



Vol. 5 Issue 6 June 2022

IMPACT UPDATE

Protecting, Preventing, Providing

Larry Hogan

Boyd K. Rutherford

Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III

Governor

Lt. Governor

Superintendent

Contents

PHOTOS: 2022 MSP
Fallen Heroes Ceremony

Trooper Saves Life Of
Tow Truck Operator

Suspected Impaired Driver
Rescued From Burning Car

Task Force Dismantles
Illegal Drug Operation

Aviation Maintenance
Technicians Recognized

MSP Celebrates National
Drug Take Back Day

PHOTOS: Garrett Co.
Fish With A Cop Event

Captain Receives
'Flame of Hope' Award

MD Man Guilty In
Murder For Hire Case



Troopers, Deputy State Fire Marshal Honored At Fallen Heroes Ceremony

(PIKESVILLE, MD) – Governor Larry Hogan joined Colonel Woodrow W. Jones III and police survivor families on Thursday, May 12, 2022 to honor state troopers who have given their lives in the line of duty at the annual Maryland State Police Fallen Heroes Ceremony.

The ceremony honored the 43 state troopers who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in Maryland, along with two troopers killed while serving on active duty in World War II and one fallen deputy state fire marshal.

In addition to the families of Fallen

Heroes, current and retired state troopers and deputy state fire marshals were in attendance to honor their fellow troopers and deputy.

“Now more than ever, it is critical that we come together to honor the faithfulness and the loyalty of all of the brave, proud members of the thin blue line who run toward danger and adversity when others run away,” Gov. Hogan said. “As we honor the lives and the legacies of our fallen MSP heroes, it is with the knowledge that they are part of a fellowship of heroes who are walking among us and protecting us each and every day.”



