



SCDPS HIGHLIGHTS

NEWSLETTER

BE ENGAGED. STAY INFORMED.

APRIL 2025



HERE'S WHEN NEW GLOCK 45s WILL ROLL OUT FOR DPS LAW ENFORCEMENT — AND WHY THEY REQUIRE ADDITIONAL TRAINING

The Office of Support Services and the SCHP Training Unit has begun the rollout of brand new Glock 45 handguns for DPS law enforcement officers, which have some exciting new specifications and features.

The SC Highway Patrol began conducting training with select firearms instructors in mid-March. After that, the Training Unit will begin the transition process for the DPS law enforcement officers that are receiving the new weapon.

"The training lieutenants will schedule each trooper or officer to attend the range," said Sgt. Orlando Devers, of the Office of Support Services. He added that there is a mandatory three-day training regardless of rank or troop, and that the timeline to actually get the weapon will be a bit different for everyone. Once

the trooper or officer qualifies with the weapon, Devers' team will then release the G45 weapon to that officer and take possession of their previous duty weapon.

The three-day training will include time at the range with instructors and the new weapons, optics and any necessary equipment. Troopers and officers will continue to carry their current weapons until the last day of training.

"We want to make sure they stay with a weapon that they're qualified on," said Devers. "Once they qualify with this new weapon system, we will take the old weapon back from them and all the old equipment. That will be the last time that they'll be carrying that weapon on the road."

Among the features of the new weapon that require training is the optic and flashlight. The Training Unit will conduct range exercises, such as what to do when the optic fails and how to clear the optic, as well as low-light nighttime training with the flashlight.

The optic and flashlight will enhance safety and accuracy when officers are out in the field, Devers said.

"In a situation where they have to draw the weapon, now they're able to use both hands to grab that weapon instead of having one hand on their handheld flashlight and one hand on the weapon," Devers said. "If for whatever reason, they have to use that weapon system, they'll be more accurate with it."

Research for this weapon transition began in 2022. Devers explained that it takes trial and error to decide on the best weapon, and that they incorporated feedback from advisory committees in putting proposals together.

"We take your feedback very seriously here," he said. "We are constantly getting information from advisory committees about things they want to see out there in the field, things they would like for us to look into and purchase."

Continued on page 5

A MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR WOODS



Robert G. Woods, IV

Dear DPS Family,

Spring is finally upon us and that means our busy ceremony season is here as well. Before we get too far into the season, I want to catch you up on some of the progress and transitions within our agency during the first few months of 2025.

One of my priority projects for this year was to follow up our 2023 “Around the Agency” visits, during

which I visited each of the troop and region offices across the state to speak with employees. In February, I began making the rounds again, speaking with you in small groups to hear your ideas, your concerns, your challenges — and your thoughts on solutions for those challenges. These conversations, and your feedback, are extremely meaningful to me, and I want to keep the lines of communications open to continue building a better, stronger DPS. I look forward to continuing these visits and conversations with you throughout April and May.

We are setting the stage for the long-awaited rollout of Microsoft Office 365 and Teams in the coming weeks. The Office of Information Technology begins its migration of our email system to Office 365 in early April. Soon they will begin working on implementing other features, including Microsoft Teams, which will allow seamless communication and collaboration and enable us to meet and work together regardless of physical locations. I want to thank our OIT team for working to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible, and I know we are all looking forward to the full implementation of the Microsoft 365 suite this year!

Since Hurricane Helene tore through our state six months ago, Mother Nature has continued to throw curveballs our way, starting with back-to-back winter storm systems in January. Throughout

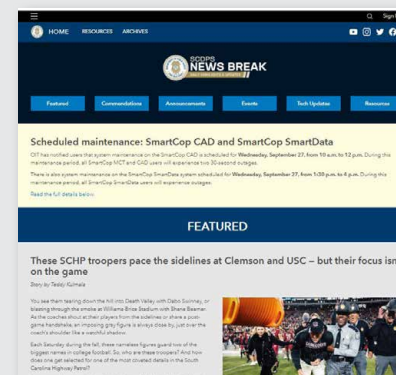
the month of March, firefighters and first responders battled two forest fires — one in the Carolina Forest area of Horry County that sparked March 1, and a second that has been burning in the Table Rock State Park area of Greenville County since March 21. Since then, the flames have destroyed several thousand acres. The Emergency Operations Center has been activated to oversee the state response. Thank you to everyone who has assisted with the winter storms and those who are supporting our state and local partners through the wildfires.

I know I say it often, but to all of our troopers, officers, and support staff — please know that I truly appreciate your hard work and dedication. You are the driving force that keep this great agency going and moving toward our goal of reducing collisions and saving lives on our roadways. Your work will be even more crucial as we get into the summer months and our 100 Deadly Days of Summer travel period.

Throughout this newsletter, you will find stories of some of the incredible employees we are fortunate to work with, from an STP officer who made an inspiring comeback after a battle with a deadly lung disease, to a BPS officer who recently retired after 27 years of service, and our new Trooper of the Year, who as a member of the MAIT unit helped provide closure for victims and families in several major hit-and-run cases. You also will find updates about the rollout of new Glock 45s for our law enforcement personnel, and some exciting promotions within our ranks. I encourage you to check News Break in the coming weeks for complete coverage and photos of our spring ceremonies.

I hope you'll take some time to enjoy the beautiful spring weather, and reflect on the opportunities that this season of rebirth provides. And as always, stay safe.

