



SCDPS HIGHLIGHTS

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS
PROTECTING. EDUCATING. SERVING.

2020 | FIRST QUARTER

OUR MISSION

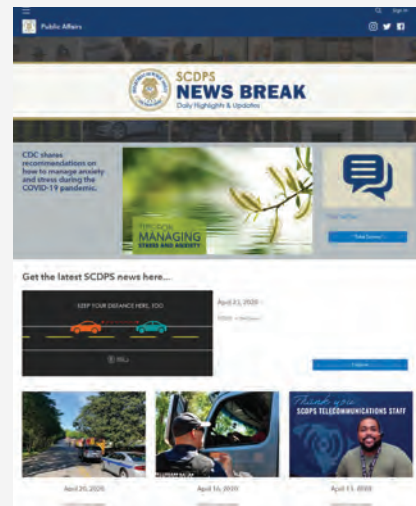
To protect and serve the public with the highest standard of conduct and professionalism; to save lives through educating the citizens; and to ensure a safe, secure environment.

OUR VISION

To ensure that the agency is setting the standard for public safety excellence as a cohesive team by making South Carolina a safer place to live, work, and visit.

OUR CORE VALUES

INTEGRITY
EXCELLENCE
ACCOUNTABILITY
AND LEADERSHIP



SCDPS IN THE NEWS NOW CALLED SCDPS NEWS BREAK

The Office of Public Affairs is updating the format for sharing SCDPS news. The new, online "SCDPS News Break" will allow us to get important information to DPS employees faster and has expanded our capability to share video, agency social media feeds, important updates from the Director and information especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Do you have an upcoming event or news item for SCDPS Highlights or SCDPS News Break?

Contact:
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A MESSAGE FROM ACTING DIRECTOR WOODS

When I was appointed to this role on February 1, 2020, I was honored to be asked to serve in this capacity after having dedicated my entire career to law enforcement. I believed then – as I do now – that this was a natural transition where I could apply years of insight, observations and experience to continue to build upon and enhance this agency's traditions and service to South Carolina.

My team and I took a comprehensive and strategic approach to addressing challenges so that you – our valuable workforce – could perform your jobs at optimal levels with the equipment, support and policies that you needed to serve most effectively. My goal, alongside the command and executive leadership staff, has been to improve the work culture, enhance communication and simplify operations, removing any barriers that held you back.

As we were working through these processes and gaining positive momentum, the COVID-19 pandemic began to slowly emerge. As our daily operating picture shifted from "ordinary time" to an emergency posture, I was thankful for the experience I had gained in my many years with the South Carolina Highway Patrol in Emergency Traffic Management. While the COVID-19 public health crisis was certainly different than the 1,000 year flood and recent hurricanes, so much of emergency planning is true in any crisis.

We set about dusting off and revising our Continuity of Operations plan (COOP), IAP and SOPs to ensure we brought every resource to bear in addressing this crisis. It almost seemed that overnight our operations changed – both in the field and in headquarters. Our troopers and officers had to change the way they normally did business, putting as much distance as possible between themselves and the motoring public during public contacts. Our headquarters personnel went into a telecommuting status virtually overnight and had to learn how to conduct business from their home "offices." The essential staff that remained in the offices had to learn to "socially" distance themselves and clean copiers, door handles and keyboards to a degree that we have never experienced before.

At first, it seemed like this crisis had interrupted the flow of our plans as we looked at mapping out the DPS of the future. However, what I realized during regular conference calls and planning sessions was that we were bringing to life concepts that we had already put to paper. I saw the resolve of public safety professionals determined to rise the occasion and meet this new challenge that has stretched us all.

With natural disasters, we tend to be able to predict when we can start to shift back to a normal operating picture. But with a worldwide pandemic at



Robert G. Woods, IV

WOODS TAKES THE HELM OF LEADERSHIP AT DPS, APPOINTS OLIVER

On February 1, South Carolina Highway Patrol Major Robert Woods, IV was appointed Acting Director of the SC Department of Public Safety by Gov. Henry McMaster, succeeding former-Director Leroy Smith who served as SCDPS Director since 2011. Acting Director Woods formerly served as administrative support major for the SC Highway Patrol.

Woods is a 31-year law enforcement veteran. Before joining the SCHP, he served two years with the Charleston Police Department and 29 years with the South Carolina Highway Patrol. During his time with the Patrol, Woods was stationed as a Trooper in Spartanburg and Charleston counties. He was later assigned as a staff instructor to the Highway Patrol Training Unit. He served as commander of the Highway Patrol Emergency Traffic Management Unit, and most currently served as major of the Highway Patrol's Administrative Support section.

Woods graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History from The Citadel in 1988 and completed a Master of Arts Degree in Conflict Resolution at Columbia College in 2002. He also holds the Certified Public Manager credential.

Following his appointment, Woods named former

Highway Patrol Colonel Michael Oliver to serve as his Chief of Staff. In making the appointment, Woods said, "This is a key position because it helps facilitate a more streamlined approach with information flow, decision-making and operational support between the Executive Leadership Team and the Director's Office."



Chief of Staff
Michael Oliver

Oliver served as the Highway Patrol Commander from 2011-2017. Since his appointment, one of his key responsibilities has been creating a seamless continuity of effort between the law enforcement side and the administrative support areas. Chief Oliver has a wealth of experience from his 37 years serving in various roles within law enforcement. As lieutenant colonel, he oversaw the daily administrative operations of the division. He also has a keen understanding of Telecommunications, where he served as a captain, and has significant experience on the information technology side, where he was instrumental in developing the CAD system.

