“EMS Star of Life” Award Winners

The Ohio Chapter American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) announced its "EMS Star of Life" award winners on May 20, 2004, at its sixth annual awards ceremony during EMS Week, which was May 16-22, 2004.

**2004 STAR OF LIFE AWARD WINNERS**

Region I - Cincinnati Fire Department
Region II - Miami Township Division of Fire & EMS
Region III - Spencerville Ambulance Service, Inc.
Region IV - Highland Township Volunteer Fire Department
Region V - Mifflin Township Division of Fire
Region VI - Malta - McConnelsville Fire Department, Division of EMS
Region VII - Quad Ambulance
Region VIII - Aurora Fire Department
Region IX - Westlake Fire Department
Region X - Pymatuning Ambulance Service

**2004 "YOU'VE GOTTA HAVE HEART" AWARD WINNERS**

Region I - Miami Township Fire & EMS
Region II - Xenia City Fire Department
Region II - Covington Rescue Squad
Region II - Brookville Fire Department
Region II - Bellbrook Fire & EMS Department
Region III - Lafayette Jackson Fire Department
Region III - Wapakoneta Rescue Squad, Wapakoneta Fire Department, & Wapakoneta Police Department
Region V - Columbus Division of Fire
Region VI - Marietta City Fire Department
Region VI - National Trails EMS
Region VIII - Randolph Township Fire Department
Region VIII - Tallmadge Fire Department
Region IX - Central Lorain County Ambulance District, Oberlin Fire Department, & Oberlin College Security
Region IX - North Ridgeville Fire Department

The EMS "Star of Life" Awards are designed to:

- **HONOR** exceptional EMS personnel from each of Ohio's ten EMS Regions.
- **RECOGNIZE** Ohio's emergency medical services system and organizations.
- **REUNITE** the EMS provider with the person they treated and present the actual patient scenario.
- **GENERATE** positive media stories regarding prehospital care and the EMS Star of Life Award.
- **MAGNIFY** the profile of National EMS Week in the state of Ohio.
For 56 years, the Ohio State Highway Patrol's pilots, planes and helicopters have been an integral part of exceptional services to the state of Ohio.

It all started in 1948. On May 4, 1948, the Patrol placed its first aircraft—a sleek Beechcraft Bonanza—into service. It was originally to be used not for enforcement purposes, but for disaster relief, air searches, transportation, photography, and "errands of mercy." Sgt. E. V. Webb, a graduate of the Camp Perry Class and an old "barnstormer," flew the first Patrol mission on June 8, 1948. During the flight, Webb broadcast a radio signal which reached all posts and most cars. While airborne, he also spotted a disabled vehicle and directed officers to the scene, recording the first aircraft assist. That first mission, as well as Webb's ardent support of an aircraft program, earned him the title "father of Patrol aviation."

The Patrol's Aviation Section took a giant leap forward on July 4, 1952. It was on this date that Patrolman W. D. Braucher and Sgt. J. H. Gorham were observing traffic conditions from the air and spotted a semi-truck driving recklessly on Route 224 in Mahoning County. They radioed its position to Sgt. W. E. Timberlake, patrolling below, which subsequently stopped the vehicle. Braucher then landed the plane to file charges. As though a light had been turned on, plans for various enforcement-related uses for aircraft exploded and the role of Patrol aircraft changed forever.

Today, the Ohio State Highway Patrol maintains an Aviation Section consisting of 14 uniformed officer-pilots, three American Eurocopter turbine-powered helicopters, and 12 Cessna airplanes.

The primary mission of Patrol pilots is enforcement of traffic safety laws and assistance to motorists. In addition, the Aviation Section conducts aerial searches, often utilizing the FLIR (Forward-Looking Infra-Red) device which can sense subtle changes in temperature and "see" persons who are missing or at large after dark. Pilots also fly photo missions, and locate marijuana plants each year while in the course of normal duties. In addition, they provide services to other law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

Patrol pilots provide critical support in several key enforcement programs, including: enforcement of school bus safety violations; Operation Lifesaver which targets railroad crossing violations; Operation TRIAD (Targeting Reckless, Intimidating, and Aggressive Drivers) where "road rage" types of violations are occurring; and concentrated following too closely enforcement details. The Aviation Section is sometimes called upon for emergency transportation and technical service in aircraft crash investigations and enforcement of laws governing air traffic.

