



Vol. 4 Issue 3 March 2021

IMPACT UPDATE

Protecting, Preventing, Providing

Larry Hogan

Boyd K. Rutherford

Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III

Governor

Lt. Governor

Superintendent

Contents

FSD Celebrates Women
& Girls In Science Day

Waterloo Barrack Rescues
Dog On I-95

Troopers Designated As
Traffic Safety Specialists

MSP Combats DUIs On
Super Bowl Sunday



Captain Milton Taylor was the first African-American trooper in Maryland State Police history. He was hired in 1957 and retired in 1982.

Maryland State Police Commemorates Black History Month

It was in 1957 when Milton Taylor made history and became the first African-American trooper in the Maryland State Police.

Today, African Americans are present in all levels of the department from cadets to the command staff in both sworn and civilian positions. It is important to remember the hard work and determination of many African American trailblazers from decades past.

Among those were Jacqueline Ringgold-Johnson and Maria Barnett, who were hired in 1975 and became the first African-American female Maryland state troopers. In 1989, Ida Williams was promoted and became the first African-American female director when she took over as head of the

Central Record Division.

Other African-American trailblazers in the Maryland State Police include retired Lt. Colonel Ernest Leatherbury, who worked his way through the ranks and in 1995 became the department's first African-American bureau chief. Then in 2001, retired Major Anita L. Allen became the department's first African-American female commissioned officer.

Those troopers and others were recognized recently in a video produced by the Maryland State Police as part of the department's celebration of Black History Month.

See **BLACK HISTORY**, page 2



IMPACT UPDATE

MSP BLACK HISTORY MONTH (cont.)

**Lieutenant
Colonel (R)
Stewart Russell**

There were so many people
whose shoulders I stood on..



From Page 1

Maryland State Police Superintendent Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III said he would not be in the position he holds today without the guidance many African-American troopers offered him throughout his career.

"I've often said there are many people who shaped my life and enabled me to serve in the position I currently hold," Col. Jones said. "Fortunately, for me, I had enough sense to watch, listen and value those individuals during my state police career.

"Many of those who influenced me were African-American. Their ranks varied, but they were all leaders in their own right. The qualities that influenced me were the same ones that ultimately placed them in supervisory and command roles throughout the department."

Retired Lt. Colonel Stewart Russell served in the Maryland State Police for 35 years, beginning in 1977. He said an early interaction he had not long after he joined the department with an elderly African American man made him understand the impact he could have in the community.

"I don't even know you but I'm so proud of you because when I was your age there was no such thing [as an African-American state

trooper]," the man told Lt. Col. Russell.

Lt. Col. Roland Butler, Bureau Chief of the Field Operations Bureau, graduated from the Training Academy in 1994. He said as challenging as the academy was, he felt more at ease when he looked around Headquarters at Pikesville and saw African-Americans in prominent leadership roles.

"We all have our challenges in life," Lt. Col. Butler said. "Some challenges can be a little more daunting than others. You feel a little more emotional comfort when you see someone who looks like you that you know has been through the same things you've been through."

See **BLACK HISTORY**, page 3





IMPACT UPDATE

MSP BLACK HISTORY MONTH (cont.)

From Page 2

“I remember running around the department at Headquarters and seeing people of rank ... When you saw them and how they carried themselves, it let you know that you were on the right track and everything was going to be OK.”

From Captain Taylor, who retired in 1982, to Major Allen to Lt. Col. Butler, today’s African-American troopers have more role models than ever as they seek to blaze their own paths in the department. Among those is Cpl. Dominique Rogers, who said she became emotional last year when she met many of the female African-American troopers who came before her during the MSP-Black History Month program in Pikesville.

“Last year’s program gave me a big insight on some of the big figures that played a role in the Mary-



**Lieutenant Colonel
Roland L. Butler, Jr.**

We all have our challenges in life. Some challenges can be a little more daunting than others...

land State Police...,” Cpl. Rogers said. “I met the first African-American female trooper. I almost cried. I told her she was like a star I had never seen before...

“Those figures that have moved up along through the ranks have motivated me to become what I am today, which is a supervisor. It’s allowed me to reach out to the younger troopers and be able to show them that if I can do it you can do it. There’s no one preventing you from your dream. You can turn around and make it happen.”

Much like Lt. Col. Russell, TFC Jasmine M. Ingram said she learned early in her career that just her presence in the community has provided inspiration to others like her who hope to enter a career in law enforcement.

