

SAFER OHIO

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Safer Ohio Schools:

Ohio Homeland Security Provides Explosive Detection Dogs to State Universities

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Safer Schools Mean a Safer Ohio

The newest officer at The Ohio State University Police Division has two favorite things: working hard and an orange rubber ball.

Rita, a female German shepherd, is one of three explosive detection canines to join law enforcement at public universities to enhance safety on campus and in the surrounding areas through a new pilot program of Ohio Homeland Security (OHS).



Lt. John Stewart and Jerry, a male Belgian shepherd, serve Bowling Green State University.

The dogs are available to patrol their respective universities and assist surrounding communities upon request, conduct security sweeps of facilities before high-profile events, and respond to threats where explosive devices may be present. The Ohio State University (OSU), Bowling Green State University (BGSU) and Youngstown State University (YSU) were selected to receive canines based on their geography and whether other explosive detection canines were in the area.

The dogs completed 10 weeks of training to prepare for their new careers, five of which were spent with their assigned trainers. Gino, a male Belgian malinois, was paired with Patrolman Mark Mehley to work at YSU. Lt. John Stewart is the handler for Jerry, a male Belgian shepherd, at BGSU. Rita, at OSU, is partnered with Officer Joanna Shaul.

In training, the dogs learn to sniff out the odor of explosive materials and indicate the scent's presence by sitting. Handlers learn to read their canines'



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August 1, 2014

Colonel John Born, Director
Ohio Department of Public Safety
Charles D. Shipley Building
1970 West Broad Street
PO Box 132081
Columbus, Ohio 43218-2081

Dear Colonel Born,

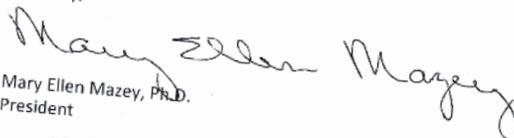
On behalf of Bowling Green State University, thank you for your generous contributions to our Public Safety Department. Our K-9 officer Jerry, has quickly become an indispensable addition to our public safety team. His presence on our campus will provide extra security and learning opportunities that will not only benefit our students, faculty, staff, and visitors but also northwest Ohio.

The University is also extremely thankful to you for providing a suitable vehicle for Jerry and his police officer handler, Lieutenant John Shumaker. This will enable the force to operate all of our vehicles at full capacity each shift.

We were so appreciative to learn that the cost of these contributions would be covered by grant monies through Homeland Security. The savings will allow us to direct those resources toward other strategic needs on our campus.

We are grateful for all you have done for the public safety in northwest Ohio, and pledge our best efforts in continuing this service. Please accept our warmest heartfelt thanks.

