

PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS



Bob Taft, Governor

Kenneth L. Morckel, Director

Investigative Unit Presents in D.C.

The Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services (ODADAS) requested the Investigative Unit (IU) to accompany their representative to Washington, D.C. to participate in a workshop, which was held on July 22, 2004. The workshop was on "Using Technology to Enhance Tobacco Enforcement." The Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) is the federal oversight agency for ODADAS and is very interested in the manner in which the IU conducts tobacco compliance checks and records and retains information electronically. The IU conducts thousands of compliance checks each year in an attempt to stop underage alcohol and tobacco sales to minors.

Bioterrorism Seminar Held

On June 24, 2004, a bioterrorism seminar was held in the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) auditorium. Approximately 50 people representing law enforcement, public health and emergency medical services attended. Opening remarks were made by Ohio Public Safety Director Ken Morckel and Gregory Lockhart, U.S. Attorney, Southern District of Ohio. Some of the seminar topics included "Public Health Epidemiology for Law Enforcement," "Criminal Investigation for Public Health Professionals" and "The Role of the Laboratory for Public Health and for Forensic."

In the afternoon session, various representatives from law enforcement, emergency management, firefighters/EMS and public health held small group breakout discussions. These provided the attendees with beneficial information in understanding each others interests and concerns in developing a shared plan of action in event of an actual disaster.

AUGUST 2004

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Department of Public Safety
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Columbus, Ohio 43223

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If you have upcoming events or information that you would like to see in the next issue of Public Safety News, send it to Lynne McBee, Office of Communications, Shipley Bldg., 4th floor, or via e-mail at:

lmcbec@dps.state.oh.us

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Office of Homeland Security DEPUTY DIRECTORS NAMED

The Ohio HLS Office recently announced the appointments of two deputy directors to assist in securing Ohio. Rich Rawlins was named Deputy Director in June for Counter Terrorism for detecting and preventing terrorist attacks in the state of Ohio. He will also be Director John Overly's primary officer in organizing efforts between different agencies to stop terrorist attacks, as well as coordinating interactions between state and federal agencies.

Rich brings with him a history of working against terrorism, as well as experience in intelligence. He has been the special agent in charge for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms in various cities, and has been involved in various domestic terrorism investigations. Rich was also Deputy Assistant Director for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. He graduated from the Redstone Arsenal Hazardous Devices School and is also a certified U.S. Treasury Instructor.

Also on board is the new deputy director for Domestic Preparedness, Bill Vedra. His function will be to coordinate the overall preparedness effort to prevent, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks. Bill will coordinate the education and training of first responders, develop equipment standards and develop benchmarks for reporting progress on meeting training and education goals. Bill is a 23-year veteran of the City of Columbus emergency services. While with the city, he worked with Ohio Task Force 1, the Urban Search and Rescue Team, and was the task force leader for the hazardous material team. Bill retired from his service as a firefighter with the rank of battalion chief having been a member of several regional and state level committees, including the Central Ohio Emergency Patient Transport Plan; the state Emergency Response Plan; and the technical Rescue Oversight Committee of the Ohio Fire Chiefs. Bill is a licensed paramedic through the Medical College of Ohio, as well as a graduate of the National Fire Academy and Bowling Green State University. William has extensive training through his education in hazardous materials operations, the Justice Department's WMD Training and FEMA Specialist training.

Rawlins and Vedra join Deputy Director for Infrastructure Protection Jim Thomas and Overly to complete the Ohio HLS Office.



Private Investigators and Security Guard Section Transfers to Ohio Homeland Security Division

House Bill 230, signed by Governor Taft on June 17, 2004, allowed for the regulatory authority over private investigators and security service providers to be transferred from the Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing, Department of Commerce, to the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS).

There are two sections: a licensing section and an investigative section. Personnel started working on July 6, 2004, at ODPS and are part of the Ohio Homeland Security Division, reporting to Deputy Director Jim Thomas. Said Thomas, "They were moved from the Department of Commerce to enhance public safety."

