Troop F History



Troop F Ultimate Sacrifice



Sergeant Benjamin O. Booth
June 14, 1933



Trooper Jesse R. Jenkins
October 14, 1969



Trooper Dennis H. Marriott
June 13, 1981



Trooper James M. Bava
August 28, 2015

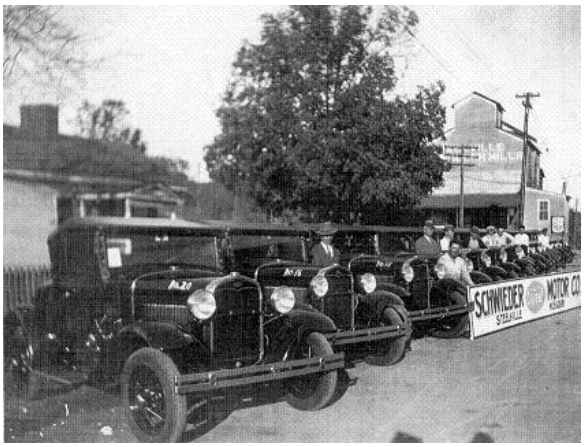
The Creation

Many efforts were made between 1923 and 1931 to establish a traffic regulatory agency with statewide jurisdiction or a state police agency. Several bills were introduced in the legislature, but they all failed. Two bills were introduced in the legislature in 1931, one calling for a state patrol and the other for a state police agency. Organized labor was opposed to a state police agency, fearing the new agency would be used to break strikes as had been done in other states, but did not oppose one whose primary jurisdiction would be motor vehicle enforcement. County sheriff's departments feared state police would infringe on their authority and center around enforcing the Prohibition Act.



Because of these concerns, the bill creating a state police agency was given very little consideration. Senate Bill 36, establishing a state patrol, was approved by the legislature after several amendments and sent to the governor's office on April 23, 1931. Governor Henry Caulfield signed the bill into law on April 24, 1931, creating the Missouri State Highway Patrol. The law became effective on September 14, 1931.

Senate Bill 36 authorized a superintendent, 10 captains, and 115 patrolmen who would be assigned to one of six troops (due to funding issues, only a superintendent and 55 men were chosen). The six troops and their headquarters were Troop A, Kansas City; Troop B, Macon; Troop C, Kirkwood; Troop D, Joplin; Troop E, Sikeston; and Troop F or the Headquarters Troop, Jefferson City. A captain was placed in charge of each troop. The captain serving in Jefferson City was not only the commander of the Headquarters Troop, but was also the executive officer, or second in command, for the entire department.



The motor vehicle fleet consisted of 36 Model A Ford Roadsters (costing $413.18 each), a Ford sedan, a Plymouth sedan, an Oldsmobile, a Buick, three Chevrolets, as well as 12 Harley Davidson, three Indian, and two Henderson motorcycles.

The first patrol cars purchased from Schwieder Ford in Steeleville in 1931.

1930s

Troop F, or Headquarters Troop, was formed in 1931 as one of the six original troops. It was located in two small rooms of the Missouri Capitol building in Jefferson City. The troop consisted of 11 counties and eight officers. Captain Lewis M. Means was appointed as Troop F's first commanding officer on November 24, 1931, and served until April 30, 1933. Other officers assigned to the troop were Sergeants Lewis B. Howard and Benjamin O. Booth, and Troopers Harry Hansen, Ray Cushman, Jim McCann, Paul Burge, and Gilbert Fowler.

Trooper Herbert Brigham was appointed to the Patrol on April 4, 1932. He was in a recruit class of ... one. After two weeks of training, he was assigned to Headquarters Troop. "At that time there was no records division, no fingerprint division, and, of course, there were no radios in the cars, so most of our orders came by phone," said retired Lieutenant Herb Brigham in a 1980 interview. "We had no heaters in our Model A roadster patrol cars, but then, they wouldn't have been of much use, anyway, because we were ordered to patrol with the tops down—except in inclement weather when we were allowed to use side curtains. I guess you could say that our entire fleet was air-conditioned. You might wonder what we thought about patrolling in open cars. Well, it was for a good cause. We were visible to the public and it wasn't too bad. Speeds were much lower then: 35 mph was the average for patrolling. Our cars had no sirens and no red lights, but we did have a lighted sign on the dash, which spelled out 'Patrol' when we wanted to stop somebody. And we used hand signals. My area of patrol was down U.S. Highway 54 through the Lake of the Ozarks region, and much of the route was gravel. You can imagine what my uniform looked like at the end of the day. At that time, there were only about 6,000 miles of paved roads in the state".



Sgt. Benjamin O. Booth

On June 14, 1933, Sgt. Booth, an original member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol, was fatally shot at a roadblock in Columbia after having stopped two persons suspected of a Mexico, MO, bank robbery. Sgt. Booth was 35 years old at the time of his death. He was married and had two small children. Also killed in the incident was Boone County Sheriff Roger Wilson, grandfather of future Missouri Governor Roger Wilson. The two murderers escaped after killing Sgt. Booth and Sheriff Wilson. A 17-month investigation by law enforcement officials followed. Finally, Francis McNeily, who was a known outlaw, told officers about shooting Sgt. Booth and Sheriff Wilson and implicated George McKeever. McKeever was located in the South Dakota State Penitentiary. McNeily was convicted of killing Sheriff Wilson and received a penitentiary sentence. McKeever was convicted of murdering Sgt. Booth and was hanged in Fulton, MO, on December 18, 1936. Neither McNeily nor McKeever was involved in the Mexico bank robbery. Sgt. Ben Booth was the first member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol to

be killed in the line of duty. He was survived by his wife, a 7-year-old daughter, Alice, and an 8-year-old son, Wesley.

Captain L.B. Howard became the new troop commander on May 1, 1933. That year, two radio stations, the state owned Watch Our State (WOS) in Jefferson City and KFRU in Columbia, were used to broadcast messages to road patrolmen. Also, that year the state legislature transferred WOS to the Patrol.

Headquarters Troop officially became known as Troop F on February 1, 1935. Dent, Laclede, Phelps, and Pulaski counties were added to Troop F. The troop now consisted of eight officers assigned to 15 counties in central Missouri.

Captain L.E. Eslick became Troop F's third commander on June 20, 1935, and served until March 24, 1940. He is credited with the design of the emblem on the shoulder patch and choice of the motto “Service and Protection”.

On December 22, 1937, Troop F officers started transmitting from KHPF. The future home of Troop F was one of six identical buildings constructed in 1937. In December 1938, Troop F Headquarters was relocated to McCarty Street in Jefferson City. The new building covered 792 square feet and was the first troop to house the Communications Division. The Communications Division and radio shop were staffed with 14 men.

In 1939, The University of Missouri football detail started in Columbia, MO, with 20 officers. Troops A, B, C, and F each sent five officers. In 1970, the detail had grown to a total of 75 men. In 2005, the Patrol used 37 officers on the outside detail to direct traffic and an additional 12 officers who assisted with security inside the stadium. In 2015, the Patrol utilized 40 officers on outside detail and 25 inside the stadium. This detail, other than the annual Missouri State Fair, is one of the largest assignments performed each year.

In October and November 1939, 52 recruits were trained for six weeks at Camp Hawthorne near Kaiser, MO. A 4.5 x 7-inch, black leather, loose-leaf notebook containing 48 pages, entitled ‘Rules and Regulations’ was issued to each recruit. The men were housed four to a small cabin. It was cold and there was no heat, except from a fireplace in the classroom. The only running water was cold and came from a single spigot in the latrine. When they graduated, the Patrol reached its authorized strength of 175 officers.

1940s

On December 22, 1941, a training school started at the Pete James Gymnasium in Jefferson City. Most of the 21 recruits who graduated six weeks later replaced troopers who were called into military service for World War II. Also, 12 recruits completed six weeks of training at Jefferson City High School on September 4, 1943.

Robert “Nookie” Lee was hired in 1943, as a weight inspector at the scale house in Kingdom City. “Facilities were primitive then in the weigh station, which was a little bitty building. I sat on a milk stool until I scrounged up a barber chair, but they made me take it out. They were afraid I was cutting hair on the side, I guess,” said Lee in a 1980 interview. “Later I located some secondhand cane-bottomed chairs and a rocker or two, repaired them at home, and put them in the scale house. We had a radio receiver, but no transmitter, so whenever I had to call Troop F Headquarters in Jefferson City, I used the telephone. Of course, filing cabinets were unheard of. What few papers and books were needed, we stored in pasteboard boxes and orange crates. There was no inside plumbing, either.”

“When I started, trucks weren’t even required to have brake lights and you should have seen the taillights. Big trucks would be going down the road with one little taillight about the size of the clearance lights on the cabs of today’s trucks. I encouraged the drivers to install more lights,” said Lee. “One winter night [Sergeant] Pappy Dix and I were sitting in front of the scales when a tractor-trailer pulled onto the scale platform. The rig was covered with ice and snow and his gross weight was about 6,000 pounds too heavy.

“My God, look here, Sarge,” I said.

Dix chewed on his pipe a few seconds and studied the scale reading. “Pretty heavy, isn’t he?” he drawled.

I told the driver to pull over and come inside. “Fellow, your truck is terribly overweight,” I said.

He looked shocked. Then he said, politely, “I can’t buy that.” He handed me a weight ticket from Alabama where he’d loaded his cargo. The ticket showed his truck weight as considerably less than I had weighed it. In fact, if the figures on the ticket were true, he was legal in Missouri.

“I’m sorry. All I can go by is what I’ve weighed you at, and you’re over by plenty,” I said.

“Did you take into consideration the amount of ice that’s accumulated on the truck?” he asked.

“There’s no way I could do that without knocking it off and reweighing you. But, even so, I can’t believe you could have that much ice on your truck.”

“Would you give me the opportunity to dig the slush off and reweigh?” said the driver.

I turned to Sgt. Dix. “What do you think, Sarge?” He nodded his OK.

The truck driver walked across the highway to Don Tenney’s truck stop, borrowed a sledgehammer and wrecking bar, and went to work banging and prying that ice off the

truck. It was encrusted underneath, on top, and on the sides. We sat there in the scale house and chuckled over his efforts, but the pile of ice grew until the stuff was heaped all around his rig. It looked like somebody had cleaned out a stock rack.

“I’m ready to reweigh now,” the driver announced finally.

"He pulled onto the platform and Dix and I couldn’t believe our eyes. The truck weighed 200 or 300 pounds less than it had in Alabama. The fellow had been hauling about three tons of ice and snow on the outside of his truck! 'Well, Sarge, I’ve learned something tonight,' I told Pappy. From then on, when we had winter storms and the trucks started building up accumulations of ice and slush, I closed the scales.”



A Missouri weigh station in 1942.

In 1943, due to the manpower shortage during World War II, several women were employed as radio operators in the troops, and the title of “radio dispatcher” was created. Four members were given this title and transferred to the control station KHPF in Jefferson City (pictured below are Doris Jean Pinnel and Ruth Arlene Boddy working at a radio console in 1943).



An experimental FM transmitter was installed at Troop F, under authority of the Federal Communication Commission, to determine if higher power was justified for police radio/telephone channels. All patrol cars were equipped with new radios allowing not only car-to-fixed station communication, but car-to-car. This proved to be worthwhile technological achievement—troopers could now maintain direct contact with each other during manhunts. Also, troopers could now request license checks. The reply to a license check required from 30

minutes to an hour, because records had to be checked manually at the Capitol. The results were reported back by teletype.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol often participates in interesting events. One event that became historical occurred on March 5, 1946, when U.S. President Harry S. Truman and England's Prime Minister Winston Churchill were escorted to Fulton from the Jefferson City train depot, then back. Mr. Churchill held up his right hand forming the famous "V" salute and delivered his historic Iron Curtain speech at Westminster College. The speech became one of the most famous of the century.



1950s

During 1953 and 1954 there was a rash of prison riots across the United States. Fearing the Missouri system was ripe for an outbreak as well, Governor Phil Donnelly directed the Patrol to draft a plan to respond to such an event. The Patrol did so and trained its officers to respond.

