



Vol. 2, Issue 5, May 2019

# IMPACT UPDATE

Protecting, Preventing, Providing

Larry Hogan

Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford

Lt. Governor

Colonel William Pallozzi

Superintendent

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Maryland State Police Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year Sgt. John Bedell, Police Communications Operator of the Year Heather Christner, Trooper of the Year TFC Charles Tittle and Superintendent Col. William Pallozzi at the annual awards ceremony.

## State Police Honors Troopers, Civilian Employees of The Year

(PIKESVILLE, MD) – Maryland State Police Superintendent Colonel William Pallozzi on April 12 presented awards for outstanding service and recognized sworn and civilian employees of the year at barracks and units throughout the Department, culminating with the announcement of the statewide Trooper, Non-Commissioned Officer, Police Communications Supervisor and Police Communications Operator of the Year for 2018.

The statewide Trooper of the Year award was presented to Trooper First Class Charles Tittle of the North East Barrack, who is now a two-time winner. The Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year for the Maryland State Police was awarded to Sergeant John Bedell of the Computer Crimes Unit.

The statewide Police Communications Supervisor of the Year award was presented to Police Communications Supervisor Sydney Sarrichio of the Rockville Barrack for the fourth consecutive year. The 2018 Police Communications Operator of the Year was awarded to Police Communications Operator II Heather Christner of the Cumberland Barrack.

“These awards represent the highest level of performance, achievement, commitment, and dedication,” Colonel Pallozzi said last month. “The sworn and civilian employees recognized today exemplify the passion for service to others the members of the Maryland State Police are known for.

(See AWARD, page 2)



# IMPACT UPDATE

## AWARD: Top Sworn, Civilian Personnel Honored

(From Page 1)

During 2018, TFC Tittle responded to 892 calls for service and made 175 warrant arrests, a 56 percent increase over his warrant arrests last year and the most among all Field Operations Bureau troopers. He made 45 adult drug arrests and arrested 34 impaired drivers. TFC Tittle made almost 1,000 traffic stops and issued 2,318 citations, which were 20 percent of all citations issued by barrack troopers at North East.

TFC Tittle is frequently requested by the Criminal Enforcement Division, Gang Unit, Drug Enforcement Division, Warrant Apprehension Team, and the Cecil County Drug Task Force to assist with investigations.

TFC Tittle was the statewide Trooper of the Year winner for 2016. He was also the Maryland State Police Alumni Association Trooper of the Year that same year.

The Maryland State Police "Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year" award was presented to Sgt. John Bedell. He is assigned to the Maryland State Police Computer Crimes Unit and serves as the supervisor of the Digital Forensic Laboratory and

is responsible for all training, recertification, and scheduling for unit personnel.

Sgt. Bedell also continues to be an active digital forensic examiner. He responded to more search warrants and handled more lab cases in 2018 than any other member of the lab. Sgt. Bedell was also chosen for a team to oversee acquisition of a mobile digital forensic laboratory, totaling nearly \$500,000.

Commanders say Police Communications Operator II Heather Christner excels in her position as a police communications operator who has extensive training in processing 911 calls and experience that gives her the insight to properly prioritize "hot" calls. Her calm demeanor and relaxed personality give her the ability to effectively handle hysterical

callers during life threatening emergencies.

Police Communications Supervisor Sydney Sarrichio began his career with the State Police as an intern at the Rockville Barrack. He became a fulltime employee in 2007.

He speaks three languages and is often called upon to assist troopers interacting with non-English speaking individuals who call or visit the barrack. In addition to his supervisory responsibilities, he is constantly willing to work overtime assignments and never delegates work he would not do himself.

About 50 members of the Maryland State Police and allied law enforcement agencies were presented with awards for outstanding service.



Maryland State Police Superintendent Col. William Pallozzi congratulates Police Communications Supervisor of the Year Sydney Sarrichio.