The purpose of this section is to license and register the more than 30,000 private investigators and security guards industry in the state. "This is a large and important undertaking considering the role these security guards have on protecting the critical infrastructure in Ohio," Thomas said.

The investigators will do yearly inspections of the firms that supply security guards and will also complete site visits. Some of the security guards carry weapons and some don't. The Ohio Homeland Security investigators will make sure that the security firms are in compliance with state law. Also, the state security investigators can hold hearings and can issue suspensions and fines and can revoke licenses.

Some of the firms provide security guards for shopping malls, airports and museums, among other locations. The airport guards are not to be confused with the guards at airports that check baggage and check people going through metal detectors. Those guards are federal employees and are part of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

This law will provide improvements in protection and commitment to making Ohio a safer place for its citizens to work and live. This Private Investigators and Security Guard section will further enhance the department's mission statement... "to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well-being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."

www.homelandsecurity.ohio.gov



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New on EMS Board

There are two new Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Board members and a new state medical director. Governor Taft has appointed Albert Gatka, who was nominated by the Northern Ohio Firefighters. He is a firefighter/paramedic with the Parma Fire Department and replaces Martin Mace, who resigned.

Another appointment was made by Public Safety Director Kenneth L. Morckel. He appointed Mary Tyler, chief administrative officer from the Ohio Homeland Security Division. She replaces Nancy Dragani from the Ohio Emergency Management Agency who resigned her seat in June.

In addition, the new state medical director, replacing Dr. Polk, is Dr. Carol Cunningham. Dr. Cunningham has been EMS medical director for Lake Hospital System since 1995 in Willoughby, Ohio. During her tenure, she has taken a system of thirteen municipal fire departments and cultivated it into a current system of fourteen municipal fire departments, two industrial EMS response services, one private ambulance service and two tactical EMS teams. She also has served as the medical officer for the Lake County Emergency Operations Center disaster team since 1991. In addition, she has seven years of aeromedical experience as a flight physician. She received her Doctor of Medicine Degree in 1986 from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and a B.A. in 1982 from Case Western Reserve with a major in chemistry and natural sciences. She replaced Dr. J. D. Polk, who has held the position since August 2003.



2004 Special Olympics Torch Run

The Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run group included people from the Patrol from all five districts. The participants from GHQ are pictured above and helped raise funds for the Special Olympics. The event ended on June 25 at the Jesse Owens Stadium on The Ohio State University campus.



BMV Investigations Conducts LEADS Seminar

On June 30, 2004, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) Parma Reinstatement Center conducted a training seminar for a LEADS training class to demonstrate how to interpret an Ohio driver record. In addition to LEADS training, the Investigations staff explained a variety of suspensions, as well as issues relating to Senate Bill 123. Kelli Wilson, supervisor of the Parma Reinstatement Center, conducted the class along with Vickie Barksdale and BMV Investigator Barry Solomon.

The training class was held at Bedford Heights Police Department with approximately 120 people attending. Reaction to the class was very positive. Participants felt the class was productive and informative.

Law enforcement agencies that participated were: Geauga County Sheriffs Office, Huron Police Department, Richmond Heights Police, South Euclid Police, Aurora Police, Walton Hills Police, Highland Heights Police, Berea Municipal Court, Mayfield Village Police, Parma Heights, Parma Police, Broadview Heights Police, Strongsville Police, Newark Police, Beachwood Police, Medical College of Ohio Police, Maple Heights Police, Vermillion Police, Warrensville Heights Police, Cleveland Metroparks Rangers, Brookpark Police, Pepper Pike Police, National Park Service personnel, Oakwood Village Police, Amherst Police, Chagrin Falls Police, Cuyahoga Heights Police, Elyria Police, Sandusky County Sheriffs Office, Kent City Police, Bath Township, Glenwillow Police and Wickliffe Police.

The BMV Investigations staff is looking forward to providing more training for other law enforcement agencies and court personnel in the future.



