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# NEWS RELEASE

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## OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL BLUE MAX "ACE Award" PROGRAM

Year	Cases	Recovered Vehicles	Arrests	Bolts	ACEs	Recovered Value
1998	1,029	810	607	448	9	\$5,397,000
1999	1,031	853	647	431	10	\$5,907,000
2000	1,025	851	596	464	12	\$5,198,000
2001	1,107	933	717	658	26	\$19,297,867
2002	1,054	946	758	673	33	\$4,975,018

1972-2002 Grand Totals	
• Cases:	44,041
• Recovered vehicles:	38,577
• Arrests:	28,818
• Bolts:	18,311
• ACEs:	631
• Recovered value:	\$182,748,050

### 2002 Blue Max Recipient

**Tpr. Brian D. Foltz** - Granville Post

Tpr. Foltz earned the 2002 Blue Max Award for recovering a total of 10 stolen vehicles valued at more than \$100,000 with on-the-spot apprehensions of 11 suspects. He was also the Patrol's first Ace Award winner of 2002, having made five recoveries by May 5, 2002.

During one of his recoveries, Tpr. Foltz attempted to stop a 2001 Chevrolet Tahoe for a traffic violation. Instead of stopping, the driver fled and ultimately crashed the \$37,000 vehicle. Tpr. Foltz then apprehended the suspect, who was charged with felony fleeing and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Tpr. Foltz joined the Highway Patrol in 1998 as a member of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Academy Class. A native of Westerville, he has been assigned to the Granville post since December 2001.

### 2002 Ace Award Recipients

**Tpr. Gregory T. Allen** - Warren Post

Tpr. Allen joined the Patrol in 1998 as a member of the 131<sup>st</sup> Academy Class. He earned his first Ace Award by recovering his fifth stolen vehicle of the year on October 8, 2002.

In making one of his earlier recoveries, Tpr. Allen stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation and observed that the steering column had been tampered with. After contacting the vehicle's owner, Tpr. Allen arrested the suspect driver for driving under suspension and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Tpr. Allen is a veteran of the United States Navy and has earned degrees from Youngstown State University and Malone College. He and his wife, Tracie, reside in Newton Falls with their children, Carlie and Nicholas.

**Tpr. Thomas N. Bee** - Delaware Post

Tpr. Bee earned his second Ace Award on October 4, 2002 for recovering five stolen vehicles valued at \$38,300, and apprehending seven suspects. Tpr. Bee recovered two stolen motorcycles in one day when each one was involved in an injury crash. Tpr. Bee's investigation revealed that both motorcycles were stolen from the same residence.

Tpr. Bee's Highway Patrol career began as a member of the 127<sup>th</sup> Academy Class. After graduation on November 17, 1995, he was assigned to the Delaware post where he continues to serve. Prior to joining the Patrol, Tpr. Bee earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Defiance College. He and his wife, Nickcole, reside in Delaware.

**Tpr. Jeffery L. Bernard - Cambridge Post**

Tpr. Bernard joined the Patrol six years ago as a member of the 128<sup>th</sup> Academy Class. Assigned to Cambridge throughout his career, he earned his first Ace Award in July 2002. One of Tpr. Bernard's recoveries involved a 2000 Chevrolet Suburban that was reported stolen and being tracked with OnStar westbound on Interstate 70. Tpr. Bernard saw the vehicle, stopped it, and took two suspects into custody without incident.

Tpr. Bernard and his wife, Brandi, live in Senecaville with their sons, Ryan and Jacob. He is a second-generation Patrol officer—his father retired from the Division in 2002.

**Tpr. William N. Bowers - Walbridge Post**

Tpr. Bowers earned his first Ace Award in 2002. He made his first recovery when he stopped a suspect for a traffic violation and arrested the man for driving under the influence. The suspect was unable to verify ownership of the 2001 GMC truck leading Tpr. Bowers to discover that the vehicle's license plates were stolen from Nebraska and the vehicle was stolen from a dealership in Colorado.