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# IMPACT UPDATE

## Trooper From Centerville Barrack Helps Save Life of Crash Victim, 85

### Safety Tip of the Month

Here are some good ways to avoid driving distracted:

- Don't use your cell-phone without a hands-free device.
- Don't drive drowsy.
- Ignore potential distractions from other passengers in the vehicle.
- Avoid multi-tasking like grooming, searching the radio and texting.
- Avoid eating and drinking while driving.



(CENTREVILLE, MD) – A Maryland state trooper from the Centerville Barrack went home at the end of her shift last month with the satisfaction of knowing she had saved a life and truly made a difference.

Trooper Tori Bertrand responded on April 7 to a single-vehicle crash at the southbound Rt. 301 rest area. Upon arrival, she found the 85-year-old driver had been partially ejected and an artery in his arm had been severed and was bleeding badly.

Trooper Bertrand cut off the man's sleeve and then applied the tourniquet to his arm that state troopers carry. She was able to stop the bleeding. When EMS personnel arrived, they said if she had not arrived and applied the tourniquet when she did, the man would have likely died.

EMS stabilized the patient and he was later flown by a Maryland State Police helicopter to the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center in Baltimore for treatment. EMS personnel said he is expected to survive.



Trooper Tori Bertrand is credited with helping save the life of an 85-year-old crash victim.

Congratulations, Trooper Bertrand, for your outstanding actions and for upholding the highest standards of the Maryland State Police.

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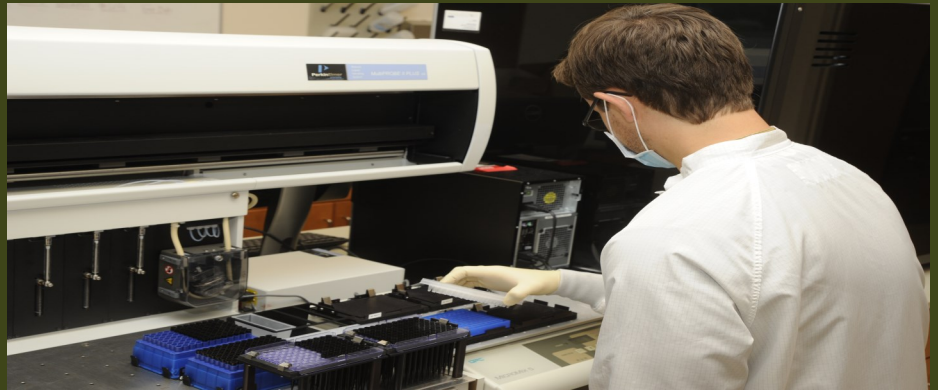




# IMPACT UPDATE

## Maryland's DNA Database Records 7,000th Hit And 1,000th Arrestee Hit

(PIKESVILLE, MD) – Colonel William M. Pallozzi, Superintendent of the Maryland State Police, announced two more milestones for Maryland's DNA database, supporting its role as an invaluable tool to law enforcement in the ongoing effort to reduce crime, apprehend criminals, and exonerate the innocent.



Maryland's DNA database, housed at the State Police Forensic Sciences Division laboratory, has now recorded 7,000 positive comparisons. A positive comparison occurs when DNA obtained from a crime victim or scene is matched with either DNA from a known offender sample or DNA from another crime scene.

On April 3, 2019, scientists at the Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division forwarded information to detectives at the Charles County Sheriff's Office that the 7,000th positive DNA comparison through the use of Maryland's DNA database was connected to an open 2003 rape case they are investigating. The offender sample in this case was collected in South Carolina.

Maryland's DNA database was established by law in 1994 and the

first positive comparison occurred in 1998. As of mid-April 2019, there were 131,057 Maryland convicted offender DNA profiles in CODIS.