INTEGRITY - EXCELLENCE - ACCOUNTABILITY - LEADERSHIP

(Director Woods, continued from page 1)

play, we cannot say definitively what our world will look like in six months or 18 months from now. As public health experts wrestle with formulas and continue to provide guidance, I ask our employees to maintain flexibility, resiliency and adaptability. What I know for certain at this juncture is that all of our personal and professional lives have been turned upside down. Children are suddenly home schooling. Your kitchens, living rooms and patios have become your new offices and you wear the hats of teacher, mother or father and working professional.

Rest assured, however, that while COVID-19 has taken center stage, the planning, policy and operational improvements have continued behind the scenes. From enhancing our department's wellness and professional development programs; to examining our career paths; to making subtle adjustments in the way we enforce the law every day; to the creation of a civilian advisory committee and pay adjustment plans, there are many positive developments on the horizon.

I encourage you to stay safe and stay positive and look out for your co-workers in addition to your family and friends. That can seem like a monumental task some days, but I have learned a great deal about the spirit of our men and women during this time, and that gives me hope that we will overcome this challenge and be a stronger team for having weathered it together. Thank you for all you have done, and I look forward to continuing to serve with you.

Robert G. Woods, IV
Acting Director

(Continued on page 3)

SCDPS RESPONDS TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

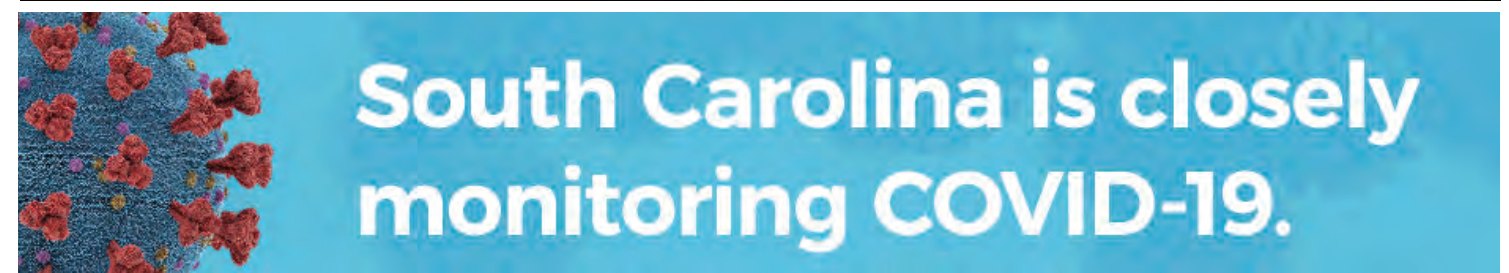
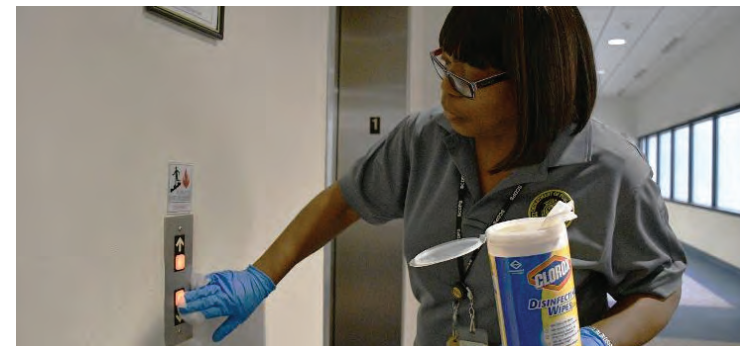
Spring at SCDPS is normally full of activity with ceremonies and events commemorating our fallen troopers, those lost on the highways and honoring our outstanding Troopers, STP and BPS officers. This year, however, as COVID-19 went from the world stage to our back doors, SCDPS employees adjusted to the new reality.

Priority one was ensuring employees -- especially troopers and officers on the front line -- had disinfectant, gloves, hand sanitizer and masks to keep them safe as they went about their daily patrols. Law enforcement had to adjust the way they conducted patrols and traffic stops to ensure social distancing to protect both them and the public.

DPS administrative staff, upon the Governor's orders to stop the spread of the virus in state government, suddenly became telecommuters, learning to juggle home life with work demands.

Department leadership issued standard operating procedures and implemented CDC and DHEC

guidelines. Department employees pulled together to help in any way they could. OIT employees scrubbed down computer keyboards. SCDPS teamed up with SCDOT, SLED and other state agencies to purchase personal protective equipment and also to help support the ESF law enforcement function. DPS law enforcement found themselves enforcing the Governor's orders at boat ramps, dispersing crowds and in other support roles as needed, creating a "new normal" in the department.



SOUTH CAROLINA KING DAY AT THE DOME



Officers and troopers from SCDPS joined state and local law enforcement in providing safety and security at the State House for the 20th annual King Day at the Dome. Thank you to our men and women from the Bureau of Protective Services, SC Highway Patrol and SC State Transport Police for helping keep the rally safe for everyone in attendance including visiting 2020 presidential candidates.



In January, SCDPS welcomed Dr. Nancy Bohl-Penrod for stress management and wellness training. Dr. Bohl-Penrod is a California-based psychotherapist and trainer who has worked extensively with law enforcement agencies and government groups on responding to stress from critical incidents, suicide prevention and other mental health topics related to law enforcement. The sessions were held at the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRAINING 2020



SCHP MAKES CHANGES TO FLEET SHOP OPERATIONS

by Teddy Kulmala

Officers taking their patrol vehicles to the Department of Public Safety's Fleet Shop might notice some changes to the shop's operations.

