



Vol. 5 Issue 7 July 2022

IMPACT UPDATE

Protecting, Preventing, Providing

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Boyd K. Rutherford

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Troopers from the Forestville and College Park barracks participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run in Prince George's County.

Maryland State Police Support Special Olympics At Torch Run, Summer Games

(TOWSON, MD) — Troopers last month came together with law enforcement agencies from across the state in support of Special Olympics Maryland.

The Summer Games for Special Olympics Maryland was held June 17-19 at Towson University. Hundreds of athletes participated in sports ranging from swimming and track to softball and bocce ball. The games marked the first time athletes were fully able to participate since 2019.

Prior to the games, troopers across

the state participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

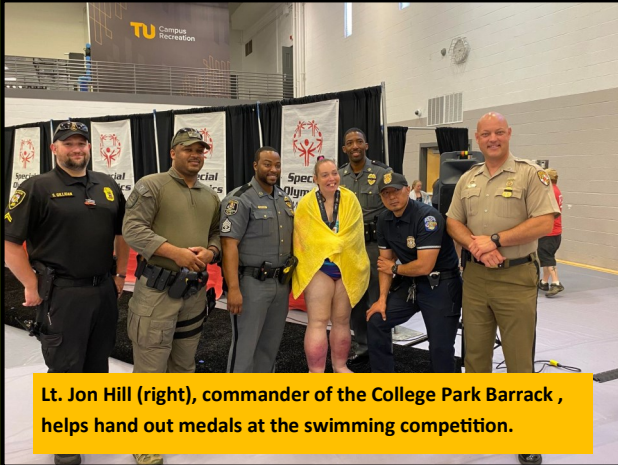
The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics began in 1981, when Wichita, Kansas Police Chief Richard LaMunyon saw an urgent need to increase awareness of Special Olympics. He also saw it as an ideal way to get local law enforcement personnel involved with the Special Olympics community.

The Maryland State Police continue to support this great cause throughout the year.



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PHOTOS: 2022 Law Enforcement Torch Run, Special Olympics Maryland Summer Games



Lt. Jon Hill (right), commander of the College Park Barrack , helps hand out medals at the swimming competition.



Special Olympians from Howard County thank law enforcement, including Maryland State Police.



Special Olympians hold the Olympic torch as part of the Prince George's County Law Enforcement Torch Run.



Troopers gather at McDaniel College as part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run in Carroll County.



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ADL Honors Detective For Work In Homicide Investigation Of Aryan Brotherhood Leader

A Maryland State Police homicide detective was among those honored last month by the Anti-Defamation League for their work that led to the successful homicide prosecution in the case against the leader of the Aryan Brotherhood in Maryland.

Sgt. Christopher Taylor was among those who received the ADL SHIELD Award, which since 2010 has been awarded annually to law enforcement for significant contributions towards protecting communities from hate crimes, extremism, and terrorism.

Anne Arundel County State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess, along with former Anne Arundel County Assistant State's Attorney Samantha Mildenberg and Judge Theresa Morse were also recognized for their contributions in the case against Joseph Leissler, the leader of the Aryan Brotherhood in Maryland.

A jury found Leissler, who was incarcerated at the Maryland Correctional Institution in Jessup, guilty of ordering the 2016 murder of inmate John O'Sullivan, an elder in a rival gang. In August 2021, Leissler was convicted on all counts including supervising a criminal gang, participation in a criminal gang resulting in death and conspiracy to commit first degree murder. He was sentenced to life without parole. Their efforts



also led to a guilty plea for one co-defendant and the cooperation of another former gang member who testified at trial.

The Maryland Aryan Brotherhood have been responsible for numerous assaults and acts of violence on prisoners as well as murders of rival prison gang leaders. In 2016, the Maryland State Police Homicide Unit, began to investigate the murder of O'Sullivan, at the Jessup Correctional Institution in Maryland. Validated Aryan Brotherhood prison gang members brutally stabbed O'Sullivan over 55

times as the inmate walked to the shower.