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PUBLIC NEWS SAFETY NEWS

Roving Reporter

Q: What is your favorite Olympic sport and why?

A: "The marathon is my favorite Olympic sport due to the endurance factor associated with the sport." Capt. Paul Meddles, OSHP

A: "Actually I have two: gymnastics and ice skating. They are my favorite Olympic sports because I think it takes great skill and discipline to be able to perform some of the routines with such grace and finesse, plus my seven-year-old daughter enjoys watching it with me. We love talking about the different costumes and routines." Pamela Tyson, ADM

A: "Women's gymnastics...It's something I've always enjoyed watching since I was a little girl." Amanda Bentley, ADM

A: "I have always liked the gymnastics the most. The sport takes intense training and is extremely competitive. It's always a good show, but even better when the Americans take the gold!" Patricia Utt, ADM



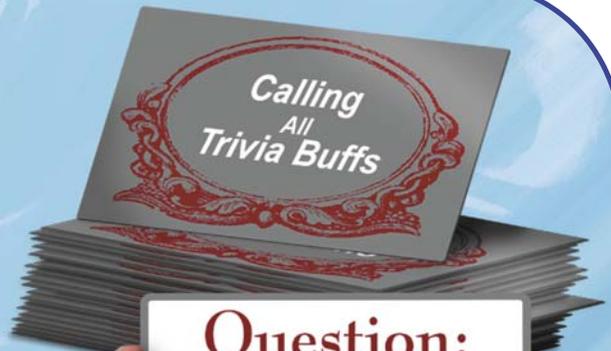
Patrol Tests a New Scanner **Ohio State Highway Patrol**
1-877-7-PATROL in Ohio only

The Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) is doing a four-month pilot test on the Ohio Turnpike. They will use state-of-the-art technology to alert nearby troopers to the possible presence of stolen vehicles or wanted persons. The Ohio Turnpike, frequently traveled by out-of-state vehicle thieves transporting cars along this limited access east-west route, provides a unique advantage in providing the opportunity for officer verification of stolen vehicle alerts.

This system utilizes the same technology that is used at supermarkets to scan product bar codes. The major difference is that only the "bad guy" is recognized utilizing license plate scanners. Unlike grocery stores that maintain information from scanning technology, this license plate scanner system will not maintain databases. The technology highlights are:

- The system is blind to "good guys." If there are no active warrants related to the vehicle or the vehicle is not stolen, the system is not capable of recognizing the license plate. If an individual is driving a stolen vehicle and the system sends an alert on the vehicle, officer verification and established probable cause is still required before a traffic stop is made.
- It is not a video system and is not capable of videotaping, photographing, or in any other way recording any person in the vehicle. In fact, the system can only recognize the characters of the license plate.
- The system will not be linked to BMV databases. Actually, because "bad guy" files are not stored at the BMV, linking the system to anything other than wanted vehicles would slow down and hinder its effectiveness.
- The system will not create any databases.
- This test project will not use state tax dollars, rather it will be funded with \$61,000 in available federal grant money.

"We are committed to a transparent testing process and will share the results with the legislature and public," said Patrol Superintendent Paul D. McClellan.



Question:

On July 20th, Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, landed on the moon.

What year was it?

Send your answers to:
Imcbee@dps.state.oh.us

These people knew the answer:

Rita Tyler

"The first year for date-of-birth vehicle registration and mail-in renewal option was 1989. I remember it so well because my first day as an employee of the Espy License agency on North High Street in Columbus was January 28, 1989. They were so short staffed, I was brought in, told, 'Sorry we can't give you more training' and went to work! I stayed there until the agency closed 6/30/91. During that time, I always wanted to work for the BMV, and in November of 1993, I got my wish. Now here I am almost 11 years later in Canton working for the BMV."



This person is the chief of the Asset Management Section of the Administration Division. Who is it?



In the last issue, the person was Lt. Colonel Arthur Reitz.

These people knew the answer: Wendy Forbes, Gerald Brame and Jim Gilpin

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