



IMPACT UPDATE

Protecting, Preventing, Providing

Larry Hogan

Boyd K. Rutherford

Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III

Governor

Lt. Governor

Superintendent

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MSP demonstrates an interactive virtual reality training system that offers opportunities to partake in countless scenarios a trooper may encounter on the job.

MSP Implements Virtual Decision-Making Simulator Training

(PIKESVILLE, MD) – Maryland State Police is implementing an interactive virtual reality training system that provides individualized training and immediate feedback and instruction for troopers in decision-making during countless scenarios ranging from traffic stops to life-threatening standoffs.

The Maryland State Police is believed to be the first in the state and region to implement the Apex Virtual Police Simulator training system. The system uses virtual reality technology to immerse troopers in interactive real-life situations that are unpredictable and are directly impacted by a participant's ability to properly respond to a specific situation.

The trooper being trained puts on a small backpack and a headset. They

are provided a replica handgun and a multi-tool which, for Maryland state troopers, represents the "less lethal" tools they carry.

In another room, an instructor sits at a laptop computer and router that generate the scenes. The instructor controls the scene and everything the suspects or victims on-screen do.

When the instructor speaks, the person on screen moves his/her mouth. The instructor can change the facial expressions and movements of the person remotely, based on what occurs during the scenario.

The instructor is also the voice of the person on-screen, so he/she is directly interacting with the trainee and reacting to the way the trainee is handling the situation.

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IMPACT UPDATE

VIRTUAL: A Modern Approach To Police Training

From Page 1

Virtual simulator training is the wave of the future as bulky, screen-based training technology is being phased out. Instead of needing half of a large room to display a screen, this virtual simulator training can be set up in a small room, while “virtually” placing the trainee in a multitude of situations, such as being in the middle of a busy street facing a despondent man with mental health issues who is armed with a knife.

Maryland State Police instructors are finding a long list of other advantages to this training. Although still valuable, scenario-based training requires a lot of “actors,” locations and other resources. This training is run by one person and can place the trainee in an unlimited amount of locations and situations. The training equipment is very portable and requires little space to operate. Instructors plan to take the equipment around the state, potentially to each



barrack, to provide training and reduce troopers’ commuting time and time away from patrol.

“We are excited about the enhanced training opportunities and endless possibilities this new technology provides,” Maryland State Police Superintendent Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III said.

“This technology immerses the trooper being trained into circumstances and situations they will face and requires them to use their training to engage, de-escalate, preserve life, and, if necessary, arrest and use force to

appropriately respond. It provides an increased opportunity for learning in a controlled environment with immediate feedback and training from the instructor. Ultimately, we believe this will result in a trooper who is more efficiently trained and confident in the performance of their duties.”

“This is not just another firearms training course,” Captain Brian Smith, commander of the Education and Training Division said. “This is training in decision-making that challenges the trooper with the reality of outcomes based on how they choose to

handle the situation.

The new technology is being used in addition to the training troopers already receive during entrance-level training when they become troopers and in-service training which occurs throughout their careers. It is not replacing any type of training currently provided.

The first members of the Maryland State Police to use the virtual reality training were those in Trooper Candidate Class 152, who graduated from the Training Academy in July.

According to instructors, the reaction to the use of the technology was overwhelmingly positive. Instructors plan to have the technology incorporated into in-service training for all troopers later this year.

The cost of the training system was \$110,000. Funding was obtained through Maryland Department of State Police general funds.



IMPACT UPDATE

Homicide Unit Commended For 5-Year Investigation That Leads To Guilty Verdict In Death Of Inmate

(PIKESVILLE, MD) – Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III commended the Maryland State Police Homicide Unit in August for a five-year criminal investigation which culminated in a guilty verdict for the individual ultimately responsible for ordering the death of an inmate in 2016.

The convicted is identified as Joseph Leissler, 52, an inmate at Jessup Correctional Institution. Leissler was found guilty of first- and second-degree murder, conspiracy to commit first degree murder, gang participation by causing the death of another and supervising a gang.

The announcement was made on August 23, 2021 after an Anne Arundel County jury found Leissler guilty on all charges.