Around 6:30 p.m. on September 22, 1954, two inmates feigned an illness to attract the attention of two guards. Once the guards entered the hall to investigate, they were overpowered and their keys were taken. One guard was severely beaten. The two inmates then exited their cell and ran along the cellblock releasing other inmates as they went. Soon, a large group of inmates were running loose, releasing other inmates as they raced around the compound. One group of inmates entered the dining hall, smashing windows and chairs. In the prison shops, anything flammable was set afire.



By 11:30 p.m., 265 patrolmen in 202 cars had arrived at the penitentiary without casualty, except for a few damaged car engines. By mid-morning the next day, there were approximately 2,000 peace officers and national guardsman on duty at the prison. During the riot, five buildings were destroyed and two others partially destroyed. Three inmates were killed and 21 wounded by gunfire. Inmates with a grudge murdered another inmate, and 29 were injured during the riot. The damage to the prison was estimated to be as high as $5 million. Several prisoners told the press that one of the major causes of the riot had been their dissatisfaction with the newly appointed Parole Board. Three members had been appointed weeks before the riot, and all three were former members of the Patrol. The inmates claimed the former troopers would not be impartial when the time came for parole consideration. Several newspaper accounts list guard brutality, cruel and unusual punishments, shoddy clothing, and inadequate or poorly prepared food as additional reasons the riot occurred.

On October 23, 1954, a second riot at the penitentiary in Jefferson City occurred. The second riot was less severe. One inmate was killed by gunfire and seven injured by authorities. Twenty-two individuals were injured fighting with fellow inmates.

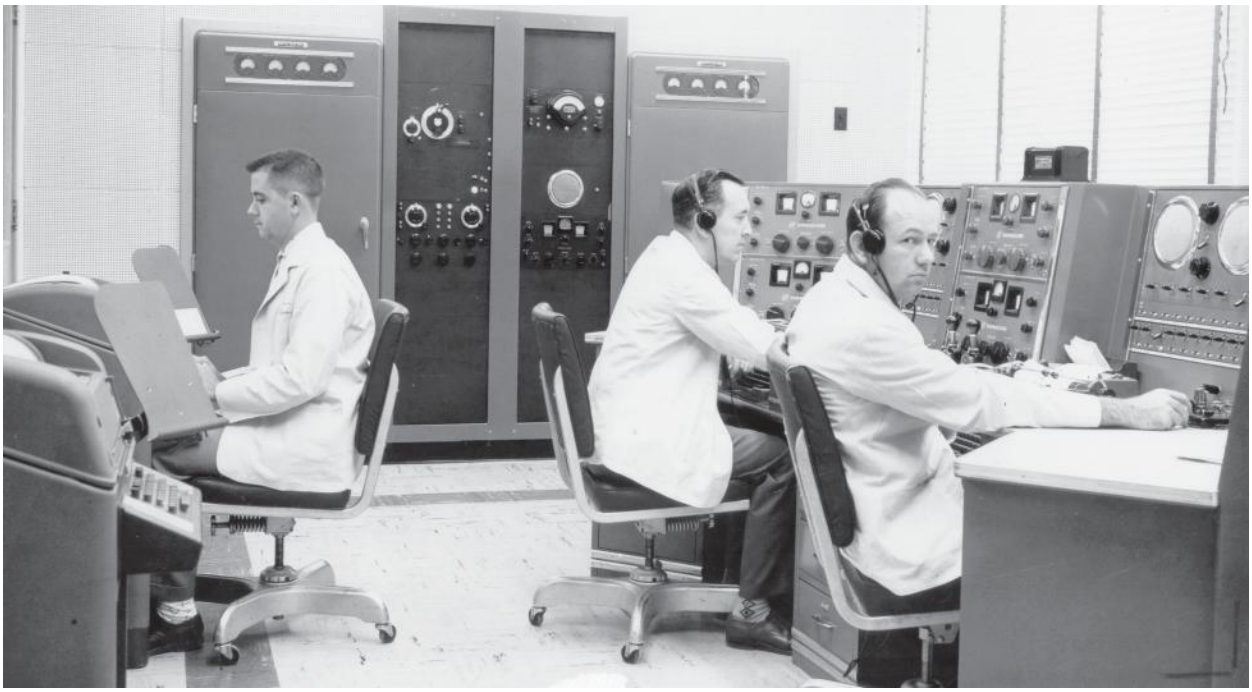
In January 1955, a Patrol garage for the installation of special car equipment and minor car maintenance was opened behind Troop F Headquarters. On July 1, 1955, Camden County was transferred from Troop I to Troop F.

The 25th anniversary of the Patrol saw eight recruits complete their training at Troop F on October 21, 1956. The Patrol had grown in manpower from 55 officers and a handful of clerical personnel in 1931, to 355 officers and 233 civilian employees in 1956. The Patrol started a new program in its fleet operations. Bids were taken for 400 cars to be delivered the following year. The vehicles would be replaced at 25,000 miles. Prior to this, the cars were driven 65,000 miles or more before being replaced. A Dodge dealer in Columbia, MO, was awarded the contract.

Trooper Ralph Rider transferred to Troop F, Jefferson City, in 1956. He had this to say during a 2005 interview, “When I arrived in Camden County there were five officers in the county—the sheriff, one deputy, Camdenton city marshal, state conservation agent, and me. I worked night and day. At this time, in communities like this, there were not many opportunities to work together. Either you did it or it didn’t get done. That’s about the size of it. The sheriff’s office was very sparsely staffed and only during the daytime; city police officers were very few, also. So, you just had to do it. My phone number has always been in the public book. People called me at home a lot. I always have felt strongly about taking part in the community and making it better”.

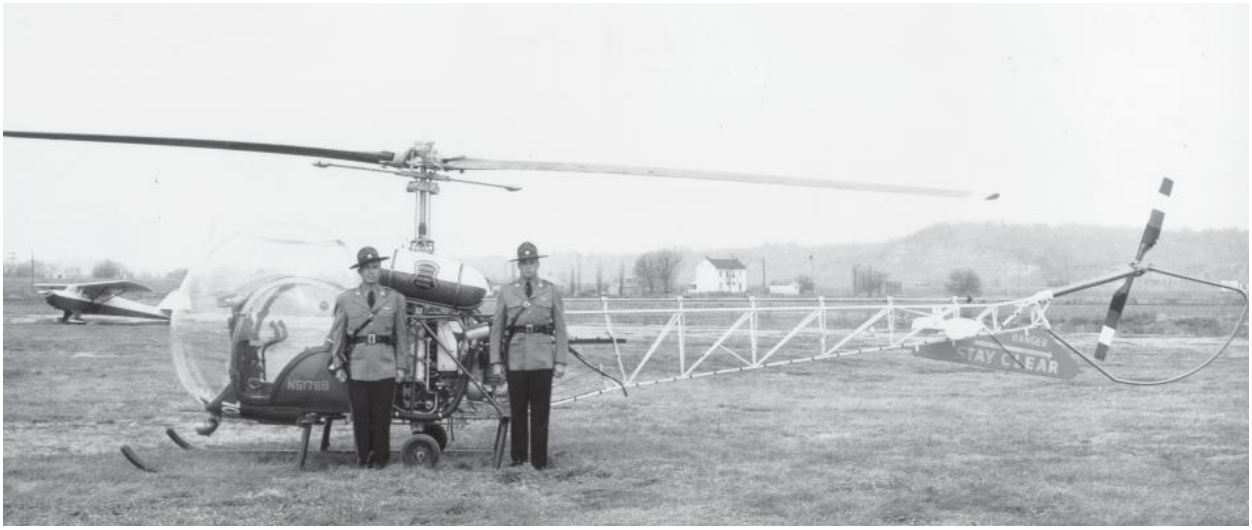
On April 25, 1957, four officers were using the Patrol’s first radar unit to check buses and trucks on U.S. Highway 40, three miles west of Columbia when they observed an eastbound Cadillac without lights, bearing Colorado plates, following another car very closely. Trooper George Grazier pursued the car and signaled the driver to stop in Columbia. While Tpr. Grazier was questioning the violator regarding car ownership and looking at the motor number on the left doorpost, the man reached under the driver’s seat and brought out a .22-caliber automatic pistol. He commanded Tpr. Grazier to get into the driver’s seat and then placed himself in the right rear seat. Directing Tpr. Grazier to drive several blocks, he informed the trooper he was not going to kill him but instead was going to kill himself. Tpr. Grazier heard a shot and found that the subject had shot himself. He died in a hospital a short time later. He was wanted for a jailbreak in Nebraska.

In September 1957, communications personnel were given a uniform allowance and notified that they would be required to wear a uniform.



Troop F Radio Room in 1957.

The Highway Patrol purchased its first helicopter in 1959, a Bell 47G. This aircraft was operated continuously from 1959 until 1988, accumulating a total of 8,596 hours. Sergeant Bill East was the pilot and the first member to have full time flying duties. The helicopter responded to statewide incidents from the Jefferson City airport. Eventually, N5176B was assigned to Troop C and the tail number was changed to N96MP.



The Patrol's first helicopter, a Bell 47G, in 1959.

Also in 1959, the Patrol contracted for 1959 Dodges from the Chrysler Corporation. This fleet was unique in that for the first time some of the cars were two-door hardtops.



Sergeant John H. Barbour (left) and Sergeant Francis "Bud" Jones in front of a two-door 1959 Dodge patrol car on Missouri Highway 94 outside of Jefferson City.

1960s

February 1, 1960, Commercial Vehicle Inspectors D.L. Hendrix and N.J. Freeman were transferred from Kirkwood to Jefferson City. They were assigned to work throughout the state with a Dodge truck equipped with four scales, ramps, and a three-way radio.



Around October 1961, then Trooper Alvin R. "Al" Lubker (who would later serve as colonel), acquired a Ford Model A Roadster. To commemorate the Patrol's 30th Anniversary, Tpr. Lubker thought it fitting that Major C. Maurice Parker, an original member who was about to retire, recreate his original patrol route in the Roadster.

This same Model A Roadster would become Otto-The Talking Car, making its first appearance at the Missouri State Fair in 1969.

Retired Sergeant Ralph Rider recounted a harrowing experience he had when responding to a call during an interview in 2005. "In 1964, the papers said I was kidnapped, but it was only for about 10 minutes," said retired Sgt. Rider. "Some people

were shooting in this little one horse resort—it had two cabins. The sheriff didn't have anyone to send, so they called the Highway Patrol. When I got there, I found three men. They had a stack of jeans about three feet high that they'd obviously stolen, and they had lots of change. While I was digging through the stack of jeans, I came upon a .38-caliber revolver. I said, 'We better go into the sheriff's office and check on this. We can't check on this on the radio here.' Radio service has improved a lot since. I wanted to get them out of there. So, we started. At that time, once we were in our car, we had to take our revolver out of our holster and put it under our right leg. That way, it didn't show, and we were closer to it than the person we were taking in. The fella right behind me got his arm around my neck and lifted me up. Being an obedient trooper, I had my lap belt on. He got me stretched as far as he could. He yelled to one of the other guys, 'Get his gun!' The man reached for my holster and said, 'He doesn't have one!' But the first guy had me stretched and they found the gun. The second guy handed the gun to the fella behind. I waited wondering, 'What's going to happen now?!'"

"Instead of a loud explosion, there was a hard knock on my forehead, which left a gash requiring 22 stitches to close," explained retired Sgt. Rider. "Being about half bright, and the spirit of survival being very strong, I slumped down and played 'possum. We'd just started to leave, and when he lifted me up, my foot came off the gas and the car stopped. They dragged me out and wrapped me in a fishing seine on the ground. Then, they went back to their cabin and loaded their car. One of them came back to check on me. One asked, 'Is he still breathing?' I was thinking I wanted to live through this, too.

They took my car and drove up a side road a little ways and parked it. They took the ignition wire (from the distributor to the coil). Key or no key, you couldn't get it started. They left. Since they'd come back and checked on me a time or two, I decided I wasn't going to blow this now. I waited until I heard the squirrels. They'd checked on me enough times I was still apprehensive. Finally, I heard a squirrel chattering away. I figured that was a good sign. He wouldn't be out there if they were still around (as an aside, I haven't shot a squirrel since then). I always had a clothes hanger with me. I just stuck it between the coil and the distributor cap and started the car".

Troop F began assigning two officers to security detail at the Governor's Mansion in 1966. The two officers were changed every three months. This practice continued until the permanent formation of the Executive Security Unit in 1973, now known as the Governor's Security Division.