Director Woods



HAVE YOU BOOKMARKED NEWS BREAK?

The “SCDPS News Break” allows us to share important information with DPS employees faster and has expanded our capability to share video, agency social media feeds, and important updates from the Director. Visit it daily to keep up with agency happenings.

[Read News Break Today!](#)

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

Contact:
DPS_Web_Team@scdps.gov



SCDPS HIGHLIGHTS

NEWSLETTER // BE ENGAGED. STAY INFORMED.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Feature: Here's When New Glock 45s Will Roll Out For DPS Law Enforcement — And Why They Require Additional Training	Cover
Looking Ahead	4
The Highway Patrol's 95th Anniversary	6
Technology	8
In the Spotlight	10
Events and Conferences	20
In the Community / Giving Back	22
Employee of the Quarter	24
Promotions	26

Do you or someone you know have an interesting story to share with our DPS family? We'd love to hear about it!



HERE ARE SOME IDEAS:

- Overcoming challenges
- Career change/Second career
- Unique hobbies
- Fitness routine
- Volunteer in the community

We'd love to hear your story — send us your ideas at DPS_Web_Team@SCDPS.gov

APRIL 18

SCHP CLASS 128 GRADUATION

SC Criminal Justice Academy
10:30 a.m.

MAY 7

LINE OF DUTY DEATH INDUCTION CEREMONY

SC Law Enforcement Officers
Hall of Fame
2:00 p.m.

APRIL 25

FALLEN TROOPER SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Blythewood
10:30 a.m.

MAY 21

GOVERNOR'S LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR CEREMONY

Seawell's | Columbia
Noon – 2:30 p.m.

APRIL 26

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR HIGHWAY FATALITY VICTIMS

Virtual Service - Facebook
10:00 a.m.

JUNE 13

SCHP HIGHWAY DEDICATION: PATROLMAN MILAM

Mauldin United Methodist Church
Reception: Noon | Ceremony: 1:00 p.m.



Continued from cover page



They narrowed it down to three weapons that underwent testing, eventually settling on the Glock 45.

As part of the research and development, OSS reached out to other agencies that have already transitioned to the Glock 45, including the SC Department of Natural Resources, Devers said. One of their weapons went into the Congaree River during a rescue,

and was recovered several weeks later. Despite so much time at the bottom of the river, the weapon and its components — including the optic — still worked.

Devers pointed out that other law enforcement agencies that have transitioned to using optics have seen an increase of the qualification scores for their officers.

“There isn’t anyone out there that has not seen an increase in their qualification scores and their officers being more proficient with the firearm,” he said.



The current Glock 17 and the new Glock 45 are identical in frame, handle, magazines, and they both carry the same amount of ammo, Devers said. The main difference is the shorter slide. The DPS logo will be engraved on the slide of the gun, and the flashlight will have the officer's respective division patch engraved on it.

“Hopefully, by the end of that third day of training, everyone will be happy and comfortable with their new weapons,” he said.

Devers also notes it will be a long transition, possibly lasting until the end of the year, and asks for everyone’s patience as the agency works to deploy this statewide.



~Colonel C.N. Williamson



Password Security

OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ANNOUNCES SELF SERVICE PASSWORD PORTAL

The SCDPS Office of Information Technology has been working with the South Carolina Division of Technology Operations (DTO) to bring new technology services to our organization. OIT will continue working to implement these features over the coming months. Most recently, OIT has migrated the management of Active Directory account and password management to DTO shared services as a precursor to the agency's adoption of Microsoft Office 365 and Teams.

As part of our first of many improvements, OIT is excited to announce a solution for employees to reset their network account password (as well as the Secure Access VPN) using an online portal through One Identity Password Manager.

This allows SCDPS employees to unlock their account or reset their computer password without having to contact OIT for support.

- Access the online portal by visiting this page: scpasswordreset.sc.gov
- For your convenience, we have also added a shortcut icon to your state-issued iPhone.

[Click here](#) to download the Self Service Password Portal Instructions to setup your account today!

Other details:

When you sign up, you will receive email notifications letting you know when your password is soon to expire. In the email, you will see the SCDPS prefix before your username, indicating that this is your SCDPS Network account. When entering your user ID, you will see a drop-down box below. The standard option is for resetting your email password. The DPS option is for resetting your computer password.

For any questions, please contact the SCDPS Helpdesk (803) 896-8001.

What is the Self Service Password Portal:

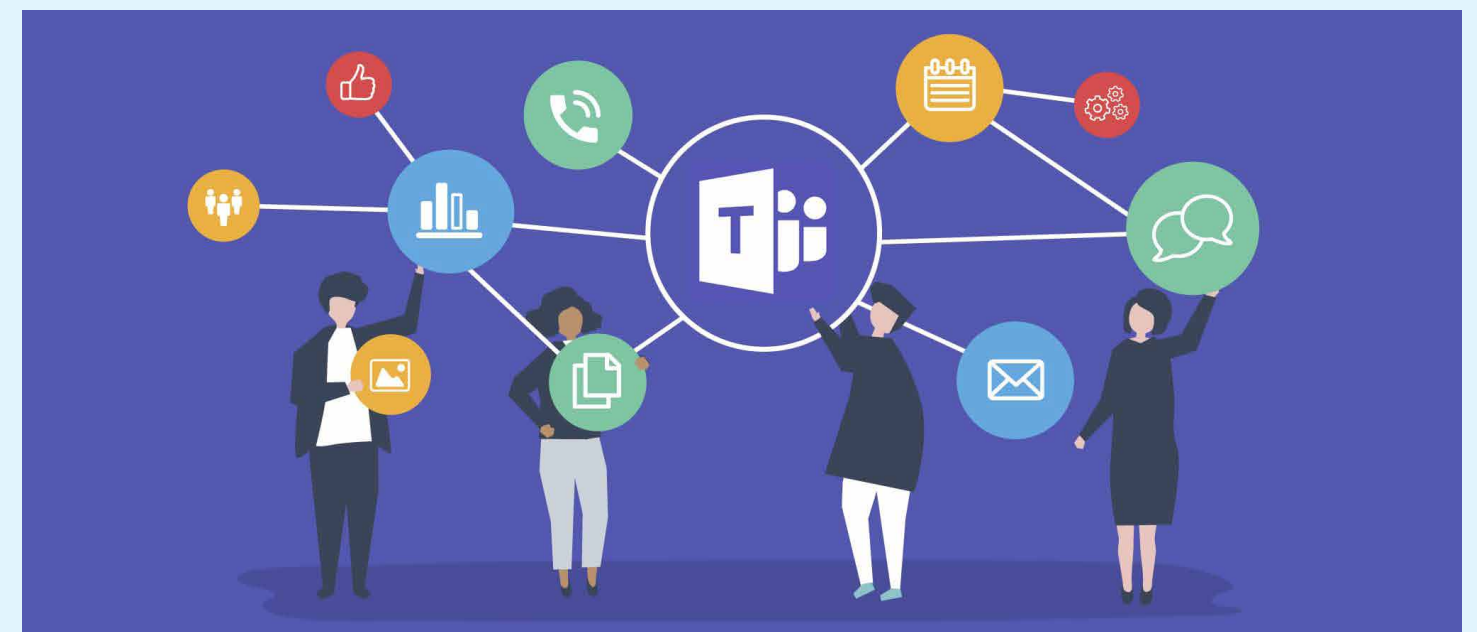
- This Self Service Password Portal is an online password portal linked to your SCDPS account.

When to Use the Self Service Password Portal:

- When you are locked out of your computer account.
- When you cannot remember your password.
- When your password is expired – Such as when you know your password is correct but cannot authenticate to the Secure Access VPN.

How To Use the Self Service Password Portal:

- Visit by clicking on the link here: scpasswordreset.sc.gov
- You can also visit the above page by clicking on the PW Reset shortcut on your agency iPhone.
- [Follow the instructions here](#) when setting up your account.



OFFICE 365/TEAMS SOLUTION — COMING SOON!

The Office of Information Technology is rolling out its first step in the agency's migration to the Office 365/Teams solution!

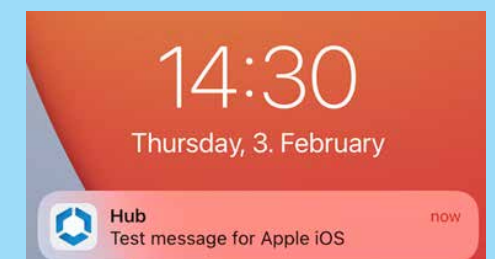
The Outlook outage is coming soon! This first step will migrate your existing email and calendar folders, files, and history. OIT wants to make sure you arrive in the new system with everything exactly as you had it arranged.

Once this step is complete, you will sign back into your email account using the same password you use to sign into your computer. You no longer have to manage two separate passwords! You will also use the same Duo device or app that you use to log into your computer to log into your email. The Duo device and password that were attached to your email account will soon go away.

A notification sent via Kace to all desktop and laptop devices. This notification will look similar to this:



A separate notification will be sent to all agency iPhones via the Intelligent Hub app. This notification will look similar to this:





SCHP TROOPER GRADUATES FROM PRESTIGIOUS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

SCDPS congratulates SC Highway Patrol First Sergeant Kevin Ginn, who graduated from Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety.

Ginn, who is the post commander for Troop 2, Post A, completed the School of Police Staff and Command, an intensive 10-week training program under the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety. The academically rigorous program includes upper-level college instruction in nearly 30 blocks of instruction, with topics ranging from leadership and management, to contemporary policing, to budgeting and media relations.

Since the School of Police Staff & Command commenced its first class in 1983, more than 21,000 law enforcement leaders have graduated from the program. He is in good company in Troop 2, as Captain J.T. Morf and Lt. J.A. Staehr completed this program back in 2016.

Way to go, First Sergeant Ginn!

CLOSURE FOR SCHP TROOPER AFTER SHOOTER FOUND GUILTY

Several SC Highway Patrol command staff and troopers traveled to Bamberg County in March to attend the trial of Derrick Gathers, who stood accused of shooting L/Cpl. Bentrice Frazier during a traffic stop in April 2023.

L/Cpl. Frazier and members of his family were present as he testified. Alongside SCHP staff, Deputy D. Duckson (formerly of the Bamberg County Sheriff's Office), who provided backup to L/Cpl. Frazier during the incident, was also present.

The trial concluded March 5, with the jury finding Gathers guilty of attempted murder, possession of a firearm during a violent crime, and failure to stop for blue lights and siren. He was sentenced



to a total of 38 years in prison. Gathers also has federal charges pending from this incident.