On January 1, 2009, legislation took effect that requires those arrested and charged with qualifying violent crimes, or 1st, 2nd, and 3rd degree burglaries and attempts to commit those crimes, to submit a DNA sample. These type of samples are called "arrestee samples" and hits to these samples are referred to as "arrestee hits". As of mid-April 2019, there were 40,788 DNA profiles from arrestee samples in the Maryland DNA database. Maryland's DNA database recently recorded its 1,000<sup>th</sup> arrestee hit.

On March 12, 2019, scientists at the Maryland State Police Forensic

Sciences Division forwarded information to detectives at the Anne Arundel County Police Department that the 1,000<sup>th</sup> arrestee hit within the Maryland DNA database was connected to an open 2018 sexual assault case they are investigating.

The success of the statewide DNA database is due to the diligent efforts and cooperation of many individuals. They include the personnel of the Maryland State Police Forensic Sciences Division and those in local police DNA laboratories, as well as the cooperative collection efforts by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, sheriff's offices and detention centers across the state, and Maryland's district and circuit court systems.

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# IMPACT UPDATE

## Maryland State Police Continues Focus On Distracted Driving Enforcement, Awareness

(PIKESVILLE, Md.) - With April being National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, the Maryland State Police reminded motorists just how dangerous it can be on the road if you are not paying attention to your surroundings.

According to the Maryland Highway Safety Office, more than 27,000 people are injured and 185 others die each year on Maryland roads because of distracted driving.

The Maryland State Police are continuing to make enforcement of distracted driving a top priority. In 2018, troopers issued 16,050 citations and 18,671 warnings for distracted driving violations.

Troopers across Maryland increased their distracted driving enforcement and awareness efforts last month. Among the initiatives that took place last month included work by the Hagerstown and Frederick barracks to address the issue. Motorists saw Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration message boards lit up across Western Maryland that read, "Phones down - Buckle up enforcement underway." The National Highway Traffic and



Safety Administration defines distracted driving as any activity that diverts attention from driving, including talking or texting on your phone, eating and drinking, taking to people in your vehicle and/or adjusting the stereo, entertainment or navigation systems.

Maryland law prohibits the use of a handheld cellphone and texting while driving. First-time offenders caught using a cellphone while driving face a maximum of an \$83 fine, second-time offenders a maximum of \$140 fine and third-time offenders a maximum of \$160 fine.

Drivers can also be fined \$70 and face one point on their driving record if caught texting while driving. If the use of a device contributes to a crash, the fine may increase to \$110 and three points on your driving record.

The increased enforcement effort against distracted driving comes after the passage of Jake's Law.

In effect since 2014, Jake's Law is named after Jake Owen, who was just five when he was killed in a car crash caused by a distracted driver in 2011.

The law states that a driver causing serious injury or death while talking on a handheld cellphone or texting may receive up to three years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

These are primary offenses and police officers can stop drivers when those activities are observed, regardless of the presence of other violations

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# IMPACT UPDATE



## Hagerstown Troopers Recognized For Assisting Child After Mother's DUI Arrest In Washington County

(HAGERSTOWN, MD) — In honor of Victims Rights week, the Victim-Witness unit of the Washington County State's Attorney's Office recognized two troopers from the Hagerstown Barrack for providing critical benefits to the residents of Washington County.

On Nov. 18, 2018, TFC Daniel Rishell and TFC Justin Schmidt made an arrest for a DUI violation after the Hagerstown Barrack received numerous calls for a vehicle driving erratically. The driver of the vehicle had her two-year-old son in the back seat and there was no immediate family close by to take custody of the child.

TFC Rishell and TFC Schmidt installed a child safety seat into their

police vehicle and transported the child to the Hagerstown Barrack. While the child's mother was being processed, TFC Rishell and TFC Schmidt worked diligently to find a family member to take custody of the child. Family members were located, however they were several hours away.

TFC Rishell and TFC Schmidt, both of whom are fathers to young boys, spent time with the child playing games, watching cartoons, buying him some snacks and even changing diapers. The child was very well cared for and entertained for several hours while his father drove to the barrack. The little boy also left with a brand new teddy bear.

