Troop B History

The Missouri State Highway Patrol was created by the 56th General Assembly in 1931. Governor Henry S. Caulfield named Lewis Ellis as the first superintendent. After his appointment, Colonel Ellis visited several eastern states in the summer 1931, reviewing highway patrol systems, so that Missouri might build on a sound foundation derived from the experience of the older organizations. Based on those findings, a non-partisan Highway Patrol was established with 55 men being selected from thousands of applicants. Among the 55 new officers, 10 were natives of the northeast Missouri area. After an intensive six weeks training at the St. Louis Police Academy, the new police force was ready for duty in November 1931. The state was divided into six troop areas. The troops were designated as Headquarters Troop in Jefferson City, Troop A in Kansas City, Troop B in Macon, Troop C in Kirkwood, Troop D in Springfield, and Troop E in Sikeston.

Originally, 22 counties in the northeast corner of the state were included within the Troop B boundaries. The troop was first manned by nine of the original 55 members. The complement of Troop B officers assigned included: the troop commander, Captain Schuyler S. French, stationed in Macon; First Sergeant Benjamin O. Booth stationed in Macon; Trooper Elwood B. Robinson stationed in Chillicothe; and Trooper Clyde W. Kinder stationed at Hannibal. The remaining five officers were natives of the area and assigned back to the troop: Trooper William J. Ramsey, of Marceline, who was assigned to Chillicothe; Trooper G. Russell Minor, of Prairie Hill, and Trooper Clarence O. Miller, of Unionville, who were assigned to Macon; Trooper C. Maurice Parker, of Trenton, who was assigned to Kirksville; and Trooper Roy L. Keller, of Lewistown, who was assigned to Hannibal. All 55 of the patrolmen wore boots manufactured in the Troop B area by the Central Shoe Company of Moberly.

Those officers fortunate enough to be assigned cars for patrol received 1931 Ford Model A Roadsters. Troopers Minor and Kinder rode Harley Davidson motorcycles and Captain French had a 1931 Chevrolet sedan. The troopers patrolled designated routes primarily along major highways and worked a minimum of 12 hours a day. They received two days off each month and were allotted a salary of $125 per month. Patrol areas generally covered 150 miles or more and included routes such as Hannibal to Macon and back along U.S. Highway 36, or Kirksville to Trenton to Princeton, then east on Missouri Highway 4 (now U.S. Highway 136) to Lancaster and back to Kirksville. The officers had no radio communication. They relied on a system of stops along their routes (service stations, restaurants, police stations, and sheriff’s offices) where telephone messages were taken for the officers.

Troop B's first headquarters were two rooms in the State Highway Department offices on the second floor of the Masonic Building in downtown Macon. The Patrol next moved its headquarter into a small wooden building, now designated as the “sign shed", behind the District 2 Highway Department office on U.S.

Highway 63 in 1935. Upon completion of the new Highway Department Building in 1937, the Troop B Office was relocated in the basement of that building. On September 14, 1937, 4.2 acres of ground were purchased from George and Lillian Pohlman, and an adjoining 2.4 acres were purchased from Mrs. Lena McKay. The total purchase price for the seven acres of prime land was $1,000. On this site, construction was completed on March 5, 1938, and Troop B began operations in the first troop headquarters building constructed in Missouri. Troop B also established radio transmitter station KHPB at the new headquarters, which greatly modernized communications.

In June 1932, Troop B acquired four new members. They were Troopers Kelso, Davis, Breid, and Leak. Trooper Miller contracted an illness and was forced from service. First Sergeant Booth was transferred from Macon to Columbia to work in the General Headquarters Troop. Sergeant Booth, in a later encounter with a robbery suspect, became the first member of the Patrol to be killed by gunfire in the line of duty. Trooper Ramsey was brought from Chillicothe to Macon and promoted to first sergeant. Trooper Minor was transferred to Troop A, and Trooper McCann was brought from the General Headquarters Troop to Macon. In a short time, another change took place, sending Trooper Robinson from Chillicothe to Moberly, and transferring Trooper Austin from Troop A to Chillicothe. Trooper McClard came to Macon from Troop C, Trooper Duncan was transferred to Hannibal from Troop C, and Trooper Breid was transferred from Macon to the General Headquarters Troop in Columbia.

In June 1933, Governor Guy B. Park appointed Colonel B.M. Casteel to succeed Colonel Ellis as superintendent of the Patrol. Colonel Casteel was reappointed to that office four years later by Governor Lloyd C. Stark.

Thirty-five new troopers were appointed to the Patrol in 1935. From this group Troop B received six of the officers. They were Troopers Runkle and Updegraff assigned to Macon, Troopers Patton and Sontheimer assigned to Hannibal, Trooper Nall assigned to Chillicothe, and Trooper Kanan assigned to Kirksville.

The troop grew slowly but steadily in the 1930s under several commanders. Captain French was dismissed in May 1933 as a result of budget cuts. His replacement, Captain Lewis M. Means resigned in 1937 to become Adjutant General of Missouri. William J. Ramsey, who had been troop sergeant since 1932, became captain in 1937 and was appointed acting superintendent of the Patrol on December 23, 1940. Sergeant Victor Kelso was named acting commander of Troop B until a permanent Patrol commander was named and Capt. Ramsey returned to Macon on November 30, 1941.