In 2023, L/Cpl. Frazier was awarded the Purple Heart and selected as the 2023 Trooper of the Year for the bravery and courage he exhibited during the incident.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHTS: SCHP COLONEL WILLIAMSON AND STP COLONEL WILSON

In honor of Black History Month, we recognized the commander of the SC Highway Patrol, Colonel Christopher Williamson, who has served 39 years of service in law enforcement and 37 of those years with the Highway Patrol. We also recognized the SC State Transport Police commander, Colonel Dwayne Wilson, who has 30 years of service with SCDPS.

WHO INSPIRED YOU TO DEDICATE YOUR CAREER TO LAW ENFORCEMENT?

"My inspiration comes from my family and my upbringing. Law enforcement has not always been a popular thing in my community as I was coming up; therefore I was inspired to change that perspective in small communities and let people know that they are capable of doing and being whatever they put their mind to."

Colonel C.N. Williamson
SC Highway Patrol

SC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

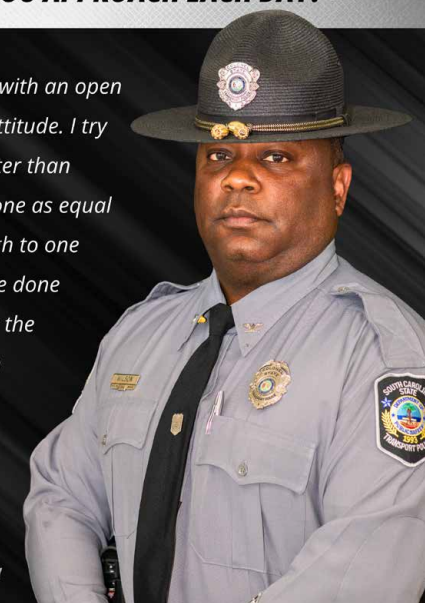


AFTER 30 YEARS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICE, HOW DO YOU APPROACH EACH DAY?

"I approach each day with an open mind and a positive attitude. I try to make each day better than yesterday. I see everyone as equal and if I can get through to one person, I believe I have done well. I believe in doing the right thing, even when no one is watching."

Colonel Dwayne Wilson
SC State Transport Police

SC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



TILLMAN MILLHOUSE JR: FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TROOPER TO SERVE IN THE LOWCOUNTRY



In observance of Black History Month, SCHP and DPS sat down with retired SC Patrolman, Tillman Millhouse Jr., the first African American South Carolina state trooper to serve in the Lowcountry and the third hired by the Highway Patrol. His legacy helped shape the path for many troopers today.

Watch this [video](#) to hear his story.



[View Photo Album](#)

SCHP HOLDS GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR HIGHWAY PATROL CLASS 127

The South Carolina Highway Patrol welcomed 26 troopers during the January 24th graduation ceremony for SCHP Class 127.

Thank you to Lt. Governor Pamela Evette for the inspiring message to the graduates!

Congratulations to all the newest SCHP troopers.



Trooper J.D. Young wins Major Israel Brooks Physical Fitness Award.



Trooper C.D. Hall wins the Captain Cecil Dilworth Marksmanship Award.



Trooper A.T. Burroughs wins the Colonel P.F. Thompson Outstanding Achievement Award.



‘I THOUGHT I WAS ALREADY DEAD’: STP OFFICER MAKES INSPIRING COMEBACK AFTER RARE, DEADLY LUNG DISEASE

Master Officer Tyrone Williams knows he shouldn't be here — not after a bout with Legionnaires' Disease that plunged him into a coma for two weeks, temporarily robbing him of the ability to walk, and his career as a State Transport Police officer. Instead, Williams bounced back stronger and more resilient than before.

"I don't know what God has for me yet," Williams said, more than two years after his remarkable comeback. "But He wasn't done with me."

[Click to read the full story](#)



‘I HAVE TO HELP PEOPLE’: RETIRING BPS OFFICER PONDERES WHAT’S NEXT AFTER 27 YEARS OF PROTECTING, SERVING, AND COMFORTING

Over the past 27 years, Master Officer Chris Kirkpatrick has helped protect some of the most powerful leaders in South Carolina: From legislators at the State House, to the Chief Justice of the SC Supreme Court, to the first family at the Governor's Mansion.

"Sometimes, I look back and have to pinch myself," said Kirkpatrick, who retired at the end of February after 26 years with the Bureau of Protective Services. "I've been blessed to have had the opportunity to be surrounded by so many high-level people, even though I may not be one myself. But still, having been afforded the trust to do that and perform that mission has been the most rewarding part for me."

[Click to read the full story](#)



FROM THE ROADSIDE TO THE CLASSROOM, SC TROOPER TAKES EDUCATION TO A NEW LEVEL AS A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

Every South Carolina state trooper plays an important role in the education of the public. But Corporal William Safford takes it a step further — by volunteering as a substitute teacher on his days off.

"I was extremely nervous the first time I taught," Safford said of his first time substitute teaching, which came immediately after he got off a night shift patrolling. "You don't know what you're getting into off the bat. I wasn't sure how the kids would respond to me."

[Click to read the full story](#)



SCDPS WELCOMES NEWEST ADDITIONS TO SCHP'S K-9 UNIT

The SC Department of Public Safety proudly welcomed three new K-9s to the South Carolina Highway Patrol. As a gesture of gratitude for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, each new K-9 bears the name of a South Carolina state trooper killed in the line of duty. The following is a list of all active SCHP K-9s:

K-9 ALVERSON:
K-9 Alverson is named after Patrolman First Class David Lee Alverson of Spartanburg County. PFC Alverson was on duty in a construction zone in Orangeburg County on November 12, 1981, when a tractor-trailer hit his patrol car. He died the next day.