Tpr. Bowers graduated from the University of Toledo and has three years of service with the Highway Patrol. He and his wife, Kristi, reside in Toledo with their daughter, Morgan.

**Tpr. Chad T. Canter - Ironton Post**

Tpr. Canter earned his first Ace Award on July 7, 2002. To make his second recovery of the year, he observed a vehicle that matched the description of a vehicle that had been reported stolen. Tpr. Canter confirmed that the vehicle was stolen and took the driver into custody. It was later discovered that the suspect was wanted in Florida on a felony warrant.

Tpr. Canter began his Highway Patrol career as a cadet dispatcher and then trained with the 127<sup>th</sup> Academy Class. He has served at the Ironton post since earning his commission in November 1995.

He and his wife, Alyce, live in Wheelersburg with their son, Bryson.

**Tpr. Shad E. Caplinger - Circleville Post**

Tpr. Caplinger graduated with the 134<sup>th</sup> Academy Class on December 10, 1999 and was assigned to the Circleville post. He earned his first Ace Award less than a year later and his second Ace Award on November 26, 2002.

Two of Tpr. Caplinger's recoveries followed pursuits. In both instances, he first attempted to stop the suspect drivers for traffic violations. One pursuit covered 30 miles and came to an end after the Chillicothe police department deployed road spikes to deflate the vehicle's tires. The suspect, who was also in possession of drug paraphernalia, was arrested.

Tpr. Caplinger is a resident of Circleville.

**Tpr. Joseph M. Costarella - Medina Post**

Tpr. Costarella earned his first Ace Award in 2002. During one of his recoveries, a stolen 2000 Cadillac he tried to stop led him on a five-mile pursuit. When Tpr. Costarella stopped the \$25,000 vehicle, he arrested the driver without further incident. Then while searching the vehicle, Tpr. Costarella found marijuana and more than \$68,000 in cash in the trunk.

A native of Champion in Trumbull County, Tpr. Costarella has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Youngstown State University. He trained with the 132<sup>nd</sup> Academy Class, which graduated in April 1999, and has served at the Medina post since that time. He and his wife, Sherry, also reside in Medina.

**Tpr. Jonathon D. DeWitt - Canton Post**

After just two years as a trooper, Tpr. DeWitt earned his first Ace Award on October 23, 2002. For his fourth recovery, Tpr. DeWitt stopped a vehicle for speeding and subsequently arrested the driver for driving under the influence. After contacting the vehicle's owner, he also found that the suspect did not have permission to have the car.

Tpr. DeWitt and his wife, Nicole, live in his hometown, Barberton. He is a graduate of Walsh University and holds a degree in sociology. A member of the 135<sup>th</sup> Academy Class, Tpr. Dewitt has served at the Canton post since earning his commission in September 2000.

**Tpr. Jeffrey T. Dickens - Walbridge Post**

Tpr. Dickens earned his first Ace Award on the last day of 2002. On that day, Tpr. Dickens responded to the scene of a crash where the driver of a 2000 Dodge had fled on foot. Through his investigation, Tpr. Dickens located the driver and found that he did not have the owner's permission to use the vehicle. Another suspect Tpr. Dickens arrested during a recovery was wanted on a felony parole violation in Pennsylvania.

Tpr. Dickens is originally from Maumee, where he still lives. He attended the University of Toledo, earning degrees in business administration and criminology. He trained with the 129<sup>th</sup> Academy Class and served at the Swanton post on the Ohio Turnpike before transferring to Walbridge in December 2001.

**Tpr. David S. Garber - Mt. Gilead Post**

With just over a year on the road in 2002, Tpr. Garber recovered three stolen vehicles in the month of May on his way to earning his first Ace Award in October. In four of his recoveries, Tpr. Garber stopped vehicles for simple traffic violations only to find through LEADS or contact with the owners that each had been reported stolen. Two of the cars were stolen outside of Ohio—one from Alabama and one from New York.

A native of North Canton, Tpr. Garber joined the Patrol as a member of the 136<sup>th</sup> Academy Class. He has served at Canton since receiving his commission in March 2001.