This murder was captured on video and started a 5-year investigation into the Aryan Brotherhood gang in Maryland that moved far beyond the prison walls. The investigation was led by Sgt. Taylor, with the support of intelligence officers from the Maryland Department of Corrections.

This investigation has had a lasting impact on the Aryan Brotherhood in Maryland as membership has decreased.



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Maryland State Trooper Recognized As EMS Clinician Of The Year

(MIDDLE RIVER, MD) – A 24-year-veteran of the Maryland State Police is recognized as the emergency medical service Clinician of the Year by the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS). Lt. Nathan Wheelock was honored during a ceremony on June 6, 2022. The prestigious award was presented by Dr. Ted Delbridge, Executive Director of MIEMSS.

Each year, MIEMSS presents the Maryland EMS Awards – the Maryland Stars of Life awards for adults, and the Right Care When It Counts awards for youth. The awards recognize those who have gone above and beyond the call to duty to serve their fellow Marylanders. Formerly a Massachusetts paramedic, Lt. Wheelock joined the MSP ranks in 1998, when he was assigned to the Prince Frederick Barrack. The following year, he was granted a transfer to the Aviation Command. While going through the process of becoming a flight para-



Dr. Ted Delbridge, F/Sgt. David Svites, Sgt. Jenna Turner, Lt. Nathan Wheelock, Dr. Doug Floccare, EMS Chief Scott Wheatley, Major Michael Tagliaferri

medic, Lt. Wheelock took time to volunteer for Calvert County Advanced Life Support, providing many hours of care, compassion, and lifesaving efforts to the people of Calvert County.

Over the next three years, Lt. Wheelock was assigned to Troopers 2 and Trooper 7; in 2001, he was promoted to Trooper First Class. In 2003, he was appointed to SYSCOM Duty Officer, assuming the great responsibility of assuring the most appropriate resources are sent in response to aviation requests.

Lt. Wheelock earned his senior wings and served

the Special Tactical Assault Team Element (STATE) Team as a tactical medic, before being appointed as Chief Flight Paramedic in 2010. Education is important to Lt. Wheelock. In conjunction with his MSP service, he has taught many advanced airway management classes with the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore. In so doing, he has directly influenced the last 15-20 years of new MSP Aviation Command candidates, as well as Maryland prehospital clinicians throughout the state, through the highest level of training possible.

Lt. Wheelock has continued to rise in rank, and is currently assigned as the

commander of the MSPAC Aircrew Training Section, which is responsible for training oversight for all medics within the Command. He has been published in JEMS Magazine, been honored as flight paramedic of the year, and received several medals of valor and awards both within the Maryland State Police and State of Maryland EMS agencies. He holds a Master's Degree in Emergency Health Services. Lt. Wheelock recently received a Governor's Commendation for his involvement with organizing numerous statewide public safety COVID-19 vaccination clinics during the height of the pandemic.

For his efforts to provide superior clinical pre-hospital medicine to the citizens and visitors of the State of Maryland, as well as his passion for educating and inspiring young and upcoming EMS clinicians around the state, Lt. Nathan Wheelock was selected by MIEMSS as the 2022 EMS Clinician of the Year.



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Maryland State Police Aviation Personnel Recognized For Statewide Safety Efforts

(ROSEDALE, MD) – Seven members of the Maryland State Police Aviation Command were recognized last week for their heroism and efforts to promote safety by the State Employees Risk Management Administration (SERMA).

The three troopers and four civilian pilots were honored during SERMA's conference on May 27th, which recognized more than a dozen employees from State agencies. Sergeant Brooke Tognocchi and Corporal Kristie Peterson, along with Sergeant Timothy Siebold and Pilot-in-Command Bradford Ritzel, received the Award of Heroism for their rescue of three hunters and two firefighters near Havre de Grace, MD.

On November 26, 2021, the Maryland State Police Aviation Command (MSPAC) received a call in reference to lost individuals in the area of the "Susquehanna Flats." The shallow and expansive body of water called "The Flats," is where the Susquehanna River flows into the Chesapeake Bay. It was reported the rescue crew became disoriented and lost after rescuing three teenage waterfowl hunters.