In March 2020, Cpl. G.M. Colbert was reassigned to manage the Fleet Shop. Maj. S. A. Stankus was tasked with conducting an efficiency analysis on the overall Fleet Shop operations.

"The agency is committed to researching and determining the most effective and efficient manner available to provide fleet vehicle services to the customer – primarily, our law enforcement personnel," Stankus said. "We currently have highly-skilled, dedicated people in the Fleet Shop working diligently to meet the needs of the customer. We are currently in the process of interviewing to fill vacant positions."



However, the ongoing COVID-19 crisis has thrown a wrench into the hiring process and forced the agency to make adjustments to that process to address potential safety concerns, according to Stankus. In the meantime, Trooper T.P. Cox, who previously was an upfitter for the shop, has been temporarily reassigned back into his old stomping grounds. Additionally, Cpl. O. Devers has been tasked with assisting in the radio and fleet shops until qualified personnel are hired.

Stankus said the biggest change people will notice at the Fleet Shop is customer service.

"Corporal Colbert and the supervisory team, and all the personnel at the Fleet Shop are striving to provide an

organized, efficient and productive environment," he said. The agency is striving to optimize resources and the Fleet Shop has already identified current assets, available resources, and various processes as areas to evaluate and create positive change."



As the Patrol continues to identify and evaluate opportunities to provide troopers with necessary tools, another change will be new PIT bumper kits that will modify currently-installed push bumpers into full PIT bumpers and allow the patrol to retrofit most bumpers already installed on Dodge Chargers, according to Highway Patrol Col. Christopher Williamson.

"The Fleet Shop is currently collaborating with HP training staff to ensure troopers receiving this new equipment are properly trained prior to their assigned vehicle being equipped," the colonel said in a memo on April 23.



STP PARTNERS WITH SC TRUCKING ASSOCIATION TO DISTRIBUTE GIFT CARDS, SAY THANK YOU TO TRUCKERS



State Transport Police officers partnered with the South Carolina Trucking Association recently to hand out donated gift cards for free coffee or biscuits to truck drivers. As the COVID-19 crisis impacted the country, truckers have become vital in transporting necessary supplies and groceries to stores and providers. During this initiative, 200 gift cards were given out at weigh stations across the state.

STP, HP TEAM UP TO ENHANCE BPS MANPOWER AT THE STATE HOUSE

The Department of Public Safety, through BPS, was tasked early this year with providing additional officers at the State House Complex to increase security at the Wade Hampton, Brown and Dennis Buildings. BPS received support from administrative SCHP Troopers and STP Officers to accomplish this new assignment until BPS can fill these positions through the employment process. BPS received many positive comments from employees in the buildings who appreciated the extra law enforcement presence.



MCCLARY BRINGS NEW VISION TO HALL OF FAME, MAKES ENHANCEMENTS

by *Teddy Kulmala*

History is getting a facelift at the S.C. Law Enforcement Officers Hall of Fame.

Since retired SLED Captain Jim McClary took over as administrator in November 2018, the Hall of Fame has seen a host of improvements and upgrades from new



Jim McClary

doors, alarms and cameras to new exhibits. And there's more on the way, he said.

"We wanted to update stuff, have it more user-friendly and use more technology," McClary said. "Every time I'd go to one of these (Law

Enforcement Network) meetings, we'd always ask, 'When's the last time you were at the Hall of Fame?'"

"Nothing's changed," people would respond, according to McClary.

"I was like, well, we need to get stuff to where we're changing," he said.

McClary drafted a proposal of upgrades and improvements he wanted to accomplish at the Hall of Fame, which was established in 1974 and has been part of the Department of Public Safety since the agency formed in 1993. So far, the building has seen its alarm, security cameras and doors replaced, along with upgrades to the computers and a new LCD projector for the auditorium.

What McClary is proudest of, though, is the following the Hall of Fame has developed on its Facebook page, which currently sits at around 4,500 followers.

Throughout the week, the page brings pieces of South Carolina law enforcement history to people's Facebook feeds,

with posts ranging from old photos to narratives memorializing officers killed in the line of duty.

The historical accounts of the line-of-duty deaths — particularly the older ones — are well-received by the page's followers, McClary said.

"I think it's kind of forgotten," McClary said of the need to keep telling the stories of South Carolina's law enforcement history. "We just get so much response. We've gotten responses from family members of the officers killed. You've got a lot of officers [who say], 'Oh, I worked for him,' or 'He was my training officer.' It's been really neat following the comments."

A post about the line-of-duty death of S.C. Highway Patrol Trooper Mark Coates in 1992 was shared nearly 1,000 times and reached almost 200,000 people, illustrating the impact that these fallen officers' lives have had not only in South Carolina but throughout the nation and world.

Another project McClary is working on will honor the line-of-duty deaths of K-9 officers. Plans for the memorial and how to raise the funds are still pending, but McClary said he imagines the memorial will be in the flower bed outside the Hall of Fame, and will include a bronze statue that will be sculpted from the blended images of two South Carolina K-9s killed in the line of duty.

"I want it to be out there where the kids can come up and pet him," he said. "I want his ears to be shiny from the kids rubbing on them."



SC HIGHWAY PATROL CELEBRATES 90TH BIRTHDAY



SCHP MAKES RESTRUCTURING CHANGES TO STREAMLINE OPERATIONS

by Teddy Kulmala

The South Carolina Highway Patrol made restructuring changes in February as part of an overall plan to improve operations and maximize the number of troopers on the roadways.