**Tpr. Joseph R. Glascox - Delaware Post**

Prior to training with the 134<sup>th</sup> Academy Class, Tpr. Glascox served in the United States Navy. After graduating from the Patrol Academy, he was assigned to the Marysville Post. He has served at Delaware since December 2001.

Tpr. Glascox earned his first Ace Award on December 14, 2002, when he recovered his fifth, sixth, and seventh stolen vehicles of the year. While responding to an alarm, Tpr. Glascox stopped a GMC van for multiple traffic violations. He observed that the van had damage to its steering column and contained two motorcycles. His investigation revealed that all three vehicles were stolen. He arrested two suspects in connection with the thefts.

Tpr. Glascox and his wife, Michelle, live in Delaware. They have four children: Zachery, Stephen, Jessica, and Wendy.

**Tpr. Charles G. Grizzard - Lima Post**

Tpr. Grizzard was honored at the Highway Patrol's Annual Awards Banquet last week as the 2002 Findlay District Trooper of the Year. Among other things, he was recognized for rejuvenating interest in the Blue Max Program at his post by becoming Walbridge's first Ace winner of the year. After working with the district's portable scales team for the first five months of 2002, Tpr. Grizzard recovered five stolen cars and arrested five suspects in June and July.

Prior to joining the Highway Patrol, Tpr. Grizzard served in the United States Marine Corps and earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Cedarville College. He trained with the 122<sup>nd</sup> Academy Class, which graduated in June 1992. His first assignment was to the Swanton post on the Ohio Turnpike.

He and his wife, Marsha, live in Bowling Green.

**Tpr. Samuel K. Hendricks - Circleville Post**

Tpr. Hendricks earned his second Ace Award in 2002. During his fifth recovery on September 6, 2002, he stopped a suspect for a traffic violation and subsequently arrested him for driving under suspension. While investigating the vehicle, Tpr. Hendricks found that it was a rental that was to have been returned a month earlier. The rental company ended up filing theft-related charges against the suspect, who was not the renter of the vehicle.

Prior to joining the Highway Patrol, Tpr. Hendricks served in the United States Army and he continues to serve in the Army Reserve. He trained as a member of the 135<sup>th</sup> Academy Class and has served at the Circleville post since earning his commission in September 2000.

He and his wife, Tracy, reside in his hometown, Creola, in Vinton County.

**Tpr. Travis A. Hughes - Lima Post**

Tpr. Travis A. Hughes earned his third consecutive and fourth overall Ace Award in December 2002 for recovering five stolen vehicles worth \$50,500 and apprehending five suspects. His fifth recovery was of a 2003 Ford Mustang that had been reported stolen with the Allen County Sheriff. Tpr. Hughes stopped the vehicle for a traffic violation and the driver attempted to flee on foot. After a short chase, Tpr. Hughes caught the suspect and arrested him without further incident.

Originally from West Liberty, Tpr. Hughes studied criminal justice at Clark State Community College. He trained with the 127<sup>th</sup> Academy Class and received his commission on November 17, 1995. Since that time, he has been assigned to the Lima post.

He has one daughter, Kennedy.

**Tpr. Dana M. Hutton - Chillicothe Post**

Tpr. Hutton was honored at the Highway Patrol's Annual Awards Banquet last week as the 2002 Jackson District Trooper of the Year. In addition, he was the 2001 Blue Max Award winner and earned his second Ace Award in 2002. He made his first recovery of the year in February when he stopped a vehicle for an equipment violation and observed that the car's ignition switch was popped. When contacted, the vehicle's owner said he thought the car was secured at his business.

Tpr. Hutton is a member of the 134<sup>th</sup> Academy Class. He earned his commission in December 1999 and has served at the Chillicothe post throughout his career. He earned an associate degree in police science from Hocking College. He also served in the United States Army and is a current member of the Army Reserve.

He and his wife, Tawonna, who is also a trooper, reside in Chillicothe.