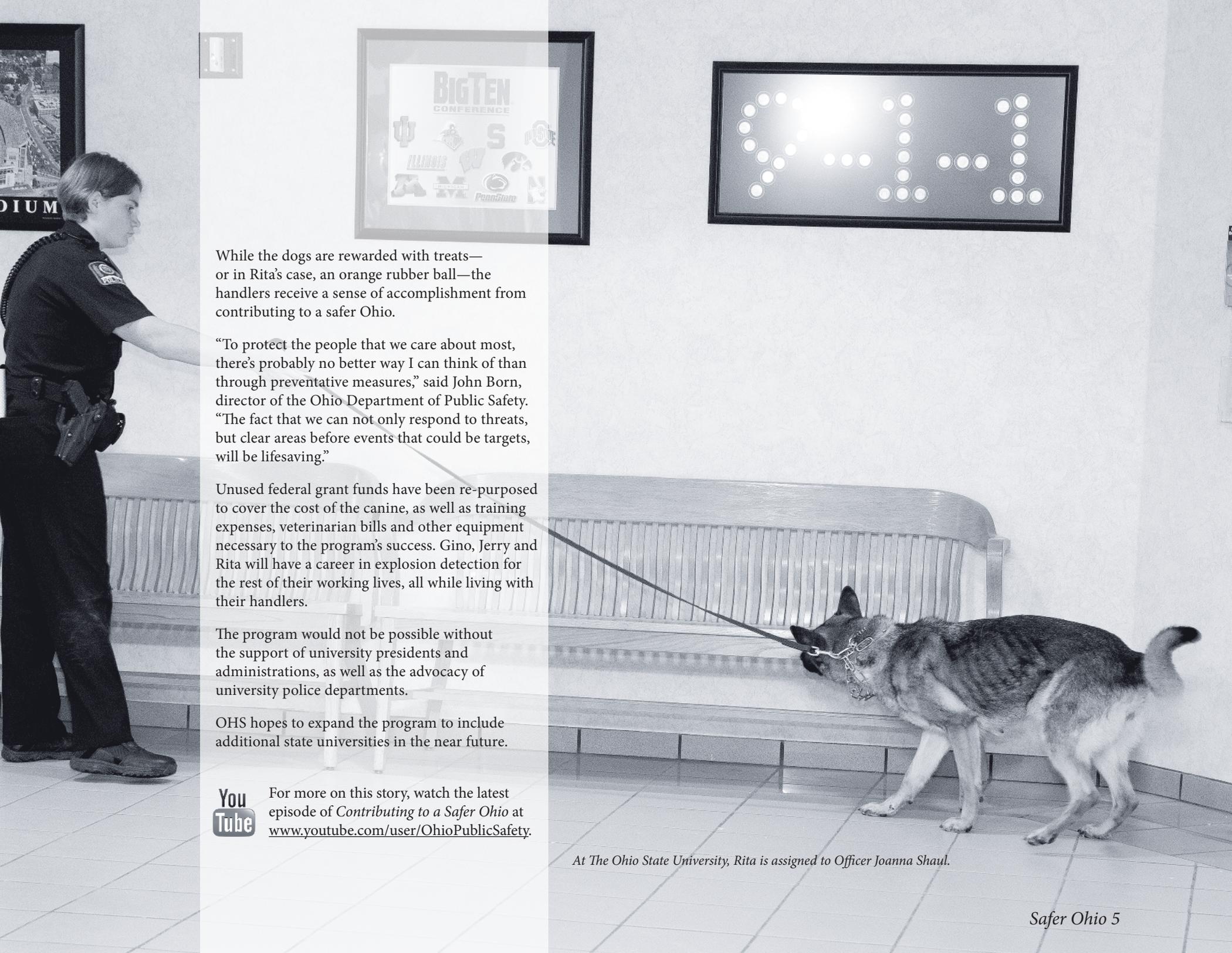
Sincerely,


Mary Ellen Mazey, Ph.D.
President

actions, which can be tough; is she excited because she smelled a cheeseburger, or is it an explosive device?

Handlers also have to stay in great shape just to keep up with their new partners, who are young, lean and bursting with energy.

“In police academy, it’s about having your head up and looking around,” said Officer Shaul. “Now I’m fairly focused on what she’s doing and interpreting her behaviors. It’s almost like being a brand new patrol officer all over again.”



While the dogs are rewarded with treats— or in Rita’s case, an orange rubber ball—the handlers receive a sense of accomplishment from contributing to a safer Ohio.

“To protect the people that we care about most, there’s probably no better way I can think of than through preventative measures,” said John Born, director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. “The fact that we can not only respond to threats, but clear areas before events that could be targets, will be lifesaving.”

Unused federal grant funds have been re-purposed to cover the cost of the canine, as well as training expenses, veterinarian bills and other equipment necessary to the program’s success. Gino, Jerry and Rita will have a career in explosion detection for the rest of their working lives, all while living with their handlers.

The program would not be possible without the support of university presidents and administrations, as well as the advocacy of university police departments.

OHS hopes to expand the program to include additional state universities in the near future.



For more on this story, watch the latest episode of *Contributing to a Safer Ohio* at www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety.

At The Ohio State University, Rita is assigned to Officer Joanna Shaul.

Ohio EMS Agencies Rewarded for Heart Attack Care

Twenty-two EMS agencies in Ohio were honored for their treatment of the deadliest type of heart attack with the inaugural 2014 American Heart Association Mission: Lifeline EMS Performance Achievement Award.

