

Pennsylvania State Police History



Pennsylvania's coal fields, iron mills and timber forests played a vital role in the Industrial Revolution.

Pennsylvania changed in the late 1800s from a largely agricultural state into a complex industrial center.

By 1900 it found itself torn by bitter disputes between managers and the laborers they employed. Violence became common in the new communities that sprang up around the coal fields, iron mills, textile factories and railroad yards. By the turn of the century it was evident that the town constables, sheriffs and similar local officials who had been adequate to keep the peace in more stable times were unable to cope with the new populations and the violent labor troubles of the times.

To provide themselves protection that the Commonwealth did not provide, the coal and steel operators persuaded the State Legislature to authorize the creation of what became the infamous Coal and Iron Police. For one dollar each, the state sold commissions to the mine and steel mill owners that conferred police power upon whomever the owners selected. Through these commissions, armies of guards were raised, ostensibly to protect private property. In practice, they were used to enforce the will of the owners. In many cases common gunmen, hoodlums and adventurers were hired to fill these commissions and they served their own interests by causing the violence and terror that gave them office.

The turning point came in 1902 with what became known as The Great Anthracite Strike. It began May 15 and lasted until October 23. The violence disrupted the peace of seven counties and caused a nationwide coal shortage, driving up the price of anthracite coal. The strike did not end until President Theodore Roosevelt intervened. During the strike's aftermath, the government recognized that peace and order should be maintained by regularly appointed and responsible officers employed by the public. This led to the formation of the Pennsylvania State Police.

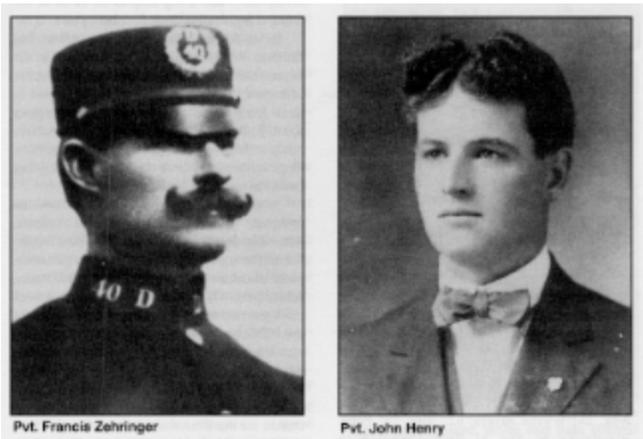
The Pennsylvania State Police was created as an executive department of state government by Senate Bill 278, which was signed into law by Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker on May 2, 1905.

The Department became the first uniformed police organization of its kind in the United States and a model for other state police agencies throughout the nation.

Opposition to the Department's creation was strong and persistent. Because organized labor and others feared that the State Police would be used as a private army, the original complement was limited by law to 228 men. They were to patrol Pennsylvania's entire 45,000 square miles. The force was divided into four Troops:

- * Troop A, Greensburg
- * Troop B, Wilkes-Barre (later moved to Wyoming)
- * Troop C, Reading
- * Troop D, Punxsutawney

The State Police soon proved its worth by controlling mob violence, patrolling farm sections, protecting wildlife and tracking down criminals. From the outset, the Department established a reputation for fairness, thoroughness and honesty.



Photograph of First Two Members Killed in the Line Of Duty

On Sept. 2, 1906, the first two State Policemen were killed in the line of duty in Florence, Jefferson County. (You can read more about these members, Privates John F. Henry and Private Francis A. Zehringer on this Web site.) In 1907, the State Police Superintendent dictated that enlistments were open only to single men -- an order that was to remain in effect for 56 years. Also, troop commanders were given authorization to establish and close substations.

In January 1908, the Superintendent established weekly training programs in each troop, a practice that still exists today. On June 1, 1909, Troop C was moved from Reading to Pottsville and also designated as a State Police training school.

In February 1910, the State Police quelled a disorder caused by 6,000 employees of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company. The *Philadelphia Ledger* identified the source of a State Policeman's power when it wrote, "The State Police represent no class or condition, no prejudice or interest, nothing but the sovereign majesty of the law. Hostility to them is hostility to the people."

Troop D relocated from Punxsutawney to a location near Butler on Jan. 15, 1911. The Superintendent established two-year enlistment periods. In 1913, the Superintendent established a "Mess Committee" at each Troop and mess facilities were maintained at each Troop Headquarters.

By 1919, the demand for additional State Police units brought about the first increase in complement, with the authorized force upped to 415 men. That same year saw the transfer of State Fire Marshal duties to the State Police.