The new organization compiled an enviable record in the early years. Records indicate many accomplishments, some of which were the recovery of 350 stolen cars and the correction of 70,000 light violations in the first six years of its existence.

Many new duties have been delegated to the Patrol throughout its history, and in 1942, the Patrol took over the operation of weigh stations from the Highway Department. Troop B assumed control of the weigh stations at Macon and Hannibal, and in the late 1940s, a third weigh station was constructed at Moberly. Later, the Patrol would administer driver license examinations, supervise motor vehicle inspection stations, and perform many other traffic related tasks.

Tragedy struck Troop B on Sunday, December 12, 1943, when Trooper Ross S. Creach, a 24-year-old officer who had been on the Patrol for one year, became the first officer in Troop B to be killed in the line of duty. Tpr. Creach was killed instantly when he was struck by a car as he directed traffic around a disabled tractor-trailer truck on U.S. Highway 36 between Shelbina and Lentner. The driver of the car was arrested and later admitted he had been drinking prior to the accident. He was sentenced to four years in prison for manslaughter as a result of the death of Tpr. Creach.

Post World War II growth of the Patrol resulted in the re-organization of troop areas on August 15, 1946. Troop B was reduced in size to its present 16 counties, losing the counties of Pike, Audrain, Mercer, Grundy, Livingston, and Carroll. Through the 1940s, commanders of the troop were Captain J.F. Shaw (a native of Marion County), Harry A. Hansen, G. Russell Minor (a native of Chariton County), and Thomas Whitecotton (a native of Monroe County). Whitecotton became troop commander on October 14, 1949, when Minor became the first officer of the Patrol to hold the newly created rank of Major. He was indeed the state's one and only Major Minor.

The 1950s saw continued growth in Troop B and the return of another native son to the post of troop commander, when on January 1, 1950, Captain George W. Pate took over the reins of the troop. Capt. Pate was originally from New Cambria. He was succeeded by G. Russell Minor, who requested to return to Macon when Capt. Pate was assigned to the Kansas City area in 1955. Captain Earl L. Davis and Captain T.R. Taylor also were troop commanders at Macon in the late 1950s.

Troop B had outgrown its headquarters building by the 1960s, and on December 10, 1964, a new headquarters building was dedicated just west of the site of the original headquarters, and the site that is currently being used today. Captain Samuel S. Smith, troop commander at the time, later served as superintendent of the Patrol from 1973 to 1977.

Troop B entered the decade of the 1970s under the leadership of Captain J.C. Smith. It was during his tenure that tragedy struck the troop again. On June 12, 1970, Trooper William R. Brandt, 23, a two-year veteran on the Patrol and a native of Brunswick, was killed when his patrol car was slammed against the Middle Fork Bridge abutment on U.S. Highway 36 west of Macon by a tornado. The trooper had been tracking the tornado and attempting to warn the city of

Macon of its approach. The force of the storm and impact with the bridge abutment were so great that Brandt's patrol car was literally ripped in half.

Troop B also lost the roof of the headquarters building due to the tornado, and the 325-foot transmitting tower was toppled across U.S. Highway 36. This was the third time the Troop B radio tower had been damaged by high winds.

Shortly after Captain Charles E. Ray became commander of Troop B in 1973, an unusually late blizzard paralyzed the area. Ten inches of snow fell on April 9, and it was whipped into gigantic drifts by winds of up to 73 miles per hour. The blizzard closed every major highway in the troop except U.S. Highway 61. Many motorists and several troopers became stranded and were forced to seek refuge in nearby homes. Numerous vehicles, abandoned in drifts, were completely covered by snow and later damaged as snow removal equipment struck them.

Troopers in Troop B have always been involved in criminal investigations, and in 1977, the addition of a satellite criminal laboratory at the headquarters in Macon greatly enhanced their efforts in that field.

The 1980s saw five troop captains assigned at Troop B: Grover C. Johnson Jr., November 1, 1979, to January 1, 1981; Edward E. Kelsey, January 1, 1981, to July 1, 1985; William B. Darnell, July 1, 1985, to June 15, 1988; Sherrill E. East, June 15, 1988, to September 1, 1988; and C. Lloyd Meyer, September 1, 1988, to April 1, 1992.

In the summer of 1987, construction began on a 4,000-square-foot addition to the existing headquarter building. The added area included much-needed office space, as well as a four-position indoor range. Construction was completed and the addition was occupied in the spring of 1988.

Following the retirement of Captain Meyer, Troop B saw five other troop captains in the 1990s. They were Weldon Wilhoit, April 1, 1992, to April 1, 1993, who was later appointed as superintendent; Harold Elder, October 15, 1993, to August 31, 1995; Dale Penn September 1, 1995, to August 31, 1999; Lieutenant Danny Middleton was named acting commander and served from September 1, 1999, to September 30, 1999; and John Elliott, October 1, 1999, to March 31, 2010.

During the fall 2001, Troop B conducted its first Community Alliance Program, developed to provide personal interaction between community citizens and the Patrol. It was held for six weeks and attended by 16 citizens from the Troop B area.

In 2002 several building renovations to the Troop B Headquarters building were completed. Renovations included relocating the break room, making more clerical space a reality, and updating the large conference room. Construction and maintenance employees Ron J. Deskin and Roy D. Barton completed all the construction projects.