IMPACT UPDATE

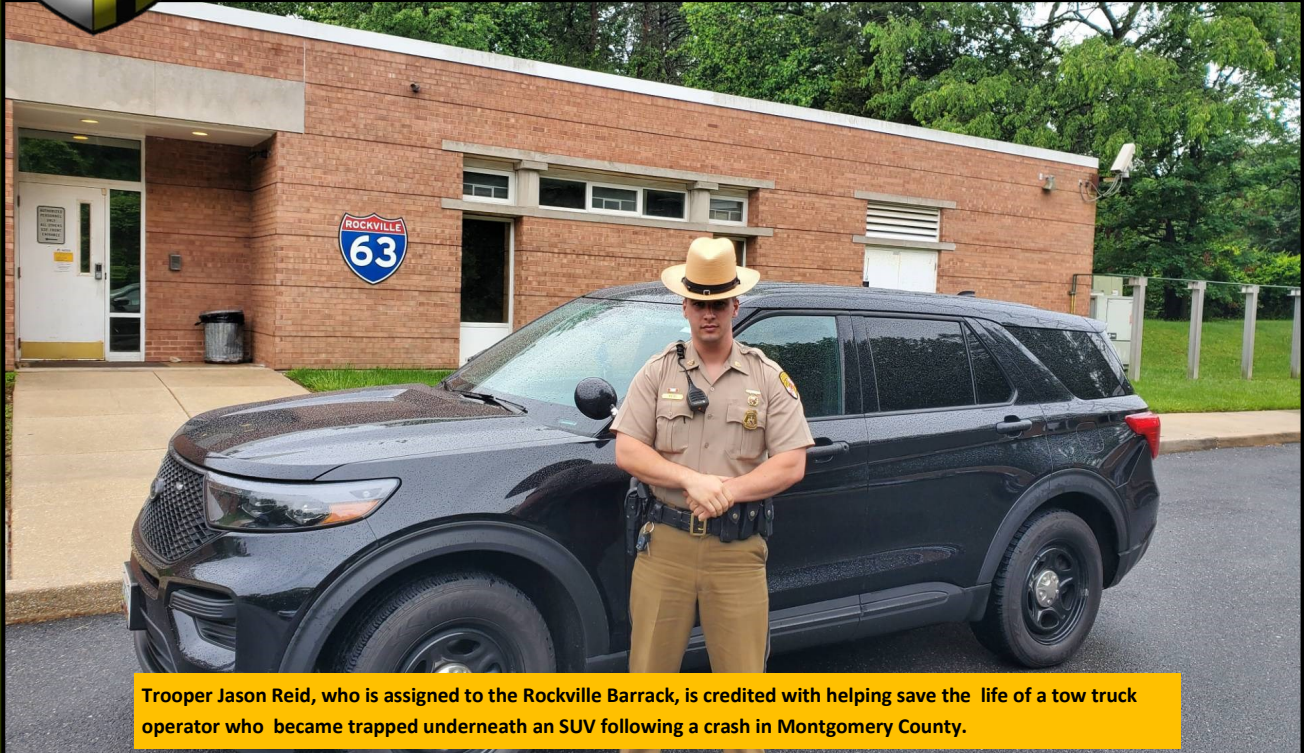
PHOTOS: 2022 Fallen Heroes Ceremony



Questions or comments? Email us at msh.media@maryland.gov or call 410-653-4236



IMPACT UPDATE



Trooper Rescues Tow Truck Operator From Underneath SUV In Montgomery County

(SILVER SPRING, MD) – The quick response by a Maryland State Police trooper helped save the life of a tow truck operator on May 23 in Montgomery County.

Shortly before 10:30 a.m. on May 23, Trooper Jason Reid, who is assigned to the Rockville Barrack, was on the scene of a motor vehicle crash on the ramp from eastbound I-495 to southbound Colesville Road (US 29) in Silver Spring, Maryland.

According to a preliminary investigation, a tow truck operator was on the scene working on removing the vehicles involved in the crash. The tow truck driver, a 51-year-old male, was working on getting a Chevrolet Equinox onto the back of his tow truck.

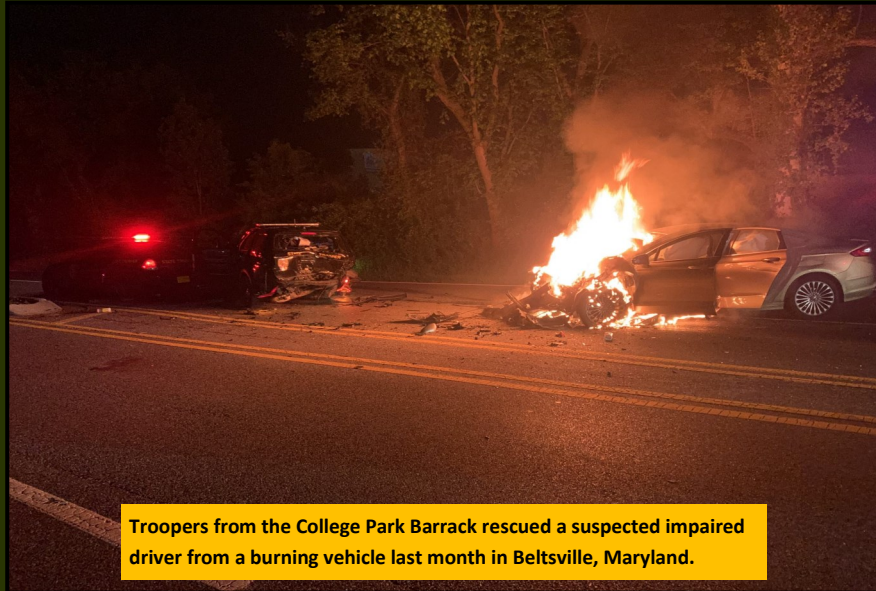
While the driver was attempting to attach the winch to the underside of the vehicle, the Chevrolet Equinox slipped off the back of the tow truck bed and fell on top of him.

Trooper Reid saw what happened, and despite having no previous training on the equipment, he was able to use the tow truck's controls to lower the tow truck's bed to the ground and re-position it underneath the front of the Chevrolet Equinox.

Trooper Reid then used the rear of the tow truck's bed to lift the car off of the victim and then pull him away from the vehicle. The driver was transported to Suburban Hospital for treatment of his injuries.



IMPACT UPDATE



Suspected Impaired Driver Rescued From Burning Vehicle After Crashing Into A Patrol Vehicle, Trooper

(BELTSVILLE, MD) – A suspected impaired driver was rescued from his burning vehicle on May 9 after he struck a Maryland State Police patrol car which then subsequently struck a trooper, sending him airborne several feet from the crash.

The accused is identified as Francis Ndoh, 29, of Laurel, Maryland. Ndoh is charged with driving under the influence. He was the driver and sole occupant of a light green Ford Fusion involved in the incident.

The injured trooper was outside of his patrol vehicle when the suspected impaired driver struck his patrol vehicle. He was transported to Suburban Hospital and later released.

Shortly after 2 a.m. on May 9, troopers from the College Park Barrack were working a single vehicle crash investigation on northbound Route 1 and Ritz Way in Beltsville, Maryland. The driver of a Ford Fusion crashed into the rear of a marked patrol vehicle which then struck a trooper, sending him into the air about 10-15 feet away from the scene.

The trooper had been standing a few feet away from his vehicle at the time of the crash. The other trooper, who was uninjured, was exiting his patrol vehicle at the exact moment the crash occurred.