K-9 Alverson serves in the Midstate alongside his handler, Master Trooper L.A. Maule.

K-9 CHAPPELL:
K-9 Chappell is named after Lance Corporal Michael Allen Chappell. On April 17, 1995, L/Cpl. Chappell was attempting a traffic stop on a violator when his patrol car veered off the roadway and overturned. He died as a result of his injuries.

K-9 Chappell serves in the Upstate alongside his handler, Master Trooper J.H. Pruitt.

K-9 RADFORD:
K-9 Radford is named in honor of Trooper First Class Tillman Radford, a 16-year veteran of the Highway Patrol. On October 29, 1989, TFC Radford was shot and killed during a traffic stop in Dillon County.

K-9 Radford serves in the Lowstate alongside her handler, Master Trooper J.T. Sarvis.

K-9 REBMAN:
K-9 Rebman is named in honor of Trooper Daniel K. Rebman, Jr., who was killed in the line of duty in Greenville County on October 24, 2017, when his stationary patrol vehicle was hit by a truck. Rebman died later that day from his injuries.

K-9 Rebman serves in the Upstate alongside his handler, Corporal A.L. Blair.



K-9 ALVERSON



K-9 CHAPPELL



K-9 RADFORD



K-9 REBMAN

NEW CHANGES AT SCDPS FLEET SHOP. HERE'S WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOUR NEXT SERVICE APPOINTMENT

The Office of Support Services is advising troopers and officers of floor plan changes at the DPS Fleet Shop that have altered parking and intake for service appointments.

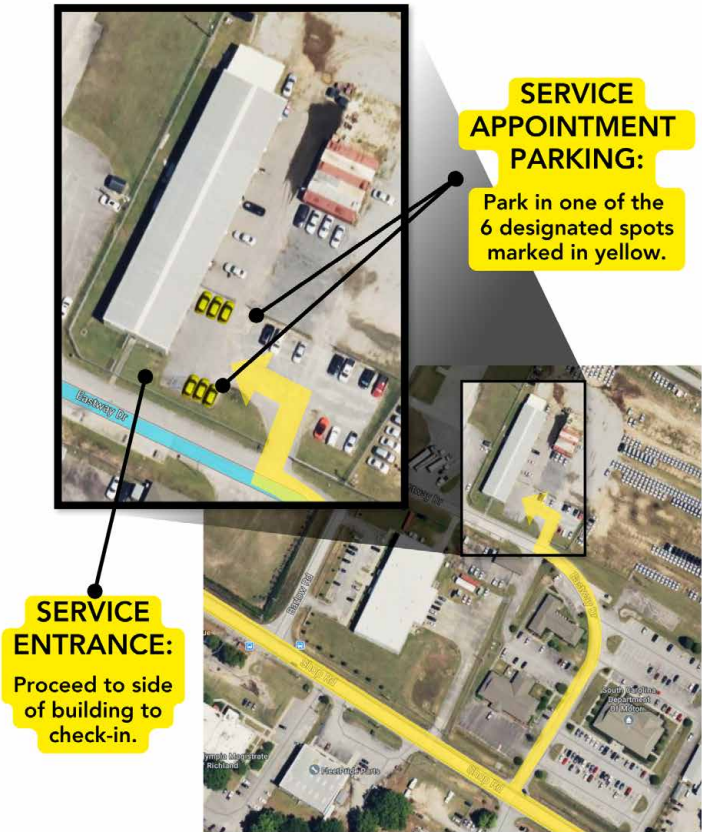
In February, the Fleet shop separated its service and production teams operating in separate bays at the shop, according to Captain Gabriel Colbert, Fleet Manager for the Office of Support Services. The overhaul includes renovations that created a separate waiting area for service appointments, and designated parking areas reserved for those appointments.

“If you’re there for service, you have dedicated parking, entrance, and waiting areas,” Colbert said. “This is going to allow us to have more efficiency with service appointments, reduce downtime, and increase production capability to build more cars.”

Previously, vehicles brought in for service appointments would be driven into the same bay as vehicles being built out, and troopers and officers did not have a designated waiting area. Under the new design, anyone bringing a vehicle for a service will still enter the yard coming off Shop Road and Eastway Drive. They will then pull into one of the designated parking spaces for service appointments, and follow the sidewalk leading from Eastway Drive to the entrance of the Fleet Shop building, which leads to the waiting area. Signs have been added to help illustrate the new floorplan.

Colbert said the changes are the result of a look at how to maximize space in the 30-year-old building. The shop has separate teams for building and servicing vehicles, each with

SERVICE APPOINTMENT CHANGES



a supervisor who reports to Colbert. He says the new layout ensures that each team operates in its own designated area, which will create a safer and more structured environment.

“The way the shop was originally designed and used isn’t conducive to how we operate today,” he said. “Every car dealership you go to has a sales side and a service side. That’s what we’re trying to do is bring things to the present day and modernize the building to how we operate today.”

CONGRATULATIONS TO KATHRYN CATOE, NAMED EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO SCHP COLONEL

A familiar face around Highway Patrol headquarters is now providing administrative support to Colonel Christopher Williamson.