“There have been many times that I’ve pulled someone over or stopped someone on a traffic stop and it just blows people’s minds when they see a Black female in a Maryland State Police uniform,” TFC Ingram said. “The looks I get it just blows my mind. They say ‘I didn’t know you existed.’ I didn’t understand just how important my presence was until people actually started saying ‘I’m so happy you’re here. I’m so happy that you’re doing what you’re doing. You keep doing what you’re doing.’”

To view the entire Black History Month video, click <https://youtu.be/znlZcRaTysI>



Retired Major Anita Allen speaks during a Maryland State Police program in 2020 to celebrate Black History Month.



IMPACT UPDATE



Toxicology Unit Supervisor Laura Waters has been a valued member of the Forensic Sciences Division since 2008.

Female Forensic Scientists Recognized On International Women In Science Day

Since joining the Maryland State Police four years ago, Whitley Mayo has made it a goal to encourage women and girls to pursue careers in science.

Mayo, a firearms examiner, has established a scholarship for minority women attending graduate school at Stevenson University who are pursuing a career in Forensic Science.

As a firearms examiner, Mayo's primary duty is in firearms identification or determining if any projectile such as a bullet, cartridge case, shotgun shell, or any other ammunition component, has been fired from a particular firearm. She said while she wants to see other females follow in her footsteps, she understands a

career in forensic sciences is not for everyone.

"First things first, you need to have an honest conversation with yourself to determine if your mind works scientifically," she said. "If you can't pay attention to the details, constantly ask questions and search for solutions, then this field may not be for you.

"If your heart is really in it, then go for it. You have to really be committed to be successful. Don't enter this field simply for the recognition of being a female scientist because it's trendy, or from television shows that are not based on reality. Enter this field because you're passionate, because you want to make a difference."

Mayo is just one of the many talented female scientists working for the Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division. Their work was highlighted on Feb. 11 in recognition of International Day of Women and Girls In Science.

The day, established by the United Nations' General Assembly in 2015, is an opportunity to promote full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls.

See SCIENCE, page 5



IMPACT UPDATE

SCIENCE: Women Making A Difference

From Page 4

Among the females making a difference in the Forensic Sciences Division is Dr. Wanda Kuperus.

Kuperus has been the division's deputy director since 2014. She started her career in forensics in 1997 as a forensic biologist with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in her hometown of Regina, Saskatchewan.

In 2006, Kuperus and her family immigrated to the United States and she worked as associate director at the Orchid Cellmark laboratory in Dallas, Texas. Kuperus earned her bachelor's degree in biology and biochemistry from the University of Regina and later earned her doctorate in biology at the school.

For those interested in pursuing a career in forensic sciences, Kuperus offered some simple advice:

"Seize opportunities when they arise, even if you feel like you aren't ready for the challenge. You are ready; you just don't know it yet."

That is advice Crime Scene Technician Supervisor Kristina Amspacker took to heart. She has served the Forensic Sciences Division for 20 years as a crime scene technician, including the last ten years as a supervisor of five other



Firearms Examiner Whitley Mayo has established a scholarship for minority women attending graduate school at Stevenson University who are pursuing a career in Forensic Science.

crime scene technicians.

Overall, Amspacker has 39 years of combined experience in law enforcement and forensics, including time as a law enforcement specialist with the U.S. Air Force. After leaving the military, Amspacker began work at the Lee County Sheriff's Office in Fort Myers, Florida; first in a clerical position before becoming a deputy where she began training to work as a crime scene technician.

By the time she left the Sheriff's Office, she had earned her bachelor's degree and was teaching crime scene technician classes.

Amspacker's job has included testifying in court as a bloodstain pattern expert. The key to doing so successfully, she said, is taking technical information and describing it in terms a jury can understand.

"You have to be prepared to be able to explain your expertise in layman's terms so that you can educate the jury/judge so they can understand how you made your conclusions," she said.

After nearly four decades of work, Amspacker said she feels like she is continuing to make a difference.

"Being able to find a piece of evidence at a crime scene that connects a suspect to the crime, or develops a lead that was not a suspect, is such a sense of satisfaction that what we do is helping the victim and helping law enforcement to bring a case to closure," she said.

See SCIENCE, page 6



IMPACT UPDATE



Quality Assurance Safety Manager Theresa DeAngelo has more than 17 years of experience in the forensic sciences field.