Both patrol vehicles were parked in the roadway with their emergency lights activated due to the first

collision occupying a lane in the roadway. The preliminary investigation indicates the Ford Fusion caught fire after it struck the patrol vehicle. The driver was unconscious and remained behind the wheel in the driver's seat.

Troopers on the scene immediately ran to the burning vehicle, opened the driver's door and removed him from the vehicle.

The driver, later identified as Ndoh, then regained consciousness and requested to be seen by medical personnel. Ndoh was transported by ambulance to the University of Maryland Capital Region Medical Center.

The investigation continues.



IMPACT UPDATE

Police Task Force Dismantles Eastern Shore Drug Trafficking Organization

(EASTON, MD) – A combined law enforcement multi-month investigation has led to the indictment of nine people alleged to be part of a significant drug trafficking organization in two Eastern Shore counties.

The investigation, initiated by the Caroline County Drug Task Force, looked into information concerning the operation of a drug trafficking organization believed to be distributing large amount of cocaine, opioids, heroin, marijuana and methamphetamines in Caroline and Dorchester counties and parts of Delaware. Multiple law enforcement agencies ultimately provided assistance with the investigation.

Evidence was developed that enabled investigators to obtain 11 search warrants. The homes searched were located in Preston, Hurlock, Federalsburg, Lanham and Crofton.

As a result of those search warrants, police recovered over 18 kilograms of cocaine, 2.7 kilograms of heroin/fentanyl, 5.9 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine, 170 pounds of marijuana and approximately 34 firearms along with money believed to be connected to the drug operation. The Caroline County Drug Task Force is a multi-agency drug task force, based in Ridgely, Maryland; which functions under the



direction and control of the drug task force advisory board. The drug task force is comprised of sworn law enforcement officers and contributions from the Caroline County Sheriff's Department, Maryland State Police, Maryland Natural Resources Police, Caroline County State's Attorney's Office, and the Denton Police Department.

The Caroline and Dorchester County Task Forces, Homeland Security Investigations and Drug Enforcement Administration, were further assisted by Dorchester County State's Attorney's Office, Dorchester County Sheriff's Office, MSP Special Operations Group, MSP STATE Team, MSP Homicide, MSP PACE, MSP Gun Unit, MSP Criminal Investigations (Easton, Centreville, Salis-

bury, Princess Anne and Worcester), MSP Technical Surveillance Unit, Easton Police Department, Wicomico County Sheriff's Office, Talbot County Narcotics Task Force, Kent County Narcotics Task Force, Queen Anne's County Narcotics Task Force, Somerset County Narcotics Task Force, Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office, Federalsburg Police, and the Hurlock Police Department.

The operation was further supported by the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Initiative, the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services, and the Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network Initiative. The case remains under investigation.



IMPACT UPDATE

Maryland State Police Celebrates National Aviation Maintenance Technician Day

(MIDDLE RIVER, MD) – The iconic green and black helicopters of the Maryland State Police Aviation Command (MSPAC), bearing the State flag across the tail, are an easily recognized focal point for the Department's commitment of service.

However, many people who have seen these state-of-the-art helicopters traverse the Maryland skies are probably unaware what it takes to keep the Department's fleet of 10 AgustaWestland-made helicopters mission ready. Thousands of hours are dedicated each year to inspections and upkeep of the fleet of highly sophisticated aircraft.

On May 24, the Maryland State Police honored the 24 men and women of the Aviation Command's Maintenance Division for their unwavering dedication and professionalism as part of the nationwide Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) Day. Without their expertise, the MSPAC would not be able to tackle its nearly 1,800 missions each year.

Forty-five states in the country recognize AMT Day. The date coincides with the birthdate of Charles Edward Taylor, who built the engine used to power the airplane of the Wright Brothers in 1903. The U.S. House of Representatives proposed a resolution



15 years ago for AMT Day in recognition of the individuals who ensure the successful and safe flight of aircraft.

The mission profile of the Aviation Command takes a team effort; the maintenance technicians are truly the unsung heroes who complete complicated and painstaking behind-the-scenes work to keep the fleet ready to tackle a myriad of calls.

The Department's AMTs are highly skilled, extremely knowledgeable and tremendously dedicated as they diagnose problems and repair the Command's turbine-powered aircraft. They perform duties in accordance with stringent Federal Aviation Administration regulations, and do so in service to all Marylanders.

The Maryland State Police Aviation Command is always looking to identify qualified Aviation Maintenance Technicians to join our team.

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining the ranks of our Maintenance Division, please use the below link to find out more information about the application process or email Christina Blake of our Human Resources Division at christina.blake@maryland.gov.