On May 12, 2002, Trooper Nathan J. Shinkle, Trooper Chad W. Walton, and Sergeant Roger P. Gosney responded to the east bank of the Middle Fabius River west of Colony, MO. A subject was reported to have been swept into flood waters. All three officers entered the cold water and assisted Knox County Deputy Robert Becker with the rescue. The Patrol presented Tpr. Shinkle, Tpr. Walton, and Sgt. Gosney with Meritorious Service Awards.

On May 10, 2003, tragedy struck several small northeast Missouri communities as a large tornado tore its way across Troop B. The town of Canton, MO, was the area where the most storm damage occurred. The powerful storm ripped its way through the city destroying numerous houses, local businesses, vehicles, and buildings. It also disrupted electrical and telephone service. Fortunately, no serious injuries were reported—due most likely to early warning systems activated by the city. Troop B command staff responded to the tragic event by immediately dispatching approximately 25 officers to assist the city with traffic control, search for missing residents, and provide security for the area.

During 2004, Troop B officers were called to assist with the investigation and security of three aircraft crashes resulting in the deaths of 16 individuals. One of the plane crashes, which occurred in rural Adair County on October 19, 2004, involved a commercial aircraft transporting 16 passengers and two crew members. The aircraft had departed St. Louis, MO, en route to Kirksville, MO. Of the 15 individuals on board the aircraft, only two survived the fiery crash. For several days, officers worked closely with the FBI, National Transportation Board, Adair County authorities, and numerous media outlets. The two other crashes involved privately owned aircraft, which resulted in the deaths of three other individuals.

Corporal Nicholas D. Berry was named 2004 Officer of the Year for the Patrol. Cpl. Berry was recognized with this award due to his work ethic and diligence.

The Patrol recognized Corporal Steven V. Wilhoit with a 2005 Meritorious Service Award for his actions on July 2, 2005. Cpl. Wilhoit responded to a residence in Bevier, MO, after a domestic disturbance. A man was holding two knives and acting suicidal. Cpl. Wilhoit, while negotiating with the subject, was able to disarm the subject, who was then taken into custody.

On March 12, 2006, Troop B officers were called to assist citizens of Monroe and Randolph counties following the aftermath of a large tornado. The tornado destroyed numerous buildings and homes and was responsible for the deaths of four individuals.

In spring 2006, a video surveillance system was installed at the troop headquarters complex. The system had 27 cameras, which provide additional security to the headquarters, and was monitored by communications personnel.

Troop B officers kept quite busy in 2006 with criminal investigations, and assisted investigators with the Division of Drug and Crime Control with 14 death investigations, seven of which were classified as homicides, and two officer-involved shootings. On October 17, from information gained by Putnam County law enforcement agencies and a follow up investigation, officers were able to alert Killeen, TX, authorities of a homicide. Taking detailed information and quick interviews enabled Texas law enforcement authorities in locating the body of a victim and making a quick arrest of the perpetrator.

On February 4, 2007, Troop B officers were called to assist the city of Lewistown, MO, due to the leak of an 18,000-gallon liquid propane bulk tank. Approximately 15,000 gallons of liquid propane escaped the tank, and 595 residents were displaced from their homes in freezing winter conditions. Troopers assisted with the evacuation of residents, traffic control, and security until the city was deemed safe on February 6, 2007, and residents were allowed to return.

During 2007, troopers were called to investigate three aircraft crashes, which occurred in Knox, Lewis, and Linn counties. In those crashes, three aircraft occupants were killed, and one individual was injured. While on scene, troopers worked closely with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Nation Transportation Safety Board.

In October 2007, troopers were called to provide assistance after a tornado struck the town of Palmyra, MO, and another struck a mobile home in rural Monroe County, killing two occupants.

On November 12, 2007, 19 Troop B area residents completed a Community Alliance Program. Twenty-eight Troop B employees served as instructors. The 10-week program culminated with an awards ceremony, which was sponsored by the Macon Comfort Inn.

On December 1, 2007, Troop B members were involved in the apprehension of an escapee from Iowa, who was driving a stolen Ford pickup in Marion County. The suspect, who was from Homewood, IL, deliberately rammed three law enforcement vehicles, unsuccessfully attempted to carjack another vehicle, and later stole a vehicle then led officers on another pursuit. The pursuit ended after the escapee crashed the vehicle on Missouri Highway 168 at the north city limits of Hannibal, MO. Due to the suspect's actions, the officers attempting to apprehend him feared for their safety and discharged their service weapons, striking the suspect in the torso area. He was later pronounced dead at Hannibal Regional Hospital.

On September 5, 2008, Sergeant Kevin C. Kelley and Trooper Clinton M. Duppong began working as commercial vehicle enforcement troopers. Troopers working as CVETs retain the authority to make arrests for moving violations and criminal or drug activity while working with commercial motor vehicles. However, these troopers also act as first responders to homeland security events.

In 2010, Captain John W. Elliott retired on March 31, after being the commanding officer of Troop B since October 1, 1999. Capt. Elliott served as the troop's commander longer than any of his predecessors. On April 1, 2010, Lieutenant James E. Wilt was promoted to captain and designated commanding officer of Troop B.