**Tpr. Scott J. Kuntz - Batavia Post**

Tpr. Kuntz graduated from the Training Academy in April 1999 as a member of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Academy Class. He earned his first Ace Award by recovering five stolen vehicles throughout the year, and the last two in December.

His first recovery involved an incident where a passenger in the owner's vehicle assaulted the owner, forcibly took the car keys, and took off in the vehicle, hitting the owner in the process. Tpr. Kuntz stopped the vehicle and arrested the suspect. Two other recoveries were made during the course of crash investigations Tpr. Kuntz conducted.

Tpr. Kuntz has served at the Batavia post throughout his career. He and his wife, Billie, reside in Mt. Orab with their daughter, Grace.

**Tpr. John A. Johnson - Delaware Post**

Tpr. Johnson earned the Ace Award on October 18, 2002 for recovering five stolen vehicles valued at \$51,000 and apprehending six suspects. His third recovery came when he stopped a suspect for a traffic violation and subsequently arrested him for driving under the influence. Tpr. Johnson's investigation then revealed that the owner of the vehicle had been murdered and the man he had arrested was the prime suspect.

A native of Harrison County, Tpr. Johnson was assigned to the Mansfield post after graduating from the Training Academy with the 131<sup>st</sup> Academy Class. He transferred to Delaware in December 2001.

He has one son, Kyle.

**Tpr. Ricardo O. Jones - Granville Post**

Tpr. Jones earned the second Ace Award of his career in 2002. His first recovery was of a 1991 Oldsmobile that he stopped for a traffic violation. Tpr. Jones observed that the car was running without a key in the ignition and took the two juvenile occupants into custody without incident. He then verified that the car was stolen.

Tpr. Jones is a graduate of the 118<sup>th</sup> Academy Class and earned his commission in November 1989. He served at the Portsmouth post before transferring to Granville in 1991. He is a veteran of the United States Army and the Army Reserve and attended Findlay College.

Tpr. Jones and his wife, Remy, have four children: Kaiulani, Sterling, Barbara, and John.

**Tpr. Kevin R. Milligan - Cambridge Post**

In his first full year as a trooper, Tpr. Milligan earned the Ace Award on November 7, 2002. He recovered five stolen vehicle valued at \$23,500 and arrested six suspects. During one recovery, Tpr. Milligan observed the two suspects making suspicious movements as he approached the car. After confirming the vehicle was stolen, Tpr. Milligan then discovered \$600 worth of crack cocaine in the vehicle.

Tpr. Milligan trained with the 137<sup>th</sup> Academy Class and earned his commission in September 2001. Originally from New Philadelphia, he attended Heidelberg College and Stark Technical College. He and his wife, Melissa, reside in Newcomerstown.

**Tpr. Jeffrey T. Moorhead - Portsmouth Post**

Tpr. Moorhead began his Highway Patrol career as a cadet dispatcher at the Chillicothe post. A graduate of the 120<sup>th</sup> Academy Class, he was assigned to Portsmouth after earning his commission in March 1991.

He earned the first Ace Award of his career after recovering his fifth stolen car of 2002 on November 9, 2002. Two of the suspects he arrested in connection with his Ace cases were initially stopped for traffic violations and found to be driving under suspension. In both cases, further investigation revealed that the vehicles were taken without the owners' permission.

A native of Portsmouth, Tpr. Moorhead lives in Minford. He has four daughters: Alexandra, Shannen, Valerie, and Rylee.

**Tpr. Shane M. Morrow - Mansfield Post**

Tpr. Morrow earned his first Ace Award for recovering five vehicles valued at \$28,800 and apprehending eight suspects. On August 21, 2002, Tpr. Morrow observed a car that matched the description of stolen vehicle broadcast by the Richland County Sheriff's Office. When he attempted to stop the car, four suspects jumped out and fled on foot while the vehicle continued until it struck a mailbox. With assistance from other troopers and the Mansfield police, all four suspects were apprehended.

Tpr. Morrow trained with the 136<sup>th</sup> Academy Class and received his commission in March 2001. He earned an associate degree in criminal justice from the University of Akron. He resides in Wooster.