<https://mdsp.maryland.gov/Organization/Pages/SupportServicesBureau/AviationCommand/MaintenanceTechnicians.aspx>



IMPACT UPDATE

Maryland State Police Participates In National Drug Take Back Day

During the recent National Drug Take Back Day event on April 30, Maryland State Police collected about 1,136 pounds of expired and unwanted prescription medications from sites at the department's 23 barracks.

This included 207.8 pounds from the Glen Burnie Barrack, followed by 138.05 pounds from the Frederick Barrack, 125.25 from the Glen Burnie Barrack and 104.25 from the Golden Ring Barrack.

Each barrack acted as a collection station giving citizens an opportunity to dispose of all unwanted and unused prescription drugs.

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.

Second only to marijuana, non-medical prescription drugs are the most com-



monly used drug in the country. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, the majority of teenagers abusing prescription drugs are finding an unlimited supply in their family's medicine cabinet.

At the last Take Back Day event Entering April, Maryland residents had successfully removed 201,337 pounds of un-

used medications from their homes in an effort to prevent medication misuse and opioid addiction from ever starting.

As part of Maryland's combined effort to reduce opioid abuse, Maryland State Police barracks across the state have become around-the-clock drop-off locations for unused prescription medications.

All 23 Maryland State Police barracks are now equipped with secure drug collection boxes and available around-the-clock for unused medication drop off. No questions will be asked.

Citizens can locate the closest Maryland State Police barrack by visiting:

<http://mdsp.maryland.gov/Organization/Pages/FieldOperationsBureau/allbarracks.aspx>

The Maryland State Police is a partner in the Opioid Operational Command Center, which facilitates collaboration between state and local public health, human services, education, and public safety entities to combat the heroin and opioid crisis and its deadly impact on Maryland communities.

Before It's Too Late is the state's effort to bring awareness to this epidemic—and to mobilize resources for effective prevention, treatment, and recovery.



IMPACT UPDATE

PHOTOS: Garrett County Fish With A Cop Event



On May 14, members from all five Garrett County's law enforcement agencies (Oakland City, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Garrett County Sheriff's Office, Maryland Natural Resources Police and the Maryland State Police) held the inaugural Garrett County Fish with a Cop event at the Accident Pond.

Children were paired with police officers for the day's event strengthening relationships between police and the community. The day consisted of officers picking up the selected children, providing rides to the event, fishing, food, games and gifts before returning them home.



IMPACT UPDATE

Maryland Torch Run 'Flame Of Hope' Award Presented To Captain Brian Smith

The Maryland Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics was formed in 1986, under the leadership of then Howard County Police Chief Jim Robey. Its purpose was to coordinate activities organized by and involving police officers whose goal was to raise funds to support the athletes of Special Olympics Maryland.

The first event was a statewide Torch Run that involved selling t-shirts and running the Flame of Hope from points across Maryland to the opening of the Special Olympics Summer Games. Members of the Maryland State Police were a part of the first Torch Run in 1986.

Since then, Torch Run events have expanded to include not just selling t-shirts and a statewide run, but also multiple other events such as the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics and the Maryland State Police/Maryland Natural Resources Police Deep Creek Dunk. Events and initiatives by the Maryland Law Enforcement Torch Run have raised more than \$50 million for Special Olympics Maryland.

Each year, the Maryland Law Enforcement Torch Run Council chooses a Maryland law enforcement officer who best exemplifies the dedication and spirit of those who are known as the "Guardians



of the Flame of Hope.” On March 15, 2022, during the annual Torch Run kickoff conference, the annual “Flame of Hope” award was presented to Captain Brian Smith, commander of the Maryland State Police Education and Training Division.

Captain Smith was nominated for the award by retired Howard County Police Captain John Newnan, who until recently, served as the executive director of both the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association and the Maryland Sheriffs Association. John Newnan was a founding member of the Maryland Law Enforcement Torch Run and previously served

as chairman of both the Torch Run Council and the board of Special Olympics Maryland. He has worked tirelessly for decades on multiple Torch Run events including both the Plunge and Dunk.

The following narrative is from John Newnan’s nomination of Captain Smith for the “Flame of Hope” award.

“....Captain Smith’s support year after year has gone unnoticed for the most part, and that’s the way he likes it.

See AWARD, Page 10



IMPACT UPDATE

AWARD: Giving Hope To Special Olympians

From Page 9

His intentions are pure and unpretentious, and he prefers to see the athletes in the spotlight, like Lee Follett, Wayne Diebert and Corrine Kline from his home program in Washington County who have been his inspiration in supporting Special Olympics Maryland through Torch Run activities for over 25 years.”