“The hard work, dedication and persistence demonstrated by investigators of the Maryland State Police Homicide Unit went beyond the initial murder investigation and were key in securing a conviction of the individual responsible for ordering the death of an inmate,” Col. Jones said.

The initial investigation began in August 2016 with the murder of



John O’Sullivan, a 43-year-old inmate at Jessup Correctional Institution. O’Sullivan was found stabbed to death leaving the showers in an unprovoked attack.

A thorough investigation by the Maryland State Police Homicide Unit revealed three suspects in the case, all of whom were charged in 2016 and later convicted in 2020. The accused, identified as Brian Hare, Vincent Bunner and Calvin Lochner were all found to be members of the Aryan Brotherhood.

Information gleaned from the initial murder investigation revealed the 2016 murder had been ordered by the leader of the Aryan Brotherhood in Maryland, identified as Leissler. The order was to kill O’Sullivan, a member

of a rival gang Dead Man, Inc. Investigators from the Maryland State Police Homicide Unit continued with the investigation, investing hundreds of hours interviewing witnesses, gathering evidence and working with confidential sources of information to yield an extremely successful case.

The Maryland State Police Homicide Unit worked tirelessly with the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services and the Department of Corrections Intelligence Unit on the five-year investigation.

The valuable assistance received from the Anne Arundel County State’s Attorney Office ultimately resulted in the successful prosecution of this case.



IMPACT UPDATE



St. Mary's County Youth Gun Violence Task Force Seizes 19 Illegal Firearms Over Summer

(LEONARDTOWN, MD) — The St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Youth Gun Violence Task Force recently completed its three-month-long mission, executing more than 100 warrants, affecting dozens of arrests and seizing numerous illegal firearms from perpetrators.

The Youth Gun Violence Task Force continued efforts this summer that originally began in July 2020. Since June of this year, the reformed task force served 105 search warrants, made 65 arrests and seized 19 guns in its work in St. Mary's County.

The task force's mission included a high visibility presence in at-risk neighborhoods to reduce the frequency of gun violence; interdiction enforcement to recover illegally possessed firearms from persons and vehicles; using covert investigative strategies to identify suspects involved in gun crimes; review and evaluation of both open and closed gun cases for intelligence and engagement with community members and organizations for information and support.

The work of the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office Youth Gun Violence Task Force was a collaborative effort with the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); the US Attorney's Office; the Maryland State Police (MSP) and the State's Attorney's Office for St. Mary's County to ensure the safety and security of all residents, through the arrest and prosecution of those seeking to do harm onto others through gun violence.



IMPACT UPDATE

Retired Trooper Restores MSP Motorcycle As Museum Opening Nears

Retired Maryland State Police Sgt. Rick Sullivan is proud of the history of the department.

Sgt. Sullivan is especially proud of the Motorcycle Enforcement Unit, which he helped restore in the mid-1980s and was a part of before retiring in 2005. Now, he is working to ensure the history of the unit is taught for generations to come as he recently completed restoring a Harley Davidson motorcycle that was used by the department in the mid-1990s.

The motorcycle will be on display at the Maryland State Police Museum. The museum, which is located on the grounds of MSP Headquarters in Pikesville, hosted a soft opening Oct. 1-3.

“It’s important to preserve the history of the department,” Sgt. Sullivan said. “As people retire and new generations come in, we need to remind people of who came before them.”

The Maryland State Police began in 1921 using motorcycles as their primary patrol vehicle. As the years passed Maryland troopers, along other law enforcement agencies, adopted four-wheeled motor vehicles as their primary patrol vehicles and the use of motorcycles was abandoned.

Unfortunately, motorcycles



played a tragic role in the early history of the Maryland State Police. Of the 43 fallen heroes in the department, 13 died in motorcycle accidents. This included the department’s first 11 fallen heroes. All 13 of these tragic deaths occurred between 1921 and 1938.

“It was a different time,” Sgt. Sullivan said. “Motorcycles were new, the roads were often just dirt, the troopers helmets did not protect them well and they were often pursuing suspects at a high rate of speed. It was a bad combination. The technology, highway system and the safety of the vehicles are obviously much better today.”