A re-allocation plan unveiled in February brought changes to several Troops and units within the Highway Patrol.

“As the South Carolina Department of Public Safety experiences a change in administration at the highest level, the South Carolina Highway Patrol is re-imagining how we may continue to support the agency’s mission and strategic goals while empowering our employees and maintaining a tradition of excellence in public service,” Col. Christopher Williamson said in a Feb. 28 memo to employees announcing the restructure.

The largest part of the organization was a reduction in the number of troopers assigned to the Safety Improvement Team and Target Zero Team due to a statewide increase in calls for service, according to the memo. Those troopers will return to regular enforcement duties to provide necessary manpower for proper shift coverage and response to daily calls for service. The Safety Improvement Team went from 48 to 30, while the Target Zero Team went from 24 to 13

members in an effort to bolster manpower on the road.

The plan also included a reclassification of Fleet Shop personnel, the re-assignment of two administrative support staff members, a restructuring of the Community Relations and Recruiting Unit and the creation of the Highway Patrol Personnel Services Unit, which was renamed from the Executive Services Unit.

Lt. Jamie A. Cardona, of the Highway Patrol Employment Unit, was promoted from lieutenant to oversee the Highway Patrol’s Employment and Promotions Unit, including the Office of Promotion Policy Administration, which falls under Cardona’s oversight and was reassigned from the Executive Services Unit.

Troopers who were assigned to the Troop 8 Criminal Interdiction Unit (CIU) teams were re-assigned to Troop Headquarters in which they work. These troopers will continue to function in the same capacity as interdiction and K-9 officers but will be supervised by their respective headquarters command staff.

The Highway Patrol Motorcycle Unit was recently restructured and new troopers were selected. These troopers were re-assigned to commanders in Troops 1, 3 and 5.

SCHP PROMOTIONS

Effective May 2, 2020

Troop 1/Post A (Sumter/Clarendon)

James C. Welsh promoted to Corporal

Troop 1/Post B (Kershaw/Lee)

Brandon O. Stokes promoted to First Sergeant

Troop 1/Post D (Richland)

Howard F. James, Jr. promoted to Corporal
Kevin G. Ginn promoted to Sergeant

Troop 2/Post B (Abbeville/Greenwood)

James F. Brown, Jr. promoted to First Sergeant

Troop 2/Post C (Edgefield/McCormick/Saluda)

Jeremy S. Heaton promoted to Sergeant

Troop 3/Post A (Anderson)

Jarrod Duncan promoted to Corporal
Watson C. Ford promoted to Corporal

Troop 3/Post B (Oconee/Pickens)

Bronson C. Smith promoted to Sergeant

Troop 3/Post C (Greenville)

Jimmy R. Elrod promoted to Sergeant

Troop 3/Post D (Spartanburg)

James T. Bumgarner promoted to Corporal

Troop 3/Headquarters

Kevin N. Brown promoted to Lieutenant

Troop 4/Post B (York)

Jared W. Revels promoted to Corporal
Earl D. McAbee promoted to First Sergeant

Troop 4/Post C (Chester/Fairfield)

Blake J. Cornelius promoted to Corporal
Michael D. Wampler promoted to Corporal

Troop 4/Post D (Chesterfield/Lancaster)

Ryan H. Olney promoted to First Sergeant

Troop 5/Post A (Darlington/Marlboro)

Marvin Lunn promoted to Sergeant



Troop 6/Post B (Colleton/Dorchester)

Edgar Enxuto promoted to First Sergeant

Troop 6/Post C (Beaufort/Jasper)

Mitchell L. Altman promoted to Sergeant

Troop 7/Post A (Allendale/Bamberg/Hampton/Barnwell)

David B. Rowell promoted to Sergeant

Troop 9 MAIT HQ/Richland (Statewide Operations)

James R. O’Donnell, Jr. promoted to Sergeant

Troop 11/CRO/Region 1

Matthew O. Southern promoted to Corporal

Troop 11/Training (Richland)

Timothy F. Bush promoted to Sergeant

Troop 11/Special Operations/UpState Region 2 (Statewide Operations)

John A. Buddin promoted to Corporal

Troop 11 Emergency Traffic Management Unit ETMU/HQ (Richland)

Shaun A. Sherriff promoted to Lieutenant

SCHP Recruiter-Region 2 (Troops 5-7)

TFC Lena M. Butler

(photos coming soon)

SCHP PROMOTES TWO TO CAPTAIN



Jamie A. Cardona, SC Highway Patrol, was promoted as part of SCHP restructuring changes.



Jeremy Leach was promoted to Captain to oversee the Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team (MAIT).

SCDPS in the Community



A SC Highway Patrol Ford Police Interceptor Utility is shown with Air Force One at Joint Base Charleston as the President of the United States visited North Charleston. Troopers provided assistance with the Presidential Motorcade February 28, 2020.

SCHP TROOPERS IN THE SCHOOLS (PRE-CORONAVIRUS)



Trooper Joe Hovis and Trooper Bryan Ridgeway at Byrnes Freshman Academy.



Trooper Joe Hovis with students of Hillcrest High School.



Trooper Gary Miller at Chester Park Elementary.



Captain Nick King with students from Vance-Providence Elementary School.



SCHP joined Dorchester County Sheriff's Office, other local first responders and the High School Injury Prevention Coalition at Ashley Ridge High School for a DUI crash re-enactment to show the dangers of drinking and driving to students.