The State Police was authorized to establish a fifth Troop on July 1, 1919. The Troop was designated Troop E and established in Lancaster. Also in 1919, the State Police established motorcycle patrols to deal with the growing number of motorists.

In February 1920, a State Police training school was established in Newville, Cumberland County. Also that year, the Superintendent created the Bureau of Criminal Identification and the Bureau of Fire Protection. In April, 70 motorcycles were purchased. Fourteen were assigned to each of the five Troops. Patrol zones were established and owners of telephones along the patrol zones were given steel discs or flags to indicate a telephone (flag stop). Motorcycle patrols, seeing a flag stop displayed, would interrupt their patrol activity to telephone their Station for assignments. Troop Commanders monthly conferences were established that June.

On Aug. 25, 1922, the Superintendent issued a Special Order bestowing upon the Deputy Superintendent the rank of Major. This was the initial use of that rank in constabulary history.

The Newville Training School was closed on March 1, 1923. A temporary school was established at the Pennsylvania National Guard Military Reservation at Mt. Gretna near Colebrook, Lebanon County. Accommodations consisted of tents and military field equipment. The temporary school was closed in the summer of 1923.

The State Highway Patrol was created in 1923 within the Department of Highways to enforce the vehicle laws of Pennsylvania's burgeoning highway system. The same year saw the State Police install the nation's first statewide police radio telegraph system. The system remained operational until 1947. A State Police Training School was established on Cocoa Avenue in Hershey, Dauphin County, in 1924. That training school would remain at that site until 1960. The State Highway Patrol secured the use of the Hershey Inn in Hershey to train Highway Patrol recruits.

Also in 1924, the Headquarters for Troop E was moved to Harrisburg and Troop C, Pottsville, relocated to Reading. That same year saw the first drivers' license examination for Pennsylvania motorists.

In 1926, the State Highway Patrol Training School was moved from the Hershey Inn to 19th and Swatara Streets, Harrisburg. The Highway Patrol at that time consisted of 46 sub-stations.

In 1927, the Superintendent established the first two State Highway Patrol Troops. They were Troop A, Harrisburg, and Troop B, Greensburg. That year also saw the first State Highway Patrolman killed in the line of duty.

Also in 1927, State Police issued a regulation that prohibited any member from marrying without the Superintendent's approval. That same year saw the State Police establish a public radio station in Harrisburg, WBAK. In 1929, the Superintendent issued a General Order requiring all members of the Department to memorize the State Police Call of Honor.

On June 1, 1928, the State Highway Patrol established Troop C, Bellefonte. On Sept. 1, 1929, Troop D, Williamsport, was established. The year 1930 saw the Superintendent establish a Headquarters Detective Division. In 1931, Governor Gifford Pinchot formally dedicated a new Highway Patrol Building at 21st and Herr Streets in Harrisburg. It became Troop A, with a supply unit and training school for the State Highway Patrol. In 1932, the State Highway Patrol established Troop E, Philadelphia.

The State Police in 1932 established a Photographic Section and a small Crime Laboratory Division. That year the first polygraph was purchased and a Criminal Intelligence Section was formed.

In 1933, the Highway Patrol celebrated its 10th anniversary with a formal inspection at Longwood Gardens near Kennett Square, Chester County. Original members were presented with a uniform star insignia representing 10 years of service. The practice of issuing service insignias continues today.

In 1935, Troop F, Franklin, became the sixth and last Troop to be established by the Highway Patrol before the merger with the State Police on June 29, 1937. The new Department was called the Pennsylvania Motor Police. In addition, the new Department administrator would be known as the Commissioner. The new Commissioner appointed himself a Colonel and his Deputy Commissioner as a Lieutenant Colonel. This represented the first time these ranks were used.

The Commissioner divided the Department into four districts, with district headquarters established in Greensburg, Harrisburg, Wyoming and Philadelphia on July 21, 1937. There were 11 troops within the district structure. That year also saw the rank of Private Second Class (P2C) and Private First Class (PFC) established.

On Jan. 1, 1938, the Commissioner established a Medical Unit and the first Medical Officer was appointed to the rank of Major. Additionally, the Commissioner established a Communications Division.

In February 1938, the Commissioner ordered 267 passenger cars painted white with black hoods and Pennsylvania Motor Police lettering on the door. These cars became known as Ghost Cars.

Legislation passed in June 1939 that gave the Pennsylvania Motor Police the responsibility for the return of escaped convicts and parole violators. Other laws gave the Motor Police responsibility for annual school bus inspection and inspection station supervision.

During 1940, 150 men were trained at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation because the Hershey Training School was inadequate for that number of recruits.