**Tpr. James C. Oaks - Lisbon Post**

Tpr. Oaks is a graduate of the 120<sup>th</sup> Academy Class, and earned his commission in November 1990. In addition to Lisbon, he has also served at the Chardon post and at Cleveland Investigations.

He earned the first Ace Award of his career on June 11, 2002. He made his first two stolen vehicle recoveries within two days in January. First, he stopped a vehicle for speeding and found that the 1996 Volkswagen was stolen and that its driver was wanted on a felony warrant. Then while investigating a one-car crash two days later, he found that vehicle also was stolen.

He and his wife, Stacie, have two children, Kali and Samuel.

**Tpr. Anne R. Ralston - Cambridge Post**

Tpr. Ralston earned the Ace Award on August 26, 2002 for recovering five stolen vehicles valued at \$45,500 and arresting eight suspects. She recovered two stolen vehicles during an investigation when she stopped with three vehicles that were parked on the side of the road. Two of the cars had expired registrations and the four suspects at the scene were evasive when questioned about the cars. Tpr. Ralston took the suspects into investigative custody. Through her investigation, she discovered the two vehicles were stolen.

Tpr. Ralston joined the Highway Patrol as a member of the 131<sup>st</sup> Academy Class. She earned her commission in October 1998 and was assigned to the Fremont post. She transferred to Cambridge in March 2000. Tpr. Ralston lives in Newcomerstown. A native of Canton, she has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Youngstown State University.

**Tpr. Ryan D. Randall - Mansfield Post**

Tpr. Randall earned the Ace Award in just his first full year as a trooper after he recovered five stolen vehicles and apprehended six suspects. He is a member of the 137<sup>th</sup> Academy Class. After receiving his commission in September 2001, he was assigned to the Fremont post. He transferred to Mansfield in July 2002.

In making his fourth recovery, Tpr. Randall attempted to stop the vehicle for a traffic violation when the suspect fled, leading Tpr. Randall on a 15-mile pursuit with speeds reaching 120 mph. The pursuit ended when the suspect crashed the vehicle and was taken into custody without further incident.

Tpr. Randall and his wife, Kelly, live in Shelby with their daughters, Grace and Emma.

**Tpr. Darwin R. Reed - Piqua Post**

Tpr. Reed earned the fourth Ace Award of his career in 2002 for recovering five stolen vehicles worth \$61,000 and arresting eight suspects. He recovered a 1998 Honda when he observed the stolen vehicle, which was being sought by the Bellefontaine police. Tpr. Reed attempted to stop the car when a 12-mile pursuit ensued. It ended when the driver drove into a cornfield and two suspects fled on foot. Tpr. Reed caught and arrested the driver, but the second suspect was not found.

Tpr. Reed previously earned the Ace Award in 1990, 1992, and 1996. He joined the Highway Patrol in 1987 and trained with the 116<sup>th</sup> Academy Class. He has been assigned to Piqua throughout his career. He and his wife, Deborah, reside in Troy. They have two children, Brandy and Trevor.

**Tpr. Lance S. Shearer - Delaware Post**

Tpr. Shearer was recognized at the Highway Patrol's Annual Awards Banquet last week as the 2002 Columbus District Trooper of the Year. This is also the second year in a row that he has earned the Ace Award. He recovered a 2002 Dodge Intrepid valued at \$19,000 when he stopped the car for a traffic violation and found that the driver did not have a license. Further investigation revealed that the suspect also did not have permission to drive the vehicle.

A native of Delaware, Tpr. Shearer earned a bachelor's degree from Heidelberg College. He and his wife, Sarah, have four children: Garrett, Kelsey, Gavin, and Megan. He is a member of the 129<sup>th</sup> Academy Class and has been assigned to Delaware since earning his commission in November 1997.

**Tpr. Thomas A. Shevlin - Ravenna Post**

Tpr. Shevlin earned his first Ace Award for recovering five stolen vehicles valued at \$52,500 and arresting five suspects. He recovered a 2000 Mercury valued at \$20,000 when he discovered the vehicle, which was involved in a fatal crash in which the driver was killed, had been stolen earlier the same evening.