In 1996, while a member of the Washington County Sheriff's Office, Captain Smith ran the entire 21 miles of the Washington County Torch Run that year, even though he is not a distance runner. He did that for the athletes!

Hired by the Maryland State Police in 1998, he continued his support of Special Olympics and has participated in over 20 Plunges and Dunks. In 2011, Captain Smith was the top law enforcement fundraiser at the Deep Creek Dunk. The only reason he missed a few of these cold-water events was due to work obligations.



Depending on his work assignment, he has been active in the Torch Run in Washington, Frederick, Allegany and Carroll Counties since 1996. He has participated in the Train Pull in Cumberland, Cops on Top and Tip-a-Cops in Frederick County and has presented medals at Summer and Winter Games as well as the State basketball tournaments in Frederick and some cycling events in Washington County.

In 2019, Captain Smith became the Commander of the Maryland State Police Training and Edu-

cation Division that oversee the entry level academy. With Academy class 151 entering the academy only two weeks from the annual Polar Bear Plunge, he engaged them in the event as an academy team and they raised over \$12,000 in just two short weeks. In 2020, knowing that the academy again would not start until two weeks before the Plunge, in early December 2020, he engaged Academy class 152 on their "orientation night" and challenged them to raise more money that the previous MSP class to support the athletes of Special Olym-

pics Maryland.

By the end of December 2020, before the police academy candidates were even in the academy, they had raised over \$20,000! At the end of their campaign, over \$28,000 was raised..... In 2021 in a virtual Plunge due to the COVID-19 crisis, Captain Smith didn't let the athletes down and led the Maryland State Police academy in raising over \$29,500 in a "virtual" Polar Bear Plunge. He is currently engaging two simultaneous Maryland State Police Recruit classes in the upcoming MSP Polar Bear "Police" Plunge in March....

....Captain Brian Smith is truly a brightly shining Flame of Hope and model for others to emulate, as we continue our efforts to reach and engage more individuals with intellectual disabilities in the life enhancing programs of Special Olympics Maryland.”

Congratulations to Captain Brian Smith for receiving the 2021 Flame of Hope Award.



IMPACT UPDATE

Maryland Man Found Guilty Of Murder For Hire, Robbery And Drug Trafficking

The United States Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Pennsylvania announced that Kevin Coles, age 36, of New York, NY and Hagerstown, Maryland, was found guilty yesterday of multiple crimes, including murder for hire, robbery, and drug trafficking after a three-week trial before United States District Court Judge Christopher C. Conner.

According to United States Attorney John C. Gurganus, the charges against Coles were the result of a six-year investigation into three murders that occurred on June 25, 2016, on a property along Welsh Run Road in Mercersburg, Franklin County. When Pennsylvania State Police officers were called to the scene, they found Wendy Ann Chaney, 39, Hagerstown, Md, Brandon Cole, 47, Fayetteville, PA, and Phillip Matthew Jackson, 36, Mercersburg, PA, all to have been shot in a barn on victim Jackson's property.

The evidence presented at trial established that Wendy Chaney was in a relationship with Coles and had been previously assisting him with his drug distribution operation.

Coles learned that Chaney was cooperating with federal authorities and contracted for her to be

murdered. Intermediaries recruited members of a Baltimore based gang known as the *Black Guerilla Family* and others from Baltimore to travel to the Jackson property to kill Wendy Chaney.



The killers were promised that they could take as payment \$20,000 that was to be in a safe in the barn and any drugs and firearms that they could locate on the Jackson property.

Once there, the killers encountered not only Wendy Chaney but also Brandon Cole and Phillip Jackson. All were murdered to prevent them from cooperating and from being witnesses to the crimes of violence that were committed at that time. The killers never found any money on the property.

The evidence also established that Coles was involved in trafficking significant amounts of

heroin and crack cocaine in Chambersburg, PA, Hagerstown, MD and elsewhere. The jury found that two individuals to whom Coles distributed heroin suffered serious bodily injury when they overdosed on the heroin Coles supplied and had to be resuscitated by the administration of Narcan.

Finally, the jury found Coles guilty of using, brandishing and discharging a firearm during and in relation to his drug trafficking activities. Initially, Coles, along with 9 other individuals, were charged in connection with the investigation. Two other individuals are charged in connection with the investigation and are awaiting trial.

Maryland State Police Homicide Unit detectives joined federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in this investigation. This case was part of the joint federal, state, and local Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Program, the centerpiece of the Department of Justice's violent crime reduction efforts.

This case was also brought as part of a district wide initiative to combat the nationwide epidemic regarding the use and distribution of heroin.