On Oct. 1, 1940, Troop B, Chambersburg, was dissolved and reestablished as a special patrol unit in Bedford. It was given the responsibility of patrolling the newly established Pennsylvania Turnpike System. The former Troop's duties were divided among Troop A, Greensburg; Troop A, Harrisburg; and Troop C, Hollidaysburg.

The Commissioner created the Executive Service Section on Feb. 5, 1942.

Act 52 of April 28, 1943, changed the name of the organization from the Pennsylvania Motor Police to the Pennsylvania State Police. The Department also became responsible for enforcing the Uniform Firearms Act that year.

State Police were assigned to assist the Pennsylvania Aeronautics Commission in the investigation of aircraft accidents and aircraft violations in 1945. This function continued until 1972.

The year 1946 saw the first statewide radio telephone system installed and the elimination of "flag stops."

In 1947, new laws authorized the State Police to assist the Department of Revenue in collecting the state's cigarette tax and enforcing the Fuel Use Tax. The Department of Revenue provided the State Police with cruiser-type motor launches to patrol the Schuylkill and Delaware rivers and Lake Erie. Four men were assigned to each detail.

A 1949 law authorized the State Police to inspect dry cleaning and dyeing plants.

The State Police dissolved the terms "Private Second Class" and "Private First Class" in favor of "Private" in 1953. That rank continued until 1956, when the term was replaced by "Trooper." During the mid 1950s, the Retired State Police Association was formed.

On July 10, 1957, Act 360 provided for a mandatory retirement at 60 years of age, exclusive of the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner.

Chrome badges were replaced by gold badges in a leather case in 1959. Washable summer shirts were issued. Straw campaign hats were introduced for summer wear. New officers' caps with gold braid and the "scrambled eggs" were issued. New black and gold patches also were issued.

A new State Police Academy in Hershey opened on March 2, 1960, and was officially dedicated on June 13, 1960. That same year saw the first combined Troop Commanders and District Commanders Conference.

On Sept. 1, 1961, the State Police officially began radar speed checks. That same year, the two-year enlistment discharge paper and reenlistment process was discontinued.

On Oct. 1, 1963, married men were permitted to apply for the State Police for the first time. That same year also saw the Commissioner establish a Youth Aid Division.

All Troops dropped the district designation and were alphabetically designated on Jan. 1, 1965, as follows:

- * Troop A, Greensburg
- * Troop B, Washington
- * Troop C, Punxsutawney
- * Troop D, Butler
- * Troop E, Erie
- * Troop F, Montoursville
- * Troop G, Hollidaysburg
- * Troop H, Harrisburg

- * Troop J, Lancaster

- * Troop K, Philadelphia

- * Troop L, Reading

- * Troop M, Bethlehem

- * Troop N, Hazleton

- * Troop P, Wyoming

- * Troop R, Dunmore

- * Troop T, Highspire

The radio teletype system was computerized on June 1, 1965.

On Oct. 5, 1967, Act 140 eliminated the two-year enlistment process and provided for one enlistment until discharged or retired. That same year saw the establishment of an 18-- month probationary period for Cadets and Troopers.

Six Area Commands were created in January of 1968. Also that year, short sleeve shirts were issued for the first time. New small chevrons were issued for noncommissioned officers. In November 1968, the State Police Aviation Division was established.

A new troop, designated Troop S, was activated on Sept. 1, 1970, and given the responsibility of patrolling Pennsylvania's interstate road system. Early the following year, Area Command VI was established and given command over Troops S and T.

On Oct. 1, 1971, the first female cadets were accepted by the Pennsylvania State Police. The academy class with the first women troopers graduated on July 7, 1972.

The State Police received responsibility for administering the statewide Uniform Crime Report on July 1, 1973.

In compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1969, a consent decree was entered into by the Department in 1974 with regard to hiring practices and promotional procedures. In that same year, the State Police Rodeo was discontinued. The rodeo had been a public relations program of the Department since 1934. In December of 1974, a new statewide radio system was formally dedicated.

A new State Police Department Headquarters building was dedicated on Sept. 12, 1978. Department Headquarters no longer had to share its facilities with other state agencies. Operation S.P.A.R.E. (State Police Aerial Reconnaissance and Enforcement) was initiated on Oct. 20, 1978 as troopers clocked motorists with a stopwatch from a State Police helicopter.

Two UH1B helicopters (Hueys), acquired through the Federal Military Surplus Property System from the Pennsylvania National Guard, were put into service in March 1979. Based at Harrisburg and Latrobe, the helicopters were to be used for disaster rescues and emergency medical transportation. Impetus for acquisition of the units was provided in large part by the loss of life in the 1977 Johnstown Flood.