Tpr. Shevlin joined the Highway Patrol in 1988. He trained with the 117<sup>th</sup> Academy Class and has been assigned to Ravenna throughout his career. He and his wife, Lori, reside in Uniontown. They have two children, Sarah and Chad.

**Tpr. Jennifer J. Stabler - Chillicothe Post**

Tpr. Stabler earned the Ace Award on November 24, 2002. She recovered a 1983 Honda Civic when she stopped the vehicle for speeding and found the driver was intoxicated. She also observed a marijuana pipe in plain view in the vehicle and after arresting the suspect, she found a machete concealed between the car's seats. Contact with the car's owner revealed that the driver did not have permission to have the vehicle.

A graduate of the 130<sup>th</sup> Academy Class, Tpr. Stabler received her commission in May 1998 and was assigned to the Jackson post. She has been assigned to Chillicothe since February 1999. A native of Galion, she earned an associate degree from the Bradford School of Business.

**Tpr. Tony D. Stephens - Warren Post**

Tpr. Stephens began his Highway Patrol career as a member of the 124<sup>th</sup> Academy Class, which graduated in June 1993. He has served at the Warren post throughout his career.

Tpr. Stephens earned his first Ace Award in 2002. On two occasions, he recovered two stolen vehicles within a week. In addition, two of the vehicles were involved in hit-skip crashes and Tpr. Stephens subsequently arrested the suspects for their involvement in the crashes and then discovered the drivers did not have permission to use the vehicles.

Tpr. Stephens and his wife, Christine, live in Newton Falls with their son, Tyler. Prior to joining the Highway Patrol, he earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Kent State University.

**Tpr. Michael S. Trader - Ashtabula Post**

Tpr. Trader is a member of the 132<sup>nd</sup> Academy Class. He received his commission in April 1999 and was assigned to the Wooster post. He also served at the Swanton post on the Ohio Turnpike before transferring to the Ashtabula post in March 2000.

He earned the Ace Award in August 2002 for recovering five stolen vehicles valued at \$41,200 and arresting six suspects. His fifth recovery was of a 2001 Mitsubishi worth \$25,000. He stopped the driver for speeding and found that the car was an overdue rental that the renting company had reported stolen.

Prior to joining the Highway Patrol, Tpr. Trader served in the United States Army. He and his wife, Melissa, live in Madison. They have two daughters, Brooke and Hannah.

**Tpr. Craig P. Willison - Delaware Post**

Tpr. Willison earned his first Ace Award in 2002 by recovering five stolen vehicles valued at \$50,500 and arresting six suspects in the last two months of the year. He recovered a 1998 Toyota when he assumed control of a pursuit initiated by Columbus police. The pursuit lasted 28 minutes, covered 28 miles, and reached speeds up to 100 mph before road spikes were used to stop the suspect vehicle. The suspect was then taken into custody without any further incident.

Tpr. Willison trained with the 137<sup>th</sup> Academy Class and earned his commission in September 2001. He earned the Ace Award in just his first full year as a trooper.

Originally from West Virginia, Tpr. Willison has a bachelor's degree from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. He and his wife, Sarah, live in Pataskala with their son, Kyle.

**Tpr. Bruce D. Zuchowski - Warren Post**

Tpr. Zuchowski recovered five stolen vehicles, including four within one month to earn the first Ace Award of his career. A member of the 121<sup>st</sup> Academy Class, he earned his commission in November 1991. His first assignment was to the Chardon post and he transferred to Warren in February 1994.

His fourth stolen vehicle recovery came when he stopped a 1989 Ford for making an illegal U-turn. The suspect driver gave Tpr. Zuchowski a false name and was subsequently arrested for driving under the influence. Contact with the vehicle's owner then revealed that the suspect did not have permission to have the car.

Tpr. Zuchowski attended Malone College and Kent State University. He and his wife, Amanda, have two children, Natalie and Brandon.