On April 28, 2010, Troop B officers, along with troopers from other areas, worked closely with members of the United States Secret Service, White House officials, Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), and other local law enforcement agencies, during the visit of United States President Barack Obama. While he was in Missouri, President Barrack Obama made a stop at POET Bio-refinery, which is located east of Macon, and at a farm in Marion County. Officers assisted with the presidential motorcade, which began in Quincy, IL, and with onsite security at the ethanol plant. According to local historians, it is believed this was only the third visit to the Troop B area by a sitting United States president.

In July, troopers helped evacuate several Hannibal residents from their homes during a flood. Troopers also helped assisting displaced residents seeking temporary shelter.

On November 15, 2010, 18 area residents completed a community alliance program offered at the Troop B Headquarters in Macon.

Governor Jeremiah "Jay" Nixon presented a Missouri Valor Award to Sergeant Timmy D. "Tim" Shoop for his efforts in rescuing a subject who was trapped in a submerged vehicle in the Chariton River. He also accepted the Patrol's Meritorious Service Award for this incident.

In 2011, in accordance with House Bill 1868, which merged the Missouri State Water Patrol with the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Troop B welcomed four officers. Each of the former Water Patrol officers were sworn in as Missouri State Troopers at the Monroe County Courthouse by Judge Michael Wilson in late December 2010.

On February 1, 2011, a record setting snowfall with severe blizzard conditions hit Missouri. By February 2, 2011, portions of Troop B had received 17.5 inches of snow, with drifts that reached well over four feet high. The blizzard was documented as being the worst since 1973. Troopers in the Troop B area were faced with the challenges of providing safety to citizens in northeast Missouri. However, due to early warnings and advance preparations made by the Patrol, Troop B had only one report of a citizen who received a serious weather-related injury and one traffic crash that resulted in three injuries. Troopers worked very closely with MoDOT and Missouri National Guard. Troopers worked 12-hour shifts to provide 24-hour coverage to ensure the safety of citizens.

On March 12 and March 19, 2011, Troop B conducted its first Student Alliance Program, which was held at the Troop B Headquarters. Thirty-four area high school students, representing 23 area high schools, attended the two-day program. The program provided an opportunity for interested students to learn more about law enforcement and the Patrol.

In April 2011, construction began on a new 320-foot radio tower at the Troop B Headquarters. The old tower was erected in 1970. The tower was determined to be overloaded and no longer met wind/load specifications, nor would it not meet requirements for future communication upgrades and expansion.

On June 22, 2011, a dedication ceremony and reception took place to dedicate a portion of U.S. Highway 36, 1.7 miles west of the intersection of U.S. 36 and Missouri Route O, in Macon County, as the Missouri State Trooper William Brandt Memorial Highway. Tpr. Brandt was killed in the line of duty on June 12, 1970, when a tornado blew his patrol car into a bridge abutment on U.S. Highway 36, near Bevier, MO.

On July 14, 2011, Trooper Kyle E. Easley, Zone 10, Monroe and Randolph counties, accepted the Traffic Officer of the Year award at the annual L.E.T.S.A.C. conference held at Lake Ozark, MO. Tpr. Easley was chosen for the award for his outstanding work performance, dependability, and leadership abilities. During 2010, Tpr. Easley issued 1,042 citations, made 40 DWI arrests, and issued 2,095 warnings.

On September 1, 2011, Trooper Terry J. Adams was designated as the new Troop B canine officer. Tpr. Adams and his new K9 partner, Justo, trained from September through November, and officially began their Patrol duties together on November 7, 2011.

In March 2012, Troop B implemented a new traffic enforcement program called "Operation S.T.O.P." Operation S.T.O.P. (Stop, Think, Observe, and Proceed) aimed to reduce traffic crashes at intersections having a higher rate of traffic crashes. At many area intersections, serious traffic crashes have occurred as a result of motorists failing to stop at stop signs or failing to yield to other vehicles as they enter the intersecting roadway. During these enforcement operations, a Patrol aircraft is utilized to observe violations. Numerous S.T.O.P. operations have been conducted since the program's inception, and well over 100 traffic summonses have been issued for stop sign and failure to yield violations.

On March 24, 2012, 26 Troop B area high school students, representing 14 high schools, completed the 2012 Troop B Patrol Student Alliance Program. The program was conducted at the Troop B Headquarters on two consecutive Saturdays. This was the second Student Alliance Program conducted at Troop B in as many years.

In April, a media event was held at the Troop B Headquarters to formally introduce Troop B K9 "Justo" and K9 handler Trooper Terry J. Adams. The K9 team officially began their duties on November 7, 2011, and were instrumental in the capture of several criminal suspects, as well conducting many successful drug searches.

Troopers Michael W. Coleman and James P. Johnson were honored and received lifesaving awards at the annual Patrol Awards Ceremony & The MASTERS banquet held on April 14, 2012. Both officers were nominated for the award following their quick actions and ability to perform successful CPR to an unresponsive Marion County resident on November 13, 2011.

During 2012, Troop B officers were involved in several serious incidents and investigations. Some investigations involved coordinating with area, county, and city law enforcement agencies. In March, Troop B officers assisted with the search of a missing six-year-old autistic child in Knox County. Troopers spent the majority of two days assisting in the search. On the second day, members of a Patrol Dive Team discovered the missing child had drowned in an area pond.