The Department marked its 75th Anniversary with a celebration at the Hershey Convention Center with more than 1,000 persons in attendance. A memorial honoring those persons killed in the line of duty was dedicated at the academy. The monument was paid for by contributions.

In June 1980, Department members were issued a new sidearm, the .357 magnum Ruger, a stainless steel, four-inch barrel revolver. It was the first major change in State Police issued weaponry in its 75-year history.

In October 1980, the State Police expanded the Aviation Division with the addition of a federally funded Cessna 182 Skylane to assist in the S.P.A.R.E. program.

On Oct. 16, 1981, the Records and Identification Division completed the first phase of computerizing the Master Name Index of the criminal history file, thus providing a more efficient response to criminal history record inquiries.

The Department's Laboratory Division expanded in October 1982 with the addition of a new lab in Lima, Delaware County. The Pennsylvania State Police in December 1982 developed "Pennsylvania Crime Watch" in an effort to reduce and solve crime. In July 1984, Pennsylvania was recognized by the National Crime Prevention Coalition as having the best state crime prevention program in the nation.

The Office of Professional Responsibility was created in 1985 to enforce high standards of conduct among all State Police officers and employees.

In April 1986, the Department announced "Operation Whiteline," a program aimed at the interdiction of drug trafficking on state highways.

Pennsylvania Crime Stoppers was created in the Bureau of Community Services in 1986. Crime Stoppers uses the media and citizens to locate criminals sought by police. Rewards are offered for information that helps police locate the criminals.

Citing the need for the State Police to employ expertly trained officers in potentially lethal incidents, State Police formed a Special Emergency Response Team (SERT). The team members are trained in tactical and negotiation responses. The first SERT was organized in Eastern Pennsylvania in December 1986. A second SERT was organized for Western Pennsylvania in June 1992.

The first group of Peer Contacts, part of the newly formed Member Assistance Program, completed their training in Hershey in September 1986. The training was designed to develop and refine the listening and helping skills of the peer contacts.

A new radio communication system was installed throughout the state. It replaced the Department's fourchannel mobile radios with a system that had 32 separate channels. For the first time, patrol cars had the ability to communicate with local police jurisdictions as 11 channels were allocated to local and municipal police organizations.

The enforcement of Pennsylvania's liquor laws was transferred to State Police in July 1987. The Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement was established as the Department welcomed 144 enforcement officers, 81 clerical personnel and two attorneys who transferred from the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board.



Commissioner Ronald Sharpe

In August 1987, Deputy Commissioner Ronald Sharpe was appointed commissioner of the State Police, becoming the first African-American to be appointed to that position. Multiple new Department initiatives were implemented under Col. Sharpe's direction.

In January 1988, the Department unveiled a new uniform with a new shoulder patch and shirt. The patch, designed by a seven-member uniform committee, incorporated the keystone and the state's coat of arms encircled by a star burst. The star burst was part of the Department's first uniform, which was designed by Major John Groom in 1905.

Also in January 1988, the first three of 15 Canine Drug Enforcement Teams completed their initial training period and became operational. The canines and their trainers respond to requests from state and local law enforcement agencies, schools, critical industries and appropriate public sector agencies.

After a 50-year hiatus, the Department returned to patrolling the state's highways on motorcycles. Twelve Harley-Davidson motorcycles were assigned to Bethlehem, Harrisburg, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to respond to crashes on heavily traveled highways. The program was designed to help restore traffic on major highways when conventional vehicles cannot respond quickly to a crash scene. The motorcycles were dedicated in August 1989.

The State Police responded to a major riot at the Camp Hill State Correctional Institution in October 1989. About 800 troopers were on the scene during the peak of the incident, which continued for three days.

The Department in January 1990 announced a senior level management reorganization with the creation of two new deputy commissioner positions and the addition of a sixth Area Command. The new Table of Organization listed a Deputy Commissioner of Administration, Deputy Commissioner of Operations and Deputy Commissioner of Staff.

In April 1990, Gov. Robert P. Casey commissioned 50 troopers as the first members of the new Tactical Narcotics Team. The team was assigned a threefold mission: Interdict illegal drug shipments at bus stations, airports and rail terminals; mount undercover investigations targeting street and midlevel dealers; and respond quickly to drug enforcement opportunities.

The Automated Fingerprint Identification System became operational in 1990. The project uses computer technology to read, match, compare, and store fingerprint images. Without AFIS, a manual search of one million fingerprint cards on file would take about 65 years to complete. The same task could be accomplished by AFIS in about 30 minutes. The system is available to all law enforcement agencies in Pennsylvania.