On May 15, 1986, a special order was issued implementing a pilot

program formulating the Motorcycle Enforcement Unit. It was projected this new capability would result in a decrease in the response time for police services on heavily congested highways.

During the pilot program, the Motorcycle Enforcement Unit was comprised of three members, assigned to the Special Traffic Enforcement Unit, who received formalized training from the United States Park Police.

The Motorcycle Enforcement Unit (M.E.U.) was operated throughout the state with the majority of its efforts concentrated in the Baltimore Metropolitan area.

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IMPACT UPDATE

MOTORCYCLE: A Tremendous Asset For MSP

From Page 5

Specific duties, responsibilities and operational procedures were mandated. Several times throughout the pilot program, the M.E.U. proved its effectiveness by demonstrating its unique maneuverability in heavily congested areas to effect criminal arrests, respond to collisions and alleviate heavily congested areas to effect criminal arrests, respond to collisions and alleviate heavily congested traffic areas.

In January 1987, then-Governor William Donald Schaefer requested the implementation of a program by spring that would provide a noticeable improvement in the traffic flow to and from the Eastern Shore during the summer of 1987. This program was entitled "The Shore Bound Traffic Improvement Program."

In response, a task force was formed of members from the State Highway Administration, the Maryland Transportation Authority, the Maryland State Police and the Mass Transit Administration.

This task force formulated various proposals, when implemented, should provide for reduced delays during the peak weekend travel periods, while improving the capacity of the roadway network



along the upper Eastern Shore corridor.

The purchase of five police motorcycles for the described Maryland State Police enforcement activities was authorized and funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

The motorcycles were to be used for the purposes of responding to and alleviating areas of heavy congestion, assisting disabled motorists and generally improving the peak period traffic flow. They became the backbone for the "Reach The Beach / Eastern Shore Traffic Operations" program.

The motorcycles proved to be such a tremendous asset to the program, that the agency acquired six additional motorcycles. In January 1990 four full-time motor units were organized within the Maryland State Police. Two motor units were assigned to the Baltimore Beltway and two were assigned to the Washington Beltway.

Under a centralized command, motors are able to assist MSP Barracks with support for MSP related duties, able to blend barrack boundaries and quickly provide high infiltration during crisis events.

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IMPACT UPDATE

MOTORCYCLE: Highly Visible Promotion

From Page 6

MSP has been accustomed to motors support during state and federal initiatives such as the Smooth Operator Program and Click It Or Ticket operations. Motors also provide highly visible MSP promoting escort services for a wide range of dignitaries and funerals with safe passage through Maryland and also include high risk prisoner transfers.

Utilization of motors continues with assistance to the State Highway Administration when major and minor incidents result in traffic jams, demonstrating an effective use of motors flexibility.

Motors with their mobility and flexibility provide the unique ability of passage through gridlocked traffic where four-wheeled patrol vehicles are often slowed dramatically in response time.

During incidents on the highway where a road closure is known to be lengthy, the motorcycles can be the most effective vehicle for preparing detour routes.

Once the routes are established, Motors are capable of patrolling and handling calls for service in gridlocked traffic that is nearly impossible for four-wheeled patrol vehicles to navigate. The motors are uniquely capable and efficient in maintaining control



and safety for the motorists using them in these circumstances.

Motors are also uniquely advantageous in state of emergencies. They are capable of responding to areas where a state of emergency is declared and maneuvering through most foreign debris/roadblocks to reach calls for service.

MSP motors were some of the first to be called upon in response to the terrorist attacks on our homeland on Sept. 11, 2001. MSP motors were immediately called upon to escort various utility vehicles to the Pentagon to assist with aid and relief.

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IMPACT UPDATE

MOTORCYCLE: Train, Ride, Survive Together

From Page 7

While MSP motors were on scene, they were requested by allied motors of the Pentagon and the District of Columbia to assist with numerous escorts to bring much needed EMS and first responder vehicles to the scene and also to assist with security of the crime scene perimeter.