A task force of over 20 troopers was called to the Lincoln University campus in Jefferson City twice in May 1969. The first disturbance involved the occupation of the Student Union by 200 students, who refused to leave until a list of 35 demands were met by the administration. However, the demonstrators left voluntarily when helmeted officers appeared, and an injunction was read ordering them to vacate the premises.

During the latter part of May 1969, violence erupted once more when arson, sniper fire, and vandalism occurred on the campus. The Student Union was partially burned and windows were smashed. Troopers patrolled the campus around the clock for several days until the school term ended.



Trooper Jesse R. Jenkins

Trooper Jesse R. Jenkins, 29, was killed in the line of duty on October 14, 1969, by Robert M. Thomas. Tpr. Jenkins and Montgomery County Sheriff Clarence Landrum had apprehended Thomas and another subject as they attempted to burglarize a radio and television shop in Montgomery City, MO, on the night of October 13. Following a preliminary hearing in magistrate court, Thomas and his accomplice were returned to the sheriff's office. While Sheriff Landrum was answering a telephone call, Thomas pulled the sheriff's .38-caliber pistol from its holster. As Thomas began backing from the room, Tpr. Jenkins drew his service revolver and the two men exchanged shots, inflicting fatal chest wounds to each other. A total of 11 shots were fired, five by Thomas and six by Tpr. Jenkins. No one else in the room at the time was injured. Tpr. Jenkins was a native of Belgrade, MO, and had been a member of the Patrol for two years. His death brought the number of officers killed in the line of duty to eight. Tpr. Jenkins was survived by his wife and two sons.



Funeral procession for Trooper Jenkins

1970s

In the 1970s, Troop F was comprised of 13 counties and seven zones. These zones were watched over by 75 men, eight driver examiners, and six weight inspectors, who were assisted by 12 civilians.

Troop F officers provided escort for the Apollo 11 Command Module and Lunar Rock Sample exhibit trailer as it traveled to Jefferson City. The exhibit was on display from July 17-20, 1971, at the Capitol building. The exhibit included the Command Module, which was operated by Michael Collins, while Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin descended for man's first walk on the Moon's surface. The space suits worn by the astronauts, rock samples gathered by the space men, and photo murals of the Moon's surface were also on display. Astronauts Armstrong, Aldrin, and Collins visited the capital city just one year to the day that man first set foot on the moon.

In April 1979, construction began on the new Troop F Headquarters east of Jefferson City on North Shamrock Road.





Beginning construction of Troop F Headquarters



The Troop F Pistol Team won first place in the 1979 Inter-troop Pistol Match, and took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in individual competition.



Lt. Fred Bergman presents the first-place trophy to Sergeant Green, Troopers J.K. Liley, McGown, S.A. Opperman, and E.M. Raub.



Lt. Bergman presents the 1st place trophy to Trooper M.B. Pace, 2nd place to Trooper J.K. Lilley, and 3rd place to Trooper S.A. Oppermann.

1980s

Troop F Headquarters was moved to its present site two miles east of Jefferson City near the intersection of Shamrock Road and U.S. Highway 50 in August 1980. The old facility was located on McCarty Street in Jefferson City. In March 1981, the 22,400-square foot Patrol Garage and Radio Shop was completed behind Troop F Headquarters. The building included about a dozen bays for vehicle maintenance, drive through car wash, radio shop, offices, and a storage facility. It was the main facility for maintaining the entire fleet of Patrol vehicles.



The Patrol Garage and Radio shop behind Troop F Headquarters

Trooper Dennis H. Marriott, 36, died June 13, 1981, from injuries suffered on June 1 when he was struck by a vehicle after exiting from his patrol car for a traffic stop. The accident occurred on U.S. Highway 54 south in Jefferson City, MO, in Cole County.



Tpr. Dennis H. Marriott

The vehicle that hit Tpr. Marriott stopped momentarily after the incident and then left the scene. The vehicle was stopped a few minutes later by the Jefferson City Police Department, and the female driver was found to be intoxicated and was arrested. This accident was the first involving a member of the Patrol to be reconstructed. The reconstruction and the rest of the investigation was used at trial and the driver was convicted of manslaughter and received a sentence of 10 years in prison.

A native of Columbia, MO, Tpr. Marriott died of his injuries almost two weeks later at the University Medical Center. He was the 11th uniformed member of this agency to lose his life in the line of duty. Tpr. Marriott was survived by his wife and four children.

Open houses were held in 1981 at troop headquarters buildings around the state in observance of the Missouri State Highway Patrol's 50th anniversary.

Troop F officers were kept busy with a variety of special security details:
• Nearly 50 members of the Patrol were assigned to the Governor's Cup Hydroplane Boat Race detail at the Lake of the Ozarks.
• The Olympic Torch traveled through Troop F in June on its way to the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, California. Security for the runners was provided throughout Missouri during their travels.
• In June, approximately 200 members of the Hells Angels met at the Lake of the Ozarks. Members of Troop F provided security to assist the local police and to ensure the safety of the public.
• Over 100 members of the Patrol assisted the United States Secret Service in providing security for President Ronald Reagan during his visit to Columbia, MO, on March 26, 1987. The Patrol was responsible for route security and traffic control, manning the motorcade lead and tail cars, providing helicopter support, and providing a special response team.

On April 19, 1988, Trooper Timothy Selvey, Troop F, was forced to shoot and kill Steven Edward Staub following a car and foot chase in Boonville. Trooper Martin Chitwood and Trooper D.A. Brooks were also closely involved in the pursuit of the subject. Staub was wanted by authorities in Florida.

Sergeant Larry Varner, Troop F, was disarmed on September 19, 1988, by Edward A. Bodeau during a traffic stop. Sgt. Varner was not hurt and Bodeau was captured in less than 24 hours in the Blackwater area near Boonville.

1990s

On January 10, 1990, Miss America Debbye Turner visited the Capitol in Jefferson City. Several troopers were assigned to her security detail. Miss Turner was the first Missouri resident to win the Miss America title.



Nineteen officers were assigned to the detail when former President Ronald Reagan came to Fulton, MO, on November 9, 1990, for a dedication from the Berlin Wall. Four officers were assigned to the opening of the Katy Trail at Rocheport in the spring 1990, and three officers were assigned to assist with traffic on Interstate 70 during the filming of a Stephen King movie in December 1990.

Troop F formed its first K-9 team in 1991, when Argo was assigned to Trooper David H. Mease. This brought the number of dogs in the Highway Patrol's K-9 Unit to six. Argo would become an asset in the task of removing dangerous drugs from Troop F highways.

Trooper Lawrence A. "Larry" Dudgeon saved the lives of two disabled persons from their burning van on May 24, 1991. The incident occurred in Montgomery County when Tpr. Dudgeon noticed smoke coming from their van. He pulled the trapped passenger, her dog, and her wheelchair from the smoke-filled van. Then, Tpr. Dudgeon returned to the burning van and, with the assistance of an off-duty fireman, removed the driver from the van. The fire was apparently caused by a faulty electrical system.

Troop F officers and troopers from around the state participated in a manhunt in the California, MO, area December 9-10, 1991. Four persons, including three county law enforcement officers, were shot and killed and another officer wounded. James R. Johnson, the subject of the manhunt, was taken into custody without incident. Johnson was later convicted of murder and sentenced to death. He was put to death in 2004.

On May 6, 1992, Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev delivered a speech at the Westminster College campus in Fulton, MO, before a crowd of nearly 20,000 people. Approximately 50 members of the Patrol assisted with security during his visit.

Troop F officers provided security for President George Bush in Columbia, MO, on July 24, 1992, as he officially opened the Show-Me State Games.

Motor Vehicle Inspection Supervisor Henry E. "Hank" Maness was selected Missouri State Employee of the Month for April after submitting a school bus inspection plan that saved the Patrol and 11 area school districts money, expedited the inspection of buses, and increased passage rates.

The Great Flood of '93 paralyzed most of the Midwest as well as mid-Missouri, flooding farmland, destroying highways and bridges, and bringing most travel to a standstill. The flooded Missouri River swept across the Jefferson City Memorial Airport destroying the Patrol's hangar, along with many other nearby buildings. The Patrol's aircraft relocated to the Columbia International Airport.



Highway 54 in Jefferson City during the Great Flood of 1993.



Capt. Charles R. Jackson

Captain Charles R. Jackson became the first African American officer to become a troop commander for the Missouri State Highway Patrol when he took charge of Troop F Headquarters in Jefferson City on October 1, 1993.

On May 19, 1994, Troop F officers were involved in the pursuit of suspected bank robbers. The pair robbed the South County Bank in Ashland, MO, and fatally shot the vice president of the bank. During the pursuit, the passenger in the vehicle repeatedly fired at law enforcement officers. After losing control of their vehicle, the driver fell out of his vehicle laying near the rear wheel. The passenger exited the car and began firing at the Patrol helicopter that was flying above the suspect vehicle. The helicopter was struck by 12 pellets of 00 buckshot, which injured Sergeants Gregory L. Word and A.J. Stricker (Q/AD) and Corporal David H. Mease, Troop F. Both robbery suspects died of self-inflicted gunshot wounds.

On June 29, 1994, Corporal Robert Hayes was shot after he stopped a vehicle for expired plates on Interstate 70 in Cooper County. After spotting a pistol protruding from beneath the passenger's seat, Cpl. Hayes had the front seat passenger get out of the vehicle and placed handcuffs on the man. As one of the passengers from the rear seat exited the vehicle, the other rear seat passenger leaned forward and fired a single gunshot at Hayes' chest. His bulletproof vest stopped the bullet and saved his life. Area

law enforcement officers captured all four suspects after a three-hour manhunt in the Boonville area.

The Rocheport Bridge renovation project was a major undertaking for Troop F officers. Through energetic efforts of Patrol personnel, only one fatality occurred during the seven-month project. The Missouri Highway and Transportation Department had projected as many as 13 fatalities might occur. Officers participated in 837 hours of extra work and issued 536 tickets and 639 warnings. Only 15 traffic crashes occurred during the duration of the project.

Operation Wolf Pack was initiated for the first time at the Lake of the Ozarks. Officers from several troops combined their efforts to locate and arrest impaired drivers. Operation Wolf Pack was conducted during the months of July, August, and September.

The National Championship Balloon Races were held in Columbia, MO, from August 18-27, 1995. Twelve officers were assigned to the event full-time with other officers assisting as needed. Approximately 150,000 people attended the 10-day event.

Corporal Christopher J. Harris and Trooper Gary E. Gundy were in pursuit of a kidnapper who had taken his girlfriend hostage after a domestic dispute. During the pursuit, the suspect fired several shots at citizens along the highway. After the suspect's vehicle was disabled by a tire deflator, the suspect left his vehicle and ran across the interstate toward another vehicle that had pulled to the side of the road upon seeing emergency lights. The suspect was ordered to stop. He then turned and fired at the officers, who, fearing for the lives of citizens in the area, opened fire killing the suspect.



Law enforcement agencies held a press conference during the manhunt for Alis Ben Johns.

A COPS' grant allowed for the assignment of two officers for the first time to cities of Laurie, MO, and Sunrise Beach, MO. The program also allowed for the creation of Zone 12, Osage and Gasconade counties, and for the first time an officer was assigned to the city of Linn, MO.

In February 1997, Troop F officers were involved in the Alis Ben Johns' manhunt. Johns had murdered Camden County resident Leonard Voyles. He eluded capture in Camden, Miller, and Pulaski counties before being captured near Warsaw, MO, on April 7, 1997. This proved to be the largest manhunt in which the Patrol had been involved.

August 1997 saw the U.S. Hot Air Balloon Nationals take to the skies of Boone County. These hot air balloon races drew large crowds of spectators, which required traffic control in the early mornings and late evenings. This was the completion of the three years the races were to be held in Boone County. The organizers complimented the Patrol for being well organized, and the expedient manner in which the estimated 250,000 visitors were moved in and out of the fairgrounds.

Also in August, Sergeant Christopher J. Harris assisted a Cooper County deputy sheriff on a traffic stop. During the interview of the subject, Sgt. Harris noticed the subject attempted to open a fanny pack. Sgt. Harris checked the fanny pack to find a handgun concealed inside. A check of the subject's vehicle revealed several pipe bombs and another handgun in the trunk. The residence of the subject, a South American who resided south of St. Louis, was checked and additional materials commonly used in the construction of explosive devices were located. The subject would not divulge what he intended to use the pipe bombs for, only that he was going to make arrangements for his cremation in Kansas City.