Troop Drills were reinstated for members in the field in 1991. The Department played a key role in the formation of the Pennsylvania Narcotics Officer Association. State Police Capt. Paul J. Evanko was selected as president.

In June 1992, the Department created the Bureau of Drug Law Enforcement and the Bureau of Emergency and Special Operations. BESO consolidated the functions of aviation, executive protection, the SERTs, canine unit and underwater search and recovery operations.

State Police opened the first law-enforcement DNA testing laboratory in Greensburg on Sept. 22, 1992. DNA helps link suspects to crimes and helps exonerate individuals wrongly accused of crimes.

State Police unveiled an airborne thermal imaging system on Nov. 15, 1993. Infrared sensors, which are mounted on the bottom of a helicopter, detect heat that is radiated from the outside surface of a person or object and are particularly helpful in locating individuals at night.

In April 1993, Commissioner Glenn A. Walp established 34 full-time community service officer positions throughout the state. One of the officers' key responsibilities was presenting educational programs to community groups.

In 1993, the Department purchased 4,500 new .40-caliber Beretta semiautomatic weapons. It had been more than a decade since the last purchase of new weapons.

On July 31, 1993, the Pennsylvania State Police became the largest accredited police agency in the world. In order to gain accredited status from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, the Department had to comply with 733 professional police standards.

In February 1994, the department purchased 15 trooper robots to bolster State Police educational programs for young children. The 4-foot tall robots, which are dressed as troopers, weigh 80 pounds. Their voice, heads, eyes, lips, arms, hands and motion are controlled by wireless remote control.

In December of 1994, Virginia Smith-Elliott became the first woman promoted to the rank of major. She served as the Department's Affirmative Action Officer.

In May of 1995, the Department contracted with KPMG-Peat Marwick LLP (KPMG) to evaluate the Department's business processes and to develop an information technology strategic plan. On June 30, 1996, KPMG delivered to State Police and the Executive Information Technology Steering Committee an information technology strategic plan which was accepted by the Department. In September of 1996, the Department issued a request for proposal for the implementation of the Enterprise Network computer system, which was the first priority listed in the information technology strategic plan. In July of 1997, a preliminary award was given to IBM Corp. for the implementation of the network. On Nov. 29, 1997, the Bureau of Technology Services was created from the former Information Systems Division of the Bureau of Records and Information Services to support the growing technology needs of the Department. On June 11, 1998, a formal contract was put in place between State Police and IBM for implementation of the Enterprise Network

In August of 1995, the Department formed a Ceremonial Unit to standardize the response and appearance of members at funerals and parades. The unit, which consists of a Color Guard, Casket Team and a Firing Detail, provides services at the funerals of active and retired members. In addition, the Color Guard responds to requests for appearances at parades and ceremonies.

In April of 1996, Commissioner Paul J. Evanko authorized the use of video cameras in patrol cars. The cameras were designed to provide additional documentation of patrol stops. The Department initially equipped 66 marked patrol cars with the video cameras.

On July 12, 1996, the Troop B, Pittsburgh Station was closed.

On May 12, 1997, the 100th Cadet Class graduated 129 new troopers from the Academy in Hershey.

In February 1997, the Department acquired the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) through the use of federal grant monies and the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. IBIS analyzes bullets and cartridge cases and can compare every firearm, bullet and cartridge case to each other and against the bullets and cartridge cases previously entered into the database. IBIS is able to compare "electronic exhibits" from any location using IBIS technology. On May 17, 1997, Area V was realigned by consolidating the interstate troop, Troop S, into adjacent county troop commands. In early 1997, a cadet qualifying examination was developed and approved by an expert panel as valid, job-related and non-discriminatory.

On Sept. 10 and 11, 1997, the cadet examination was administered and a joint motion was submitted to the court for dissolution of the consent decree.

On July 1, 1997, the Department ceased its participation in the Attorney General's regional Drug Strike Forces. Tactical Narcotic Teams were organized at the troop level to work with troop Vice Units for a more coordinated effort in intelligence gathering, surveillance, undercover operations and interdiction.

In October 1997, 15 specially equipped, all-wheel-drive Forensic Unit vans were distributed to the troops to be used by Identification Units when responding to crime and crash scenes. Each van was equipped with police lightbars, an elevated platform, roof-mounted spotlights, cell phone, storage compartments, and a folding ladder. The vans carry specialized investigative equipment, including cameras, metal detectors, forensic light sources, electrostatic dust print lifters, fingerprint processing equipment, and evidence vacuums.