The Mission: Lifeline initiative was developed to reduce death and disability for individuals who suffer from ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) heart attacks by improving timeliness of care provided by health care systems.

When a heart attack strikes, timely treatment can be the difference between life and death—particularly with STEMI, which prevent entire sections of the heart from receiving blood due to completely blocked coronaries. In 2010, 5,263 Ohioans died from STEMI, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Convention.

EMS agencies are critical components to STEMI systems. Those with the tools and training to rapidly identify the STEMI and alert the receiving center to pre-activate an early response can save many lives.

Another component is patient education. Individuals experiencing heart attack symptoms need to know the signs and to call 9-1-1 immediately to improve the chance of survival. Otherwise, a patient experiencing heart attack symptoms may not hear a diagnosis until after driving to a hospital, waiting in an emergency room, taking an EKG and waiting for results.

“That’s a lot of time,” says Dr. Carol Cunningham, Ohio EMS Medical Director. “That still happens because not everyone with chest pain calls 9-1-1 like they should.”

The 22 Ohio agencies joined 208 others across the nation receiving the award based on data submitted

from 2013. Requirements included meeting a minimum number of STEMI patients per quarter and achieving a high compliance score on a number of measures assessing the EMS agency’s effectiveness:

- Percentage of patients older than 35 years of age with non-traumatic chest pain, treated and transported by EMS who receive a pre-hospital 12-lead ECG.
- Percentage of STEMI patients transported to a STEMI receiving center, with pre-hospital first medical contact (FMC) to device (PCI) in less than 90 minutes.
- Percentage of STEMI patients taken to a referring hospital that administers fibrinolytic therapy with a door-to-needle time within 30 minutes.

Ohio has the third most recognized agencies in the country this year, after Pennsylvania and Texas.

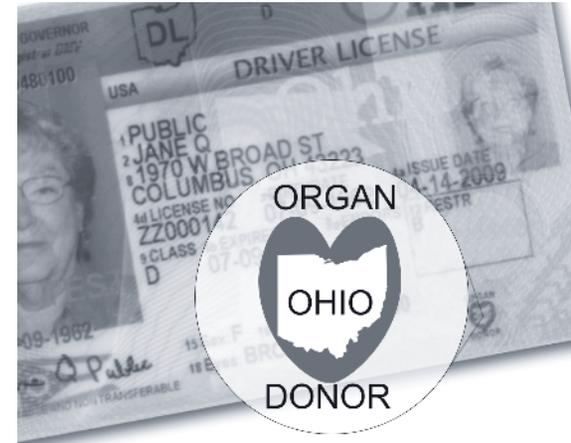
Swipe to Donate Life

Currently there are more than 110,000 individuals on the national waiting list for life-saving organ transplants. Every day, approximately 79 people receive organ transplants because of individuals who elect to be organ donors upon their death or through live organ donations; however, approximately 18 people die each day waiting for transplants because of the shortage of donated organs.

The Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) administers the Ohio Donor Registry, which identifies individuals who have signed up to be organ donors at a local BMV Deputy Registrar or through the BMV website. The current method to become an organ donor at a Deputy Registrar entails providing the potential organ donor a paper form which they either fill out on site or take home and then mail to the BMV.

To improve the process, Donate Life Ohio, the coalition of Ohio's organ, eye and tissue recovery agencies, recently requested the ability to swipe a potential donor's Ohio driver license or identification card to auto-populate most of the information required on the Ohio BMV online organ donor registry, dramatically reducing the amount of time required to register someone as an organ donor.

The donor will only need to enter the last four digits of his or her Social Security number in order to authenticate his or her identity. Once identity is authenticated, the customer will be able to register as a full or partial organ donor, and will also have the ability to cancel the registration process at any time. After the registration is complete, changes can be made anytime through the BMV website.



A new program offered at local BMV Deputy Registrars will make it easier to register as an organ donor.