Troop F K-9 Argo retired in September 1997, after more than six and one-half years of service. During his career, he located over $14 million in drugs.

On August 1, 1998, the Columbia Driver Examination Station moved to a new home in a state-owned building. It had been a tenant at the local National Guard Armory during the 1970s and early 1980s, then was moved to a local church during the rest of the '80s.

Commercial Vehicle Officer Scott Suling was named DPS Employee of the Month for May 1998. He was named State Employee of the Month for July 1998 by Governor Mel Carnahan. CVO Suling was working the portable scale unit 1511 on the eastbound lane of U.S. Highway 54 south of Jefferson City when he stopped an eastbound tractor-trailer unit for tinted windows. While questioning the driver and co-driver, CVO Suling became suspicious and asked for assistance from a trooper. After the trooper obtained consent to search, 556 pounds of processed marijuana was located.

There were two additions to the facilities within Troop F during 1998. The first was the completion of wheelchair ramps to bring the headquarters into compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Also, concrete was poured for the new CDL Supersite located at U.S. Highway 50 and Big Horn Drive on the west side of Jefferson City.

On April 3, 1999, Troop F's Special Emergency Response Team (SERT) was called to assist the Cole County Sheriff's Department with a barricaded suspect in a mobile home near Brazito, MO. The suspect, Raymond L. Walls, had been involved in a domestic dispute. The team began negotiations upon arrival. After several hours, the subject indicated he would surrender to Cole County Sheriff John Hemeyer. The subject came out of the mobile home with a small handgun and pointed it at Sergeant Jerry C. West and Sergeant Vince S. Rice. Both sergeants fired their weapons, and the subject was

struck by two bullets. He was pronounced dead at St. Mary's Health Center in Jefferson City.

In August 1999, 300 Hell's Angels motorcycle club members descended on Lake Ozark for their annual meeting. A cooperative effort between the Patrol and the local law enforcement agencies resulted in the visit being uneventful.

The Troop F interdiction team made over 170 arrests in 1999, including the recovery of five stolen vehicles and the seizure of sizeable quantities of illegal drugs. One stop resulted in the discovery of over $122,000 in counterfeit checks and the termination of a statewide check fraud scheme.

2000—2009


Gov. Mel Carnahan

On October 16, 2000, a plane crash took the life of Governor Mel Carnahan, former Chief of Staff Chris Sifford, and Gov. Carnahan's son, Randy. Dignitaries from across the nation attended the funeral. There were 264 uniformed officers, 10 radio operators, and three civilians assigned to Gov. Carnahan's funeral. At the private burial ceremony, members of the Governor's Security Division were honored to serve as pall bearers.

Troop F unveiled its new CDL site located just off U.S. Highway 50 west of Jefferson City. This building houses the supervisory offices of the commercial driver's license and motor vehicle inspection sections. The new building is also the home of all commercial driver license testing and salvage title inspections. The site is used not only by divisions within the Patrol but will be utilized by other state agencies as a training complex.



Troop F officers received several awards in 2001 related to outstanding roadwork. Sergeant Timothy M. Tinnin received an award for leading all sergeants in the state in driving while intoxicated arrests. Corporal Paul D. Kerperin picked up the same award for leading all Troop F officers in driving while intoxicated arrests. The Jefferson City Optimist Club named Trooper Kirk A. Davis the Cole County Officer of the Year.

In October, a male subject walked into the front lobby of Troop F and wanted to confess to killing his wife on a river access road located in front of Troop F Headquarters. Troop F officers were directed to the area and located the victim's body. The suspect later pled guilty and was sentenced to prison.

A female body was discovered in the Missouri River in Moniteau County. An investigation by Division of Drug and Crime Control (DDCC) officers assigned to the Troop F area revealed that she had been bound and killed by a gun shot. A search by dental records did not match any unsolved homicide or missing person case. A facial reconstruction was done by the University of Missouri Anthropology Department and a flyer was prepared using the reconstruction. Some time passed until a person in Kansas City, MO, went to the police station to report their sister missing and saw the flyer. Dental records provided positive identification of the body. Officers from the Kansas City Police Department Homicide Division went to her last known address where her boyfriend still resided. He denied any involvement in the disappearance or death. The investigation revealed that the wire used to bind the victim was the same wire that was found in the residence, and the tool marks on the wire matched a tool also found in the residence. He was later convicted of her murder. The victim had been missing from Kansas City since 1999.

The Jefferson City Driver Examination Station was selected to participate in a pilot program to administer written tests in English and Spanish by computer. This proved to be a very popular program with testing applicants.

After the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, Troopers Glen D. Ward and David S. Franklin were called to active duty with their military reserve units. Troop F officers assisted in providing security details for the Ike Skelton National Guard Headquarters, the Harry S. Truman Building, the Secretary of State Building, and the Callaway Nuclear Plant.

Troop F presented its first Community Alliance Program in 2001. This program, modeled after a police citizens' academy, was intended to familiarize community participants with the functions of the Patrol. After completion of the six-week program, the graduates were presented with a class photograph, framed plaque, and certificate. As an additional benefit, the Patrol hoped the Community Alliance Program would be used as a recruiting tool.



The Patrol purchased 2001 Chevrolet Impalas to evaluate for road duty. The Impalas were different than the Ford Crown Victoria's in that they were front wheel drive and had a V-6 engine. Each troop received at least one vehicle.



Corporal Paul D. Kerperin with a 2001 Chevrolet Impala

Trooper Donald L. Doza was honored following his actions during a traffic stop. He responded to a call for assistance from Captain Wolfe of the Cooper County Sheriff's Department. When he arrived, he observed a subject retrieve a 9mm handgun from under his seat and point it toward the window, where Captain Wolfe would be standing. Tpr. Doza tapped on the passenger side of the vehicle and ordered the subject to drop the weapon. Capt. Wolfe returned to the vehicle and the officers subdued the subject after a struggle. Tpr. Doza's actions saved Capt. Wolfe's life that day. Tpr. Doza was named DPS Employee of the Month for July 2002, due to his actions during this incident.

Troop F assisted in numerous security details supporting the Department of Homeland Security. Details at the Missouri State Capitol, Bagnell Dam, and the Callaway Nuclear Plant were conducted to deter foreign and domestic terrorism.

In May 2003, several security details were entrusted to Troop F. Security was provided for Vice President Dick Cheney while he spoke at the University of Missouri School of Agriculture graduation ceremonies. Security was also handled at the Ultramax Triathlon at the Lake of the Ozarks and the Special Olympics Torch Run.

Troop F's SERT was reactivated in mid-May 2003. The team, for the first time, began utilizing a regional concept by including officers from Troops F, B, and I.

Several employees participated in Troop F's first Fighting Machine Pull for Special Olympics. Participants helped raise several hundred dollars while battling the rain and other law enforcement teams in friendly competition. Teams were hooked to a fire truck and pulled it as far as they could in a certain time frame.





In September 2003, Troop F officers were called to assist the Missouri Department of Corrections after two prison inmates allegedly committed murder and escaped the Jefferson City Correctional Center. The inmates were identified as Shannon Phillips and Chris Sims. Several possible sightings outside the prison were investigated before the inmates were located behind a false wall inside the prison's ice house.

During 2003, Troop F Communications became the central point for the newly created Amber Alert system. The program was developed to inform the media and public of abductions in a timely manner. The system is a partnership between Missouri government agencies, media outlets, and a few corporations. This system was activated in November after a child was reported abducted in Lafayette County. Trooper Ralph R.

“Rick” Ryerson and Sergeant Richard L. “Rick” Johnson assisted the Moniteau County Sheriff’s Office in locating the child in California, MO. The child was safely returned to her father. In 2003, 11 children were listed as missing in the Amber Alert system. All 11 children were recovered.



Several Troop F officers were honored throughout the year. Trooper Mark W. Hicks was honored with a special Missouri State Senate resolution for the compassion he displayed in comforting a seven-year-old after the boy’s father was killed in a motor vehicle crash in Audrain County. Tpr. Hicks spent six hours with the boy until family members could arrive. The resolution was presented by Senator John Cauthorn (R-Mexico).

On May 10, 2003, Corporal C. Joey Day and Brandon M. White received Lifesaving Awards at the Patrol’s annual awards ceremony.

On May 13, 2002, Cpl. Day observed a male subject walking away from a vehicle near the Missouri River Bridge. As he approached the subject, Cpl. Day noticed the man carrying a rope. When he made his presence known, the subject began to walk faster and put the noose around his neck. Cpl. Day pulled his patrol car in front of the male in an attempt to slow his progress toward the bridge. When the male subject attempted to get around Cpl. Day, the male subject began trying to evade him and even jumped into oncoming traffic. An off-duty Sedalia Police officer and a civilian stopped and assisted Cpl. Day in securing the subject, who was transported to University Hospital for evaluation and treatment. Further investigation revealed the male subject was bipolar and had been off his medications. He had also contacted his family and told them he didn't want to live any longer.

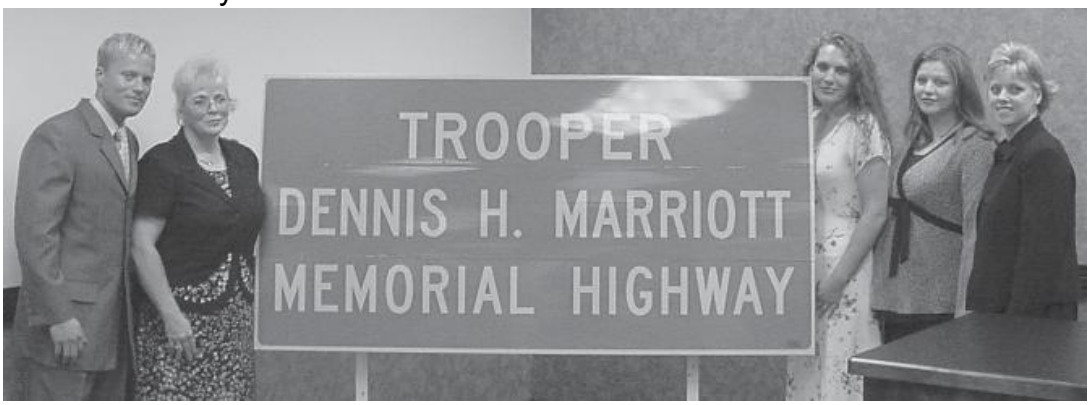
Cpl. Brandon White received his Lifesaving Award for providing a diabetic driver medical assistance after a traffic stop that became a pursuit.

On May 8, 2004, the Patrol honored Troop F Corporal Michael A. Turner with a Valor Award at its annual awards ceremony and The MASTERS banquet. Cpl. Turner was recognized for handling a threatening situation involving a suicidal man. Officers were sent to a rural area in Callaway County where an armed man challenged officers to shoot him. While deputies talked to the man, Cpl. Turner moved into a concealed position. When an opportune moment presented itself, Cpl. Turner rushed the subject and secured him in handcuffs after a brief struggle. In addition to the Patrol's Valor Award, Cpl. Turner also accepted the G.W. Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award given by the South Callaway and Fulton Rotary Clubs. Representative Danie Moore (R-Fulton) honored him with a resolution for his actions during this incident.

Troop F driver examiners were the first to receive computers to conduct testing in the Jefferson City and Columbia offices. The touch screen test is user friendly and available for any class license and school bus permit. The computer allows tests to be conducted orally and administers tests in seven foreign languages.

On June 24, 2004, Trooper Jeffrey L. White was involved in a shooting incident on Interstate 70 in Callaway County after a traffic stop. Tpr. White stopped the vehicle after being notified by Troop F Communications the driver was brandishing a weapon at other motorists on the highway. The driver exited his vehicle and aimed a handgun at Tpr. White. Tpr. White fired at the subject and fatally wounded him. The subject was wanted by Tampa, FL, law enforcement authorities for a double homicide that had occurred several days earlier. Tpr. White was presented the G.W. Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by the South Callaway and Fulton Rotary Club for his actions.

On Friday, September 10, 2004, a stretch of U.S. Highway 54 from Missouri Route 179 traveling westbound for approximately one mile was renamed the Trooper Dennis H. Marriott Memorial Highway. Tpr. Marriott was killed in the line of duty on June 13, 1981, after he was struck by an intoxicated driver's vehicle.



