



# IMPACT UPDATE

## Protecting, Preventing, Providing

Larry Hogan  
Governor

Boyd Rutherford  
Lt. Governor

Colonel William Pallozzi  
Superintendent



## Class 147 Celebrates Graduation

(PIKESVILLE, Md.)—The Maryland State Police 147<sup>th</sup> Trooper Academy Class graduated February 23<sup>rd</sup> during ceremonies at Century High School in Sykesville. Academy graduation is a significant moment in a trooper’s life, after having endured more than six months of hard training in the residential State Police Academy.

Governor Larry Hogan joined Colonel William Pallozzi for the ceremonies and both congratulated graduates and reminded them of the importance of their service.

The 147<sup>th</sup> Trooper Candidate Class is a large and diverse class with 47 graduating members. Almost 30 percent of the class comes from a minority background. This includes trooper candidates of African American, Hispanic, Asian and Pacific Islander descent. The class also has four female graduates. Seven of the graduates are military veterans and one is a certified paramedic. Eleven graduates are following in the footsteps of family members who were in law enforcement.

Twenty-one trooper candidates attended the Frederick Community College program during the Academy. After completing several more online classes following

graduation, each will earn an Associate of Arts degree in criminal justice.

Class 147 and Academy staff participated in the 2018 Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics Maryland. Together, they raised over \$11,000 for Special Olympics and finished first among police academy fundraising teams.

The class also raised \$645 for the 2017 Komen Baltimore Race for the Cure and were recognized as the Team Challenge winner. The trooper candidates ran the 3.1 mile event in formation, while chanting cadences and drawing positive support from hundreds of members of the community. After the race, breast cancer survivors and their friends and family requested to have their photographs taken with the class.

We wish the new troopers all the best in their careers with the Maryland State Police and congratulate them on becoming one of Maryland’s Finest.



Col. Pallozzi addresses Class 147

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# IMPACT UPDATE

## Eastern Shore Gang Member Arrested On Gun Charges

(WILLARDS, MD) – Maryland State Police arrested a criminal gang member who is believed to have been involved in trafficking guns on the Eastern Shore.

The accused is identified as Dana A. Lank II, 38, of Willards, Md. He is currently charged with the illegal possession/sale of an assault weapon, being a prohibited person in possession of a rifle/shotgun, and illegal possession of ammunition. Additional charges are possible. Following his arrest, Lank was held without bond in the Wicomico County Detention Center.

In early February, members of the Maryland State Police Gang Enforcement Unit and the Maryland State Apprehension Team began an investigation after information was developed concerning Lank's possible involvement with the illegal sale of firearms. The State Police investigation indicated Lank was involved in converting semi-automatic rifles to fully-automatic and illegally selling regulated assault rifles. Investigators determined Lank was involved in a pending illegal sale of an undocumented SKS assault rifle.

He was also identified as a member of the Dead Man Incorporated criminal gang.

On February 9, 2018, members of the State Police Gang Enforcement Unit and State Apprehension Team, assisted by the Wicomico County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigation Unit and the Worcester County Sheriff's Office K-9, stopped Lank for a traffic violation in Wicomico County. A rifle was recovered from his vehicle, which was identified as an SKS assault rifle. Lank was arrested and taken to the Salisbury Barrack for processing.

Investigators served two subsequent search warrants, including one at Lank's residence and another at a residence connected to Lank in Berlin. Investigators recovered a modified, fully-automatic Heckler & Koch assault rifle, a sawed off shotgun, a .357 magnum revolver, a Grendle assault rifle with no serial number, various rifle and shotgun parts and five ammunition cans filled with rifle and shotgun rounds. [Read more...](#)



### Safety Tip of the Month

St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner!

Make sure you have a sober ride home before going out for the night. Designated drivers and taxi services are all great ideas for a sober ride home. Remember, it only takes one beer to impair your judgement.



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# IMPACT UPDATE



## Chemistry Manager for the Forensic Sciences Division Receives Governor's Citation



Amber Burns, Chemistry Manager for the Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division, received a citation from Governor Larry Hogan in recognition of her hard work and dedication in dealing with time-sensitive requests. The Forensic Sciences Division supports the law enforcement community's scientific needs. More than 70 percent of the forensic services proved by the Division each year are for allied police departments in MD.