TFC Rishell and TFC Schmidt received a letter from the child's mother thanking them for the care and concern they had showed her son during a difficult time in her life.

She expressed her gratitude by stating "it was clear that you are good people with good intentions, I can see that in the way you provided a safe environment and comfort for my son."

The Washington County State's Attorney's Office thanked TFC Rishell and TFC Schmidt for providing a critical benefit to the residents of Washington County and also for aiding in the successful prosecution of the defendant by their office.

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# IMPACT UPDATE



## MSP Helicopter Conducts Aerial Rescue On Cargo Ship in Chesapeake Bay

(ANNAPOLIS, MD) -- A Maryland State Police helicopter crew helped rescue a sick patient from a cargo ship last month on the Chesapeake Bay.

At approximately 12:46 p.m. on April 12, personnel from the Maryland State Police Aviation Command received a request from the Anne Arundel County Fire Department for a helicopter to assist them with the extraction of a medical patient from a cargo ship. Anne Arundel County Fire Department and U.S. Coast Guard rescue boats were alongside the cargo ship, Capri, but were unable to safely transfer the patient into either of their rescue boats.

Trooper 7, the Aviation Command's helicopter stationed at Saint Mary's County Airport, was immediately dispatched. The crew arrived on scene and located the cargo vessel anchored in the Chesapeake Bay, south of the Bay Bridge. Anne Arundel County Fire Department's HEAT team members were on board the ship and communicated their concerns to the crew of Trooper 7. Together, it was determined an aerial hoist would be the most efficient and safest way of extracting the patient and transporting to appropriate

medical care.

The crew from Trooper 7 positioned the helicopter in a steady hover over the cargo ship. The crew lowered the rescue basket onto the ship. The HEAT team members secured the patient in the basket.

Trooper 7 then hoisted the patient up to the aircraft. Due to the severe nature of the patient's illness, a remote landing zone was set up at the Coast Guard Station in Annapolis.

The Maryland State Police Aviation Command has provided medevacs to Maryland citizens since 1970 and operates a fleet of ten helicopters from seven bases throughout Maryland on a 24/7/365 basis. Missions include medevac, law enforcement, search & rescue, homeland security, and disaster assessment. The success of rescues, such as this, performed by the Aviation Command depends a great deal on the cooperative effort of local fire, rescue, EMS, law enforcement agencies, and our partners in the United States Coast Guard.

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# IMPACT UPDATE

## Prince Frederick Barrack Hosts Special Olympian As Part Of Champions On Patrol Program

(PRINCE FREDERICK, MD) — Lt. Jimmie Meurrens and the troopers at the Maryland State Police Prince Frederick Barrack were proud to host Calvert County Special Olympics Maryland athlete Carmen Houston-Ludlam last month as part of the Champions On Patrol program.

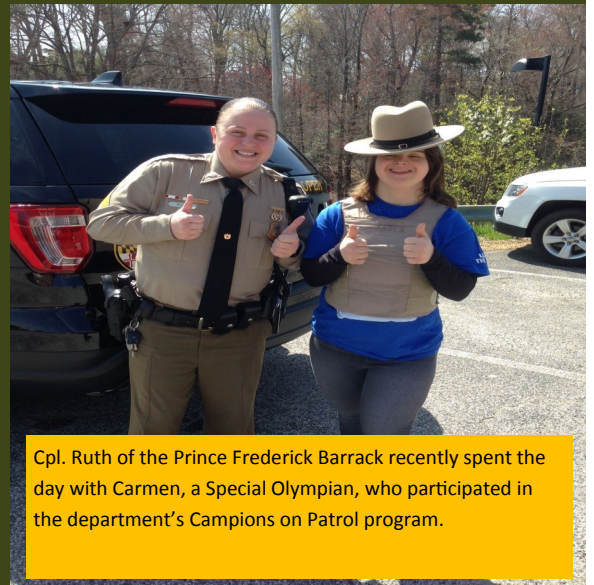
Cpl. Ruth was honored to have Carmen ride alongside her for part of her shift. Carmen toured the Prince Frederick Barrack, met sworn

and civilian employees there, toured the Calvert County Emergency Communications Center and then went out on patrol with Cpl. Ruth.