The Marriott family attending the dedication: Michael Marriott, Mrs. Cindy Price, Jennifer Zacherson, Rebecca Wattleworth, and Cynthia Stonehocker.

Troop F celebrated its 25th anniversary at its present location in 2005. Troop F is divided into 12 zones within the 13 central Missouri counties that comprise the troop.

Several officers received special recognition from MADD for their efforts in removing impaired drivers from Missouri's roadways. Corporal Paul D. Kerperin, Trooper Brent J. Drummond, and Trooper Joseph L. Armistead were responsible for the arrest of over 150 intoxicated individuals.

The Troop F marijuana eradication team completed a successful year by making 26 felony arrests as the result of locating four indoor and six outdoor growing operations. In August 2005, the team conducted a Special Enforcement Eradication Project in conjunction with area law enforcement agencies. During the operation, a total of 54 cultivated plants were located.

On December 3, 2005, the 84th Recruit Class was commissioned bringing the total number of uniformed officers to 1,037. Lieutenant Colonel William K. Seibert presented the Superintendent's Award to Trooper Chad J. North.



Trooper Chad J. North accepts the Superindent's Award from Lieutenant Colonel William Seibert.

Troop F officers assisted in numerous special assignments throughout 2005. Most notable was the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in Mississippi. In September, Captain Dale A. Schmidt led a group of troopers to Biloxi, MS, for a period of nine days. Troopers assisted with security details in areas of severe devastation. Other Troop F officers assigned to the detail included Sergeant David E. Earney, Corporal Corey J. Schoenenberg, Trooper Demond Tauber, and Trooper Wallace V. Ahrens. In December 2005, Trooper Danny A. "Dan" Bickel took part in a similar relief effort in Mississippi.

In 2005, the Troop F full-time recruiter, Trooper Bruce A. McLaughlin translated and recorded Spanish Public Service Announcements on 24 radio stations.

In December 2005, six members of the Patrol traveled to Cameron Parrish, LA, for 18 days to assist the local sheriff after Hurricane Rita. The agency answered a second request of the Emergency Management Assistant Compact in January 2006, when six members again traveled to Cameron Parrish. The detail provided security to the area from January 6 to January 23, 2006. "We stayed in tents on the old fairgrounds in Cameron, LA," recalled Trooper Christopher M. Harper, one of the six members of the detail. "The area was known as Tent City. We mostly patrolled the roads of Cameron Parish. We dealt with some looters inside the city limits of Cameron".

President George W. Bush arrived at the Columbia Regional Airport on April 11, 2006. President Bush traveled to Jefferson City for speaking appearances at Heisinger Bluffs Retirement Center and the Etta and Joseph Miller Performing Arts Center. Troop F officers provided security for the primary route of the motorcade.

On July 25, 2006, Corporal S. Dave Rudloff noticed a stalled commercial vehicle on Route B in Cole County. As Cpl. Rudloff was speaking with the driver and obtaining information, the driver began acting suspicious and eventually fled on foot. After a short foot pursuit, the driver was taken into custody. Cpl. Rudloff's investigation revealed the vehicle had been stolen only minutes before. After a search warrant was obtained for the suspect's residence, over $110,000 in stolen vehicles, motorcycles, and trailers were discovered. Cpl. Rudloff was named the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Employee of the Month for December 2006.

Troop F officers were honored to participate in funeral escorts of military personnel who gave their lives while serving the country in Iraq. On April 23, 2006, the body of Lance Corporal Darin Settle was escorted to Henley, MO. The body of Lance Corporal Leon Deraps was escorted to Jamestown, MO, on May 6, 2006. On October 20, 2006, the body of Staff Sergeant Lawrence Parrish was escorted to Versailles, MO.



On Thursday, August 10, 2006, at approximately 2:41 p.m., Trooper Michael C. Arand's patrol vehicle was struck by a tractor trailer that failed to obey the "Move Over" law in Callaway County. Tpr. Arand had stopped a vehicle and had just re-entered his vehicle before it was struck. The vehicle was used as an educational tool to show the importance of moving over for emergency vehicles, appearing on display at the Missouri State Fair.

On September 8, 2006, while conducting Troop F eradication exercises in Gasconade County, an individual shot an arrow from a compound bow at the Patrol helicopter flying overhead. The occupants in the helicopter, Sergeant David K. Striegel and Corporal Paul D. Kerperin, were not injured. The suspect was later arrested for his actions.

During a traffic stop, Corporal Thomas R. Walley made an interesting discovery. Cpl. Walley noticed a power cord plugged into a cigarette lighter, which ran to a radar detector with a toggle switch that had an illuminated red light. The driver became increasingly nervous, and Cpl. Walley asked for consent to search the vehicle. When consent was denied, K-9 officer Corporal Matthew J. Broniec and K-9 Kai were called to the scene. The investigation led the troopers to the vehicle's trunk which contained a rocket. The cord in the cigarette lighter connected the switch to the rocket. Inside the rocket were approximately two pounds of crystal methamphetamine. The suspects apparently thought they could dispose of the drugs by firing the rocket, where they had stashed the drugs.

Troop F hosted and open house on September 17, 2006, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Despite the rainy conditions, nearly 300 people showed up to view displays, patrol vehicles, and demonstrations.



The Patrol's restored Model A Roadster, now known as Otto, sits in front of the dealership where it originally started its career. Captain Dale Schmidt, Troop F, and Captain Randy Becker, Troop I, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Kim Schwieder

In a ceremony arranged by the Missouri State Troopers Association, a portion of U.S. Highway 54 in Camden County was dedicated as the Trooper Ross S. Creach Memorial Highway. On September 29, 2006, over 100 family members and friends gathered at first Baptist Church in Macks Creek, MO, to honor a trooper who was killed 63 years ago. A copy of Senate Bill 667 was presented to his widow, Mrs. Charlotte Creach Bonner. Tpr. Creach died on December 12, 1943, after being struck by a car being driven by a drunk driver.

On December 1, 2006, a major winter storm dumped nearly 16 inches of snow on the central Missouri area. On Interstate 70, over 1,000 vehicles were stranded in the eastbound lanes near the Cooper and Saline county line. In addition, I-70 traffic was restricted on the eastern border of Troop F with traffic backed up from Montgomery County into Warren County.

The Troop F SWAT was the recipient of an armored vehicle in 2006. The Bearcat will be utilized for officer insertions and rescue during callouts of the team.

The following officers were recognized for their efforts and contributions in the community: Corporal Marcus S. Reynolds accepted the Law Enforcement Commendation Medal by the Christopher Casey Chapter of the Missouri Society of the

Sons of the American Revolution. Sergeant Richard E. "Rick" Buttram received The MASTERS Public Service Award on April 18, 2008. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) recognized Trooper Scott A. Ballard for his efforts in removing impaired motorists from Missouri's roadways.

On September 11-13, 2008, the Troop F Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team organized and coordinated training for several SWAT teams in the Mid-Missouri area. Approximately 125 officers attended each of the three days of training, with the following departments represented: Missouri State Highway Patrol, Missouri State Water Patrol, Columbia Police Department, Boone County Sheriff's Department, Cole County Sheriff's Department, Missouri Capitol Police, Rolla Police Department, Dallas County Sheriff's Department, Camden County Sheriff's Department, and the Morgan County Sheriff's Department.

In October 2008, members of the National Socialists Movement conducted a protest march in Jefferson City at Missouri's Capitol. The Troop F SWAT team assisted with crowd control during the event.

In December Sergeant Anthony "Tony" Mattox and Sergeant S. Dave Rudloff were assigned to two new Harley-Davidson motorcycles assigned to Troop F after attending training in Arlington, TX.

On May 5, 2009, Sergeant Christopher J. Harris was instrumental in stopping a heavily armed individual riding a motorcycle who had fired at an Osage County deputy. The subject was approaching the city limits of Jefferson City when Sgt. Harris was able to strike the motorcycle from behind, which ejected the driver. The driver died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound at the scene. Sgt. Harris was later named the August 2009 DPS Safety Employee of the Month and September 2009 Missouri State Employee of the Month for his actions.

On September 12, 2009, Troop F SWAT was activated to facilitate the arrest of a wanted subject in Callaway County. The subject was wanted for at least 10 bank robberies in Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The subject was identified in a restaurant after an individual recognized him from an



Troop F SWAT Bearcat

episode of America's Most Wanted.

On October 21, 2009, troopers from Troop F assisted in the search of a nine-year-old girl who was reported missing near St. Martin's, MO. The case gained national attention when the body of the girl was located in a shallow grave, and a 15-year-old female neighbor was charged with the murder.

On November 10, 2009, the Troop F officers assisted the Jefferson City Police Department with a reported hostage situation at the Governor's Office Building. The building was cleared and no suspects were located. All the civilians inside the building were evacuated without incident or injury.

On December 11, 2009, Troop F welcomed K-9 Rocky. Trooper Matthew E. Morice began eight weeks of training during October in Cape Girardeau. Sergeant Matthew J. Broniec's K-9 partner, Kai, retired in April after over 6 1/2 years of dedicated service.

On December 21, 2009, Troop F troopers and DDCC officers began a murder investigation in Laddonia, MO, after receiving a tip from a citizen who wanted to report the homicide. During the investigation, a total of eight people were arrested for their involvement in the crime.

On December 31, 2009, Sergeant Anthony J. "Tony" Mattox responded to the Middletown, MO, area to assist in the search of a subject who had just robbed the American Bank of Missouri. Sgt. Mattox located the suspect walking on Missouri Route T and placed him under arrest. He also located the money, vehicle, and weapon involved in the robbery.

2010—2019

On June 30, 2010, at the Lake of the Ozarks Public Beach #2, Governor Jay Nixon signed House Bill 1868 that merged the Missouri State Water Patrol into the Missouri State Highway Patrol. The bill would be effective on January 1, 2011, and would route all the new Water Patrol Division radio traffic through Troop F.



Governor Jay Nixon signs HB 1868

On July 20, 2010, Trooper Donald L. "Don" Doza accepted the July 2010 DPS Employee of the Month award. He was named the Missouri State Employee of the Month for August 2010. Tpr. Doza was recognized for rescuing a man from a burning vehicle on April 28, 2010, in Cooper County.

On July 29, 2010, the Troop F SWAT team assisted the Miller County Sheriff's Department with a barricaded subject near Eldon, MO. As the SWAT team was positioned in front of the residence, the subject fired several shots striking the Bearcat and its floodlights. After an extended standoff, the subject's two children exited the residence unharmed just before he was located inside the home fatally injured by a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Troop F participated in an around-the-clock, multi-agency operation to address the traffic and safety concerns of the National Bike Rally. The event was held August 3-8, 2010, at the Boone County Fairgrounds and hosted over 20,000 patrons and visitors.

On September 13, 2010, the statewide radio operations of the Missouri State Water Patrol merged with Troop F Communications. This action resulted in seven radio operators, 20 remote transmitters/receivers, and nearly 90 enforcement personnel being added to the Troop F operation.

On December 17, 2010, Corporal Jason J. Cluver apprehended a shooting subject who had allegedly shot his wife at a Jefferson City McDonald's. The subject had fled the scene on foot and was located in the parking lot of a bank near the restaurant.

On January 1, 2011, the Missouri State Water Patrol became the Water Patrol Division (WPD) within the Missouri State Highway Patrol, and all communications for marine operations were handled by Troop F.

On February 9, 2011, Trooper Brian J. Geier assisted with the arrest of a murder suspect in Gravois Mills, MO. The subject was arrested after a homicide warrant was issued for his arrest in Manatee County, FL.

During the April 2011 Patrol Awards Ceremony and The MASTERS Banquet in Jefferson City, Troop F officers accepted a variety of distinguished awards. Trooper Donald L. Doza received his second career Valor Award for his courageous lifesaving attempt on April 28, 2010. Trooper Matthew E. Morice and Corporal Mark G. Broniec received the Lifesaving Award for their actions on April 22, 2010, when they provided CPR to a MoDOT worker along Interstate 70. Trooper Benjamin J. “B.J.” Blankenbeker received a Lifesaving Award for his swift and decisive actions to clear the obstructed airway of a four-year-old child on November 20, 2010.

