping with analytical production with other analysts and SAIC staff.

#### A Newsletter of Ohio Homeland Security William F. Vedra, Jr., Executive Director

<http://www.homelandsecurity.ohio.gov>

**Terrorism Tipline:**

**1-877-OHS-INTEL (1-877-647-4683)**

Ohio Department of Public Safety  
1970 West Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43223