On Jan. 1, 1998, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation assumed responsibility for the administrative supervision of Safety/Emissions Inspection Stations and motor vehicle

dealers, thus relieving the Department of the responsibility of official inspection station regulatory functions.

On Feb. 12, 1998, the inspection of underground storage tanks, pumps and related devices was transferred from State Police to the Department of Labor and Industry.

In 1999 the Headquarters of Troop H was moved from Department Headquarters, where it had been located since 1978, to a separate facility near Hershey. A State Police Citizens' Police Academy Program was implemented at the troop level as a 10-12 week course to educate the public about the activities and responsibilities of State Police.

State Police provided large security task forces for the National Governors' Association's 92nd Annual Business Meeting in State College from July 8-11, 2000, and the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia from July 29-Aug. 4, 2000.

The State Police Incident Information Management System enters the initial design phase in 2000. IIMS was conceived to automate a number of manual processes to make the Department's operations more efficient and provide increased trooper safety. Major components of the plan included the use of computers in patrol cars, consolidating and computerizing dispatching functions from 81 stations to five regional centers, and developing a records and evidence tracking management system.

A State Police task force assisted the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department with security during the Presidential Inauguration ceremonies on Jan. 19-20, 2001.

Act 100 of 2001 increased the State Police enlisted complement by the addition of 370 positions to 4,310, exclusive of the 235 members assigned to the Pennsylvania Turnpike. However, only 100 of the additional 370 authorized positions were funded initially. On March 7, 2001, the Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System was activated. The Internet-based program enabled agencies to submit UCR or National Incident-Based Reporting System data on-line or by file upload.

The first Operation Clean Sweep, a waste hauler regulation enforcement effort, was conducted in May 2001 by the State Police, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and PennDOT.

A State Police Clandestine Laboratory Response Team was formed in 2001. The team, consisting of enlisted personnel and forensic scientists, respond to illegal methamphetamine production sites to contain and clean up the hazardous materials used to manufacture the drug.

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, two hijacked jetliners hit the World Trade Center in New York and one struck the Pentagon outside of Washington, D.C. A fourth hijacked plane (United Flight 93) crashed into a field near Shanksville in Somerset County. A total of 628 State Police members and civilian personnel provided crime scene security, assisted in recovery efforts, mapped the search area, provided aerial photographs and coordinated the efforts of responding agencies at the crash site of United Flight 93 from September 11-30.

Immediately following the event, all members were placed on 12-hour shifts and increased statewide patrols were initiated.

As a result of the events of September 11, the Department and the Pennsylvania National Guard were ordered by the Governor to provide security at the commonwealth's 28 airports and five nuclear power facilities. Security at the airports was provided from September 2001 to May 2002. Security at the nuclear facilities remained in effect for more than a year and a half.

On Oct. 5, 2001, the State Police was tasked with security of Lt. Gov. Mark Schweiker's inauguration as governor following the resignation of Gov. Tom Ridge to take a federal position.

Pennsylvania's Amber Plan, a system that uses emergency alerts by radio and television stations to notify the public about non-family abductions of children, was implemented by the Department in February 2002.

On March 7, 2002, the State Police Forensic Laboratory system obtained national accreditation through the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board.

The first Operation STRIKE (Safe Trucks in the Keystone) Three was initiated in 2002 in cooperation with PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. It concentrated on commercial vehicle enforcement and inspection operations. The first Operation COBRA (Combined Operation on the Beltway to Reduce Accidents) was conducted in 2002 with State Police, PennDOT, municipal police departments, and federal motor carrier inspectors participating. The effort concentrated on the interstate beltway and major roads around the Harrisburg.

In 2002, the first Operation Nighthawk, a specialized two-day training and enforcement program aimed at reducing drinking and driving, was initiated by the State Police for patrol troopers and local police. It was conducted in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Driving Under the Influence Association.

The first Operation CRISP (Crash Reduction In Southwestern Pennsylvania) was conducted from June 2002 through May 2003 with increased patrol efforts to identify and arrest motorists driving under the influence in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler and Washington counties.

On July 1, 2002, the State Police began collecting pursuit data electronically through the Pennsylvania Police Pursuit Reporting System. Prior to this, data had been collected manually.

The Department was accredited by the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission on July 15, 2002, after complying with 108 program standards.

In August 2002, the first of five regional computer crime task forces was established in Area I. The task forces consist of federal, state, county and local law-enforcement officers who

share resources and expertise to investigate computer-related crimes ranging from fraud to child pornography.

Following the retirement of Commissioner Paul J. Evanko, Major Jeffrey B. Miller was appointed acting commissioner in January 2003 and eventually was confirmed as commissioner in March 2003.