2024 TROOPER *of the YEAR*



Statewide
WINNER

LANCE CORPORAL
C.H. SPROTT
TROOP 9 (COASTAL MAIT)

TROOP 1



LANCE CORPORAL
J.M. Hale

TROOP 2



LANCE CORPORAL
M.L. Clark

TROOP 3



SENIOR TROOPER
J.L. Grant

TROOP 4



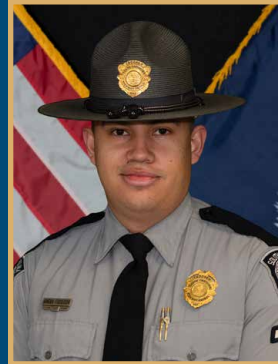
SENIOR TROOPER
R.A. Lee

TROOP 5



MASTER TROOPER
W.C. Wilks II

TROOP 6



SENIOR TROOPER
D. Rivera Figueroa

TROOP 7



CORPORAL
W.C. Lewis

TROOP 7



LANCE CORPORAL
C.J. Arnold

TROOP 8



MASTER TROOPER
T.W. Floyd

TROOP 10



MASTER TROOPER
W.H. Bennett



2024 TCO *of the YEAR*



Statewide
WINNER

TCO IV
**LANETTE
BEASLEY**
FLORENCE

BLYTHEWOOD



ASSISTANT TCO SUPERVISOR
Aviana McMahan

CHARLESTON



TCO IV
Anthony Rowell

GREENVILLE



TCO
April Wooten



SCHP Col. Williamson, April Wooten, Lanette Beasley, Aviana McMahan, and Capt. McMurry



Check out the event
photos here!



SCHP Colonel Williamson with the Medal of Valor recipients

WOMENS HISTORY MONTH: ‘I HOPE IT PAVES THE WAY FOR OTHER WOMEN,’ SCHP’S FIRST FEMALE CAPTAIN SAYS OF SERVICE

Major Tara Craig never took offense to being called “Sir” during a traffic stop or collision investigation. She chuckled when the person realized their mistake, and instead used it as an opportunity for dialogue. The same went for people who remarked that she was the first female state trooper they had ever seen.

“I tell them that there’s not a lot of us,” said Craig, who was the first woman to achieve the rank of captain within the SC Highway Patrol. “We fluctuate between 35 and 40 (female troopers) across the state.”

Craig didn’t get into law enforcement to be an example or to break glass ceilings. While visiting a friend in Columbia during college, she witnessed a collision and watched a state trooper who responded.

[Click to read the full story](#)



[View Photo Album](#)

‘HONOR HAS NO EXPIRATION DATE’: GREENVILLE COUNTY HIGHWAY RENAMED FOR SCHP TROOPER KILLED IN 1950

Two worn trooper badges and a folded American flag are among the only things Brenda Sealy Sumner has to remember the father she never knew. She was just 16 months old when SC Highway Patrolman Albert T. Sealy Jr. was killed in the line of duty in October 1950.

She also has a bag in which she keeps some of his personal effects like his wallet, and some post cards he received while serving in the Navy during World War II.

“That’s about all I have left of him,” she said. “I look at them sometimes. I think about him often, and wonder what my life would have been like if he had been here and was a part of it.”

[Click to read the full story](#)



Join us for the next highway dedication for **Patrolman Edwin D. Milam** on June 13 at Mauldin United Methodist Church.



SCHP TROOPERS RECOGNIZED BY MADD AS TOP ENFORCERS

SCHP command staff and troopers attended the 2025 MADD South Carolina Law Enforcement Recognition Dinner and Training Symposium in March, where several troopers were recognized for their DUI enforcement efforts during the previous year.

Congratulations to the following SCHP troopers for winning the 2024 DUI Enforcers of the Year Award:

- S/Trp. S.S. Lawson – Troop 1
- S/Trp. S.R. Salerno – Troop 2
- S/Trp. T.M. Colley – Troop 4
- S/Trp. D.R. Coon – Troop 6
- L/Cpl. M.R. Burgess – Troop 7

For the DUI Enforcers of the Year Award, MADD SC recognized troopers and officers with the top five 2024 DUI arrest totals among nominees from the Highway Patrol and top five from local agencies.

Congratulations all!

[View Photo Album](#)



L/Cpl. S.A. Brock with the family of the late Rick Moore and a DUI victim survivor (far right)

STP OFFICER RECEIVES DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT HONOR

Congratulations to L/Cpl. Sidney Brock, STP Special Operations DRIVE Team, for winning the 2024 Rick Moore Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) of the Year Award at the 2025 MADD South Carolina Law Enforcement Recognition Dinner and Training Symposium in March.

The Rick Moore DRE of the Year Award is given to a certified DRE officer who has excelled in their contributions as a DRE. Areas highlighted include the number of evaluations, proficiency in DRE skills, positive outcomes in court testimony, contributions to the overall DRE program, and efforts to prevent drunk or drugged driving.

L/Cpl. Brock has been a great addition to the Special Operations Unit, DRIVE Team since his arrival. The Special Operations Unit has a proud mission to search for and remove motorists who are driving recklessly and driving under the influence, as well as enforce criminal law for both commercial motor vehicles and personally owned vehicles. Brock took on this responsibility and has exceeded expectations through the unit. During the year 2024, he performed 16 DRE field evaluations for multiple agencies throughout the state. Some of these evaluations, without hesitation, were performed even off duty, where he was called in to assist at all hours of the day, night and weekends.

