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Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police
District 2 Representative

The OACP and the numerous individual police departments and sheriff's offices in the State of Ohio have cultivated a mutually beneficial relationship with the Ohio State Highway Patrol for many years. These relationships have been based on trust, respect and professionalism. It is imperative that those relationships be maintained.

The OACP and the departments located in the OACP District 2 region are extremely happy with the opportunity to assist the Ohio State Highway Patrol Task Force in suggesting avenues to improve OSHP operational efficiency, identify overlapping services, and consolidate current operations. The willingness of the Ohio State Highway Patrol to accept external agency reviews to better assess how their agency can more efficiently and effectively serve the State of Ohio speaks volumes as to their professionalism.

As has been related, interaction among agencies requires that relationships be built in order to be effective. The Ohio State Highway Patrol, due to its jurisdictional boundaries, has many more relationships to build than perhaps any other law enforcement agency in Ohio. Building and maintaining those relationships requires open lines of communication at the agency and individual level. It also requires the time to initiate and maintain those relationships on a consistent basis as each jurisdiction may have various concerns, responsibilities and services. It requires that individual post commanders and troopers be permitted the time to make those contacts necessary to determine the needs and services of a particular agency.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol offers many valuable services to local law enforcement. Amongst OACP District 2, the use of those services varies markedly as do the individual abilities of the agencies in District 2. In certain circumstances, the services provided by the Ohio State Highway Patrol will certainly overlap the services provided by some jurisdictions. Overlap is not necessarily a negative aspect in law enforcement. For example, some agencies may desire to handle their own vehicle crashes; others may not have the time, due to call volume, to effectively handle routine traffic crashes. The needs and abilities of the agencies in this example are different thusly requiring a relationship between the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the agencies to know what is asked of them. The same can be said for the many other valuable services provided by the Ohio State Highway Patrol such as training, laboratory, aviation, special response team, canine, and polygraph services.

When the proper relationships are established and maintained, the Ohio State Highway Patrol can tailor their efforts and concentrate on what is needed in a particular area or jurisdiction. Doing so would greatly enhance the operational efficiency of the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

In closing, creating relationships that open the lines of communication will assist in identifying the needs and abilities of individual agencies which would result in a more efficient and/or concentrated effort by the Ohio State Highway Patrol.

David M Olds