For more on this story, watch the latest episode of *Contributing to a Safer Ohio* at www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety.

What's on Your Plate?

In 1985, Julie Menkhaus' aunt purchased a Delorean DMC-12 just before the movie "Back to the Future" was released. The car received lots of interest as the popularity of the movie grew. After Julie's aunt passed away, the car was offered to Julie. A few months later, Julie surprised her husband Doug with the Delorean on their anniversary. Julie told Doug it was the "power of love" that brought them together and brought the car to their home. They decided to acknowledge the "Back to the Future" trilogy, without going overboard, with the plate, "PWR O LUV." This spring, Julie and Doug took their car to a local high school prom which had a "Back to the Future" theme.

The BMV wants to hear from you! If you have a unique personalized license plate, send a photo of you with your plate and a summary of how you chose your plate's message. Email the photo and summary to Communications@dps.ohio.gov and you could be featured on BMV's Facebook page and website. You could also win a decorative plate award with the personalization of your choice! Plates must be current and valid. Winners are selected quarterly.



Motorcycle Ohio Program

Motorcycle Ohio, an office within the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, works to address all the issues that can impact motorcycle safety including education, training and motorist awareness.

Since its inception in 1988, Motorcycle Ohio has trained more than 180,000 motorcycle riders through its courses, which include the Basic Rider Course, Basic Rider Course for Returning Riders, Basic Rider Course 2 and the Advanced Rider Course.

In recent years, Motorcycle Ohio led the Ride SMART campaign, addressing all aspects of motorcycle safety, including Ride Sober, Ride Motorcycle-endorsed, Ride Alert, Ride with the Right Gear and Ride Trained. The campaign included various partners in enforcement, education and engineering in an effort to reduce motorcycle fatalities in the state.

Motorcycle Ohio is looking for instructors to help novice riders learn to ride safely, help returning riders improve their skills and safety strategies, and help experienced riders improve and increase their safety margins. Those interested in becoming an instructor must:

- Have a valid driver license with an endorsement for at least three years;
- Have successfully completed the 60-hour instructor preparation course, which is held periodically throughout the year;
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent;
- A driving record in good standing;
- Be mentally and physically able to teach the motorcycle safety curriculum;
- Obtain First Aid and CPR certification before teaching;
- Possess good communication, organization and motorcycle riding skills;
- Have a desire to help others learn safe riding; and
- Have patience.

For more information on Motorcycle Ohio, please visit: www.motorcycle.ohio.gov.



Motorcycle Ohio is currently seeking instructors for its training courses. Motorcycle Ohio offers low-cost instruction to riders of every skill level.

 facebook.com/motorcycleohio

 [@MotorcycleOhio](https://twitter.com/MotorcycleOhio)

State Supports Gallia County during Water Crisis



The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (EMA) successfully responds and coordinates resources to support local communities in times of crisis. This was especially true in June when the city of Gallipolis experienced a main water line break that left nearly 3,000 residents in Gallia County without water for up to a week. The first break was found on Ohio 7 at the Chickamauga Creek. A second leak was later discovered, but the source of the leak eluded city and county officials for several days.

Support and response to the Gallipolis community was well organized, and coordination of mutual aid and state agency support to the local community was strong. During the week-long water outage, EMA conducted twice-daily conference calls, coordinating state resources to assist Gallia County with its water crisis.

The beginning of the event warranted the support of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's Pickaway Correctional Institution employees and inmates to deliver potable water to the city of Gallipolis. This effort continued throughout the outage, with the state of Ohio supporting the locals with more than 31,000 gallons of drinking water for its residents.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency was on site from the day the leak was discovered, providing technical assistance and, later, manpower as the event progressed.

As the local municipality utilized mutual aid resources across the Ohio Water/Waste Water Agency Response Network, the Ohio Department of Transportation supplied remote optical sensing equipment to assist in finding the leak, which was ultimately identified in an abandoned 12-inch line under the Chickamauga Creek.

As state agencies continued to identify and respond proactively, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (EMA) and the Ohio Department of Administrative Services procured bottled water and assisted in the coordination of water distribution to ensure residents could maintain activities of daily living.