Brock not only exceeded all other state DRE officers with 16 Evaluations, but he also made 11 DUI charges, 10 open container charges, 3 broken seal charges, 3 possessions of alcohol in a CMV charges, and 29 drug cases for both commercial and non-commercial motor vehicles. His report writing along with courtroom testimony is exceptional and has been presented in cases as an expert witness in drug recognition. In 2024, he was also asked to join the ranks as an instructor in the DRE program, which is normally held for those who have a minimum of two to three years of experience. He accepted the calling, passed the Instructor Certification, and is now recognized as a DRE Instructor.



Sgt. M.R. Goff, L/Cpl. S.A. Brock, and STP Colonel D.D. Wilson

DPS FACILITIES STAFF ATTENDS OSHA SAFETY TRAINING

DPS and DMV Facility Maintenance and Janitorial attended an OSHA safety training in February at DPS/DMV headquarters in Blythewood.



SCHP EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TRAINING AT SCDPS HQ

In February, Executive Assistants who support Highway Patrol troops and command staff participated in training to help educate and streamline administrative functions. It was a unique training and networking opportunity. Thank you to each support staff member who keeps the troops and units running successfully!

SCDPS OFFICERS AND TROOPERS PROVIDE SECURITY FOR THE 2025 KING DAY AT THE DOME

Officers and troopers from SCDPS joined state and local law enforcement partners in providing security for the SC State House during this year's King Day at the Dome.

The event marked the 25th year the SC Chapter of the NAACP has celebrated the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. with a prayer service and march to the capitol.

Thank you to our men and women from the Bureau of Protective Services, SC Highway Patrol, and State Transport Police for ensuring the safety of everyone in attendance.



SCHP MOTOR UNIT TRYOUTS

SCHP conducted tryouts for the SCHP Motor Unit on March 13 in Blythewood. Troopers interested in joining the Motor Unit were assessed on basic motorcycle knowledge, techniques, and handling.

Selected candidates will go on to the upcoming SCHP Motor Unit school, where they will undergo two weeks of intensive training before joining the motor unit.

[View Photo Album](#)

STP MCC UNIT HOSTS GROUP SAFETY AUDIT

The State Transport Police Motor Carrier Compliance Unit hosted a Group Safety Audit session at DPS Headquarters in January, specially designed to bring motor carriers from surrounding counties to a centralized area for final completion of the safety audit.

Traditionally, MCC Unit members travel to the motor carrier business or a neutral location to conduct the final closeout of the safety audit process. However, inviting the motor carrier officials to DPS Headquarters not only allows for more efficiency and safety for our MCC Unit staff, but it also provides an opportunity for the carrier to have any SCDMV-related questions resolved while on site.



MCC Unit Commander Sgt. C.S. Alexander, Auditor L. Loper, Auditor J.P. Abel, Auditor J.A. Witherspoon, Auditor B.S. Johnson, and MCC Unit Cpl. J.L. Hudson

STP, OIT, AND SCDMV ATTEND JOINT COUNCIL MEETING WITH SC TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

State Transport Police officers, Office of Information Technology staff, and SCDMV employees attended a Joint Council Meeting with the SC Trucking Association on January 30 in Columbia. Approximately 30 industry members and drivers from various motor carriers attended.

The meeting provided an opportunity for industry members to provide feedback and share perspectives on how each of the stakeholders can continue to collaborate to reduce fatal crashes with large trucks and buses in South Carolina. STP and SCDMV staff also provided program updates to the membership.

Great to see these partners working together to make SC roads safer!



STP and OIT staff group photo

SCHP AND STP ATTEND SC LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN KICKOFF EVENT

Colonel Williamson, SCHP Commander, along with many SCHP troopers, State Transport Police officers, and other law enforcement agencies took part in the South Carolina Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Kickoff event held in January at the South Carolina State House.

During the event, Special Olympics South Carolina announced that \$1.26 million was raised through Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run efforts in 2024!

Support and partnerships from law enforcement agencies like ours help provide opportunities for more than 30,000 Special Olympics athletes in our state.



SCDPS, SCHP, STP, AND BPS JOIN PARTNERS FOR SERVE & CONNECT STATEWIDE PACKING EVENT

We had a journalist-in-training join OPA for job shadowing day at SCDPS! Here's her story showcasing our troopers, officers and civilian staff coming together at the annual Greg's Groceries packing day, hosted by our partners at Serve & Connect on February 7 at the SC Criminal Justice Academy in Columbia.

Along with dozens of other law enforcement agencies, participants packed 2,000 boxes with non-perishable food and essential care items. These care package will be distributed by law enforcement

officers within the communities they serve to help feed individuals and families in need.

Thank you to Serve & Connect for your work in facilitating an initiative to better connect law enforcement with the communities we all serve. And thank you to SCCJA for hosting an event to help those in need!

Check out photos from the event by clicking [here](#).



SCHP TROOPERS AND STAFF BUILD PLAYSET

SCHP troopers and staff joined together on March 15 in Greenwood to build a playset for Hannah, a 2-year-old battling cancer.

In addition to the playset, the troop provided Hannah and sister Hailey with Easter baskets filled of goodies; SCHP trooper bears and hats; and hula hoops. Thank you to

the ROC Solid Foundation for the playset, as well as to the generous donations to the SC Troopers Association, which made this event possible. A special thanks also goes out to Mill House Pizza, who provided pizza at a discount for Hannah, her family, and the crew, in support of the agency and this community outreach initiative.

See more photos from the build [here](#).

LEAD UPSTATE PRESENTS DONATIONS TO SUPPORT K-9 PROGRAMS FOR SCHP, OTHERS



The Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (LEAD) Upstate organization presented financial donations to support the K-9 programs of the SC Highway Patrol, Fountain Inn Police Department, and the Simpsonville Police Department on January 29 in Greenville County.