The Core Purpose and Core Values statements replaced the Department's Vision proclamation originally established in 1991. The mission statement was changed to read: Police Service with Professionalism.

Core Purpose

To seek justice, preserve peace, and improve the quality of life for all.

Core Values

Honor, Service, Integrity, Respect, Trust, Courage, Duty

In 2003 the Pennsylvania State Police and New Jersey State Police signed an agreement with the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission to jointly patrol the bridges under the authority of the DRJTBC.

The Department's Problem Specific Policing (PSP) initiative was implemented May 1, 2003, as an incident analysis and police management tool. The program relies on collecting incident information to identify areas of need so a plan of action can be developed to concentrate existing resources to effect a positive change in the area targeted. Selective Traffic Enforcement Programs were instituted as a direct result of the PSP initiative, replacing Operations Centipede and Tag-D programs.

On August 27, 2003, the Department announced the creation of the Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center. PaCIC supplies law enforcement agencies with various intelligence needed for tactical and strategic planning in real time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Also in 2003, the State Police, along with 12 other states, join the U.S. Department of Justice MATRIX (Multi-state Anti-Terrorism Information Exchange), a project that allows for the exchange of sensitive criminal activity and terrorism information among local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.

On March 3, 2004, Commissioner Miller appointed John R. Brown to the newly created position of deputy commissioner of professional responsibility. The creation of the new deputy position – the fourth in the Department – was consistent with recommendations made by Kroll Associates Inc., a firm appointed in 2003 by Gov. Edward G. Rendell to serve for a period as an independent monitor of State Police. In the new position, Brown was to focus on all issues related to police misconduct. In 2007, the position of deputy commissioner of professional responsibility and the position of deputy commissioner of administration were combined into one position titled deputy commissioner of administration and professional responsibility. As a result, the number of deputy positions in the Department returned to three.

The Harrisburg Consolidated Dispatch Center, the Department's first regional CDC, became operational June 8, 2004. A Hazardous Device and Explosive Unit was formed in the Bureau of Emergency and Special Operations in 2004.

A second Operation CRISP (Crash Reduction in South Central Pennsylvania) was implemented in March 2004 to take drunken drivers off the road in Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, Lancaster and York counties. It was conducted for 12 months and featured increased patrols and sobriety checkpoints.

Act 71 of 2004, The Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act, legalized slot machines in Pennsylvania and designated the Department with law-enforcement responsibilities. The law exempted troopers assigned to enforcement of the act from the authorized legislative enlisted complement.

Two State Police Weapons of Mass Destruction Response Teams were created in 2004. Each team consisted of 10 members, with one based in the east and the other in the west. The teams' mission was to enter the "hot" zone at hazardous material incidents where criminal acts are suspected, process the scene for evidence, and further investigate the incident. Members are specially trained and nationally certified in chemical, biological and radiological WMD procedures.

Act 185 of 2004 expanded the collection of offender samples of DNA to all persons convicted of felonies. Act 141 of 2004 provided for DNA collection from all unidentified human remains.

A new four-year contract arbitration award for members was issued effective July 1, 2004. One change added a list of disciplinary violations that can result in termination of employment for members. Another change established the new enlisted rank of trooper first class for veteran troopers with 12 years or more of service, effective July 1, 2006.

Act 180 of 2004 required each state, county and local law enforcement agency in Pennsylvania to report statistical information as to the number and nature of crimes in their jurisdiction to the State Police for incorporation in the annual Uniform Crime Reporting System. Prior to this, participation in the UCR was voluntary.

State Police begins training troopers for Operation SHIELD, which is designed to help troopers identify and interdict fugitives, weapons, contraband and terrorist movements on state highways.

A Highway Safety Corridor Pilot Project was initiated to improve highway safety by identifying those locations where overall crash rates or speed-related crashes are statistically higher than average and designating them as highway safety corridors. Within these corridors, State Police provide dedicated enforcement. Increased penalties are assessed for certain moving violations.

On Jan. 1, 2005, the motor carrier enforcement activities of PennDOT were consolidated

into the State Police. Former civilian PennDOT inspectors were transferred to the Department, along with a few administrative staff, to improve the effectiveness of the operations associated with the program.

A State Police task force assisted the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department with security during the Presidential Inauguration in January 2005.

The Department in 2005 joins the national Drug Evaluation and Classification program to train troopers and municipal police officers to become drug recognition experts, or DREs. The program is under the supervision of Tpr. David Andrascik, who completed the training in 2004. DREs are trained to determine if a driver is under influence of illegal drugs, prescription drugs, other substances, or suffering from a medical condition. The program was developed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and approved by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

In January 2005 the Department unveiled its expanded Megan's Law Web site, providing information to the public on all registered sexual offenders in Pennsylvania.