Trooper Matt Southern discusses the importance of buckling up with teens from Battery Creek High School in Beaufort County.



Last year, for the second year in a row, officers in the Torch Run raised more than \$1 million to provide Special Olympics South Carolina athletes the opportunity to train and compete. Congratulations to STP's Sgt. Adam Heitzenrater (left) who won the Joseph Pellicci Keeper of the Flame Award for 2019.



DPS officers from SCHP and STP attended 2020 LETR kickoff and recognition luncheon.

SCDPS REMEMBERS JIMMY BOLAND

By Teddy Kulmala

SCDPS Director of Accounting Jimmy Boland unexpectedly passed away on November 30. His co-workers and friends remembered him and the impact he made on those around him.

Even after several months passed, Robyn Conyers, a grants accounting manager in the Office of Financial Services, still couldn't bring herself to step into his office on the first floor of DPS headquarters.



Boland (rear right) enjoyed participating in Director's Walks and other DPS activities with employees.

"For the first month or two, I just told myself he was on vacation," said Conyers. "I still haven't been in his office. I can't do it."

Boland passed away just over a week after collapsing at a University of South Carolina women's basketball game during an apparent cardiac episode. He worked at the Department of Public Safety for nearly 20 years, first as grants supervisor and grants manager, then as director of grants and financial reporting before his promotion to Director of Accounting in 2017, according to Chief Financial Officer Karl Boston.

"He would always see the good in people," said Boston. Boston said Boland was especially helpful when he came on board as CFO in October 2017.

"He wanted to ensure that I knew he was on board, that he was definitely on my team and would do whatever he could to ensure that the transition was smooth," he said.

Boston recalled his last conversation with Boland, who stepped into his office on a Friday afternoon, just hours

before he collapsed at the basketball game. Boland wanted to leave work early that day to run some errands and prepare for a visit from his sons that weekend.

"[He was] just really talking about life," Boston said. "I was glad he stopped by, because I hadn't seen him much that day. I know that was a blessing to have that conversation with him and to see him as happy and excited as he was about his weekend and family coming to visit."

Conyers started working for Boland in September 2017.

"He saw things differently than everybody else," she said. "And he had a way of putting things to make it simple but make it funny. He would always give these little analogies, and I'm like, 'Jimmy, where did you get that from?'"

She recalled a time when one of their federal contacts asked them to research an obscure topic.

"We had no clue what he was talking about," she said. "Jimmy went and pulled all these articles and tax statements. He dug and dug and dug, and he found information ... he said he pulled it out of some tax book from 1990-something. We answered the question. I don't know how he put all of that together just to come up with this one answer."

Penny Baskin lost more than a co-worker when Boland died — she lost a friend. The two became friends when Baskin started working at DPS in 2004, and Baskin said she took trips with Boland and his girlfriend, Chris.



Boland with Chris (left) and Penny Baskin (right)

"He was so easy going," Baskin said.

KUDOS

Kudos to the men and women bringing concerns to the table and enhancing efficiencies in the department. Let's keep doing that along with dusting off those Suggestion Boxes. This goes for civilians and sworn personnel alike. Let's keep working together to find solutions that make our operations run a little smoother.



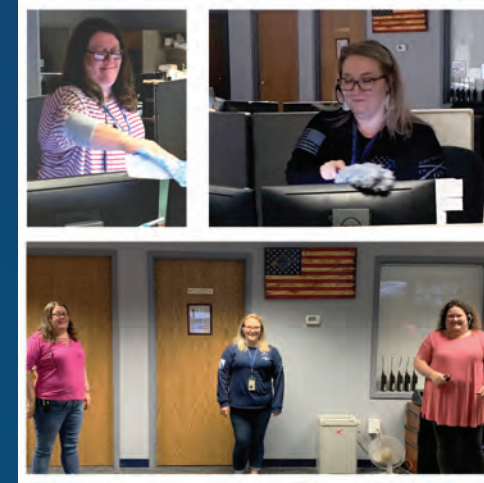
Dianne Glymph, STP



BPS Master Officers Anna B. Fleming and Jennifer P. Wilson



Trooper M.L. Clark



TCOs April Wooten, Brittany Smith, and Stephanie Morgan



Sgt. Earl McAbee, Troop 4

SUGGESTION



BPS Drone Unit Team: L to R: Officer Aaron Smith, Officer Sammy Samuels, Corporal Marty Carpenter



Sarah Osborne, OHSJP
Jasmine Ramos, OIT

SOLUTION



Donald Woodward, OFS



OFS - Todd Johnson, Patricia Woodward, Hester Moore



Katie Herrmann, OHR

YOU CANNOT POUR FROM AN EMPTY COP

by Jonathan Hickory

As a cop, I live for my days off. And when I finally get to my first off day—the day that I had planned to take on the world, Walmart, the gym, and that moldy stuff in the back of the fridge—I just want to disappear in between the cushions of my couch and not come out for days. But it's so rare I ever really get a day off—between court, mandatory training, and that irresistible last-minute OT assignment, it seems like I'm always working.

Sound familiar?

Man, this job can really suck the life out of you. I know you know what I'm talking about. Sure, it's part of the job. But it can wear on you, and that can lead to problems.

Big problems.

Problems like compassion fatigue, exhaustion, depression, withdrawal from people, destruction of personal relationships and home life, drinking, more drinking, even suicidal thoughts or worse. We have all been affected by it, we have all seen it. We all know fellow cops who have burned out, let their personal life fall apart as they chase the job, or even worse, died by suicide because they felt they had nowhere else to turn. As a cop who has been through the darkness and overcome it, I want to share some good news with you. By reading the rest of this article, you can learn the secrets I found for leading an actively balanced life of resilience; the key to surviving a career in law enforcement.