In 2003, the Aviation Section logged 5,216 flight hours. In addition, the latest airplane, a Cessna 182, was purchased in the fall of 2003. In four years, the Patrol Aviation Section will celebrate its 60th anniversary. It is a credit to the state of Ohio that this unit continues to grow and be a vital safety vehicle for all Ohioans. It continues to fly high.
Ohio Homeland Security Adds Deputy Directors

In the past few months, Ohio Homeland Security has grown by leaps and bounds - most notably with the addition of three new deputy directors within our division - Jim Thomas, Rich Rawlins and Bill Vedra.

Jim Thomas will be responsible for coordinating the overall effort to enhance the protection of critical infrastructure and key resources in the state of Ohio. He will also serve as the Homeland Security Director's principal officer to lead and coordinate protection of critical infrastructure at the state and local levels. In addition to these duties, he will interact with the Building Security Review committee as well as the Private Investigator/Security Guard personnel licensing section, which joined the Ohio Homeland Security division on July 1, 2004.

Jim brings 27 years of military experience and is a recognized expert in military and interagency contingency planning through the U.S. Department of Defense. He has a bachelor's degree in Sociology/Criminology from the University of Utah, a master's degree in International Policy from John Hopkins University, and received a Certificate of National Security from Syracuse University.

Rich Rawlins will be responsible for coordinating the overall effort to deter, detect, and prevent terrorist attacks in the state of Ohio. He will serve as the Director's principal officer to lead, integrate, and coordinate implementation of efforts among state departments and agencies, local governments and the private sector to thwart terrorist attacks. He will also facilitate interactions and collaborations between state and federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Rich brings a wealth of knowledge and experience pertaining to intelligence and terrorism. He has been the Special Agent-in-Charge in cities such as Chicago, San Francisco, and Columbus and has interacted with various Joint Terrorism Task Forces across the nation. He has extensive experience in domestic terrorism investigation, intelligence gathering and dissemination, having worked against militia and supremacist groups. Rich also served as a Deputy Assistant Director for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

Rich has a B.S. in Education from Otterbein College, is a graduate of the Redstone Arsenal Hazardous Devices School, and is a certified U.S. Treasury Instructor.

The new deputy director of the Domestic Preparedness Office of Ohio Homeland Security is William Vedra. His function will be to coordinate the overall preparedness effort to prevent, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks. They will coordinate the education and training of first responders, develop equipment standards and develop benchmarks for reporting progress on meeting training and education goals.

Bill is a 23-year veteran of the City of Columbus emergency services. While with the city, he worked with Ohio Task Force 1, the Urban Search and Rescue Team and was the task force leader for the Hazmat team. Bill retired from his service as a firefighter with the rank of Battalion Chief having been a member of several regional and state level committees, including: the Central Ohio Emergency Patient Transport Plan; the state Emergency Response Plan; and the technical Rescue Oversight Committee of the Ohio Fire Chiefs.

Bill is a licensed paramedic through the Medical College of Ohio, as well as a graduate of the National Fire Academy and Bowling Green State University. William has extensive training through his education in Hazmat Ops, the Justice Department's WMD Training and FEMA Specialist training.

Please join me in welcoming Jim, Rich and Bill.
House Bill 230, signed by Governor Taft on June 17, 2004, allowed for the regulatory authority over private investigators and security service providers to be transferred from the Division of Real Estate and Professional Licensing, Department of Commerce, to the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS). There are two sections: a licensing section and an investigative section. Personnel will start working on July 6, 2004, at ODPS and will be a part of the Ohio Homeland Security Division and report to Deputy Director Jim Thomas. Said Thomas, "They were moved from the Department of Commerce to enhance public safety."

The purpose of this section is to license and register the more than 30,000 private investigators and security guards industry in the state. "This is a large and important undertaking considering the role these security guards have on protecting the critical infrastructure in Ohio," Thomas stated.

The investigators will do yearly inspections of the firms that supply security guards and will also complete site visits. Some of the security guards carry weapons and some don't. The Ohio Homeland Security investigators will make sure that the security firms are in compliance with state law. Also, the state security investigators can hold hearings and can issue suspensions and fines and can revoke licenses.

Some of the firms provide security guards for shopping malls, airports and museums, among other locations. The airport guards are not to be confused with the guards at airports that check baggage and check people going through metal detectors. Those guards are federal employees and are part of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

This law will provide improvements in protection and commitment to making Ohio a safer place for its citizens to work and live. This Private Investigators and Security Guard section will further enhance the department's mission statement... "to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well-being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."

(Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)

(Dorothy Bray-Hudson for being selected the Field Representative of the Year. The award recognizes her dedication and great work as a member of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) Field Services staff.)