The Ohio Department of Aging, through the local Area Agency on Aging, addressed health and safety concerns of older adults to ensure they, too, had sufficient water supply.

Lastly, as the food service industry remained closed throughout this hardship, the Ohio Department of Health worked closely with local health departments to ensure restaurants adhered to safety standards so they could reopen as quickly as possible.

Several state agency partners remained on standby, ready to support if necessary. Water pressure returned, the boil water advisory was lifted, and the Gallia County Health Department assisted local restaurants, grocers and other food-related establishments in reopening their businesses.

This partnership is what the system of emergency management is designed to support. Whether we face risks related to earthquakes, floods or chemical spills, our goal is shared: safety and resiliency.



For more on this story, watch the *Gallipolis Water Shortage* video at www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety.

Crime Laboratory Improvements Support Criminal Patrol Efforts

Every time Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) troopers seize a bottle of pills, a sample of blood or a bag of powder, they need an unbiased test to determine what's really inside. Their answers come from the men and women of the OSHP Crime Laboratory. The lab's criminalists may operate behind the scenes, but their work is integral to the success of the division.

The past four years have hallmarked the most successful time in the history of the crime lab. A larger staff, new instruments and building projects have helped criminalists work at a faster rate and with higher efficiency.

The crime laboratory houses two separate scientific units: Toxicology, which identifies drugs and alcohol in blood, urine or bodily fluids, and Drug Chemistry, which determines if a piece of evidence contains any controlled substances. Between the two sections, 26 staff members work to support officers' work in the field. Most staff members are criminalists who perform tests in the laboratories.

"The bottom line is we want to offer a comprehensive and unbiased test," said Joey Jones, Toxicology Drug Director. "Whoever uses the services — whether it's the Patrol or an outside agency — they're getting the best test available."

One challenge criminalists face is the number of cases submitted to the lab. In 2013, the Drug Chemistry Unit

worked on more than 13,000 cases, and Toxicology worked on more than 10,000. This was an all-time high for the lab, requiring each criminalist to manage multiple cases while working at the highest level of proficiency. Criminalists enter cases into the crime lab's system, perform preliminary and confirmatory tests and testify in court about their findings — a responsibility that can take them out of the lab for multiple days a week.

As the lab embraces new technology, the number of detectable substances increases and the amount necessary for detection decreases. In 2013, a grant from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration allowed the purchase of toxicology instruments to expand the palette of detectable drugs, and a liquid chromatograph/mass spectrometer/mass spectrometer funded by a 2014 Drug Recognition Expert program grant will increase testing abilities to an almost unlimited menu. With the difficult task of looking for something that may or may not be there, criminalists benefit greatly from these new additions.

The efforts of the criminalists at the lab are directly responsible for the successful adjudication of some of the most serious offenses the Patrol is charged to enforce.

"The men and women working at the crime lab directly support the mission of protecting public safety," said Colonel Paul A. Pride, superintendent of the OSHP. "Their accomplishments of the last several years show their dedication, talent and professionalism."

Do You Know Where Your Drink Is?

In July, the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) provided “Do you know where your drink is?” posters to the Ottawa County Sheriff’s Office and Put-in-Bay Police Department for distribution to island liquor establishments. The posters were requested by the Lake Erie community after several reports of drugged drinks.

The campaign was created by OIU in 2012 to remind bar patrons not to leave their drinks unattended and to keep them in sight at all times. Drugging drinks or participating in excessive alcohol consumption are methods that can be used to subdue would-be victims and could lead to a sexual assault, theft or kidnapping.

OIU wants to make sure everyone knows:

- Both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks can be drugged;
- Not to leave your drink unattended or to turn your back for just one second;
- Not to accept drinks from anyone you don’t know or trust; and
- To watch out for your friends and others — if you see something, “Don’t Turn Your Back, ACT!”