The Maryland State Police launched Trooper 1, a helicopter based at Martin State Airport at about 8:45 p.m. to assist with the extrication of five subjects stuck on the rescue boat. The 15-foot Zodiac-style fire company boat, located in



Major Michael Tagliaferri, the MSPAC commander (left), was on hand to recognize Sgt. Brooke Tognocchi, Cpl. Kristie Peterson, Command Instructor Pilot Jude Gallagher, Safety Pilot Joseph Ireton and Chief Pilot Timothy McMahon.

an area of the silt and mud-laden flats, was inaccessible by other rescue boats.

Trooper 1's crew noted hypothermia was a real concern, as temperatures were near-freezing with winds gusting to almost 30 miles per hour. Trooper 1's two pilots — Pilot in Command Ritzel and Second in Command/Sergeant Siebold — flew to the location of the stranded rescue boat and maneuvered the AW-139 helicopter into position 100 feet above the hunters and rescuers.

Trooper 1's Crew Chief, Corporal Peterson, lowered a rescue basket to the side of the rescue boat, where the hunters and firefighters were able to climb in and then hoisted into the aircraft.

Upon reaching the helicopter's cabin, the hunters and firefighters were evaluated by Trooper 1's Rescue Technician, Sergeant Tognoc-

chi. The hunters and firefighters were flown to the National Guard Armory in Havre de Grace, where they were evaluated them for hypothermia. None of those rescued by Trooper 1 required additional medical treatment.

Chief Pilot Timothy McMahon, Command Instructor Pilot (CIP) Jude Gallagher, and Safety Pilot Joseph Ireton received the Best Practice Award for developing a Rapid Helicopter Refueling program. Safety and time are two elements crucial to every MSPAC response helping people in peril. MSPAC embraces safety at every turn; with the development of the refueling practice, the dedicated professionals staffing the State's medevac helicopters are better prepared to complete critical missions when every second counts.

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SAFETY: Heroic Acts, Innovation Honored

From Page 5

In early 2021, the three pilots championed a practice never before pursued by the Aviation Command in its 51 years of providing medevac services to the State and surrounding regions. The application, mainly used by the military and entities charged with fighting raging forest fires in the western United States, is commonly called Hot Refueling.

Chief Pilot McMahon, a retired US Navy aviator, along with CIP Gallagher, a retired US Army aviator, and Safety Pilot Ireton, who is also a retired US Navy flight instructor, had experience with Hot Refueling from their past military experience.

Prior to implementing Hot Refueling for the MSPAC, adding fuel to the Command's 10 AW-139 twin-turbine engine helicopters could take upwards of 20 minutes due to engine shutdown and restart protocols. Any misstep, such as prematurely starting a hot engine, could potentially cause costly damage to the aircraft and render it inoperative for flight.

This was of particular concerns on hot summer days. Refueling, a must between every mission, was constantly in the forefront of MSPAC crews, primarily when they were summoned to handle back-to-back missions anywhere in the State.



Pilot-in-Command Bradford Ritzel (left), Second-in-Command/Sergeant Tim Siebold, Crew Chief/Corporal Kristie Peterson and Rescue Technician/Sergeant Brooke Tognocchi were honored for their aerial rescue of five individuals on the Susquehanna Flats on November 26, 2021.

Since its inception, the MSPAC hot refueling program has been used by Agency helicopter crews nearly a dozen times to facilitate quick turnarounds for lifesaving missions.

CIP Gallagher called the practice a "Mission Multiplier" for the MSPAC. "It will allow us to react and conduct impending missions in a timelier manner, allowing us to provide critical mission aircraft faster to the citizens of the State of Maryland while incurring no additional cost. It is a proven, safe and effective method of refueling mission critical aircraft," he explained.

In addition to recognizing members of the Maryland State Police, SERMA presented four Health & Safety Awards of Excellence, one

Best Practice Award, four Unsung Hero Awards, one Award for Individual Achievement and one Award of Heroism to employees from seven State agencies during the 32nd annual conference.