On August 31, 2011, Trooper Steven B. Johnson, seized 132 pounds of marijuana after initiating a traffic stop on Interstate 70 in Callaway County.

On October 1, 2011, Troop F created Zones 16 and 17 for the Lake of the Ozarks. The zones are comprised of the marine enforcement troopers assigned to the Lake of the Ozarks. These troopers were previously assigned to WPD.

On October 20, 2011, Trooper Derek K. Sullivan worked a double fatality crash in Audrain County which involved 12 passenger ejections. The driver attempted to jump railroad tracks with his pickup and lost control on the gravel road. All 12 passengers were ejected; two eventually died as a result. The driver was charged with manslaughter.

In 2011, the Troop F SWAT team participated in the fifth annual training with several other SWAT teams in the Mid-Missouri area. The training was conducted at the central Missouri Correctional Center, also known as Church Farm Prison. The Troop F team provided training in Patrol rifle manipulation and skill development. The training was established with several goals in mind. These goals included learning each team's capabilities and limitations, improving communications between teams, enhancing working relationships, and sharing information between teams. Approximately 100 officers attended each of the two days of training, with the following departments represented: Missouri State Highway Patrol, Columbia Police Department, Boone County Sheriff's Department, Cole County Sheriff's Department, Jefferson City Police Department, Rolla Police Department, Pulaski County Sheriff's Department, and the Camden County Sheriff's Department. This training was once again very successful and had a positive impact on the Patrol's image within the SWAT community. Area teams learned a great deal from each other, and many new relationships were forged between agencies, and response plans were solidified.

In February 2012, Troopers Anthony C. "Tony" Piercy and Ashley E. Klempke responded to a reported motor vehicle crash in Morgan County on Missouri Route 135. The investigation resulted in the arrest of a subject for the murder of his girlfriend's child. The investigation received national attention when it was mentioned by Nancy Grace on her television show.

On March 15, 2012, Trooper Robert A. Sanders and Lieutenant Larry W. Plunkett arrested a bank robbery suspect after the subject robbed a bank in Iberia, MO, and attempted another robbery at a bank in Tuscumbia, MO.

During March, April, and May 2012, Troop F hosted its fifth Student Alliance Program. This six-week program was presented to 10 high school students who have indicated an interest in a law enforcement career.

On April 2, 2012, Corporal Troy D. Stegeman responded to a disturbance call in a trailer park near Fulton, MO. The initial report stated the subject was firing a weapon into the air. After arriving at the scene, the subject pointed his weapon at himself and then in the direction of Cpl. Stegeman and a Callaway County deputy. Both officers returned fire and fatally injured the subject.

On July 28, 2012, troopers assigned to Audrain County, Zone 4, were presented a plaque from the Mexico Elks Lodge 919 for demonstrating their commitment to law

enforcement excellence. The plaque further stated the members of the zone lived up standards deemed essential to the protection of life, health, safety, and rights of the citizens they serve.

On October 3, 2012, Sergeant Matthew J. Broniec was advised of a license plate reader hit on a vehicle travelling eastbound on Interstate 70. The owner of the vehicle had an active Warren County warrant with extradition in adjoining counties only. He contacted Sgt. Mark Broniec with the information. Sgt. Broniec located the vehicle in Montgomery County and arrested the driver on the warrant. A subsequent consent search revealed 10 pounds of marijuana.

Troop F marine operations troopers served as supplemental road troopers for the first time during the fall, winter, and spring. During the summer, Camden County and Miller County road troopers completed three days of water orientation.

In 2012, MADD recognized Trooper Dustin T. Metzner for removing 27 intoxicated boaters off the Lake of the Ozarks during 2011. Trooper Darrin R. Haslag was named the 2011 Troop F Trooper of the Year for his overall performance throughout the year. The Troop F Building & Grounds Maintenance Supervisor Tom A. Hoelscher was named the Troop F Civilian of the Year for 2011.

During 2013, Troop F Boone County troopers were instrumental in numerous arrests after being alerted by the Boone County Sheriff's License Plate Reader System (LPR). The LPR system generated multiple felony warrant arrests and stolen vehicle recoveries throughout the year.

Troop F Zones 1 and 2 were the first zones to be assigned dual road/water duties. Corporal John M. Sellers and Trooper Bryan H. Salmons worked the rivers during the summer 2013.

In January 2013, Trooper Coby G. Holzschuh attempted to arrest a female on a felony warrant. The female ran from the scene, then slipped and fell on ice. She then pulled a knife from her pocket and threatened to kill herself. Tpr. Holzschuh disarmed the female and then provided medical aid to a self-inflicted laceration to her neck. Tpr. Holzschuh accepted a Lifesaving Award at the Patrol's annual awards ceremony as a result of his actions.

In April, the Troop F commercial vehicle enforcement troopers participated in a truck safety check in Boone, Callaway, and Cole counties. A total of 412 inspections were conducted, which resulted in the discovery of 584 violations.

In June 2013, troopers were involved in an intense week-long manhunt for Brian J. Adkison. He escaped from the Caldwell County Jail and was additionally wanted for sexual assault and rape in Boone County. On June 21, 2013, he was taken into custody without incident after a report of a possible break-in in Morgan County.

A significant event occurred in 2013 with the splitting of Camden and Miller counties and the creation of Zone 18 in Miller County.

In July, troopers from Zone 4, Audrain County, were recognized by the local Mexico Elks Club for their excellent service to the community. The troopers were honored with a meal and program at the club's monthly meeting.

During the first week of August, troopers from Zone 12, Osage/Gasconade counties, assisted the public with road closures due to large scale flooding. Several roads such as U.S. Highway 50, U.S. Highway 63, Missouri Highway 89, and other lettered roads were flooded for several days.

In August 2013, Troop F was in the spotlight in the national news when Montgomery County troopers investigated a bus crash on Interstate 70 involving 15 students from the Missouri School for the Deaf. Fortunately, the injuries suffered by several students were only minor.

Also in August, Trooper Stephen M. Burgun’s patrol boat was struck by an intoxicated boater which ejected him from his boat. Tpr. Burgun was able to avoid his circling, un-manned boat until he was rescued by a civilian boater. Numerous Camden and Miller County troopers responded and used other Patrol boats to assist in the rescue.

Troop F driver examination southern crew began using two mobile testing units for drivers testing in 2013. In addition, Troop F examiners test piloted an electronic test tablet for commercial driver license testing. The tablet calculates the applicant's score, tracks the driver’s route in progress, and prints the results for the applicant to process at the Department of Revenue.

Trooper Christopher A. Winter was named the 2013 Troop F Trooper of the Year for his overall performance throughout the year. He was also presented the Colonel’s challenge coin for his efforts in rescuing two people from flood waters of the Osage River and his work in rendering assistance to a suicidal person.

The Troop F clerical section was honored when Clerk Typist III Michelle Kempker was named the Troop F Civilian of the Year for 2013.

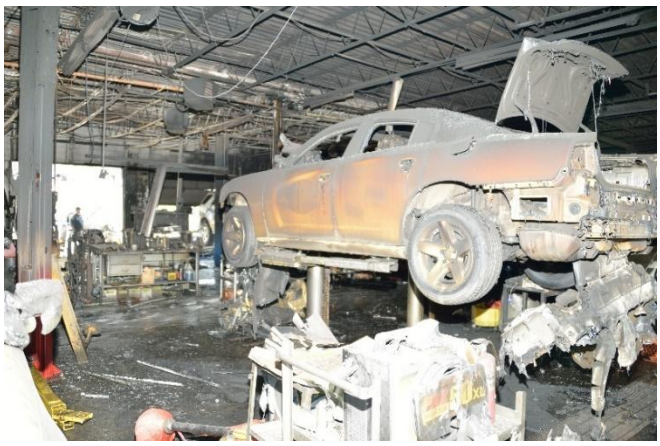
Twenty suspects were arrested in afternoon raids throughout the Troop F area, on May 27, 2014. The Missouri State Highway Patrol, Cole County Sheriff’s Department, Jefferson City Police Department, and the Columbia Police Department conducted the raids. The suspects were arrested for distribution of controlled substances (heroin, methamphetamine, crack cocaine, cocaine, psilocybin mushrooms, ecstasy, and marijuana), along with other narcotics-related crimes. The arrests and charges are the result of a lengthy undercover investigation conducted by the DDCC and the Mustang Drug Task Force.

Several Troop F employees were nominees or recipients of awards based on their work in 2014. Trooper David L. Fouch led Troop F with 108 drug arrests in 2014 and was awarded Troop F Officer of the Year. Sara Heitman earned the Troop F Civilian of the Year Award. Trooper Shawn A. Brazas and Trooper Marylyn A. Dickens were nominated for Lifesaving Awards in reference to medical assistance they provided which aided in the survival of a suicidal female on March 13, 2014, in Callaway County. Sergeant Michael A. Halford accepted the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys DWI Hero of the Year award. Among his 394-career driving while intoxicated arrests and 66 drug recognition expert evaluations, Sgt. Halford led the way in the conviction on a high-profile case involving a felony DWI and two counts of second-degree murder. Using his knowledge as a drug recognition expert, Sgt. Halford was able to testify to several signs and symptoms of impairment. The subject received 25 years in prison on each of the two counts of murder, to run concurrently, and three additional years for the DWI.

At approximately 12:45 a.m. on April 8, 2014, the GHQ Garage, located behind Troop F Headquarters, caught fire and was severely damaged. The State Fire Marshal's office believed the fire may have started with an electrical problem underneath the back passenger seat of a Chevrolet pickup truck parked in the maintenance bay.



Eight vehicles were destroyed and six suffered heavy smoke damage. The estimated damage was between $4–5 million including the building, vehicles, and equipment.



On August 23, 2014, marine operation troopers at Lake of the Ozarks investigated a fatal boating crash which occurred during the annual Shootout event held at the 34-mile marker. Less than an hour after racing began, an Outerlimits catamaran crashed at the finish line. As the boat approached the finish line at the end of the one-mile course, the bow lifted high in the water, ultimately flipping the boat end-over-end. The closed-canopy catamaran landed upside down but somehow righted itself. The boat was checked at 179 mph just before the crash. The driver of the boat was seriously injured, and the throttle man was killed.



Trooper James M. Bava

On August 28, 2015, Trooper James M. Bava was killed in a one-vehicle traffic crash. At 8:29 a.m., Tpr. Bava observed a motorcyclist commit a traffic violation on Missouri Highway FF in Audrain County. During the pursuit, Tpr. Bava's Dodge Charger left Highway FF, struck a ditch, a fence, and trees, and caught fire. Numerous witnesses reported seeing a motorcyclist fleeing the area. Investigators from the DDCC Unit assigned to Troop F followed up on 75 leads during their investigation of Tpr. Bava's death. As a result of the investigation, on October 23, 2015, the Audrain County Prosecuting Attorney Jacob Shellabarger charged a 20-year-old Mexico, MO, man with murder in the second degree, resisting a lawful stop, resisting a member of the Highway Patrol, exceeding the speed limit, and failure to register a motor vehicle. Tpr. Bava was survived by his parents, two brothers, three sisters, and his fiancée.

Funeral procession for Trooper Bava





Patrol cars from around the country stage for the funeral procession

Troop F celebrated its 35th anniversary at its present location in 2015. Troop F is divided into 18 zones within 13 counties of central Missouri.

On March 1, 2015, Captain Michael A. Turner was named Troop F's 27th commanding officer.

On Tuesday, March 8, 2016, a truck belonging to Pablo Antonio Serrano-Vitorino was found abandoned on Interstate 70 at the 171-mile marker in Montgomery County. Serrano-Vitorino was a suspect in four murders in Kansas City, KS. Shortly after finding the truck, officers were called to a residence in New Florence, MO, approximately five miles from where the truck was located, for a report of shots fired. Upon arriving at the residence, Mr. Randy Nordman was found deceased. Mrs. Nordman stated that her husband was fighting with a man who had a gun in their garage. The suspect was last seen on foot heading east from the residence. Investigators found an ammunition magazine and bullets in the residence which matched the AK-47 rifle used in the murders in Kansas.

This prompted an intensive manhunt involving the Patrol, Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, New Florence Police Department, and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms. Montgomery County schools were placed on lockdown and troopers were sent to the schools to provide protection. All residents in the search area were advised to stay indoors. All buildings were checked, all vehicles were checked, and anyone in the area was contacted.