Below are 7 practical, easily applicable tips to help you pour back into yourself—because you cannot pour from an empty cop.

RESILIENCE STEP ONE – REST ON YOUR SABBATH DAY

Great warriors always return from battle and rest. Soldiers take time off between deployments. Cops don't regularly have that ability, because at the end of your short break, you are back on duty. It's imperative to give yourself a day to recover. Once you get to that first day off, remember it's okay to accomplish very little and maybe even binge some Netflix. You've been hypervigilant and taking care of everyone else's problems and conflict for the past several days, now it is time to rest. For those with small children at home, this isn't always possible, but don't be afraid or too "tough" to take a nap when your little one does.

RESILIENCE STEP TWO – DIVERSIFY YOUR FRIENDS

After raising my right hand and swearing to the oath, I quickly began to live and breathe everything law enforcement. All my non-cop friends didn't really seem to "get it." Not to mention, the same question that they always have ready to ask, "So, what's the craziest call you've ever been on?" Or, "Have you ever shot anyone?" Eye roll. So I started hanging out with only cops, on and off duty. Every time I was trying to do something fun with my fellow officers, like a barbecue or fishing, our conversation always went back to work—and talking about work all the time can really drag you down. It's great to love your job, but it's not great to become the job.

THE OPTIMIZED WARRIOR SEMINAR

If you ever have that really crappy call, the one involving an abused child or worse...and you just can't shake it...cops are about the worst people to have in your rolodex. They will often laugh it off and tell you to suck it up. And if you can't, you just might think there is something wrong with you. I have lived this and now I am so thankful for the men in my church's men's group. These men listen to me, pray for me, and check up on me. And I'm okay with that. I love my police brothers and sisters but they should not be my counselors in life. So, choose some friends to do life with who don't wear a badge. Heck, even a firefighter will work as a friend—I mean, if it gets really bad (grin).

RESILIENCE STEP THREE – FIND YOUR THERAPY

Remember all those cool things you used to do before you were a cop? Remember the long weekend rides

through the countryside on your Harley? Remember when you used to bring home trout by the bucketful? Remember when you used to play the guitar in that garage band? You need to find a passion to pursue. There is more to life than being a cop. Find what soothes your soul. Art, music, writing, motorcycles, horseback riding, archery, fishing, kayaking, paddle boarding, skydiving, snake wrangling (nope)...find your therapy, and make time to pursue it.

RESILIENCE STEP FOUR – GET INTO NATURE

Getting out into nature has incredible therapeutic value. Nature therapy can often be combined with the passion you pursue from step three above. If your therapy doesn't involve getting outside and enjoying Creation, make sure you take the time to get into nature. Go for



a run, or walk, or a hike in the woods. Kayak or canoe in the calm waters of a nearby pond or lake. Hop on the ATV and blaze some trails. The key here is getting away from the busyness out there and resting in the beauty that quietly and peacefully surrounds us every day.

RESILIENCE STEP FIVE – TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY

I'm not going to preach about diet; I eat too many donuts as it is. But, realize that what you put into your body has a lot to do with the way you feel. Eating good food (and not garbage) helps you to not feel like garbage. Exercise (running, lifting weights, etc.) produces endorphins that combat depression and anxiety. Avoid alcohol. Make it a priority to get a healthy amount of sleep—at least on your days off. Your mind is part of your body, and if your body is feeling well, you are more resilient.

RESILIENCE STEP SIX – DON'T BE A CONTROL FREAK

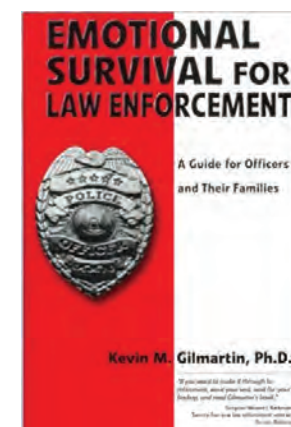
There is a difference between being prepared and being in control. One of the most mind-freeing things for me has been to realize that I have only so much control over the world around me.

A wise pastor I know recently said, "After 30 years in ministry if there is one thing I have learned, it's that God will be God and people will be people." Well said! You may make a difference in someone's life of domestic abuse only to see them fall right back into the same abusive relationship. You arrest the drunk driver and he may never drink again...or he may get arrested again next week for the same offense. People are responsible for the choices they make, and while you can be a positive influence in their life, don't think you can change them. Find peace in knowing that ultimate control is above your pay grade.

RESILIENCE STEP SEVEN – YOU GOTTA HAVE FAITH

This is where it all comes together for me. Reconnecting with my faith and having a relationship with God has given me long term resilience and new purpose in serving others. I have the support of my church family and I have an outlook on life that helps me to have compassion for others which makes me a better cop. At the end of the day, I realize God can use me if I let Him, and this helps me to push on knowing I have a greater purpose than what I can see. Faith in God gives me hope in a world filled with hopelessness.

Fellow officer, deputy, trooper, or dispatcher, you were meant for more than mundane. I swear by all of these steps as they took me years to learn. Any one of these steps will help if you're not feeling like tackling the whole list. I hope you can apply at least some of these steps to your life and live the life you were given. If you are struggling and you need an ear, I sincerely encourage you to please reach out to me, a Peer Support member, a Chaplain, or a counselor. I am easily found on Facebook or you can email me at breakeverychainbook@gmail.com.