The MSPAC has served Maryland citizens since 1970, and operates a fleet 10 helicopters from seven bases throughout the State on a 24/7/365 basis. Missions include medevac, law enforcement, search & rescue, homeland security, and disaster assessment.

The success of rescues performed by the Aviation Command depends a great deal on the cooperative effort of local fire, rescue, EMS and law enforcement agencies.



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Madison Lippy, 13, was joined by several troopers, including those from the Aviation Command, as she graduated from West Middle School. She is the daughter of MSP Fallen Hero TFC Mickey Lippy.

Troopers Offer Support To Fallen Hero's Daughter As She Graduates From Middle School

(WESTMINSTER, MD) — Members of the Maryland State Police, some representing the Aviation Command, were in attendance on June 8 for the 8th Grade Farewell and Awards Ceremony for West Middle School in Carroll County.

The troopers were there to support Madison Lippy, the daughter of Maryland State Police Fallen Hero Trooper First Class Mickey Lippy. Madison was honored, along with all of her classmates, as they prepare to move on to high school. Madison received recognition as a Presidential Scholar Award recipient for her outstanding academic achievement.

Madison was only 3 months old when her father was killed in the line of duty, aboard Trooper 2, when it crashed in Prince George's County while performing a medical evacuation of two critically injured teenagers from Charles County on September 28, 2008. Also killed in that crash was Pilot/Corporal (Ret.) Stephen H. Bunker.

During the flight, the Eurocopter Dauphin helicopter encountered severe weather while en route to the Prince George's Hospital Center. Pilot Bunker diverted to Andrews Air Force Base to rendezvous with two ambulances to complete the transport of the pa-

tients. Shortly before midnight, the helicopter crashed several miles short of the runway in Walker Mill Regional Park.

Trooper First Class Lippy was 34 years old and was appointed to the Maryland State Police on October 1, 2004. He served the Aviation Command as a flight paramedic beginning on April 25, 2007. He was also survived by his wife, Christina.

Madison, the MSP family is proud of you and your accomplishments as you celebrate this educational milestone and we look forward to your future successes as you move on to high school.



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Autism Awareness Advocate Visits With Troopers From North East Barrack

(NORTH EAST, MD) — Alex Mann watched on the news how law enforcement has experienced a decline in community support in recent years.

So about four years ago, Mann, 22, of Pennsylvania, began visiting local police departments as a way of thanking them for their service to the community. But Mann had another goal with his visits: autism awareness.

“It started when there was a lot of (national) news about police brutality, so I wanted to show my support for law enforcement,” said Mann, in an interview with *The Cecil Whig*. “I have autism,



so I also wanted to show police officers how they can better assist an individual who has autism or is on the spectrum.”

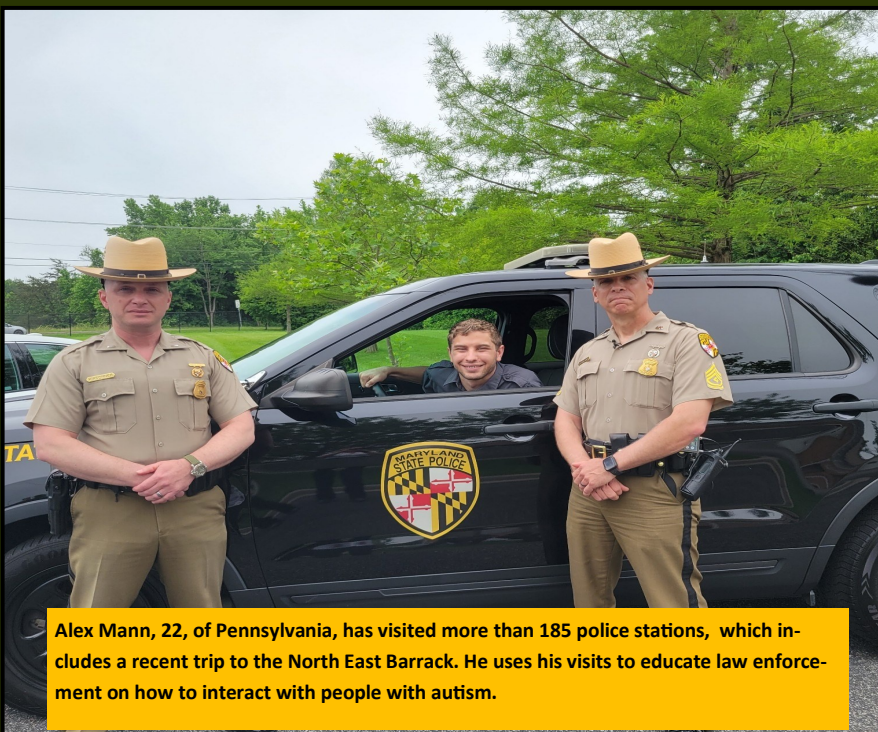
Mann was concerned that there were some police officers who