They have also been used during Maryland natural disasters to include tornados in April 2002 in La Plata, 2008 in Friendsville (Garrett County) and in 2011 in Ocean City.

They have also been used in several hurricanes to include assisting Ocean City with Hurricane Bob in August 1991, with the aftermath of a severe hurricane in Frederick in 2003, along with Hurricane Isabel in 2006 and with Hurricanes Irene and Lee in 2011. Motors were used both in evacuation plans and for responses to areas for coverage during storm cleanups due to their maneuverability for storm ravaged streets.

A motto commonly used by MSP Motors is "Train Together, Ride Together, and Survive Together." MSP created Basic Motor Officer training in 1988 followed by Motor Officer Instructor training in 1992.



They were the first in the state and believed the nation to conduct Master Instructor Training, Motor Officer Tactical Training and a Multi-Agency Training Curriculum. They were also the first in the state to receive approval and certification by the Maryland Police Training Commission.

The MSP Basic Motor Officer training curriculum has also been used as a template by MPCTC requiring all Motor Officer Instructors in the State of Maryland to demonstrate a certain skill and proficiency level. Training by the MSP Motor Unit is one of the best in the country providing motor officers and motor officer Instructors some of the most advanced and critical training available. There are five full-time and three part-time troopers assigned to the unit

today.

Since 1992 there have been motor officers trained by the MSP from 199 agencies from 19 states and 5 federal agencies. Twelve state and local agencies have adopted all or partial MSP motor officer training curriculum and standards. Of these trained motor officers there have been over 40 reported cases where MSP motor officer training has saved the motor officer's life.

"We can maneuver around areas much easier than patrol cars," said First Sgt. Brett Canfield, commander of the MSP Motorcycle Unit. "That can be especially useful during heavy traffic incidents. I'm glad to see Sgt. Sullivan and others working to tell the story of our unit at the museum. We believe the visibility of our unit can be very helpful in terms of recruiting and community engagement."



IMPACT UPDATE

PHOTOS: Shop With A Cop In St. Mary's County



The Maryland State Police Leonardtown Barrack and St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office both participated in a "Shop With A Cop" event last month, with the goal to get children in need of school supplies that they needed before classes started. This event was primarily hosted at the Walmart in California, Md.