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# IMPACT UPDATE

## Skye: What's the New Dog in Town Doing Now?



Cadaver Dog Skye

After being welcomed to the State Police K-9 Unit in September of 2017, Skye has been an integral part of nine cases, one of which resulted in the arrest of at least three gang members.

Skye is a three-year-old Springer Spaniel who is a certified cadaver dog. Skye is currently one of only three law enforcement human remains detection dogs in Maryland and is the first cadaver dog to work for the department in two decades.

She was initially trained to detect human remains by Wynn Warren and Jan "Jay" Topoleski with the FBI, Evidence Response Team Unit, Forensic K9 Consulting before being donated to the Maryland State Police on June 24, 2017.

During Skye's transition to her new job, Warren and Topoleski were instrumental in her training leading up to certification.

Skye finished her training and became an official member of the Maryland State Police K-9 Unit on Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2017. She is assigned to the Special Operations Command and works with Sergeant Rick Kelly, her handler. Sgt. Kelly is a 15 year veteran of the K-9 Unit who also works with Muddy, a Chocolate Labrador Retriever bomb dog who joined the ranks in 2015.

The Maryland State Police K-9 unit has been in operation for more than 55 years. Since 1961, K-9's have assisted law enforcement in drug detection, search and rescue missions, explosive detections and with criminal apprehensions. Currently there are 32 handlers and 41 K-9's assigned to the Maryland State Police throughout the state. K9 Skye is also available to assist allied Maryland police agencies that have need of this unique resource.



**“Skye has been an integral part of nine cases, one of which resulted in the arrest of at least three gang members.”**  
- Sgt. Richard Kelly, K9 Unit

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# IMPACT UPDATE



## Deep Creek Dunk to Benefit Special Olympics Maryland

The good news was there was no ice in the water again this year, due to warmer than usual temperatures. The bad news was it rained hard and there was a lot of mud.

Regardless, more than 600 courageous people braved the mud and rain to jump into the lake in the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Maryland State Police - Natural Resources Police Deep Creek Dunk for Special Olympics on February 24, 2018. The generosity of the 'dunkers,' those who donated to them and corporate event sponsors was evident in the more than \$160,000 that was raised for Special Olympics Maryland.

Lt. Brian Kloos and a team of troopers from the McHenry Barrack were on-site to direct traffic, protect pedestrians and provide event security. Natural Resources Police officers were in abundance, also providing security and event assistance. Water safety personnel included dive team members from the Natural Resources Police, Maryland State Police, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal, as well as personnel from the Garrett County Department of Emergency Services. MDOT State Highway Ad-

ministration personnel assisted again this year with traffic control support that is vital to the success of the event. Site preparation for the Dunk was provided by personnel from the Maryland Park Service, Natural Resources Police, Maryland State Police, Westminster Police, Maryland Chiefs of Police Association and the Maryland Conservation Corps. Uno's, Arrowhead Market, Taylor-Made Deep Creek Vacations, and Railey Mountain Lake Vacations, were among the corporate partners for this year's Dunk.

One of the goals of the Dunk has been to raise awareness about the opportunities Special Olympics provides for children and adults with intellectual disabilities to participate in year-round sports training and competition. When the first Dunk was held in 1999, there were only a few individuals with intellectual disabilities participating in Special Olympics in Garrett County. Now, more than 50 athletes participate in Garrett County and the program has grown throughout Western Maryland. Statewide, more than 7,500 children and adults participate in Special Olympics programs.

The funds raised by the Deep Creek Dunk are used to support Special Olympics in Garrett County and the Western Maryland region. Money is used to provide training, travel to competitions, uniforms, and medals for athletes. Athletic training and competitions are provided in a wide range of sports that enable Special Olympics athletes to realize their full potential through the power of sport.

The Maryland State Police is proud to partner with the Maryland Natural Resources Police, the Maryland Park Service, Maryland Conservation Corps, Maryland Law Enforcement Torch Run and other volunteers and corporate sponsors who join together to make the Deep Creek Dunk a success. To all those who participated either by dunking or donating, thank you for helping us keep the Flame of Hope burning brightly for the athletes of Special Olympics Maryland.



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