During their ride along, Cpl. Ruth answered multiple questions Carmen had about the job and also participated in some car karaoke with Carmen. When Carmen was asked what her favorite part of the ride-along was, she stated, "Everything."

Carmen is a multi-sport athlete who has been competing with Special Olympics Maryland for eight years. Carmen has earned several medals over the years, however her most favorite medals were the gold medal she earned in dance and the silver medal she captured in cheer.

Carmen also competes in swimming and snowboarding for Special Olympics Maryland. Carmen has just recently started her quest in becoming an ambassador for the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Carmen has completed public speaking courses/trainings and now has completed a ride-along as the next step toward obtaining that goal.



Cpl. Ruth of the Prince Frederick Barrack recently spent the day with Carmen, a Special Olympian, who participated in the department's Champions on Patrol program.

Champions On Patrol is a partnership between the Maryland State Police and Special Olympics Maryland that gives children and adults with intellectual disabilities the opportunity to spend time at a Maryland State Police barrack and then go on a ride along.

The goal of the pro-

gram is to give Special Olympic athletes an opportunity to have this up-close experience with law enforcement and, more importantly, to provide our troopers with an opportunity to better understand someone with an intellectual disability.

Carmen, thank you for going on patrol with the Maryland State Police.



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# IMPACT UPDATE



## Troopers Receive Traffic Safety Specialist Designation

(PIKESVILLE, MD) — More than 90 troopers were recently recognized for achieving a Traffic Safety Specialist designation.

The Traffic Safety Specialist program, established in 2008, was designed to recognize law enforcement officers for their experience, education, training and proficiency in highway safety and traffic enforcement methods and procedures and to encourage ongoing professional development in these areas.

The Traffic Safety Specialist Program is a collaborative effort of the Maryland Department of Transportation Motor Vehicle Administration Highway Safety Office, the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association and the Maryland Sheriffs Association. The program is administered by Maryland Highway Safety Office and is overseen by an executive committee of representatives from each of the partner organizations.

The designation is awarded by the Maryland Highway Safety Office and the program is open to all certified police officers, deputy sheriffs, and state troopers from Maryland law enforcement agencies and federal agencies with jurisdiction in Maryland.

The program currently has hundreds of officers representing various law enforcement agencies in Maryland, including federal agencies operating in the state. Each year, officers achieving the designation are recognized at an awards luncheon and receive a Traffic Safety Specialist award, certificate and a uniform ribbon indicating their designation level.

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# IMPACT UPDATE

## Multi-Jurisdictional Effort Seeks To Suppress Illegal Drugs, Gang Activities In Western Maryland

(CUMBERLAND, MD) – Maryland State Police, working with multiple allied agencies, arrested nearly two dozen people as part of a collaborative effort to suppress illegal drug and gang activity in Cumberland, Maryland.

The initiative, which took place from March 28 to 29, included personnel from the Maryland State Police Gang Enforcement Unit, K-9 Unit and Cumberland Barrack, along with members of the Allegany County Narcotics Task Force, Cumberland Police Department, Allegany County Sheriff's Office and the Anne Arundel County Police Gang Task Force.

The initiative included dismantling an illicit drug operation and the serving of multiple search warrants. Investigators also served multiple arrest warrants and conducted other criminal and traffic enforcement efforts throughout the city of Cumberland and Allegany County.

In addition, the initiative included:

- Conducting 50 traffic stops, which led to issuing 50 citations



- and 31 warnings;
- Arresting one person for driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs;
- Charging two people with possession of marijuana;
- Having K-9 handlers conduct scans of vehicles during traffic stops, leading to 12 arrests for violations of Maryland drug laws;
- Serving seven open arrest warrants.