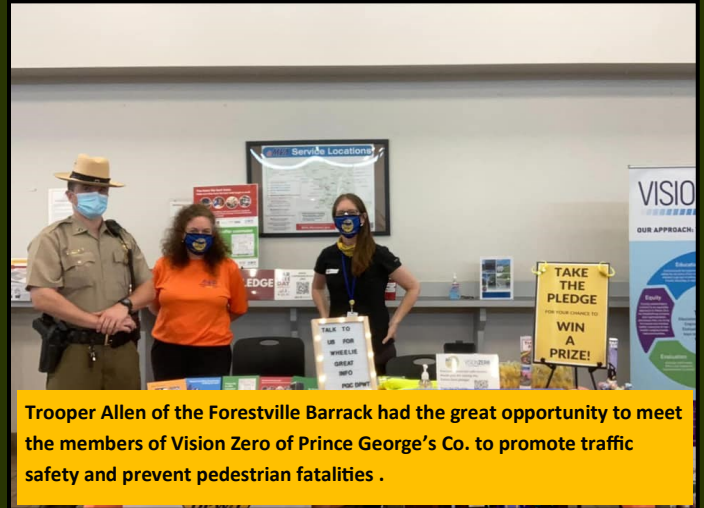


IMPACT UPDATE

PHOTOS: Maryland State Police In The Community



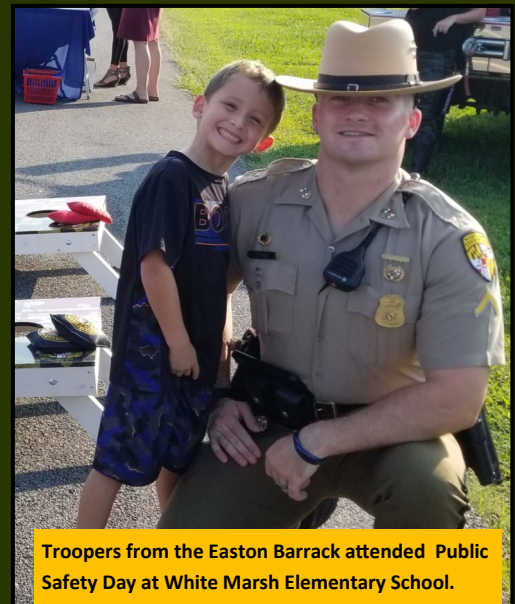
Troopers from the Berlin Barrack participated in a 9/11 Remembrance ceremony in Ocean City.



Trooper Allen of the Forestville Barrack had the great opportunity to meet the members of Vision Zero of Prince George's Co. to promote traffic safety and prevent pedestrian fatalities .



The Leonardtown Barrack thanks St. Mary's County resident Melissa Poole for donating schools supplies for children in need.



Troopers from the Easton Barrack attended Public Safety Day at White Marsh Elementary School.



IMPACT UPDATE

Maryland State Police Mourns The Loss Of TFC Alec Cohen

The Maryland Department of State Police expresses condolences after the passing of one of their own, Trooper First Class Alec Elijah Cohen on Sept. 18.

Trooper First Class Cohen, 29, of of Cockeysville, MD, formally of Apalachin, NY, graduated from Northeastern University with a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice. He then joined the ranks of the Maryland State Police after graduating with the 146th Academy Class. TFC Cohen was a

member of the Maryland State Police for 4 ½ years and was assigned to the North East Barrack at the time of his death.

This is a significant loss for the Maryland State Police family. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Trooper First Class Cohen's family and loved ones.

TFC Cohen will always be remembered for his extraordinary commitment, selfless service and unwavering dedication to the citizens of this state as a Maryland State Trooper.

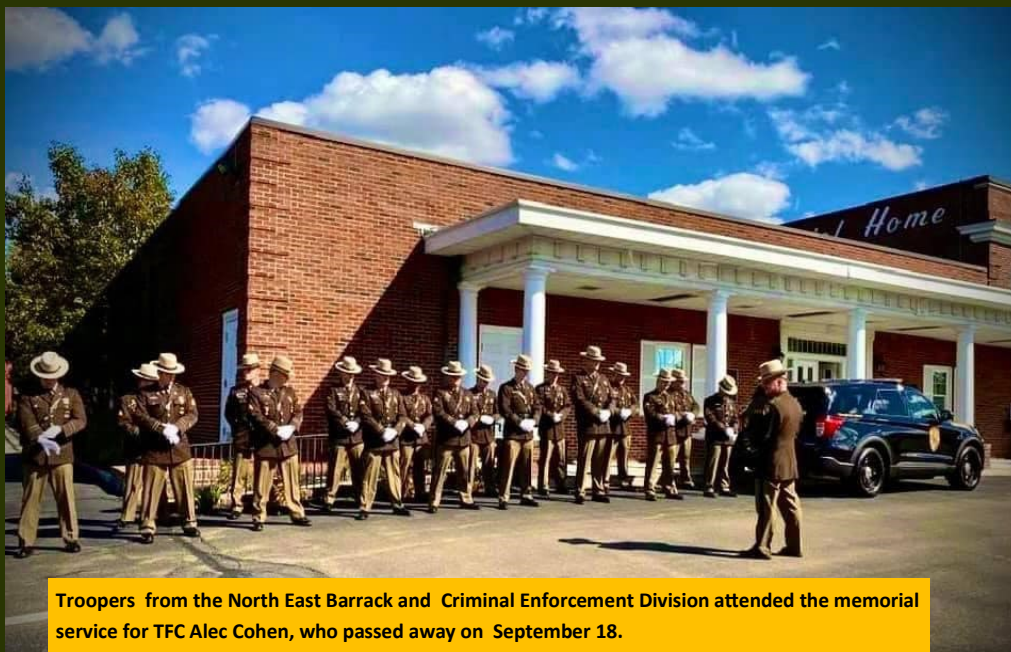


TFC Cohen's family said in a statement that "Maryland State Police

fulfilled his lifelong dream for public service and law enforcement. He was proud of his job and his MSP family."