In October 2012, Troop B officers assisted the Moberly Police Department, FBI, and the Randolph County Sheriff's Department with the apprehension of two violent criminals in Moberly. During this incident, a Patrol SWAT team was activated, and the suspects were taken into custody safely. Both instances are examples of the good working relationship between Troop B and area law enforcement agencies, which strengthens its efforts to promote safety for those who live in the area.

On November 12, 2012, 19 Troop B citizens completed their participation in the 2012 Troop B Community Alliance Program. This marked the eighth program of this type conducted in Troop B since 2001. During the 10-week program, participants were exposed to many facets of the Patrol including recruit training, firearms, criminal investigations, and traffic enforcement.

In 2013, in an effort to efficiently utilize space at the Troop B complex, Troop B Building and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor Roy D. Barton and Building and Grounds Maintenance II J. Todd Davis completely renovated the old radio transmitter building on the east side of the Troop B Headquarters to create office space for investigators assigned to DDCC. The renovation and subsequent shift in office spaces allowed for improved employee work areas and enabled the troop to set aside much needed space for a small conference room on the main floor of the troop headquarters building.

During the month of March, 29 area high school students representing 17 high schools completed a two-day Student Alliance Program at the Troop B Headquarters. This was the third such program conducted in Troop B since 2011.

In the evening hours of March 31, 2013, two area men began a crime spree in Macon and Moberly that left an elderly Moberly woman dead, and two other Randolph County citizens injured from gunshot wounds. Due to the fact the crimes occurred in multiple jurisdictions, Troop B officers joined forces with DDCC, FBI, the Macon Police Department, Moberly Police Department, and the Randolph County Sheriff's Department and swiftly took the two males suspects into custody.

On April 8, 2013, USDA Rural Development Director Janie Dunning presented Sergeant Nicholas D. Berry and Corporal Kyle E. Easley with certificates of appreciation for their acts of heroism and bravery on February 1, 2013, when they rescued elderly residents from a burning senior center in Cairo. Sgt. Berry and Cpl. Easley were also named April 2013 DPS Employees of the Month, for their quick actions.

On April 13, 2013, Building & Grounds Maintenance Supervisor Barton was honored at the Patrol's annual awards banquet as the 2012 recipient of the Civilian of the Year. In recent years, Mr. Barton completed a number of remodeling and major construction projects at Troop B which better utilized office space and created a more productive work environment. Mr. Barton retired later that year.

On October 11, 2013, Troop B hosted an informational meeting with area county sheriffs and police chiefs. During the meeting, Troop B staff and personnel discussed available Patrol resources and policies. At the conclusion of the meeting, sheriffs and police chiefs were given an opportunity to view a Patrol Bearcat (armored vehicle) and SWAT equipment. One of the highlights of the day was the Patrol helicopter static rescue line demonstrations. Lewis County Sheriff David Parrish, Randolph County Sheriff Mark Nichols, and Macon Police Chief Steve Olinger volunteered to be "rescued" from the top of the troop headquarters building as a part of those demonstrations.

On November 11, 2013, 19 Troop B area residents completed a 10-week Community Alliance Program. This was the ninth program of its type conducted at Troop B since 2001. Members of the class met at the Troop B Headquarters for 10 consecutive Monday evenings and received classroom and practical instruction on various Patrol related topics.

On April 1, 2014, troopers were called to investigate a bus crash in Lewis County, on Route C, north of Ewing, MO. An investigation determined that a Lewis County C-1 School bus had traveled off the roadway and overturned. As a result of the crash, 31 passengers were transported to various area hospitals with minor to serious injuries.

On July 21, 2014, retired Sergeant Jeff C. Creech and Trooper Steve R. Peterson were recognized as the July 2014 DPS Employees of the Month at General Headquarters. These officers were recognized for their heroic efforts on

May 11, 2014, when they safely rescued the occupants of a vehicle which had become disabled in raging flood waters. The incident occurred at a low water crossing on Spencer Creek in Ralls County.

On September 30, 2014, Troop B Public Information and Education Officer (PIEO) Sergeant Brent J. Bernhardt was presented the statewide Lay Down the Law Award at the 2014 Blueprint for Safer Roadways Conference held in St. Louis. Sgt. Bernhardt was recognized for his dedication and passion for traffic safety, and for the numerous presentations he made during his tenure as the Troop B PIEO.

On April 20, 2015, a newly constructed commercial driver's license supersite, located on Ready Mix Road in Hannibal opened. The new testing facility and 90,000 square foot concrete testing pad accommodated all driver's license testing, including commercial driver's license written and skills testing. The new facility provided easy access and an overall better quality testing environment for Missouri drivers. On May 29, 2015, an open house was held to celebrate the opening of the new facility.

During the weekend on June 26, 2015, Troop B received torrential rains which caused flooding to many areas. During the weekend, marine operations officer Corporal Darren P. Mueller, assisted by local zone officers, made two dangerous water rescues. One of the rescues involved the evacuation of an elderly Shelby County resident as flood waters were rapidly rising toward her home. Another swiftwater rescue was made on a Macon County gravel road when two individuals became stranded after driving their vehicle in a flooded area.

On March 26, 2016, 23 Troop B area high school students representing 14 high schools completed the 2016 Troop B Student Alliance Program. This was the sixth student alliance program conducted at Troop B in as many years.