A motorist contacted the Patrol and stated they were approached by a man with a rifle at the intersection of Interstate 70 and Highway 19. Officers converged on the area and at approximately 12:18 a.m. on March 9, 2016, Serrano-Vitorino was taken into custody after he was discovered hiding in a ditch.

On March 11, Serrano-Vitorino made an attempt on his life by cutting his wrists in the Montgomery County Jail. He was taken to the Missouri University Hospital for treatment of his injuries. While there, troopers from Troop F, DDCC, and deputies from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office stood guard to prevent an escape.

The investigation revealed that due to Mr. Nordman engaging Serrano-Vitorino, the AK-47's magazine chamber was damaged, preventing the magazine from fully engaging, causing the weapon to be unable to fire any more rounds. Patrol assets used during the search included several Patrol aircraft, Troop F SWAT Team, Troop C SWAT Team, DDCC, K-9, and the Mobile Command Post.

On March 31, 2016, a measure to rename a part of Highway FF in Audrain County the Trooper James Bava Memorial Highway, passed the Missouri Senate. Family, co-workers, and friends gathered August 29, 2016, to dedicate a portion of Missouri Route FF, from Elmwood Drive westward to Audrain County Road 977, as the Trooper James M. Bava Memorial Highway. Tpr. Bava was the 31st member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol to make the Ultimate Sacrifice.



Colonel J. Bret Johnson stands with the family of Trooper James M. Bava during the dedication of a portion of Highway FF in Audrain County in his name.

In August 2016, a boat operator lost control of his vessel while participating in the Shootout Boat Race at the Lake of the Ozarks. The vessel, which was traveling 109 mph at the time, went airborne, violently impacted the water, and ejected the driver into the lake. The vessel sank 30 seconds after impact and Sergeant David F. Echternacht (Q/TND) contacted the unconscious victim within 36 seconds. Sgt. Echternacht's quick response and administration of first aid to open the driver's airway undoubtedly saved the victim's life.

At 6:31 p.m. on January 13, 2017, a trooper began pursuing a vehicle for traffic charges eastbound on Missouri Highway 20 at Missouri Route EE in Saline County. The vehicle fled southbound on Route EE from MO-20 before crashing at the intersection of 160th Road and Route EE. At 6:37 p.m., the trooper advised that shots were fired and he exchanged gunfire with the suspect. The suspect then fled into a field. The suspect was not located at the scene, and the trooper was not injured. Further investigation revealed the suspect's name. At approximately 2:20 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, officers with the Columbia Police Department attempted to stop a black sedan on North Oakland Gravel Road east of Alfalfa Drive. Once the vehicle came to a stop, two females exited the vehicle, and a suspect fired one shot from inside. Two Columbia police officers discharged their firearms, and a male was found deceased inside the vehicle. No one else was injured. The male was identified as being the same suspect from the previous incident. Based upon the autopsy and investigation, it was determined the man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Trooper Gary E. Gundy was selected as the February 2017 Employee of the Month for the DPS. Tpr. Gundy was recognized for his investigation after a traffic stop that resulted in the recovery of approximately $1,050,000 of stolen equipment and goods

from a burglary that occurred in San Francisco, CA. Tpr. Gundy retrieved several clothing items from the vehicle of the apprehended suspects. In reviewing the surveillance video of the robbery from the California company, these same clothing items were worn during the crime and in turn strengthened the Boone County, MO, case.

At 1:44 p.m. on Thursday, April 27, 2017, two men armed with pistols entered the Callaway Bank in Columbia, MO, while a third man waited in a nearby getaway vehicle. The two men jumped the teller counter, put their pistols to a teller's head, and demanded money. Witnesses saw the two men run from the bank and enter the getaway vehicle. Trooper Eric C. Penrod spotted the vehicle on Interstate 70, near Kingdom City. A vehicle pursuit ensued and ended when the suspect vehicle eventually side-swiped another vehicle on Route HH in Callaway County, lost control, and crashed into a ditch. The three men fled on foot but were ultimately apprehended. Officers at the scene discovered that there was a toddler in the back seat of the car during the bank robbery and vehicle pursuit. The child was determined to be unharmed.

Central Missouri MADD honored seven Troop F officers at an awards ceremony on October 4, 2017, in Jefferson City, for enforcement efforts and their support of victims.

On May 1, 2018, Troop F and Trooper Nathan D. Wallace welcomed K-9 Rony, the newest addition to the criminal interdiction zone. Tpr. Wallace and Rony went to work and soon thereafter seized 20 pounds of marijuana during a traffic stop on May 6. From May to December 2018, Rony had 42 deployments/sniffs, three suspect tracks, one missing child track, and eight public demonstrations. Additionally, Tpr. Wallace and Rony seized 3.5 pounds of methamphetamine, 99.5 pounds of marijuana, two fentanyl tablets, and $104,000 in cash.

On May 19, 2018, three people were killed and two people were seriously injured in a boat crash at Lake of the Ozarks during the early morning hours. The preliminary investigation revealed the boat hit a rock bluff at the 47.5-mile marker of the main channel, ejecting three of the five occupants.

On September 7, 2018, a highway dedication ceremony honored Sergeant Benjamin O. Booth and Sheriff Roger I. Wilson's ultimate sacrifice. The honor comes 85 years after these two officers were shot and killed while working a roadblock in Columbia on June 14, 1933. The highway dedication ceremony took place at the Boone County Electric Cooperative, just north of where the tragedy occurred. The Highway Patrol Sgt. Benjamin Booth Memorial Highway is the portion of Interstate 70 from Rangeline Street continuing west to Business Loop 70 in Boone County. The Sheriff Roger I. Wilson Memorial Highway is the portion of Interstate 70 from the eastern edge of the intersection of U.S. Highway 63 and Interstate 70 continuing west to Rangeline Street in Boone County. Five of Sgt. Booth's grandchildren and nine of Sheriff Wilson's grandchildren attended the ceremony.

Between April 2018 and November 2018, Troop F staff and members escorted six central Missouri Honor Flights as they returned from Washington, D.C. Honor flights transport veterans from throughout central Missouri to Washington, D.C., to visit and reflect at the various war memorials in an approximately 24-hour timespan. The escort consists of Patrol members, Patriot Guard riders, and local law enforcement agencies who direct and control traffic, and ultimately guide the charter buses from Kingdom City, to the Columbia, MO, Courtyard Marriott. The escorts served approximately 630 veterans in 2018.

On December 13, 2018, troopers responded to a traffic crash on Interstate 70 near the 96-mile marker in Cooper County. Upon arrival, officers discovered the body of 40-year-old Melissa A. Peskey, Sioux Falls, SD, deceased in the driver's seat. It was determined Mrs. Peskey had died of a gunshot wound. The case garnered the attention of national media outlets. As of July 2019, investigators were continuing to follow up on more than 160 leads.

Five people were killed in single vehicle crash on May 15, 2019, in Miller County. It was determined that a 30-year-old mother and her four children were traveling westbound on U.S. Highway 54, just outside of Eldon when she lost control of their SUV. The vehicle ran into the median and overturned several times into the eastbound lanes. The children were ages eight, four, three, and seven months.

Trooper Ashley E. Klempke was named DPS Sworn Employee of the Month for February 2019, and Missouri State Employee of the Month for March 2019. The recognition was the result of her thorough investigation after responding to a report of two small girls walking along U.S. Highway 54 in Cole County in the very early hours of October 10, 2018. The girls were dressed in only pajamas and wore no shoes. They told Tpr. Klempke they were fleeing from an abusive home just outside of Jefferson City.

Despite the reluctance of personnel from other state and local agencies to believe the girls' claims, Tpr. Klempke refused to simply return the girls to the home. She insisted they be evaluated by medical personnel, at which time evidence was found that supported the girls' claim of severe abuse. Subsequent search warrants of their residence and forensic interviews revealed further evidence of abuse. As a result, six children were placed into protective custody, and both parents were arrested and criminally charged.

Because of Tpr. Klempke's initiative and extra effort, six children were removed from a dangerous, abusive environment and, ultimately, placed in protective custody. Her 16 interviews resulted in multiple search warrants. Without the intervention, dedication, and perseverance of Tpr. Klempke, these victims would still be subject to daily abuse.

Captain Turner was promoted to major and transferred to General Headquarters effective April 1, 2019. Captain Corey J. Schoeneberg was named commanding officer of Troop F and transferred from the Field Operations Bureau effective May 1, 2019.

There were no casualties in Eldon or Jefferson City when a tornado ripped through Miller and Cole counties late on May 22, 2019. With thunder still booming, members of Troop F responded to assist residents and continued to do so for the next several days. Many homes and businesses were significantly damaged, and both communities continue to recover from the destruction.

Troop F conducted a Community Alliance Program at headquarters beginning on Thursday, September 19, and concluding with an awards banquet on Thursday, October 24, 2019.

On December 4, a Troop F sergeant stopped an SUV on Interstate 70 in Cooper County for crossing the centerline. K-9 Rony arrived with his handler and went to work. The resulting search revealed 22,200 THC vape cartridges worth approximately $1.1 million. A 67-year-old man from North Carolina and his 23-year-old son were arrested.

In 2019, Central Missouri MADD awarded Sergeant Morgan B. Patterson the Duane D. Pace Memorial Award. Sgt. Patterson, along with seven other troopers, accepted recognition awards for their dedication to DWI enforcement.

Sergeant Scott B. White was named the 2019 Troop F Officer of the Year for his overall performance throughout the year. Communications Operator III Christopher Ramsey was chosen for the 2019 Troop F Radio Operator of the Year Award due to his ambition and willingness to routinely go above and beyond the call of duty. Clerk Typist II Matthew J. Dezan distinguished himself as an exceptional employee and was the recipient of the 2019 Troop F Civilian Employee of the Year Award.

On January 20, 2021, Marine Officer Tyler W. O’Brien responded to a call of a vehicle in Missouri River, at the Noren Access, across from Jefferson City. With the help of side scan radar, Tpr. O’Brien was able to not only find the original vehicle he was looking for but two additional vehicles as well. After the original vehicle was pulled out, the second one was retrieved and determined to be stolen. Due to the location of the third vehicle, it was determined to be left in place for the time being.

2020 — present

Troopers began the year working weather-related crashes and looking forward to warmer days. Then the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) evolved and brought many challenges and new ways of doing business. Personal protective equipment became a standard and social distancing reshaped the workplace for many Troop F employees.

On August 2, 2020, Montgomery County experienced a massive train derailment near Highway WW in New Florence. Luckily, no one was injured, and no hazardous materials were involved.

On August 16, 2020, a small plane carrying a husband and wife from Mount Pleasant Hill, IA, crashed not far from the Grand Glaize Airport in Osage Beach, MO. Tragically, the plane burst into flames upon impact and both occupants were killed.

On August 17, 2020, less than 24 hours after the fatal plane crash in Osage Beach, a second aircraft crashed into the Lake of the Ozarks. The pilot, who sustained minor injuries, ditched the plane into the lake after the engine failed.

On September 1, 2020, Sergeant Steven B. Johnson stopped a vehicle for following too closely on eastbound Interstate 70 at the 101-mile marker in Cooper County. A probable cause search of the vehicle revealed 150 pounds of marijuana, packaged in one-pound bags.

On September 5, 2020, Troop F officers responded to a residence for a domestic disturbance near Rocky Mount, MO, in Miller County. An injured woman was safely removed from the residence; unfortunately, she died after arriving at the hospital. While officers were in the residence, the suspect, who was armed, barricaded himself along with a hostage. Troop F SWAT responded to the scene and negotiators established phone contact with the suspect and attempted to get the hostage released. After several hours of intense negotiations, it was learned the elderly hostage was being assaulted. Troop F SWAT made entry into the house and rescued the hostage. The suspect was taken into custody and charged with first degree murder, first degree domestic assault, kidnapping, burglary, and unlawful use of a weapon.

As with the majority of 2020, Troop F continued to deal with COVID-19 virus-related issues. Troop F personnel adjusted work schedules to accommodate quarantine requirements and help prevent the spread of this illness.