In addition, bystanders can make all the difference in these situations. Bystanders are asked to let a person know if his or her drink has been compromised, to help get an individual out of a bad situation and to call 9-1-1 for help immediately. Likewise, bar staff are also encouraged to get the individual out of the situation and collect the evidence.

OIU Issued 267 Administrative Charges to Liquor Permit Premises for Drug Offenses

In 2013, OIU agents filed 267 administrative charges against Ohio liquor permits for drug use, possession, sales and paraphernalia sales and/or possession.

While agents’ work primarily focuses on illegal activities connected to alcohol or food stamp violations, they also investigate drug-related violations at liquor permit premises. In Ohio, liquor permit holders must comply with Ohio law, and allowing or participating in illegal drug activity is a violation of the liquor permit.

In June, Mahmoud Taher and the Kinsman Market in Cleveland were both indicted by the Cuyahoga

County Grand Jury on eight counts of drug possession and 14 counts of trafficking after agents received a complaint of drug trafficking taking place at a liquor permit establishment.

During a 14-month investigation, agents were able to purchase 1,067 pills, including OxyContin, Percocet and Vicodin at the Kinsman Market. During a search in November, agents seized 426 pills, of which 225 were controlled substances such as OxyContin, Ambien, Percocet and Morphine/MSIR.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the liquor permit was administratively charged with six counts



of drug sales, and one count each of drug possession, theft and receiving stolen property.

“Anytime there is illegal drug activity, it is a detriment to the area,” said Cleveland District Agent-in-Charge Greg Croft. “By sifting out the illegal activity, we are helping make the businesses safer for everyone.”

As with all cases, administrative charges are presented to the Ohio Liquor Control Commission once criminal proceedings are completed. The commission has the authority to issue penalties such as fines, suspensions or revocation of the liquor permit.

Public Safety Briefs

New Executive Director of Private Investigator Security Guard Services

Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) Director John Born appointed Geoff Dutton as executive director of Private Investigator Security Guard Services (PISGS), effective July 20. Executive Director Dutton replaced Arnie Schropp, who retired after leading the section since July 2012.

Through his assignments at ODPS, Dutton has consistently demonstrated the ability to balance oversight and service. This is expected to continue as he balances between industry and enforcement priorities in PISGS. After serving with the Ohio Inspector General's Office, Dutton joined ODPS in 2011 as the Department's media relations director. He then served as a member of the ODPS Process Improvement Team (PIT). The first PIT project involved assisting PISGS in streamlining and modernizing its licensing, registration and enforcement to enhance public safety and keep pace with the needs of a changing industry. Among other projects, Dutton also assisted the Division of EMS in merging with the Medical Transportation Board, mending a sometimes fractious relationship and beginning a new era of cooperation with a united commitment to public safety.

PISGS is a regulatory body consisting of two units: Licensing and Registration, and Enforcement. The section's mission is to maintain a standard of excellence for the private investigator and security guard industry by ensuring all applicants meet the established criteria for licensing and registration, and enforcing the laws governing the industry to protect the safety of the citizens of Ohio. PISGS also facilitates a commission of 12 appointed officials representing the industry, law enforcement and the general public.

For more information on PISGS, please visit www.pisgs.ohio.gov.



Fugitive Safe Surrender

The U.S. Marshals Service's Fugitive Safe Surrender is a program that converts a church into a courthouse and invites non-violent offenders to turn themselves in and receive favorable consideration from the court. Every voluntary surrender is one less potentially dangerous situation for law enforcement, the fugitive and his or her family and the communities in general.

Statistics show many of the individuals surrendering are resolving traffic offenses which result in driver license suspensions. As such, the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) is at these events to work with the Clerk of Courts and to provide driver license reinstatement services for those resolving traffic cases. The BMV is the last step offered in the program and driver license reinstatement is provided on site in real time.

From June 25 through June 28, the BMV participated in the Akron Fugitive Safe Surrender at the House of the Lord Church.

To date, the BMV has participated in eight Fugitive Safe Surrender programs where more than 14,500 fugitives have surrendered voluntarily and peacefully. Reinstatement teams have assisted more than 6,000 fugitives with detailed driver license reinstatement information, collected more than \$16,000 in state revenue and processed more than 3,100 BMV-related documents to clear cases off of fugitives' records. The program also has prompted many of these fugitives to visit a regional reinstatement office to clear their license suspensions.