Each year, this initiative brings together businesses and community members who recognize the sacrifices made by the men, women, and K-9s in blue.

Thank you to LEAD Upstate for the generous donation to the South Carolina Troopers Association. The \$2,500 donation will benefit the SC Highway Patrol's K-9 Unit. We are grateful to be selected!

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

– FOURTH QUARTER RECIPIENTS –

TROOP 1



M/TPR. J.E. BLANDING
with Capt. C.M. Shelton (left)

TROOP 2



L/CPL. E.H. WILKES
with Lt. J.C. Gambrell (left)

TROOP 3



S/TPR. J.L. GRANT
with Lt. J.R. Elrod (right)

TROOP 4



S/TPR. R.A. LEE
with Capt. A.S. Darby (left)

TROOP 5



M/TPR. A.J. MARSHALL
with Capt. J.A. Segars (left)

TROOP 6



TPR. M.A. BACON
with Capt. D. Boniecki (right)

TROOP 7



CPL. W.C. LEWIS
with Lt. R.D. Martin (right)

TROOP 7



M/TPR. C.J. ARNOLD
with Lt. R.D. Martin (right)

TROOP 8 / ACE



M/TPR. G.A. FODOR
with Capt. B.G. Dewitt (right)

CHARLESTON TCC

TCO IV PATRICIA MASONIS

TROOP 9 / MAIT



CPL. K.K. BRATCHER
with Capt. J.T. Leach (left)

TROOP 10 / CRRF



M/TPR. W.T. RHYNE
with Capt. E.W. Collins (left)

TROOP 10 / EU



LT. M.J. ZANG
with Capt. Q.M. Brown (left)

TROOP 10 / IEU



M/TPR. T.E. NANCE
with Capt. S.M. Craven (right)

BLYTHEWOOD TCC



TCO II ANDIN BANKERT
with Capt. D.A. McMurry (left)

FLORENCE TCC



TCO IV SHELIA FELDER
with Capt. D.A. McMurry (left)

GREENVILLE TCC



TCO I LAURA OATIS
with Capt. D.A. McMurry (left)

STP UPSTATE



M/OFF. W.G. KAY
with Capt. R.A. Heitzenrater (left)

STP LOWSTATE



M/OFF. B.R. DEWEESE
with Capt. C.T. Norton (left)

STP SPECIAL OPS



L/CPL. P.R. KIRK
with LT. J.F. Brock (left)

STP CIVILIAN



TABITHA JENKINS
with Col. D.D. Wilson (left)

STP MCC UNIT



BREANNA HORNSBY
with Capt. S.P. Holmes (left)
and Sgt. C.S. Alexander (right)



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHWAY PATROL



SCHP'S NEWEST PROMOTIONS!

First Sergeant B.L. Allison
Sergeant S.G. Sawyer
Sergeant T.G. Methvin
Corporal A.C. Rhodes
Corporal S.A. Michael

Corporal J.M. Cook
Corporal M.S. Greene
Corporal Z.L. Phillips
Corporal J.A. Lane
Corporal C.S. Hendrix

Corporal H.L. Green
Corporal C.M. Degner
Corporal Z.A. Millsap
Corporal P.D. Darnell
Corporal E. Demirer

Corporal L.M. Butler
Corporal D.R. Webb

[View Photo Album](#)



CAPTAIN R.B. "BARNEY" POPE PROMOTED TO THE EXECUTIVE PROTECTION DETAIL

A native of Sumter, Pope joined the Highway Patrol in 1997 where he initially patrolled the roadways of Horry County, followed later by assignments in Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties. As he ascended the ranks of SCHP, he was

invited to join the Selective Enforcement Team prior to being promoted to Sergeant in Special Operations.

In 2018, Pope was selected for the coveted Executive Protection Detail, a multi-agency detail led by the State Law Enforcement Division and comprised of troopers, Department of Natural Resources officers, and SLED agents. The detail is responsible for the security of the Governor, First Lady, Lieutenant Governor, or visiting dignitaries.

"It's an honor," Pope said. "I just hope that I'll do a fair job of representing all the people who built the Highway Patrol's reputation before I was here."

Before joining the Highway Patrol, Pope worked for a year in the SC Department of Corrections.

Along with his corrections experience, Pope spent 20 years on the Highway Patrol's Advanced Civil Emergency Response Team and has been a member of the Highway Patrol's Pistol Team since 2006. He also served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve from 1991 to 1999.

BUREAU OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES



DAVID L. SPIVEY PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT

Lieutenant Spivey will oversee the State House and Judicial Divisions of BPS. Congratulations on your well-deserved promotion!

HENRY FORD AND JUSTIN BLEVINS PROMOTED TO SERGEANT

Sergeant Ford is assigned to the Governor's Mansion Division and Sgt. Blevins is assigned to the State Agency Support Division.

Congratulations, Sgt. Ford and Sgt. Blevins!



Sgt. Justin Blevins



Sgt. Henry Ford

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE TRANSPORT POLICE



STP WELCOMES NEW OFFICER!

Congratulations to STP Officer Traizhan D. Jones for graduating from the SC Criminal Justice Academy on March 14, 2025.

Officer Jones is assigned to Region 6 and will go on to complete his state and federal training with STP over the next several months.

Congrats and welcome, Ofc. Jones!