SCIENCE: ‘Do Not Be Afraid To Get Uncomfortable’

From Page 5

Toxicology Unit Supervisor Laura Waters shares a similar mindset. Joining the department in 2008, Waters’ duties include supervising and evaluating unit scientists, assigning and reviewing casework and training new scientists. She is also certified to perform DUI blood alcohol and blood drug casework. As with other casework scientists, she may be required to testify in court.

Waters has a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of Maryland and a master’s degree in forensic science from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

“If you are interested in a science career, go for it,” Waters said. “As for forensic science, it is a competitive field, even more so now than it used to be. But, do



Argi Magers, forensic scientist manager for the biology/DNA unit, has worked in the Forensic Sciences Division for 22 years.

not be dissuaded if it is what you want to do. For a lab-based job, a solid science education is essential.”

Joining the department in 2015, Quality Assurance/Safety Manager Theresa DeAngelo manages and directs the quality assurance and safety programs of the Forensic Sciences Division. Her responsibilities include

ensuring the laboratory is in compliance with industry standards and accreditations are up-to-date.

DeAngelo has more than 17 years of experience in different agencies in Maryland and New York City, which includes work in crime scene, drug chemistry and lab oversight. Her education includes a bachelor’s degree in biology from UMBC and a master’s in forensic science from Towson University.

“Do not be afraid to get uncomfortable as you pursue your education or career path,” DeAngelo said. “You may find opportunities or face challenges that you think you can’t do or you are not good enough or smart enough to accomplish them. But the truth is, in the end, you are extremely smart, you are better than good and can accomplish what you set out to do.”



IMPACT UPDATE

Waterloo Barrack Rescues Dog On I-95 In Howard County

Maryland State Police troopers from the Waterloo Barrack found themselves on "Paw Patrol" on Jan. 25 on I-95 near I-895 in Howard County.

It was there that a dog was reported to be running loose. Troopers, along with Howard County Police, the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration and Howard County Animal Control, were able to safely capture the frightened labradoodle, after it was seen darting in and out through traffic on the highway.

After the dog was taken to Howard County Animal Control, the dog's owners came to pick up their pet, after hearing about the chase on the radio. The dog, named Desiree, was unharmed and is home safely with her family.

A few days later, Adam Lippe, an assistant state's attorney in Baltimore County, donated about three dozen dog leads to the Glen Burnie Barrack. Lippe, along with his son, founded The Love Leads Project. The Lippes make the leads using recycled climbing ropes. Through The Love Leads Project, they donate thousands of these slip leashes to police officers and other first responders to use when confronted with a loose



TFC White and Sgt. Shanks of the Glen Burnie Barrack accepted the donation of three dozen dog leads provided by The Love Leads Project. The donation came a few days after troopers from the Waterloo Barrack rescued a dog that was loose on I-95 in Howard Co.

dog they need to assist.

The donated slip leash leads will be distributed to troopers at Glen Burnie and nearby barracks.

Thank you, Mr. Lippe, for this thoughtful donation that will help make our troopers and the animals they are assisting safer in the future.



IMPACT UPDATE

Troopers Among Nearly 100 Maryland Officers Designated Traffic Safety Specialists

Troopers from the Bel Air, Easton, Glen Burnie, Leonardtown, McHenry, North East and Waterloo barracks were among the nearly 100 officers who were recently honored for their commitment and contributions to traffic safety with designation as a level I or level II Traffic Safety Specialist (TSS).

Ninety-four officers received a level I designation and four officers received a level II designation in 2020 through TSS, a statewide program recognizing officers who have attained distinct levels of experience, training and proficiency in highway safety and traffic enforcement methods and procedures.

The TSS program is a collaborative effort of the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Motor Vehicle Administration (MDOT MVA) Highway Safety Office, the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association.

To develop effective solutions that address local and statewide traffic safety, law enforcement agencies must have staff personnel that are highly skilled in traffic safety.

The TSS program provides a framework that gives law enforcement officers an opportunity to receive credit and recognition



for their skills and contributions to traffic safety.

"I congratulate and commend all the law enforcement personnel who have taken advantage of this opportunity to improve their ability to save lives and reduce injuries on our roads by becoming traffic safety specialists," Maryland State Police Superintendent Col. Woodrow W. Jones III said. "When the Maryland State Police was created 100 years ago, one of its assigned primary duties was to conduct statewide traffic safety and enforcement efforts. As we enter a new century of service,

our commitment to making Maryland highways safer remains strong as we work toward the important goal of zero deaths."