TFC Cohen's funeral took place on Sept. 24 at the Allen Memorial Home in Endicott, New York.

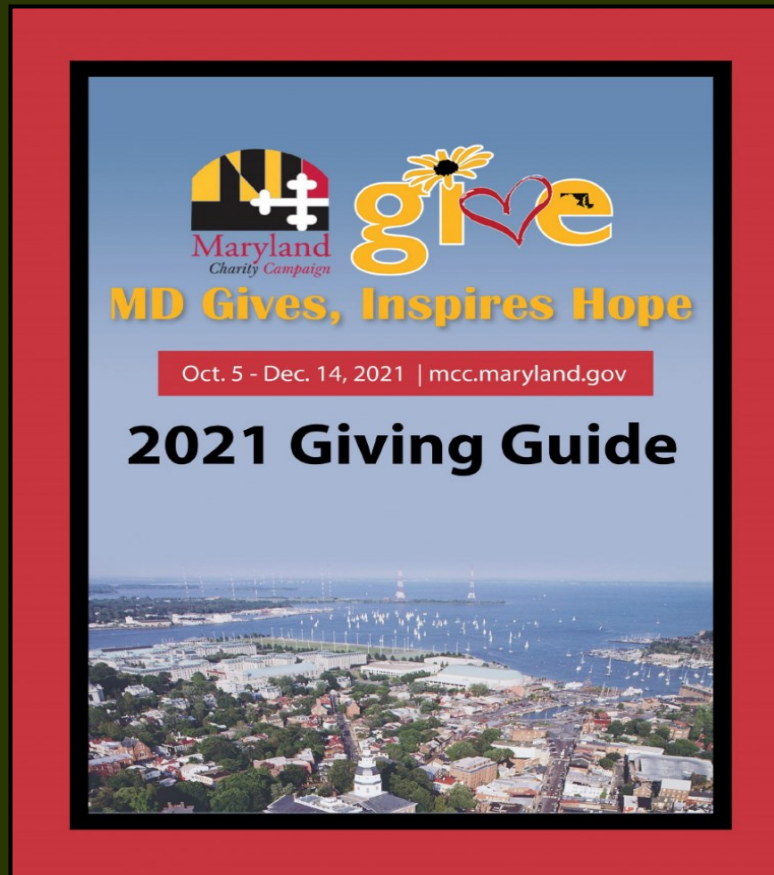
In lieu of flowers, TFC Cohen's family is asking for donation to be made for Vestal Dollar for Scholars P.O. Box 959, Vestal, NY 13850 for a foundation being established for TFC Cohen for students pursuing a career in law enforcement.



Troopers from the North East Barrack and Criminal Enforcement Division attended the memorial service for TFC Alec Cohen, who passed away on September 18.



IMPACT UPDATE



Annual Maryland Charity Campaign Launches In October

The Maryland Charity Campaign (MCC) is a workplace charitable giving program that offers State employees and eligible retirees the opportunity to conveniently, securely, and confidently contribute to charities they care about.

This year's MCC runs October 5-December 14, 2021. More than 1,000 charities are participating in the 2021 Campaign. Each has been vetted to ensure it is legitimate, fiscally sound, and performs the services stated.

The need has never been greater. The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated the charitable sector. The charities participating in the MCC are struggling to fulfill ever-increasing demand with ever-dwindling resources.

But there is hope — for charities as well as those that depend on their services. The MCC is hope. YOU are hope. That's why our 2021 MCC theme is “*MD Gives, Inspires Hope.*” The 2021 MCC goal is \$2 million.

With your gift, you can protect and support the most vulnerable among us. Participating causes cover issues including food insecurity to human trafficking, domestic violence to homelessness, health care to the environment, and so much more. A contribution of any amount helps. Every penny adds up, and through the MCC, individual acts of giving become a generosity movement.

For more information, visit <https://mcc.maryland.gov/>