Written for officers and their families to complete the difficult journey through a career in law enforcement with their relationships, families and positive professional attitude intact, and will aid in keeping good people good.

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2020 BRINGS EQUIPMENT UPGRADES

By Teddy Kulmala

Law enforcement with the Department of Public Safety rolled into 2020 with several equipment upgrades, and Highway Patrol troopers in particular will see the technology in their patrol cars “quadrupled over a one-year period.”

In addition to updating and replacing the body armor and issuing new and improved radios for all DPS law enforcement personnel, state troopers will see the technology in their cars enhanced with a new router that will streamline the operations of their in-car computers, cameras and new radios and ease the process of preparing and sharing video files.

“It’s actually, really, really cool to see us as an agency get some of this technology first,” said Lt. T.J. Riddle, of the Highway Patrol’s Resource Management office. “And it’s really good for the officers out there.”

The agency has already started issuing the new body armor to incoming classes and replacing the body armor of those whose classes joined the ranks in 2015, according to Cpl. Gabriel Colbert, who said the upgraded body armor is a newer version of what officers already have.

“It has a different fit, a little different composition and structure, and it’s a little lighter, a little different shape, so it’s a little more comfortable for the guys,” he said.



Despite the lighter feel and composition, the new body armor includes a rifle plate that can protect the officer

from a rifle round, according to Colbert. It’s meant to coincide with the transition from shotguns to rifles.

“In a perfect world, any weapon that our officers are outfitted with, we want body armor that’s going to be comparable to stop that,” he said. “If you’re going into a situation with a rifle, there’s a good chance you’re facing one. You want to be on equal playing fields, at least.”

All DPS officers also will receive new and improved Apex radios that include more secure capabilities and faster programming, according to David McClun, communications manager for DPS.

“The radios we have now are approximately 20 years old, so they’re starting to fade, die and quit working,” McClun said.

The new radios, which the agency hopes to have installed and activated by the fall, can be encrypted, meaning people with scanners won’t be able to monitor officers’ conversations, McClun said. They also can be programmed in a matter of seconds, compared to the current radios, which take up to five minutes per radio to program.

“Once you have the template filled, you can schedule jobs, and it will program up to 30 radios simultaneously via Wi-Fi in about 15 seconds,” he said.

Perhaps the biggest component of the upgrades is the new cradlepoint device that will be included in each Highway Patrol cruiser, Riddle said.

The Highway Patrol recently purchased an integrated system that links the body-worn camera and the in-



car camera to a “software-as-a-service” cloud solution, according to Regina Crolley, director of DPS’ Information Technology Office. This provides near-real time data transmission of the recordings via a cradlepoint wireless device, a router-like device which is installed in the vehicle’s trunk.

The collected data is stored within a secure cloud-based



software set called Evidence.com, which will enable the trooper to prepare for court and share the information directly with solicitors,” Crolley said. “It eliminates the need for preparing DVDs or other media for court appearances and provides opportunities for improved data sharing within the agency.”

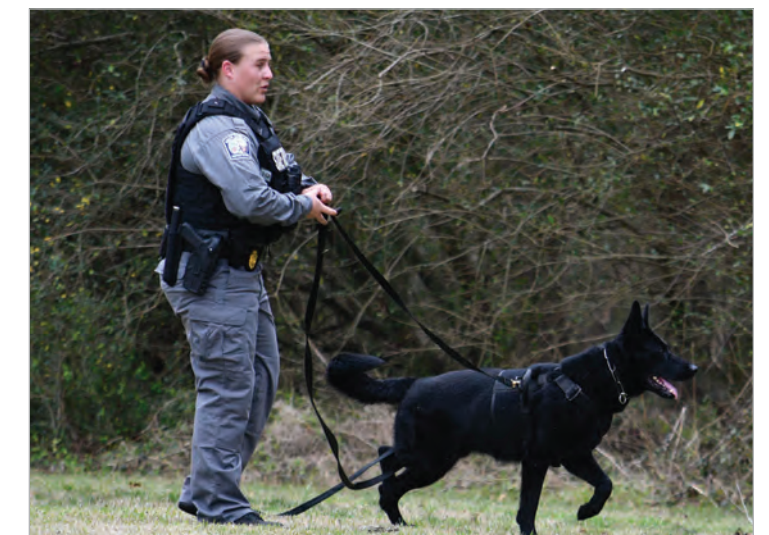
The Highway Patrol has purchased 500 of the cameras from Axon, which will first be issued to enforcement troopers, Riddle said. The goal is to issue between 20 and 25 each month, with the mechanics in the DPS shop capable of building up to six cars each week.

Riddle noted that some of the agency’s patrol cars still have dated VHS systems, and even the newer DVD systems in cars are costly to repair because they are out of warranty.

“The technology in that car just quadrupled over a one-year period,” he said.

ADVANCED CIVIL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

The SC Highway Patrol held specialty firearms training for new members of its Advanced Civil Emergency Response Team (ACERT). The Patrol provided training on select-fire rifles, which are issued to troopers trained in civil emergency response. The Patrol also began transitioning from shotguns to FN-15 patrol rifles in 2019 for SCDPS law enforcement. The second round of rifles should be issued this Spring.