Established in 2008, the TSS program is open to police officers, deputy sheriffs and troopers from across Maryland and federal law enforcement agencies. The program offers three designations: TSS I, TSS II and TSS III. Each successive designation requires increasing levels of experience, training, job performance and skills proficiency. Specialized training requirements such as speed detection device certification, standardized field sobriety test certification and participation in high visibility enforcement campaigns are examples of specifications needed to achieve one of the three TSS levels.

To be eligible, officers must enroll in the program and submit required documentation for the specific level they are seeking. TSS III requires a traffic safety project which must be reviewed and approved by the TSS Executive Committee.



IMPACT UPDATE

MSP Urges Digital Safety For All On Safer Internet Day

(PIKESVILLE, MD) – Investigators from the Maryland State Police Computer Crimes Unit are working to raise awareness of how parents and children can do more to protect themselves from potential dangers on the Internet.

The warnings came in conjunction with Safer Internet Day, which took place on Feb. 9. Safer Internet Day is a global rally that aims to raise awareness of emerging online issues as people of all ages surround themselves with a myriad of digital devices.

During this pandemic, there has been a dramatic increase in our nation's youth online activities. The Computer Crimes Unit is seeing a rise in self-generated sexually explicit material by children. This material is also known as sexting, nudes or child sexual abuse material (child pornography).

With a generation of youth as online content creators, it is important for parents to have open communication with their children about content sharing. With both boys and girls involved in sexting behaviors, parents need to have age appropriate conversations with their children, beginning as soon as they have access to any technological device. Consider the following:

- One in five children who use the Internet have been sexually solicited.
- About 40 percent of kids in grades 4-8 reported they connected or chatted online with a stranger.
- Nearly 60% of teenagers have received an email or instant message from a stranger (half have replied).

In 2018, tech companies reported more than 45 million online photos and videos of children being sexually abused, double the amount from the year before.

There was no significant difference between males and females. Safety on the Internet includes the use of any device that has access to online activity. Investigators from the Maryland State Po-

lice Computer Crimes Unit remind all ages to be vigilant about Internet safety. Children and senior citizens are often the target populations for online criminal activity.

Parents are encouraged to monitor their children's use of all digital devices and senior citizens are urged to use the Internet with caution, especially when asked to furnish personal information. Digital devices include laptops, tablets, desktop computers and 'smart' phones.





IMPACT UPDATE

Maryland State Police Combats Impaired Drivers On Super Bowl Sunday

While many people opted to stay home this year to watch the Super Bowl due to the pandemic, troopers were still ready for an expected increase in impaired drivers.

On Feb. 7, troopers conducted hundreds of traffic stops and made dozens of impaired driving arrests. Additional troopers were deployed from all 23 barracks with overtime costs covered partially from grants from the MDOT MVA's Highway Safety Office.

Barracks across the state conducted various DUI saturation patrols, working to keep motorists safe and keep impaired drivers off the road. Among those is the Golden Ring Barrack, which removed 17 impaired drivers from the road.

Other highlights of the Super Bowl Sunday initiative included:

- The Frederick Barrack recorded 28 traffic stops, issued 19 citations and 22 warnings and made two DUI arrests in Frederick County.
- The Rockville Barrack conducted a speed enforcement initiative in the area of I-270 and I-495 in Montgomery County. Troopers recorded 27 traffic stops, issued 18 citations and 20 warnings and



made one DUI arrest.

- The Forestville Barrack completed a criminal enforcement initiative in the area of I-495 in Prince George's County. Troopers recorded seven traffic stops, seized one handgun and made one DUI arrest.
- The Annapolis Barrack conducted a DUI saturation patrol in identified DUI collision hot spots in the Annapolis area. During the initiative, troopers conducted 21 traffic stops, issued 19 citations and 19 warnings and made two arrests for DUI.
- The College Park Barrack focused their efforts on crime suppression and traffic safety. Troopers conducted 171 traffic stops, issued 158 citations

and 89 warnings and arrested eight individuals for DUI.

According to the MDOT MVA's Highway Safety Office, an average of 145 people died from impaired driving crashes, 159 died from distracted driving crashes and 32 from aggressive driving crashes annually from 2014-2018 in the state.

Over the same span, an average of 2,124 people were injured by impaired drivers, 17,908 were injured as a result of distracted driving and 1,550 were injured by aggressive drivers in Maryland.