may have troubles identifying people with autism during traffic stops or other interactions and may misinterpret their actions to be resistance or violence. This dual mission has taken off and led Mann to make 185 police visits, with stops in California, Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania. This included on June 2 when his paid a visit to the Maryland State Police North East Barrack.

Mann said he uses the visits to educate police with how to interact with people with autism. During his visit, Mann spoke with troopers, toured the North East Barrack and had the chance to sit in an MSP vehicle.

Lt. Jeff Kirchner, commander of the North East Barrack, said he and the troopers there gained a lot from the experience.

“It helps us when we interact with the community like this,” Kirchner told *The Cecil Whig*.



Alex Mann, 22, of Pennsylvania, has visited more than 185 police stations, which includes a recent trip to the North East Barrack. He uses his visits to educate law enforcement on how to interact with people with autism.



IMPACT UPDATE

PHOTOS: Forestville Barrack Out In The Community



District Heights Parade



Hoops Against Gun Violence Basketball Tournament



4EVER UNITED Community Day



Troopers from the Forestville Barrack were out and about throughout June as they took part in several different community events in Prince George's County. On June 4, troopers had the chance to be part of the District Heights Parade.

On June 12, troopers attended and played in the "3rd Annual Hoops Against Gun Violence" basketball tournament hosted by the Ayana J McAllister Legacy Foundation & P.I.T.S. Sports Inc.

On June 24, troopers had the pleasure of attending the 5th Annual 4EVER UNIFIED "Community Day" in Clinton, MD.



IMPACT UPDATE

Maryland State Police Warn Public Of Online Scam Involving The Sexual Extortion Of Minors

(EASTON, MD) — Maryland State Police remind parents of online safety and to be aware of online scams involving the sexual extortion of minors.

The Maryland State Police have received numerous reports of minors being contacted by other social media users who begin chatting with them via messaging services such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat. Social media platforms may provide users the ability to communicate with other users via messaging services.

Investigators believe online predators may often give the impression they are romantically interested in the minor being targeted, to gain their trust. As the chats progress, the suspect user will request sexually illicit photographs of the minor, and might even send photographs back to the minor in return.

If a minor sends a sexually illicit photograph of themselves to the suspect account, the suspect user will proceed to demand the minor send them money, typically in the form of gift card and prepaid credit card numbers that are readily available at most stores. The suspect accounts advise that if money is not sent, the illicit photographs of the minor will be sent to family, friends, and posted online accompanied by distasteful



comments about the minor. While not always, investigators have found that the suspect accounts typically originate from foreign countries which significantly limits the ability to formally identify a suspect.

The Criminal Enforcement Division – Eastern Region urges parents and guardians to talk to and educate their children about the importance of online safety; specifically, the following points:

- When contacted by an account you do not know, it is very possible the account does not belong to who they say they are;
- Although an account might seem harmless at first, the nature of a chat can quickly become threatening and intimidating;

- DO NOT click on unknown links / URLs sent by unknown accounts;
- DO NOT take illicit photographs of yourself;
- DO NOT send illicit photographs of yourself online;

If you are contacted by an unknown account, it is best to ignore the message, report the account to the social media platform, and block the account from being able to view your profile.

Safety on the Internet includes the use of any device that has access to online activity. Investigators from the Maryland State Police Computer Crimes Unit remind all ages to be vigilant as it relates to internet safety.