On August 31, 2016, Corporal Easley of Moberly, received the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorney's DWI Hero of the Year Award. The award was presented to Cpl. Easley at the association's annual awards banquet held at the Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, MO. Randolph County Prosecuting Attorney Mike Fusselman nominated Cpl. Easley for the award for his commitment to finding and apprehending impaired drivers. In the past two years, Cpl. Easley made approximately 15-20 percent of the total DWI arrests in Randolph County.

On November 3, 2016, Troop B hosted a luncheon for retirees to commemorate the 85th anniversary of the Patrol at Ugo's Pizza in Bevier, MO. Captain Wilt made a presentation on Patrol history as well as new happenings within the Patrol. A special anniversary video made by Colonel J. Bret Johnson was shown. Lieutenant Eric Gottman gave a short presentation regarding the Patrols response to Ferguson, MO.

On November 14, 2016, 20 Troop B citizens completed the 2016 Troop B Community Alliance Program. This marked the 12th program of this type conducted in Troop B since 2001.

On March 25, 2017, 24 Troop B area high school students representing 16 high schools completed the 2017 Troop B Student Alliance Program. This was the seventh such program conducted at Troop B in as many years.

On April 29, 2017, Corporal Easley and Trooper David L. Gipson each received a lifesaving award at the 2017 Masters Banquet and Patrol Awards Ceremony. Cpl. Easley and Tpr. Gipson were nominated for the award following an officer-involved shooting involving deputies from the Randolph County Sheriff's Office. The officers used their first responder training to provide the suspect with lifesaving medical care until the arrival of emergency medical services.

From September 15-22, 2017, the Troop B Mobile Field Force was assigned to the civil unrest detail in St. Louis after the verdict in the Officer Jason Shockley case. Lieutenant Erik A. Gottman supervised the Mobile Field Force detail. The officers assigned to the detail were responsible for ensuring the interstate highways were not shut down by protesters and assisted the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department officers as needed. The officers' training, experience, and professionalism led to a successful detail.

In February 2017, Sergeant Eric F. Brown became the Troop B PIEO. In October 2017, Corporal Adams' K9 partner, Justo, retired. K9 Bady successfully completed training and began serving the Troop B area with Cpl. Adams. In November 2017, Deb S. Clema became Troop B's chief driver examiner.

During 2017, Troop B members were assigned to several details inside and outside Troop B. Officers were assigned to Governor Eric Greitens' Inauguration, the 2017 solar eclipse, Hells Angels rally, President Donald Trump's visit to Springfield, and to flood details in southeast areas of the state.

On March 10, 2018, 16 Troop B area high school students, representing 15 high schools, completed the 2018 Troop B Student Alliance Program. This was the 8th Student Alliance Program held at Troop B.

On April 3, 2018, Trooper Christopher R. Kottwitz, along with troopers from across the state, received a work recognition award. Colonel Sandra K. Karsten presented the Top Enforcer awards at a luncheon held at General Headquarters in Jefferson City. Tpr. Kottwitz received the award for having 232 drug arrests in 2017.

On April 28, 2018, two Troop B employees received awards at the annual The MASTERS' banquet and Patrol Awards Ceremony. Trooper Michael L. Bradley received The MASTERS Public Service Award and Trooper William J. Crose earned the Lifesaving award. Tpr. Crose received the award for actions he took at a traffic crash while off-duty.

On November 12, 2018, 18 people completed the 14th Troop B Community Alliance program. Participants heard presentations from each division in Troop B. They also participated in hands-on activities, such as, stop and approach, shooting on the indoor range, and riding along with troopers.

On November 13, 2018, Troop B, with the assistance of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Missouri State Park Rangers, and members of multiple Monroe County first responder agencies began an extensive search for missing St. Louis ballerina Rafaella Maria Stroik. Stroik was found deceased floating in Mark Twain Lake on November 14, 2018, by a private plane pilot. The case garnered national news media attention.

Capt. Wilt retired effective August 1, 2020. Lt. Gottman was promoted to captain on August 1, 2020, and designated commander of Troop B.

On April 7, 2020, Troopers Trent J. Haley, Riley D. Johnson, and Christopher R. Kottwitz, along with troopers from across the state, received work recognition awards for 2019. Tpr. Haley was recognized for having 37 felony arrests, Tpr. Johnson was recognized for having 251 drug arrests, and Tpr. Kottwitz was recognized for having 193 drug arrests.

In 2020, Assistant Radio Chief Operator Dena Applebury was promoted to chief radio operator.

Sergeant Nicholas D. Berry received the November 2020 DPS Employee of the Month award. He was recognized for exceeding 1,000 DWI arrests in his career.

At approximately 10:11 p.m. on Monday, February 8, 2021, troopers responded to the scene of a single-engine Cessna 177 crash in a remote area about a mile southeast of Galt, MO. A father and son died in the crash. Preliminary information from the FAA stated the aircraft attempted an emergency landing in a field and struck a tree on its way down.