State Police marked its 100th Anniversary on May 2, 2005, with a weekend of activities and events.

Commissioner Jeffrey B. Miller announces in May 2005 that homeland security alerts and other critical information will be sent to troopers directly through e-mail under a new technology enhancement.

During an Operation Maximum Effort conducted May 11-14, 2005, State Police made 85 criminal arrests, detained 117 illegal aliens, placed 959 commercial vehicles out of service and issued 4,394 traffic citations. The operation led to the seizure of counterfeit goods valued at \$1.5 million, about 100 pounds of illicit drugs, 27 firearms and 11 vehicles. The operation was conducted by teams of troopers who had received Operation SHIELD training.

The State Police Centennial Committee and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission on Sept. 13, 2005, dedicate a historical marker at the site of the original State Police Training Academy at Cocoa and Elm Avenues in Hershey.

State Police members in December 2005 participate in Desert Snow, an advanced training program designed to help troopers identify potential terrorists and smugglers who may be crossing Pennsylvania highways in commercial vehicles.

During an Operation Maximum Effort on May 2-6, 2006, State Police make 172 criminal arrests, apprehend 24 fugitives, detain 100 illegal aliens, place 1,994 commercial vehicles out of service, issue 2,397 speeding citations and charge 172 motorists with DUI. In addition, members seize 10 weapons, 12 vehicles, nearly 1,900 baggies of heroin, 1,405 grams of marijuana, 79 grams of cocaine and a small amount of methamphetamine.

Deputy Commissioner Coleman J. McDonough on May 22, 2006, unveils a pilot program under which Troop J, Lancaster, begins using the new Statewide Public Safety Radio System.

State Police in 2006 joins with local police departments in 12 counties and PennDOT to initiate Smooth Operator, a program to crack down on aggressive drivers.

A prison escapee and suspect in the killing of a New York State Police trooper on Sept. 8, 2006, surrenders to members of the Pennsylvania State Police Troop E in northern Warren County following an extensive five-month manhunt. Ralph "Bucky" Phillips had been added to the FBI's "10 Most Wanted" list just a day before he was taken into custody. Phillips pleaded guilty to various counts and was sentenced to life in prison.

On a day that will be remembered as one of the most tragic in Pennsylvania history, the Pennsylvania State Police gained the respect and admiration of people around the world for their professional and compassionate response to the horrific shooting of 10 girls on Oct. 2, 2006, at an Amish school in Lancaster County. Members forced their way into the school just as Charles C. Roberts IV took his own life. Moments before, Roberts had shot the Amish children at point-blank range. Commissioner Jeffrey B. Miller was praised for his efforts in keeping the public informed about developments in the case and for respecting the privacy of the Amish community.

State Police in June 2007 unveiled a new Web site, www.patrooper.com, to provide answers to frequently asked questions about the cadet recruitment process and the various careers available with State Police.

The Department's Commercial Vehicle Safety Section on Oct. 21-28, 2007, takes part in Operation Safe Driver, a national program aimed at the unsafe driving behaviors of commercial and non-commercial vehicle operators.

The Office of Attorney General and State Police on Nov. 19, 2007, announce charges against seven key participants in a prescription drug distribution ring which operated out of an Adams County residence and distributed drugs to juveniles and young adults.

The Department on March 13, 2008, announced the opening of a high-tech firearms training facility on the grounds of the State Police Academy. The facility is to be used to train law enforcement officers to deal with volatile situations requiring the use of firearms.

Commissioner Jeffrey B. Miller announces in July 2008 that the Department is issuing Tasers to its members. Miller noted that the Department initiated a pilot program in 2006 by providing Tasers to 18 officers statewide.

Commissioner Jeffrey B. Miller announces his retirement effective Aug. 8, 2008, to take a position with the National Football League. Gov. Edward G. Rendell appoints Lt. Col. Frank E. Pawlowski to serve as acting commissioner. Gov. Rendell eventually nominated Pawlowski for the commissioner's post and the Senate confirms the nomination on Oct. 7, 2008.

The Bureau of Patrol in 2008 takes part in several traffic safety initiatives, including the Commercial Vehicle SAFE (Seatbelt and Fatigue Enforcement) Driver Enforcement program, Operation Road Check and Operation Airbrake. The Department also participates in a Ticketing Aggressive Cars and Trucks (TACT) campaign which focuses on a 33-mile stretch of Interstate 81 from the I-83 split in Dauphin County to the Newville Interchange in Cumberland County.