News in :90

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) is now featuring a quick, informative newscast called “News in :90.” This short newscast features a compilation of events and social media comments from the previous week, so you can stay up-to-date on what’s happening – all in 90 seconds! You can view the weekly video on the ODPS website, www.publicsafety.ohio.gov, or email Communications@dps.ohio.gov to subscribe.



Scrap Metal Program

On July 1, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) implemented Ohio’s Scrap Metal Program, including resources developed for use by local law enforcement and scrap metal dealers to jointly combat metal theft.

Searchable electronic lists — also known as the Do Not Buy List — and the Dealer Daily Transaction Database are now available to law enforcement as critical tools to assist with identifying and countering illegal scrap metal operations as well as identifying scrap metal thieves.

Over the next few months ODPS will further enhance the program to ensure it is as user-friendly and robust as possible.

Washington Fellowship for African Leaders

Through the Washington Fellowship for African Leaders, the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) hosted Rumbidzai Dube, a lawyer from Zimbabwe, from August 11 – September 26. Dube has more than six years of experience in human rights and democracy building and worked with the OCJS anti-trafficking coordinator.

The Fellowship brought 500 young African professionals, ages 25-35, to the U.S. for academic study, leadership training and a presidential summit in Washington, D.C. In addition, 100 Fellows were selected for eight-week internships. The diverse group represented some of the brightest young leaders in the 49 countries of sub-Saharan Africa. Of the nearly 50,000 applications, only 500 were selected to participate this year.

The Washington Fellowship is a program of the U.S. government and is supported by IREX, an international NGO with more than 45 years of experience delivering education and training programs. To learn more about the Washington Fellowship, please visit youngafricanleaders.state.gov/washington-fellowship.



Ohio Search and Rescue Association

Through the Safer Ohio Initiative, authorities now have the capability to connect with qualified search resources. The Ohio Search and Rescue Association (OSARA) was formed in 2012 to represent the search community and raise awareness about missing persons in Ohio.

Previously, there had not been one organization that any state agency or first responder could contact about concerns or questions related to searching for missing persons and authorities have sometimes struggled to access qualified search resources. OSARA will continue to reach out to not only the first responder community, but to the public as well.

First responder agencies in need of OSARA resources should contact the Hub by phone at #677.

Over the last year, OSARA has established NIMS-compliant minimum requirements for ground, equine and canine search resources. For more information, please visit www.ohiosarassociation.org.



Public Safety Partnerships

ODPS Employees Recognized by the American Red Cross

As part of a new collaborative effort with the American Red Cross, more than 150 Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) employees volunteered to help those in need after a catastrophe. Under Ohio law, state employees can volunteer for national disaster deployment with the Red Cross for up to 30 days annually without loss of pay or benefits. The employees first complete training to become certified disaster service volunteers and then deploy to wherever help is needed.

The collaborative effort between the Red Cross and ODPS was proposed in late 2013. By April, many volunteers had received CPR/First Aid certification and finished “boot camp” training, an eight-hour class encompassing different components of disaster assistance. ODPS volunteers are now eligible to deploy and assist in one of the 70,000 disasters each year that receive aid from the Red Cross.

Five ODPS employees have already deployed this year to assist with disaster situations in Kansas, Arkansas and Washington. Volunteers can provide help in many different areas of the relief, including sheltering and logistics.

On July 23, representatives of the American Red Cross Central-Southeast Ohio Region recognized the ODPS volunteers. “Red Cross volunteers are the best part of somebody’s worst day ever,” said Kenneth R. Robinson III, regional disaster program officer of the American Red Cross, Ohio Buckeye Region.

“It’s really a great day for the department and the state,” ODPS Director John Born said at the ceremony, “and it’s a great opportunity to recognize those people who have stepped up and decided that they were going to directly contribute not only to a safer Ohio and a safer country, but a safer world.”