On May 21, 2021, Corporal Easley was assisting the Randolph County Sheriff's Office and members of the Patrol with a domestic assault investigation. An intoxicated, suicidal male barricaded himself inside his vehicle. The officers heard a gunshot and saw that the man had stopped moving. Cpl. Easley and the deputies entered the vehicle and secured the firearm. Cpl. Easley assessed the subject and found he had a self-inflicted gunshot wound to his chest. The subject had a pulse but was in respiratory distress due to a sucking chest wound. Cpl. Easley removed the injured male from the vehicle and laid him on the ground. He removed a chest seal from his personal medical kit located on his ceramic plate carrier. When the amount of blood from the wound interfered with the first chest seal, he and the deputies cleaned the area, and Cpl. Easley applied a second seal. The man survived his wound. Cpl. Easley was awarded a 2021 Life Saving Award for his actions.

On June 27, 2022, an Amtrak train carrying approximately 289 passengers hit a dump truck on Porche Prairie Avenue near Mendon, MO, and derailed. This crash resulted in four fatalities and over 100 injuries. Multiple agencies and the community responded to the scene to assist. Sergeant Timmy D. Shoop overheard the radio traffic and immediately responded to the scene. He climbed down inside a hot, heavily occupied rail car, helping to calm the passengers. Some of the injured passengers were incapable of climbing out of the rail car. Thus, Sgt. Shoop cleared a path for a ladder to be inserted through a window and assisted passengers in climbing up and out. He remained inside the rail car until only one crew member was left. This gentleman had suffered severe injuries, and his arm was pinned under the train. Sgt. Shoop helped the gentleman remain calm until emergency personnel were able to free his arm. Sgt. Shoop remained by the man's side and helped lift the patient, ensured he remained level on a long spine board, and climbed his way out of the car. After the injured man was removed from the rail car, Sgt. Shoop went from car to car ensuring all passengers were out and accounted for. Passengers not transported to the hospital were taken to a nearby school, which quickly became an emergency operations center. Sgt. Shoop became the liaison between the Patrol, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), and the school, ensuring everyone's needs were met. Once the NTSB was prepared for the crashed rail cars to be removed, Sgt. Shoop was placed in charge of escorting the over-dimension loads safely by highway to their final destination. Sgt. Shoop accepted a Meritorious Service Award for his actions at the annual awards banquet in 2023.

At approximately 7:55 a.m. on January 20, 2023, Troop B officers were requested to assist the Chariton County Sheriff's Department with an attempted residential burglary that occurred on Grand Street south of Keytesville, MO. During the investigation, one subject was found deceased, and two homeowners were injured from gunshots. The Chariton County Sheriff requested Troop B DDCC Unit investigate the incident. During the investigation an adult male and female were arrested for second degree murder and felony drug charges. Both individuals were found guilty and sentenced to prison.

On May 6, 2023, officers responded to the Linneus, MO, area in Linn County to a confirmed tornado. The same storm continued east into Macon County. Due to proximity of the storm to Troop B Headquarters, radio and phone traffic for Troop B was assumed by Troop H until the storm passed. Officers in Linn County assisted with cleanup and traffic in the affected areas. Residents were without power and several structures and residences sustained damage. Only one minor injury was reported.

At 3:04 p.m. on May 21, 2023, Troop B officers responded to a fatal crash involving a Norfolk Southern train and a tractor trailer on U.S. Highway 24 east of Madison, MO. The driver of the tractor trailer was deceased, and the train had derailed. The train was hauling ballast rock and herbicide; no one aboard was injured.

On May 17, 2023, at the Moberly Optimist Club Respect for Law Enforcement banquet, Trooper Cole T. Hinshaw was honored as the Moberly Optimist Club's Officer of the Year for the Patrol.

On August 4, 2023, Troop B officers responded to the area of Baring, MO, in Knox County to assist with reports of residents who were trapped in their homes due to storm damage caused by a tornado. There were downed power lines, debris in the roadway, and over 30 people displaced from their homes. Only minor injuries were reported.

On September 10, 2023, the Moberly Police Department reported a small, downed aircraft on Randolph County Road 2310. Officers arrived at the scene of the plane crash and advised there were two occupants. The NTSB and FAA were notified. Neither the pilot nor the passenger was injured in the crash. It is suspected the plane ran out of fuel.

On September 15, 2023, Trooper Tyler C. Fuller, was traveling south on U.S. Highway 63 in Macon County, when he observed a box truck drive out of a cornfield. The vehicle drove across the northbound and southbound lanes of U.S. 63 and came to rest in the ditch. The truck's passenger exited, ran around to the driver’s side, removed the driver, and placed him on the ground. Tpr. Fuller stopped and rushed to their location and learned the driver had lost consciousness while driving. Tpr. Fuller assessed the man and found he did not have a pulse and was not breathing. Thus, he performed one cycle of CPR. The driver regained consciousness and was placed in the recovery position. Tpr. Fuller spoke to him and kept him calm until an ambulance arrived and treated him. Tpr. Fuller accepted a Lifesaving Award at the 2024 awards banquet for his actions.

On March 25, 2025, Troop B received a stolen vehicle response from a license plate reader located at northbound US 63 at MO 22. Sergeant Kyle E. Easley responded to the area and located the vehicle on US 63 at Route M. The vehicle then fled eastbound on Route EE. Master Sergeant Easley pursued the vehicle eastbound for several miles until the vehicle left the roadway and went into a pond. A male occupant fled the scene southbound on foot and a female occupant was taken into custody without incident. Multiple officers from multiple agencies assisted at the scene with a perimeter. Trooper Kurtis A. Hurley responded to the scene with a drone and was able to locate the subject. The subject was taken into custody without incident.