Throughout the two-day initiative, investigators recovered suspected drugs including 68 grams of cocaine, 50 grams of heroin, 14

grams of crack cocaine, along with amounts of marijuana and suboxone. Additionally, police seized drug-related cash and two illegal firearms.

Police will continue enforcement efforts in Cumberland and Allegany County. Future multi-agency enforcement initiatives are planned.

This investigation was made possible in part due to funds provided by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP), which supports the Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN).

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# IMPACT UPDATE

## Fugitive Warrant Effort Leads To 107 Arrests In Wicomico, Dorchester Cos.

(SALISBURY, MD) – Maryland State Police, in partnership with allied law enforcement agencies in Wicomico and Dorchester counties, arrested more than 100 people as part of a continued effort to reduce the amount of active fugitive warrants in the Lower Eastern Shore.

As part of “Operation: On The Lam[b],” the Maryland State Police Gang Enforcement Unit and Apprehension Team, along with allied federal and local law enforcement agencies in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia, planned, coordinated and implemented a plan to locate and apprehend suspects with open arrest warrants issued through the Maryland State Police, Salisbury Police Department, Wicomico County Sheriff’s Office, Delmar Police Department, Fruitland Police Department, Cambridge Police Department, Dorchester County Sheriff’s Office and Worcester County Sheriff’s Office.

The Wicomico County State’s Attorney’s Office, Dorchester County State’s Attorney’s Office, Delaware State Police, Maryland Division of Correction, Delaware Division of Correction, Homeland Se-



curity Investigations and the Eastern Shore Information Center [ESIC] also partnered in this operation



This initiative, which yielded 107 arrests, was a follow up to “Operation: Hide and Seek,” which was conducted on Feb. 20

and led to 41 arrests.

That operation focused on gathering information and identifying criminal gang members and suspects of open criminal investigations in Wicomico County.

Among those arrested in that initial investigation were 11 people who had suspected ties to organized gangs and 13 of whom had out-of-state connections.

This investigation was made possible in part due to funds provided by the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP), which supports the Maryland Criminal Intelligence Network (MCIN).

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# IMPACT UPDATE

## Lt. (Ret) Wilbur Wells Honored Posthumously For Service In Anne Arundel Co.

A well-known and respected retired Maryland state trooper was recently posthumously honored with an award in Anne Arundel County that recognized his life of outstanding public service. Lt. Wilbur L. Wells, who served as one of “Maryland’s finest” for 34 years, was awarded the ASPIRE Heritage Award for his service to the Maryland State Police, Severna Park, and the U.S. Naval Academy. Lt. Wells served as a Blue & Gold Officer at the Naval Academy. He organized the parent and sponsor program that remains an active part of life at the Academy.

The Maryland State Police career of Lt. Wells centered around Anne Arundel County, but his dedication to duty and his exploits were known throughout the ranks. He served at the Annapolis Barrack for 18 years.

The award was accepted by Lt. Wells’ widow, Betty. Lt. Wells passed away in March 2018.

Joining Betty Wells at the award presentation were Maryland State Police Sergeant Lloyd “Eddie” White of the Annapolis Barrack and Sergeant Renee G. White, of the Education and Training Division. Sergeant Eddie White’s father, also Sergeant Lloyd White, served with Lt. Wells when they were troopers at the Annapolis Barrack before retiring in 1982. Like all troopers, they looked out for each other

Support for each other was vitally important on March 16, 1968, when Sgt. Lloyd White was shot during a stakeout. Sergeant Eddie White related the following story that reminds us of several reasons we love the Maryland State Police.

Sgt. Eddie White: “This was a favorite story for both old troopers to tell. My dad's version and Wilbur's didn't match up 100 percent (imagine that lol), but were pretty close. My dad was shot at the old Howard Johnson's on Rt 50 across from the Red Hot and Blue Restaurant (Pancake House back then).