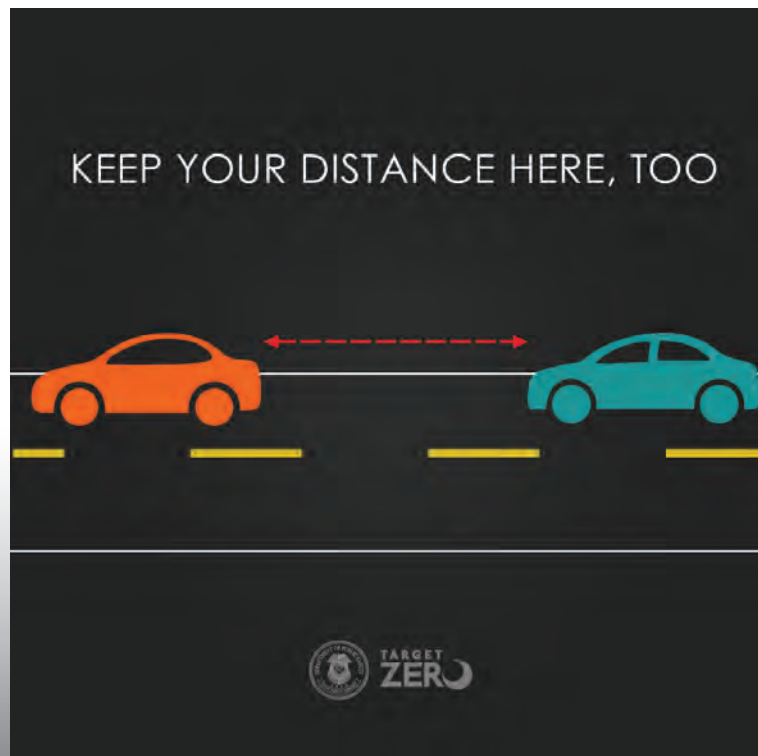


(Continued on page 23)

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S.C. Highway Patrol Trooper Recruitment
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SECOND PHASE OF NEW RIFLE DISTRIBUTION BEGINS

The Department of Public Safety has begun issuing new high-powered rifles to law enforcement personnel – the second of two phases in a plan aimed at replacing the department’s aging shotguns.

The shipment of FN-15 patrol rifles was delivered the first week of March; however, the issuance of the new weapons and the training of the officers with the rifles has been delayed due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

“Tactically, from a training standpoint, that was the better way to go,” Lt. T.J. Riddle, of the Department of Public Safety’s resource management division, said of the decision to transition to rifles. “Some of the shotguns that we are pulling out of the field have been around for 30 years. Highway Patrol has carried shotguns since World War II or before.”

The department conducted training on nearly a dozen different rifles before deciding on the FN-15 Patrol Rifle. The first shipment of 300 rifles was purchased and issued last year. Issues with the manufacturer delayed the most recent shipment from January to March, according to Riddle.

Replacing the weapons was not just a matter of updating antiquated technology, but also making sure officers are prepared to respond to the kinds of emergencies that arise in the 21st century, said Riddle, who added that rifles provide more capacity for



ammunition and better precision than a shotgun.

“If you’re in an active-shooter situation, or if they’re responding to a school or an office building, there’s many, many innocent bystanders there,” he said. “(A shotgun) is not the type of tool you need to go with there.”

Riddle noted that when a deadly shooting unfolded at Townville Elementary School in Anderson County in September 2016, a state trooper who was nearby responded to the scene with his personal patrol rifle.

“Our troopers are everywhere out there,” he said. “We want our people to not have to stand by if something bad is happening.”



STP PROMOTES DILL TO MAJOR



Dean Dill was promoted in April to Major with the State Transport Police. Dill has been with STP since 1994. Pictured (at a social distance) with STP Col. Leroy Taylor and SCDPS Acting Director Robert G. Woods, IV.



If critical staff at SCDPS needs child care immediately, you may contact DSS’ Child Care Resource & Referral Network at 1-888-335-1002 or go to the website at www.sc-crr.org.

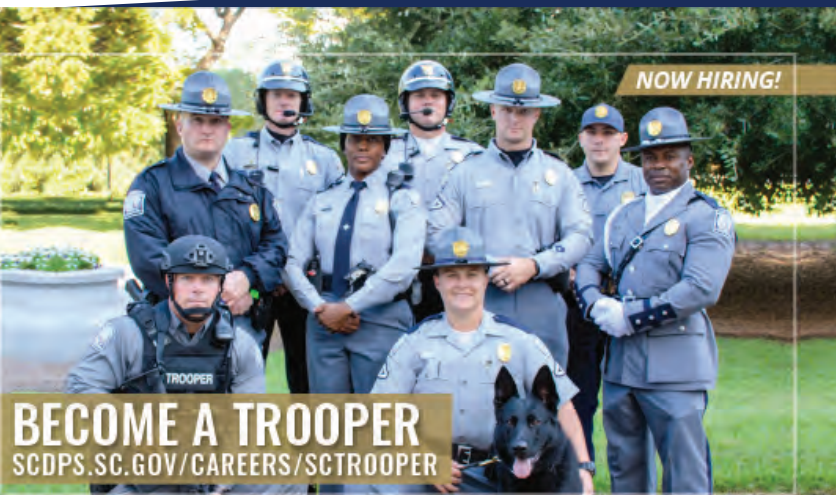


Specific needs include personal protective equipment. Monetary donations used to supplement emergency response efforts, including the provision of food, shelter and health needs. Learn more at www.OneSCFund.org.

Career Opportunities at DPS

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- SCDPS Limited Duty Class III SLE Officer
- State Transport Police Officer



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Susan Browning
Human Resources Manager, SCDPS



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