The highly divisive presidential election of November 2020 spilled over into 2021. State capitol buildings around the country were being threatened with violence and property destruction, including Missouri. Following the election, Troop F assigned officers to walk the grounds of the capitol building on a regular basis, providing a safe working environment for those inside and deterring outsiders wishing to cause harm. This included the deployment of Troop F Mobile Field Force squads on the presidential inauguration day, which proved successful as no major incidents occurred. Over the next several months, Troop F continued to provide security at the capitol building until the threats had subsided.

On January 22, 2021, Troop F officers were assigned to the presidential inauguration detail in Washington, D.C. Sergeant James E. Lowary, Trooper Catlynn E. McKinney,

Sergeant Chris S. Daniels, Corporal Robert A. Sanders, and Trooper Grant A. Ayres proudly represented Troop F and the citizens of Missouri as they helped ensure a calm and respectful transfer of power.

On February 11, 2021, marine officers from around the state gathered at a small lake on a farm owned by Sergeant John M. Sellers. The lake was completely frozen, which provided a great training opportunity to practice various techniques for saving people who had fallen through the ice. Hypothermia can set in quickly for someone not prepared for the situation, making it a fine balancing act between safety and speed.

On February 16, 2021, frigid temperatures lingering in the area reached a point where Lake of the Ozarks was frozen from shore to shore at the 16-mile mark across the main channel. This very rare occurrence caused safety concerns as people ventured out onto the ice to get an up close and personal look.

On February 28, 2021, Captain Corey J. Schoeneberg presented plaques to Trooper Nolan A. Bax (2020 Troop F Officer of the Year), Communications Operator II Tyler D. Kyle (2020 Troop F Communications Operator of the Year), and Building & Grounds Maintenance Supervisor Kyle M. Doll (2020 Troop F Civilian of the Year).

On February 23, 2021, Troop F members attended the first COVID-19 mass vaccination site in Versailles. With the help of the Missouri National Guard and Missouri State Emergency Management Agency, things ran smoothly as people lined up waiting to get the first of two shots.

On March 3, 2021, troopers stopped a vehicle on Interstate 70 in Callaway County. With the help of Callaway County Sheriff's Department K-9 Krieger, 100 pounds of marijuana was removed from the streets.

On April 23, 2021, troopers stopped a vehicle for excessive speed on eastbound I-70 at the 95-mile marker Cooper County. Corporal Nathan D. Wallace deployed K-9 Rony, which positively alerted to narcotics in the vehicle. A search of the vehicle revealed 4.4 pounds of cocaine, 11 pounds of marijuana, and over $13,000 in cash.

On May 2, 2021, a woman was traveling on U.S. 63 in Boone County when she discovered a large black snake crawling around her dashboard. Trooper Nick W. March, who was off duty at the time, came to the scene to assist the motorist. Tpr. March, an avid snake enthusiast, retrieved the snake and released it back into the wild. To the motorist and the officers who responded he became known as the zone snake wrangler.

Around 7 a.m. on May 26, 2021, troopers investigated a single vehicle rollover crash on I-70 in Callaway County. Troopers determined the vehicle was stolen and found a loaded AR pistol and drugs in the vehicle. An injured individual standing next to the vehicle told the officers on scene he had never seen the vehicle before, and he hadn't

been involved in a crash. A search of the person revealed the key to the stolen vehicle in his pocket.

On July 16, 2021, Troop F officers responded to a large disturbance between two rival biker clubs at Casablanca Pub and Grille on Bagnell Dam Boulevard at Lake of the Ozarks. Several club members associated with the Mongols and the Galloping Goose produced handguns and shots were fired, resulting in the death of one biker. Local agencies requested Troop F DDCC to investigate the shooting, which resulted in several arrests.

On October 18, 2021, a large truck struck the overpass at Sorrells Overpass Drive on westbound I-70, just west of Columbia in Boone County. The overpass sustained extensive damage and created large traffic problems until it could be inspected to determine the best course of action. Ultimately, the overpass was completely removed and scheduled for rebuilding in 2022.

November 23, 2021, Troop F concluded its five-week Community Alliance Program which showcased the various services the patrol provides throughout the community.

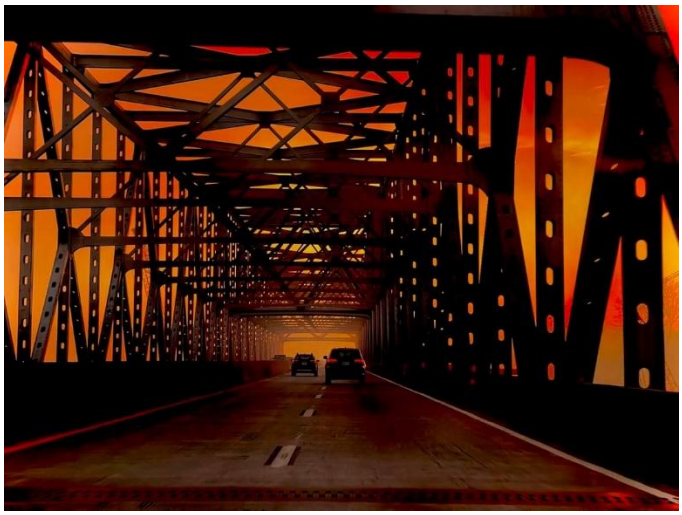
On February 21, 2022, Troop F Sergeant Steven B. Johnson stopped a vehicle for speeding on eastbound I-70 in Montgomery County. The vehicle was slow to stop, and he could see the driver moving about within the passenger area. Sgt. Johnson contacted Corporal Nathan D. Wallace and requested he respond to assist with K-9 Rony. Upon contacting the driver, he detected the overwhelming odor of bleach and there was an open bleach bottle on the front passenger seat. Sgt. Johnson asked for and was denied consent to search the vehicle. Cpl. Wallace deployed Rony, who positively alerted on the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed approximately 30 pounds of methamphetamine concealed within a cooler on the front passenger floorboard. The methamphetamine had been suspended in liquid, believed to be bleach.

On April 20, 2022, troopers investigated a crash on eastbound I-70 in Callaway County. One of the vehicles sustained extensive damage, resulting in its cargo, 500 pounds of marijuana, being spilled onto the interstate. The incident, along with the date 4/20, made national news across multiple networks.



500 pounds of marijuana spilled onto I-70

On October 22, 2022, Troop F officers in Cooper County responded to a large fire, which started on a farm in Woolridge. Due to the windy conditions, the fire spread especially quickly, consuming 29 buildings. Troopers assisted in evacuating the area residents as several fire departments worked to contain the fire. As the fire raged, smoke created an extremely dangerous situation on I-70 as visibility was almost non-existent. Local zone officers made the decision to close a portion of I-70 and reroute traffic through Boonville. This decision likely saved lives by preventing the crashes that would have likely occurred.





Sergeant Wallace and K-9 Emilka

On June 1, 2023, Sergeant Nathan D. Wallace and his new K-9, Emilka, were placed into active service. Emilka is the first female canine in Patrol history.

Lake of the Ozarks continued to grow in popularity, which translated into a larger call volume on the road and water. Powerboat races, car shows, motorcycle rallies, and holiday celebrations bring tens of thousands of people to the lake each weekend. In 2023, road and water officers did an excellent job balancing reactive calls with being proactive on safety and addressing public concerns.

On July 23, 2023, marine operations troopers investigated a boat crash involving a house at the 1.5-mile mark of the main channel at Lake of the Ozarks. Eight people on the boat were injured, and driver was arrested for Boating While Intoxicated.

On August 11, 2023, marine operations troopers responded to a boat explosion at the Millstone Marina at Lake of the Ozarks. The investigation determined gas fumes built up in the engine area while the boat was refueling, and a spark set off an explosion. Fifteen people on the boat and one on the dock were injured in the blast. Thankfully, none of the injuries were considered serious.

On November 8, 2023, the first section of the newly completed Missouri River Bridge connecting Cooper and Boone counties was opened to the public. This was a major project as the new sections are wider and include a shoulder, which greatly improves the overall safety of the bridge considering the volume of traffic it handles each day.

The MU Football detail was busier than ever directing traffic and monitoring the stadium for the 2023 season, which included multiple sellout games from a dedicated SEC fan base. The Mizzou Tigers had one of their best years in school history, ending with a record of 11-2 and a dominate 14-3 performance over Ohio State in the Cotton Bowl.

On December 10, 2024, the ribbon cutting ceremony took place officially opening the Lance Corporal Leon Deraps I-70 Missouri River Rocheport Bridge. Replacement of the steel truss bridge, which was built in 1960, began in 2022. The improvements allowed for three lanes in each direction as well as a shoulder.

On May 31, 2024, a truck pulling a trailer attempted to cross a wooden bridge over the Osage River in Cole County. The weight of the vehicle and trailer far exceeded the maximum weight limit of the bridge, causing it to collapse. Luckily, no one was injured.



Truck and trailer upturned in the Osage River

On May 3, 2025, Trooper Brett E. Twenter conducted a traffic stop on eastbound I-70 in Cooper County. Upon contact with the driver, multiple criminal indicators were observed and consent to search the vehicle was denied. A Cooper County K-9 responded and positively alerted to the odor of narcotics, resulting in the seizure of 17 pounds of cocaine and 9 pounds of heroin.

On November 11, 2025, Troop F made Patrol history with the first all-female Honor Guard, which presented the colors at a Mizzou women's basketball game. The detail comprised of Tpr. Bailey Hunsicker, Tpr. Jaclyn Wilder, Tpr. Brittney Romano, and Tpr. Martha Minarik. (Picture is attached)



Troop F Commanding Officers

(*Acting Commander)



Captain L.M. Means
Nov. 24, 1931 - April 30, 1933



Captain L.B. Howard
May 1, 1933 - June 19, 1935



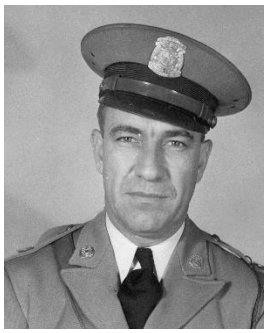
Captain L.E. Eslick
June 20, 1935 - March 24, 1940



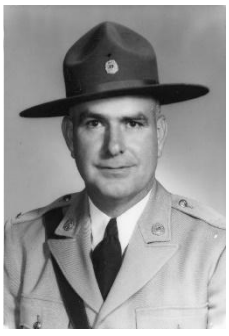
Captain J.F. Shaw
March 25, 1940 - March 16, 1942



Captain W.J. Baxter
March 17, 1942 - July 13, 1942



Captain H.A. Hansen
July 13, 1942 - Sept. 21, 1944



*Lieutenant G.W. Pate
Oct. 1, 1944 - April 30, 1945



Captain K.O. Duncan
May 1, 1945 - Aug. 19, 1947



Captain C.E. Potts
Aug. 20, 1947 - Feb. 9, 1953



Captain C.M. Parker
Feb. 10, 1953 - Dec. 31, 1955



Captain P.E. Corl
Jan 1, 1956 - Feb. 28, 1958



Captain H.A. Wallace
March 1, 1958 - July 15, 1959



*Lieutenant S.S. Smith
July 15, 1959 - July 31, 1959



Captain G.E. Phipps
Aug. 1, 1959 - Feb. 7, 1966



*Lieutenant C.W. Keith
Feb. 7, 1966 - March 1, 1966



Captain D.S. Gehrig
March 1, 1966 - Jan. 31, 1973



Captain F.A. Jones
Feb. 1, 1973 - Sept. 30, 1976



Captain N.E. Tinnin Oct. 1,
1976 - July 31, 1979



Captain J.L. Englehart
Aug 1, 1979 - Aug. 31, 1982



Captain B.D. Smith
Sept. 1, 1982 - Feb. 29, 1988



Captain R.R. Bergman
March 1, 1988 - July 31, 1992



Captain G.T. Vaugh
Aug. 1, 1992 - June 30, 1993



Captain D.A. Schmitz
July 1, 1993 - Sept. 30, 1993



Captain C.R. Jackson
Oct. 1, 1993 - Jan 31, 2000



Captain D.A. Schmidt
Feb. 1, 2000 - May 31, 2010



Captain G.D. Kindle
June 1, 2010 - Feb. 28, 2015



Captain M.A. Turner
March 1, 2015 - April 1, 2019



Captain C.J. Schoeneberg
May 1, 2019 - Aug. 1, 2022



Captain J.N. Crites
Sept. 1, 2022 - present