On March 31, 2025, Troop B Radio was advised of an emergency, precautionary landing of an Air-Evac helicopter into a field east of Moberly. Trooper Dustin W. Harrison arrived on scene and reported no damage to the helicopter. Additionally, there were no injuries to the crew or patient from the incident. The helicopter had 3 crew members on board and was transporting a patient from Memphis, MO, to Boone Hospital in Columbia.

On April 5, 2025, at the annual MASTERS Banquet/MSHP Awards Ceremony, Troop B had five members recognized. Sergeant John R. Henry, Corporal Brett D. Tappendorf, Trooper Kristopher B. “Blake” Geren, and Trooper Peter D. Hummel. They all received the Meritorious Service Award. Master Sergeant Keegan E. Kindle and Corporal Christopher R. Kottwitz received the Lifesaving Award.

On April 20, 2025, Patrol was requested by the Ralls County Sheriff’s Office to assist with a barricaded male subject in the area of Route H. Preliminary information received by law enforcement stated a male subject armed with a knife, had violated an ex parte order, and barricaded himself, along with a female subject, in a residence. Negotiators were requested and began communication with the male subject. After several hours of negotiations and concerns for the female subject’s wellbeing, officers made entry into the residence where both subjects were taken into custody without incident.

On May 15, 2025, Sergeant Graydon L. Gaines, Corporal Christopher R. Kottwitz, Trooper Colin E. Osborne, Trooper Cody J. Snyder, and Trooper Travis M. Wood were recognized at the 2025 MADD “Heroes for Heroes” Awards Banquet for their excellent work in removing intoxicated drivers from Missouri roadways.

On October 12, 2025, investigators with DDCC and Operation Relentless Pursuit (ORP) Officers were requested to assist the Ralls County Sheriff's Office with a homicide investigation. Law enforcement personnel arrived at a residence in Paris to contact a person of interest. While law enforcement officers were inside the residence, they encountered an adult male hiding behind a door. The male subject fired at officers, striking a Randolph County Deputy who was assigned to ORP. Trooper Dustin W. Harrison and the deputy returned fire before exiting the residence while the male subject remained inside the residence. DDCC Investigator Sergeant Derrick R. Powell transported the deputy from the scene to a location where the deputy was airlifted to an area hospital for medical treatment.

At approximately 2:00 p.m., the Moberly Police Department's Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) responded to the scene and attempted to contact the subject inside the residence. At approximately 4:50 p.m., SWAT officers entered the residence and advised the male subject was deceased.

On December 10, 2025, Troop B was notified of a capsized boat with three occupants, who were duck hunting, on Hazel Creek Lake north of Kirksville. Upon officers' arrival, two subjects were located and rescued from the water. One subject was conscious while the other was unconscious. One subject was still unaccounted for. The two subjects rescued from the water were transported from the scene by ambulance. Rescue personnel continued location efforts for the unaccounted-for subject. Personnel were later notified that one of the recovered subjects had been pronounced deceased. At approximately 4:50

p.m., rescue operations were called for the day, and were set to resume the following day at 8:00 a.m. On December 11, 2025, at approximately 10:30 a.m., recovery of the unaccounted-for subject was made.

In 2025, three new troopers were assigned to Troop B. On July 7, 2025, Trooper Tucker G. Hilliard was assigned to Zone 8, Marion and Ralls Counties, Trooper Tyler L. Davis was assigned to Zone 10, Randolph and Monroe Counties, and Trooper Dakota L. Little was assigned to Zone 11, Randolph and Monroe Counties. Troop B also had one internal transfer. Trooper Jorden R. Billings transferred from Zone 3, Linn and Chariton Counties to Zone 8, Marion and Ralls Counties.

In 2025, Troop B had the following promotions. On June 1, 2025, Trooper Christopher R. Kottwitz was promoted to corporal in Zone 5, Adair and Schuyler Counties, Trooper Ty B. Smith was promoted to corporal in Zone 7, Knox and Lewis Counties, and Trooper Taylor K. Leftwich was promoted to corporal in Zone 8, Marion and Ralls Counties.

On December 16, 2025, Corporal Cary F. Porter was promoted to master sergeant in Zone 8, Marion and Ralls Counties, and Corporal Matthew J. Lewis was promoted to sergeant and remained in his current assignment as the Property Control Supervisor.

During 2025, Troop B members made 444 driving while intoxicated arrests and 156 drug arrests. There were 26 traffic fatalities, 3 boating fatalities, and 0 drownings.

From its humble beginning in 1931, Troop B has grown in size as well as assignment and responsibility. The task of traffic and criminal law enforcement is accomplished with tools unheard of in 1931. Those nine original members would have been amazed at such law enforcement instruments as radar, breathalyzers, polygraphs, fingerprint comparators, computers, radios, etc. But, with the simple tools available, their hands, wits, and raw courage, they carved a quick, but well-deserved reputation of efficiency, effectiveness, and fairness with the public, which future members will enjoy for years to come.

The many officers who have served in Troop B, through their years of dedicated and professional service, have won the respect of the citizens of northeast Missouri. Theirs is a proud history, which, for more than half a century, has been so deeply entwined with the history of the area they have become inseparable.