Jeff Boyd, an ODPS volunteer who was deployed to Baxter Springs, Kansas, after a tornado in April, spoke at the ceremony about the initial moments of entering the disaster area; he and the other volunteers in a 15-passenger van were joking and carrying on as if all was normal, before the full impact of the situation hit.

“We pull in and just see houses leveled, and everybody just gets quiet,” he said. “It was definitely an eye-opening experience.”

Employees who have already been deployed plan to continue volunteering. Seeing the destruction of homes, hearing stories of survivors and other Red Cross volunteers and knowing they helped people in dire need made the experience unforgettable, they recalled. A new round of volunteer training will begin this fall.



For more on this story, watch the latest episode of *Contributing to a Safer Ohio* at www.youtube.com/user/OhioPublicSafety.

In July, representatives of the American Red Cross Central-Southeast Ohio Region recognized the 156 ODPS volunteers who completed training to become certified disaster service volunteers.





Teen Driving Program Earns “I Contribute” Award

After a fatal car crash in 2006 took the life of a 15-year-old Medina High School student, Chief Terry Grice of the Montville Police Department knew he wanted to make his community a safer place to drive. The result, a free teen-driver program called “Take Control,” earned the Ohio Department of Public Safety’s “I Contribute” award for its commitment to a Safer Ohio.

“Take Control” stemmed from an existing diversion program for minor criminal infractions and traffic citations for offenders under age 18. After the 2006 crash, the program’s focus shifted from a community service-type setting to one committed to hands-on driving education, known as the Juvenile Diversion Driving Program. It created a fun and interactive environment for students and instructors, aiming to reduce crashes involving juvenile drivers.

The program was so successful that it expanded to include almost every law enforcement agency in Medina County. More than 200 Medina County juvenile traffic offenders receive training through the class each year. Students from the program responded positively, and many said they wished they had access to the opportunity without first receiving a citation.

Parents began asking whether their teens who had never received a citation could attend, but there was a problem: since the program used funding from the Medina County Juvenile Court, students without a citation were ineligible.

The Montville Police Department then began the “Take Control” program — a non-offender, advanced teen driver education program available to all drivers ages 16 to 19. Because of donations from the MStar Foundation, Ehrbar Angel’s Foundation and Westfield Insurance, the program is offered at no expense to participants. A local car dealership, Bill Dorarty Kia, even donated the use of three vehicles for the driving portion of the class.

Medina County law enforcement officers teach the program. The curriculum of the three-hour class focuses on advanced driving skills and education. Students begin in a classroom and then transition to instruction on driving techniques like the relationship between eye positioning and driving, emergency braking and collision avoidance. Using “drift lift” technology, a system that allows vehicles to skid at a slower speed than usual, students learn skid recovery in a real world setting that does not compromise their safety. The “Take Control” program’s one year anniversary passed by in June; in that time, more than 150 teen drivers received training.

Ohio Department of Public Safety Director John Born presented the “I Contribute” award to the Montville Police Department on June 17. The award — part of the Department’s *Safer Ohio* initiative — encourages citizens to nominate an individual or agency for making a positive impact related to public safety in their community.

“I applaud Chief Grice, the Montville Police Department and its partners for their efforts in both creating and maintaining a successful program,” said Director John Born. “This truly is an illustrative example of what it means to contribute to a safer Ohio. The ‘Take Control’ program is a remarkable program and certainly deserving of the ‘I Contribute’ award.”

To nominate someone for the “I Contribute” award, please visit the ODPS website: www.publicsafety.ohio.gov.



The Ohio Department of Public Safety awarded the Take Control program, a Medina County program that promotes safe teen driving, with its “I Contribute To A Safer Ohio” award. From left: Sgt. Chris LaFond, Montville Police Department; Chris DePiero, Ehrbar Angels Foundation; ODPS Director John Born, Montville Police Chief Terry Grice; Sgt. Scott Schmoll, Medina County Sheriff’s Office; and Sgt. Tina Jackson, Ohio State Highway Patrol.

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