Trooper Bob Thomas (Ret. Lt. Col.) called the barrack to report the shooting and Wilbur knew he could get to the scene before the ambulance. He raced to the scene and skidded up next to my dad and threw him in the back of his patrol car and raced west on Rt. 50 to get dad to the Anne Arundel County General Hospital.

(See HONOR, page 13)

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# IMPACT UPDATE

## HONOR: Late Trooper Honored For Service

(From Page 12)

Now this is where the story gets good. Dad says that Wilbur turned around while driving and yelled, "Don't you get blood on my seats. We have the Colonel's inspection next week."

Then, Wilbur noticed the seatbelt was hanging out of the back door that my dad was thrown into. My dad always laughed when he told this part of the story. He said Wilbur stopped the car right on the Severn River Bridge and ran around and opened the door and threw the seatbelt in on top of my dad because he didn't want it flapping in the wind and denting his patrol car. Wilbur denied stopping, saying he just slowed a little and leaned back and retrieved the belt. Wilbur sped off to AA General. It was around this time that Trooper Thomas noted the ambulance had just arrived to the scene, so indeed, Wilbur did get my dad medical attention before an ambulance would have, probably saving his life and in an indirect way, saving mine too.

You see, I was born about 10 months after this incident. I've done the math and I can safely assume that I wouldn't be around if my dad didn't survive getting shot and, apparently, Trooper Wells' roller-coaster ride to the hospital too. Wilbur and my dad always used to say, "That's just how we did things back then. We were always looking out for each other. Everything else would just fall into place".

Thank you, Sgt. Eddie White, for sharing that great story.



L to R: Sgt. Renee White, Betty Wells, Sgt. Eddie White

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The Evening Capital 2/4/1965

### Inquiring Reporter



**TFC. LLOYD E. WHITE** — That's kind of hard to say. I guess my job security makes it well worth while. I'm with the investigation division and for the greater part, the work is most interesting and rewarding.



**CPL. WILBUR L. WELLS** — The great variety of duties that change from day to day make the job rewarding. The many different types of people we must come in contact with are interesting, too.



# IMPACT UPDATE

## Troopers Capture First Place In National Sharpshooting Competition

Maryland State Police Cpl. Jon Simpler and Cpl. Evan Page didn't just shoot the breeze recently; they shot into the breeze.

The result: the troopers brought home the top prize in the 2019 Invitational Counter Sniper Team Competition held at Peacemaker National Training Center in West Virginia. The same contest, which was organized by now-retired trooper Dan Weaver, had previously been held for decades at Fort George G. Meade in Anne Arundel County.

"Wind is the great equalizer," said Cpl. Page, detailing how crucial teamwork and weather observations are to winning this competition.

Such factors are important during such shooting competitions because when you are shooting at targets 1,000 yards – or the length of 10 football fields – away, you need to take into account all environmental indicators such as wind speed, weather conditions and temperature to ensure you make



Maryland State Police Cpl. Jon Simpler and Cpl. Evan Page recently took the top prize in the 2019 Invitational Counter Sniper Team Competition at Peacemaker National Training Center in West Virginia.

as few mistakes as possible.

Cpl. Simpler can attest to that as the team's spotter. Using all five senses he knows the wind, feels its movement, observes the trees and looks for the mirage. All of these are vital clues to help make the perfect shot.

Law enforcement and military teams from across the country comprised the two-person squads who spent five days in April trying to out shoot each other. A total of 48 sharpshooters, representing local, state and federal law enforce-

ment agencies, along with the National Guard and Marines competed out in the elements.

Cpl. Page stressed that the competition is not just about shooting. It encompasses mental preparation, gear preparation, time management and hours of practice, he said.

After all, these are not just abilities used in a competition, but vital life-saving skills these special operation marksmen use when called out to neutralize an active shooter situation.

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